

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program  
for Economic Recovery and Resilience  
(PROPER) Project**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT  
PLAN**

**October 2022**

**DRAFT**

# **REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

## **Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Recovery and Resilience (PROPER) Project STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
as Implementing Agency

Prepared for the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands by the Centralized Implementation Unit of the RMI Division of Development Assistance (DIDA)

October 2022

Version 910





### ***Acronyms and Abbreviations***

CBO	Community Based Organization
CIU	Centralized Implementation Unit
DIDA	Division of International Development Assistance
EA	Executing Agency
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environment and Social Framework (World Bank)
ESMP	Environment and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environment and Social Standard
FAD	Fish Aggregation Device
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
GoRMI	Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
GM	Grievance Mechanism
IA	Implementing Agency
LMP	Labor Management Procedure
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (Project Implementing Agency)
MoF	Ministry of Finance (Project Executing Agency)
NIs	Neighboring Islands
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PDO	Project Development Objective
PLWD	People Living with Disabilities
PMU	Project Management Unit
PROP	Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PROPER	Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Recovery and Resilience
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RMIEPA	RMI Environmental Protection Authority
RMI PROPER	RMI Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Recovery and Resilience (“the Project”)
SEAH/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SEAP	Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan
WB	World Bank
WUTMI	Women United Together Marshall Islands

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (GoRMI) has requested support from the World Bank (WB) for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Recovery and Resilience (RMI PROPER) Project ('the Project') following successful completion of the WB-funded Republic of the Marshall Islands Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (RMI PROP) Project. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) will serve as the Executing Agency and the Project will be implemented by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).

The Project is part of a multi-phased approach to regional programs across the Pacific designed to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend. The Project Development Objective is: *To strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and the sustainable development of the oceanic and coastal fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands.*

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). The purpose of the SEP is to:

- To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help a project identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular with project affected parties.
- To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design and environmental and social performance.
- To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
- To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, meaningful, and appropriate manner and format.
- To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, including serious and sensitive matters, and ensure projects respond to and manage such grievances in a timely and appropriate manner.

The key stakeholders identified for the Project are categorized as affected parties and other interested parties and include:

### **Affected parties:**

- RMI Government departments and organizations (e.g., Ministry of Finance; Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority; Centralized Implementation Unit; Ministry of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities).
- World Bank (e.g., International Development Association)
- People in the project area of influence (e.g., individuals and community groups/organizations/businesses that will directly benefit from the Project, including fishers and aquaculture businesses; communities involved in the Reimaanlok network) – this also includes vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- Local governments
- Regional agencies (e.g., Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency)
- Contractors, suppliers and consultants potentially involved in the Project

### **Other interested parties**

- Non-Government Organizations (organizations focusing on topics such as Fisheries, aquaculture, and marine environment protection, climate change)
- RMI Government departments and organizations (RMI Environmental Protection Authority; Ministry of Health and Human Services)

The proposed stakeholder engagement builds on from the engagement that was undertaken during the previous PROP Project and includes engagement that is part of the Project purpose; related to the physical works being undertaken; required to feed into feasibility and other studies; to disseminate information about Project progress and results; and disclosure requirements. Details of activity-specific engagement requirements will be identified in Annual Stakeholder Engagement Action Plans including timelines, responsibilities for facilitating engagements and recording engagement data.

The Grievance Mechanism (GM) is a mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of stakeholder's concerns, complaints, and grievances about the Project, including concerns relating to environmental and social impacts and issues. The GM allows stakeholders to comment on or express concern on matters relating to project implementation. A formal GM will be implemented by the PMU and will be used for project-related grievances, including serious and sensitive matters.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (GoRMI) has requested support from the World Bank (WB) for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Recovery and Resilience (RMI PROPER) Project ('the Project') following successful completion of the WB funded Republic of the Marshall Islands Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (RMI PROP) Project.

As part of project financing, the Project is required to comply with the requirements outlined in WB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared to meet the requirements of ESS10, Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure, and to satisfy a project financing requirement. It is supported by the following PROPER Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments:

- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), including appended Chance Find Procedure; and COVID-19 Safety Protocol.
- Labor Management Procedure (LMP), including annexed Code of Conduct and the
- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

All E&S instruments have been disclosed on the Centralized Implementation Unit (CIU) website<sup>1</sup> and the MIMRA website; and will be workshopped with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and executing and implementing agency staff to ensure full understanding of Project stakeholder engagement requirements and processes.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is part of a multi-phased approach to regional programs across the Pacific designed to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is:

*To strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and the sustainable development of the oceanic and coastal fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands.*

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) will serve as the Executing Agency (EA) and the Project will be implemented by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), the Implementing Agency (IA). The Project is expected to commence in mid 2023, and to run for a period of 6 years.

The RMI PROPER Project follows on from the RMI PROP Project and is designed to assist in achieving the Strategic Goals outlined in MIMRA's Strategic Plan (2019-2023)<sup>2</sup> which are:

- MIMRA will maximize the long-term value from its fisheries for the benefit of the people of RMI.
- MIMRA will conserve and manage the aquatic resources for current and future generations in RMI.
- MIMRA will be professional, transparent, and accountable in the way it manages fisheries resources in RMI.

The WB funding will support a set of sub actions linked to the strategic goals, including optimization of revenues; strengthened management of fisheries and the coastal environment; promotion of sustainable coastal fisheries and value-chain enhancements; and maximize income and livelihood opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer <https://www.ciuidasafeguards.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rmimimra.com/media/attachments/2021/02/08/mimra-strategic-plan-2019-2023.pdf>

The proposed RMI PROPER Project has four components:

- **Component 1 (Strengthening Policy and Institutions)** will provide institutional support to the national fisheries program for better regional, national, sub-national, including cross sectoral, coordination and management and development of fisheries. It will also strengthen the capacity of the departments under MIMRA for research, data and information mining, analysis, storage and use for strategic decision making to inform economic growth. This will be achieved through:
  - 1.1: improving capacity for policy design, implementation and evaluation
  - 1.2: Strengthening seafood health monitoring
  - 1.3: Improving infrastructure and their operation.
- **Component 2 (Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Oceanic Fisheries)** would specifically address a selected set of Strategic Actions that aim to strengthen regional and national capacity for the management and sustainable development of oceanic fisheries and their value chains with two subcomponents focusing on:
  - 2.1: Consolidating oceanic fisheries management
  - 2.2: Harnessing of oceanic fisheries to regional economy.
- **Component 3 (Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Coastal Fisheries and Conservation of Critical Coastal Habitats)** would specifically address a selected set of Strategic Actions that aim to strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and sustainable development of coastal fisheries and their value chains with two subcomponents focusing on:
  - 3.1: Strengthening coastal fisheries and habitat management, including by:
    - Developing research capacity to inform management
    - Building capacity for co-management
    - Strengthening and expanding the Reimaanlok Framework
    - Strengthening compliance in coastal/nearshore areas (for coastal and oceanic resources).
  - 3.2: Developing and diversifying livelihoods in support of fisheries management, including by:
    - Sustaining neighbouring island infrastructure
    - Addressing the uptake of income generating opportunities (from coastal and oceanic resources).
- **Component 4 (Project Management)** will include technical and operational assistance works, goods, services, workshops, and operational costs to support day-to-day management and implementation of the project, and reimbursing project preparation. Project activities will include civil works, construction and renovations (e.g., renovating existing buildings, building a laboratory); procurement of equipment and technology (e.g., upgrading communications infrastructure, procuring equipment for existing and new aquaculture facilities); undertaking of feasibility and other studies and technical advisory, training and capacity development activities.

### 3. MANAGEMENT OF EXPECTED RISKS AND IMPACTS

The Project is being implemented to strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for sustained socio-economic contributions of the oceanic and coastal fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands, which is expected to result in long-term positive environment and social impacts. Environmental risk and social risk have been assessed as Moderate.

Project activities are grouped in the ESMP by activity type, based on the potential for environment and social impacts. The main risks and impacts associated with each type are expected to be:

- Typical construction-related impacts/risks (e.g., noise, dust, waste management) to be managed through implementation of Contractor Environmental and Social Management Plans
- Generation of electronic/solid waste to be managed by sending all solid waste to Majuro that cannot be reused, refurbished, or recycled, will be sent to an authorized overseas facility due to limitations with landfills in RMI
- Occupational health and safety (OHS) risks to be managed through the preparation and implementation of contractor OHS procedures, and implementation of existing MIMRA procedures
- Potential for Gender Based Violence, Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, Harassment and Violence against Children to be mitigated and managed through mandatory Code of Conduct for workers, awareness training and the Grievance Redress Mechanism.
- Feasibility and other studies not including appropriate consultation leading to study findings missing key information which is to be mitigated through requiring the terms of reference for each scope of work to include consultation component and requirement to prepare activity-specific Stakeholder Engagement Action Plans.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE SEP

The purpose of this SEP is to provide a system for the Project to meet the objectives of the ESS10, which are:

- To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help a project identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular with project-affected parties.
- To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design and environmental and social performance.
- To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
- To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, meaningful, and appropriate manner and format.
- To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, including serious and sensitive matters, and ensure projects respond to and manage such grievances in a timely and appropriate manner.

#### 5. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

Stakeholder analysis determines the likely relationship between stakeholders and a project and assists to identify the appropriate consultation methods for each stakeholder group during the life of the project. Stakeholders of projects can typically be divided into the following categories:

- **Affected Parties** – persons, groups and other entities within the Project Area of Influence that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the Project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the Project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures. This also includes stakeholders that contribute to the execution and implementation of a project.

- **Other Interested Parties** – individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the Project and/or who could affect the Project and the process of its implementation in some way.
- **Vulnerable Groups** – persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the Project as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the Project. The vulnerability may stem from a person’s origin, gender, age, health condition, economic and social status, access to land, natural resources, level of voice and influence in decision-making processes etc.

Stakeholders identified for the Project and their interest in the project are provided in Table 1. Additional stakeholders may be identified during the implementation of the Project and this plan updated accordingly.

*Table 1: Stakeholders and their Interest in the Project*

Group	Organization	Interest in the Project
<b>Affected parties</b>		
RMI Government departments and organizations	Ministry of Finance	Executing agency
	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority	Implementing agency
	Centralized Implementation Unit	Providing implementation support
	Ministry of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities	Providing support in the oversight of civil and construction works
World Bank	International Development Association	Financing agency
People in the project area of influence	Individuals and community groups/organizations/businesses that will directly benefit from the Project, including fishers and aquaculture businesses. Communities involved in the Reimaanlok network.	These people/groups have the potential to be Project beneficiaries and those near the location of physical works may be potentially affected by the social impacts associated with such works (e.g., renovations).
Local governments	Various throughout RMI	Involved in fisheries management
Regional agencies	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Involved in tuna fisheries management
Contractors	Various civil works contractors	Potential to be contracted or subcontracted to undertake renovations
Suppliers	Various suppliers	Supply of goods and materials to contractors and/or subcontractors involved on the Project
Consultants	Various consultants	Potential to be contracted or subcontracted to undertake feasibility and/or other studies for the Project
<b>Other interested parties</b>		

Non-Government Organizations	Organizations focusing on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Aquaculture</li> <li>• Marine environment protection</li> <li>• Climate change including the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), and the International Office of Migration (IOM)</li> <li>• Gender and SEA/SH including Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)</li> </ul>	Interested in the outcomes and benefits of the Project Interested in collaboration with activities
RMI Government departments and organizations	RMI Environmental Protection Authority	Permitting of select investments (if required)
	Ministry of Health and Human Services	Ciguatera monitoring
Educational institutions	College of the Marshall Islands (departments focusing on aquaculture and marine ecology)	Interested in the outcomes and benefits of the Project Interested in collaboration with activities
Development agencies	Japan International Cooperation Agency	Interested in the upgrade works to the fish bases/sub-bases and markets as JICA funds similar works
<b>Vulnerable groups</b>		
Vulnerable or disadvantaged groups	Including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• elderly</li> <li>• children</li> <li>• youth</li> <li>• poor households</li> <li>• single-headed households</li> <li>• residents in neighbouring islands and remote areas</li> <li>• people with disabilities</li> <li>• survivors of, and those vulnerable to GBV, SEA/SH and VAC</li> </ul>	These people/groups have potential to be Project beneficiaries, however, there is potential for project benefits to not reach such groups. They may also be disproportionately potentially affected by the social impacts associated with the renovation works and it is important to ensure such people/groups are included in the project planning process through mainstreaming or targeted activities.

## 6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### 6.1. Previous Engagement

The PROPER Project is an extension of the PROP Project which was completed 2021. The PROP Project had a significant stakeholder engagement component the PROPER Project can draw from. The outcomes of engagement undertaken for the PROP Project includes feedback and lessons learned; and has helped inform PROPER Project design.

The PROP Project team found that stakeholder engagements were of enormous value in seeking collaboration and consensus building, as facts could be tabled and discussed objectively in informal settings, often with less interference by other agendas and minority interests. Specific consultations

were regularly undertaken with the Reimaanlok communities, and this allowed the progression of the Reimaanlok resource management planning at over 30 sites, with a further 8 sites identified and pending including in the program.

## 6.2. Summary of Stakeholder Engagement during Project Preparation

Restrictions related to COVID-19 including travel to neighboring islands have impacted the ability to conduct face to face consultations during project preparation. However, a number of consultations with project collaborators were conducted virtually including meetings with agencies and individuals involved with implementation of the Reimaanlok Framework under the PROP Project, as well as with key stakeholders to discuss on the draft environmental and social instruments prepared (details further below). This SEP will be implemented at commencement of project implementation, and once in-person consultations are possible, this and other E&S instruments will be updated as required.

Consultation has occurred during three WB-GoRMI Project preparation missions via videoconference as outlined below

- **Identification Mission (March 2022).** The objectives of this mission were to (i) discuss the proposed project design, including the Project Development Objective and performance indicators, proposed components and activities and implementation arrangements; (ii) agree on an initial proposed budget envelope and possible additional funding sources; (iii) provide an overview of the WB requirements including procurement, financial management and the ESF; (iv) discuss the project stakeholder engagement strategy and consultation process; (v) discuss proposed project activities including budget and timeline; (vi) discuss the process and timeline for project preparation using retroactive financing and agree on next steps for implementation, and (vii) confirm and agree on a project preparation schedule and next steps.
- **Preparation Mission (May-June 2022).** The objectives of this mission were to (i) review the status of the project preparation activities; (ii) provide an overview of the World Bank documentation requirements and timeline to meet Environmental and Social Framework commitments; (iii) define proposed project activities including description, budget, procurement method and timeline; and (iv) review the proposed Theory of Change and preliminary Results Framework.
- **Pre-Appraisal Mission (Sept 2022).** The objectives of this mission were to refine proposed project activities including description, budget, procurement method and timeline and management arrangements. The following stakeholders were involved in the missions:
  - Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), Project Implementing Agency
  - RMI PROPER Project Management Unit (PMU)
  - Division of International Development Assistance (DIDA), Central Implementation Unit (CIU) Ministry of Finance (MoF) Project Executing Agency
  - WB task team
  - Stakeholder Consultations on Draft E&S Instruments

In addition to the mission discussions, MIMRA and the CIU held meeting with several key stakeholder agencies to provide an overview of the project, to outline the draft E&S documents prepared, and to ensure any feedback was incorporated as relevant. and as required. These meetings took place in August and September 2022 and included staff from the RMI Environmental Protection Agency (RMI EPA), the Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MWIU), the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) and MIMRA staff and volunteers responsible for implementation of the Reimaanlok Framework. A list of meeting participants and summary of meeting outcomes can be found in Annex 1: Summary of Stakeholder Consultation Meetings during Project Preparation.

### 6.3. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Project stakeholder engagement falls into four main categories:

#### 1. Engagement related to the project purpose.

The engagement-related segments of the Project are:

- Recruiting an Environmental and Social Project Officer to support implementation of the PROPER E&S instruments and build E&S capacity within MIMRA
- Strengthening and expanding the Reimaanlok network (a community-based conservation system)
- Improving awareness and communications with local governments and communities regarding potential illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in or around their local nearshore waters.

In addition, the recruitment of additional MIMRA staff, training and capacity development opportunities for MIMRA staff and improved communication systems will increase MIMRA's overall capacity to engage with beneficiaries including fishers, participants of the Reimaanlok network local governments, members of community-based organizations (CBOs) including women and youth groups, and other relevant stakeholders.

#### 2. Engagement related to physical works being undertaken. Project investments relating to physical works (e.g., construction, civil work and renovations) include:

- Rehabilitating, repairing, and upgrading of existing Fish Bases and Sub-Bases and markets.
- MIMRA infrastructure upgrades for energy efficiency, decarbonization and climate-proofing.

These works have the potential to cause nuisance (e.g., noise, dust, traffic deviations, access restrictions, etc.) to nearby residents and businesses and, as such, these stakeholders need to be kept informed of the project progress, timing, and the grievance redress mechanism. In addition, the impact of imported labor needs to be discussed with affected communities during activity design and concerns addressed proactively. Consultation with end-users is also required during the design phase to ensure the facilities will be fit-for-purpose and sensitive to the needs of men, women and people living with disabilities (PLWD).

#### 3. Engagement in conducting feasibility and other studies. The Project includes the undertaking of feasibility and other studies, some of which will require an engagement component. These include (but are not limited to):

- A feasibility and costing study to establish and operate a research station
- Studies to identify opportunities in the oceanic fisheries and their value chains
- Study on promoting utilization of local (anchored) FADs
- Conducting a production and market feasibility study for fisheries and aquaculture species
- Conducting studies to identify income generation opportunities in fisheries.

Such studies will need to include an appropriate level of stakeholder consultation to ensure key information and views (including input from women, men, marginalized and vulnerable groups) is collected and taken into consideration in study findings and recommendations. Where relevant, the studies will include consultation to identify specific gender issues (e.g., opportunities for participation in fisheries) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment issues.

To manage this, each feasibility study (and other studies where applicable) will be required to prepare a detailed stakeholder engagement plan for review and endorsement by the PMU and CIU Environment and Social (E&S) team prior to the study commencing.

#### **4. Engagement in disseminating information about Project progress and results and receiving feedback.**

While Project beneficiaries and the wider community are likely to have some awareness of the previous PROP Project, ongoing engagement is required to keep these stakeholders informed of PROPER Project activities, and to engage additional beneficiaries especially in locations not previously served. It is essential that all affected parties and other interested community members are aware of Project objectives, activities and mitigation, how they can get more information, and how to access the Project Grievance Mechanism (GM).

#### **6.4. Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Tools**

This section describes the engagement methods, materials, language, and record keeping that will be used by the Project. Information on considerations for vulnerable people is also provided.

**Engagement methods.** A variety of methods will be used by the Project to ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders including:

- Virtual meetings – such meetings will be undertaken as required due to COVID-19 restrictions. The update of communications systems as part of the project will enable this type of meeting to be more effective. Virtual meetings will mainly be with project partners.
- Face-to face meetings – these will mainly be meetings with targeted individuals and small groups.
- Focus group discussions – such meetings will mainly be with community-based groups including consultations with women, youth, and other stakeholders to ensure their views are heard.
- Newspaper – for providing broad information to wider stakeholders.
- Radio - for providing broad information to wider stakeholders.
- Community noticeboards - for providing broad information to community groups and individuals.
- Website – for disclosure of project documents, studies and updates on project progress and outcomes.

Engagement with communities will be done face-to-face wherever possible (noting potential restrictions relating to COVID-19). The consultations will be arranged via phone/radio (if possible) to ensure maximum participation and efficiency, and then carried out face-to-face.

**Communication materials.** Various communication materials will be used to engage with stakeholders, depending on the type and stakeholder purpose of the engagement. Literarily levels of target stakeholders will be considered when using written materials. Materials include:

- Presentations (printed and electronic) – for virtual and face-to-face meetings.
- Brochures – for handouts to community.
- Posters / notices - for displaying on community noticeboards.
- Reports – for providing detailed information about the project and its progress.

**Language.** Meetings will be carried out in English and/or Marshallese, depending on the situation and stakeholder's preference. Detailed reports will be prepared in English and summarized in Marshallese. Materials that target community stakeholders (e.g., brochures and posters/notices) will be culturally appropriate and prepared in Marshallese.

**Record keeping.** Each engagement will be recorded by the facilitator (or delegate) and include the following information:

- Topic/s of discussion
- Information provided
- Views expressed and concerns raised
- Next steps
- Attendee list (disaggregated by age and gender).

These records will be maintained in a secure and confidential manner by the PMU or Contractor and shared with the CIU E&S Team (also known as the Safeguards Team) when requested.

**Engagement with Women, Youth, People with Disabilities and other Vulnerable Groups.** The Project will take into consideration the needs of vulnerable people and undertake engagement in ways that reduce barriers to participation and will employ targeted methods and arrangements to ensure that they are reached in the planning, prioritization and implementation of subprojects. Such arrangements could include hiring female staff for engagement; conducting women and youth only consultations, scheduling community meetings at locations and times that are convenient for women, youth and people with disabilities; providing on-site child care arrangements and breaks during community meetings; using low literacy friendly communication methods; liaising with women/youth/disability organizations and working through their networks; and incorporating messaging encouraging vulnerable groups to take part in community outreach events. Distance should not be a barrier to consultation, and communities on neighboring islands/remote areas will be engaged. Coordination with other MIMRA activities will occur to ensure effective use of resources (e.g., vessels) to ensure engagements can occur face-to-face wherever possible. This planning will be done as part of the annual work planning and Stakeholder Engagement Action Plans (SEAPs).

**Strategies for Information Disclosure.** The final draft of the E&S Instruments (SEP, ESMP and LMP) will be made available by the CIU E&S (Safeguards) Team to key stakeholders to review and provide comment prior to the documents being finalized and disclosed on the MIMRA and CIU websites. The final E&S instruments will be publicly disclosed on the WB and CIU websites. Contractor ESMPs prepared for moderate risk activities will also be disclosed locally and on the WB and CIU websites. Contractor ESMPs for prepared for Moderate-risk Works to be disclosed on the disclosed on the MIMRA and CIU websites prior to commencement of civil works. Other key documents (e.g., GM, Contractor ESMPs) will also be disclosed in person to potentially affected parties (e.g., communities near constriction works) through face-to-face meetings and on community noticeboards.

Face-to-face disclosure will occur early in the implementation phase, when COVID-19 restrictions have been eased.

## **6.5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan Summary**

An indicative stakeholder engagement and disclosure plan is outlined in Table 2 and will be further refined during Project implementation. This builds on from the engagement that was undertaken during the previous PROP Project and the relationships that MIMRA built with stakeholder during its implementation. In addition to these proposed engagement activities, the PMU will prepare an annual SEAP as part of the project annual work planning process with takes into consideration lessons learned from previous stakeholder engagement and changes in implementation arrangements. The SEAP will include timelines, responsibilities for facilitating engagements and processes for recording of engagement data. This process will be supported by the CIU E&S Team. As indicated previously, specific project activities that require significant consultation with affected persons will develop a task-specific SEAP prior to the commencement of works which will be reviewed by the CIU.

*Table 2: Indicative Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Disclosure Summary*

<b>Project stage</b>	<b>Topic of consultation / message</b>	<b>Method used</b>	<b>Target stakeholders</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Engagement that is part of the project purpose</b>				
Implementation	Ways to strengthen Reimaanlok network (e.g., what's working well, lessons learned, areas for improvement, etc)	Focus group discussions	Reimaanlok network communities	MIMRA
Implementation	Purpose and scope of Reimaanlok network	Focus group discussions	Potential new Reimaanlok network communities	MIMRA
Implementation	Co-management approaches to fisheries management and aquaculture	Face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, focus group discussions	Local governments, local fishers, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	MIMRA
Implementation	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing nearshore waters	Face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, focus group discussions, posters, brochures.	Local governments, communities	MIMRA
<b>Engagement related to physical works being undertaken</b>				
Planning / design	Design of facility upgrade to ensure it will be fit-for purpose	Face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, focus group discussions	End-users of facilities being upgraded	PMU
Prior to, during and post physical works	Project scope, progress, timing, and the grievance mechanism	Face-to-face meetings, posters, brochures	Nearby residents and businesses	PMU, civil works contractor
<b>Engagement required to feed into feasibility and other studies</b>				
Various, to be detailed in task-specific SEP to be prepared by study consultant				MIMRA, consultant undertaking study
<b>Engagement to disseminate information about Project progress and results</b>				
Annually throughout the	Key project updates and reports on the project's	Websites (WB, CIU and MIMRA), in person or through	All stakeholders	PMU

implementation phase	environmental and social performance	provision of brochures to Reimaanlok network communities		
<b>Disclosure</b>				
Prior to implementation	Disclosure of final E&S Instruments (SEP, ESMP and LMP)	Websites (WB, CIU and MIMRA)	All stakeholders	WB, CIU
Early in implementation phase	Project awareness, E&S instruments, availability of the GM	Face-to-face meetings and community noticeboards	Local governments, fishing communities, Reimaanlok network communities	PMU
Prior to commencement of civil works	Disclosure of Contractor EMPs for Moderate Risk activities and GM	Websites (CIU and MIMRA); in person to potentially affected parties (e.g., communities near construction works) through face-to-face meetings and on community noticeboards.	All stakeholders	CIU, PMU, civil works contractor

## 6.6. COVID-19 Considerations

While face-to-face meetings are typically a preferred method of communication, in light of the current COVID-19 situation, a precautionary approach should be taken to the consultation process to prevent contagion and will follow WHO guidance in relation to COVID-19. Where possible and appropriate, the following are some considerations while selecting channels of communication:

- Avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions or advisories), including public hearings, workshops, and community meetings.
- If smaller meetings are permitted/advised, conduct consultations in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. If not allowed or recommended, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, if possible.
- Diversify means of communication and rely more on social media and online channels. Where possible and appropriate, create dedicated online platforms and chat groups suitable for the purpose, based on the type and category of stakeholders.
- Where possible and appropriate, employ traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, and mail) when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently. Traditional channels can also be highly effective in conveying relevant information to stakeholders and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions.
- Where direct engagement with project-affected people or beneficiaries is necessary, identify channels for direct communication with each affected household via a context-specific combination of e-mail messages, mail, online platforms, dedicated phone lines with knowledgeable operators.

## **7. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**

It is possible that stakeholders will raise complaints or grievances related to any aspect of the MURP including technical advisory support, project design, institutional strengthening, civil works, land access or use, the attitude and behavior of project workers/contractors, or operational impacts from project activities. As such, a grievance mechanism (GM) has been developed for the Project.

The primary objective of grievance management is to allow people who believe they are being negatively impacted by project, including those affected by land clearing or acquisition, to express their concerns and seek satisfactory resolution to grievances they have related to Project activities, as well as issues concerning compensation and other assistance measures.

A formal GM will be implemented by the PMU and will be used for project-related grievances. The GM will be disclosed as described in Table 2, which includes a requirement to disseminate the GM to communities near worksites. The GM will also be disclosed to local governments, fishing communities and Reimaanlok network communities early in the implementation phase.

### **7.1. Principles of the Complaints Process**

The GM is a process is for people seeking satisfactory resolution of their complaints on the environmental and social performance of the Project. The mechanism will ensure the following:

- the basic rights and interests of every person affected by poor environmental performance or social management of the project are protected; and
- their concerns arising from the poor performance of the project during the phases of design, construction and operation activities are effectively and timely addressed.

### **7.2. How to get in touch**

Anyone can make a complaint or submit a grievance, ask for information on the project or get in touch for any reason. Complaints can be anonymous. The PMU Project Coordinator, Rusila Bituwaqa, is the point of contact for complaints and grievances. The various ways to get in touch are:

- By Phone: (692) 456 7919
- By email: [rbituwaqa@mimra.com](mailto:rbituwaqa@mimra.com)
- By mail: P.O. Box 860, Delap Village, Majuro MH 96960
- In person: MIMRA Headquarter, Delap Road, Delap-Uliga-Djarrit, 96960, Marshall Islands
- Website: [www.mimra.com](http://www.mimra.com)

### **7.3. Roles and responsibilities**

The following are persons involved in the complaints process and their supporting roles and responsibilities.

- Designated Contact Person for managing grievances: PMU Project Coordinator
- Person who will manage the database and record keeping: PMU with support from CIU Safeguards Specialist
- Person who will answer simple queries and manage simple complaints: PMU Project Coordinator
- Person who will manage difficult complaints or grievances: Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA with support from CIU Safeguards Specialist
- Person who will prepare environmental and social report for World Bank reporting: PMU with support from CIU Safeguards Specialist

## 7.4. The complaints process

The Grievance Mechanism (GM) process for the resolution of social and environmental matters relating to the Project is set out as follows:

**Step 1:** The GM process begins when an “Aggrieved Party” (the “AP” or the person making the complaint) raises a concern to a Project employee, contractor, someone at DIDA/CIU, any other senior GoRMI officer or MIMRA employee. The person who receives the complaint is called the “Recipient”. The Recipient is required to pass this information to the Designated Contact Person (DCP) within 12 hours using the Grievance Form

The DCP will be:

- the PROPER Project Coordinator (or other person appointed by the Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA); or
- During works, the DCP will be the Construction Site Supervisor (CSS)

**Step 2:** After receiving the complaint, the DCP will document or “log” the concern in the Complaints Register. This will serve as an official record that a complaint has been received and when the matter has been resolved.

**Step 3:** The DCP will determine whether the concern is related to the project, and if it is, the investigation will begin immediately (see Step 4). If the matter is not related to the Project, the DCP will advise the Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA; and the AP will be referred to the appropriate authority to resolve the issue and the matter is closed on the Complaints Registry.

**Step 4:** The DCP will determine if the complaint relates to a serious or sensitive matter. If this does, the DCP will immediately refer the matter to the Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA for further investigation and resolution. The DCP will also notify the Centralized Implementation Unit (CIU) of the RMI Ministry of Finance and the World Bank (see Section 7.4.1).

“**Serious or sensitive matters**” refer to issues involving potential criminal activity, political interference, conflicts of interest, corruption, land claims, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment (SEAH) violence against children (VAC) or human trafficking (HT).

In the case of potential criminal activity, it is important that MURP GM processes do not impede investigation by the appropriate authorities. In situations involving land disputes or claims, the matter will be referred to The Secretary MWIU.

If the concern is related to GBV or SEAH, the project will first seek to ensure that the victim is safe and has access to required support services. For these reasons, a referral will be made to the *WUTMI Weto in Mour: Violence against Women and Girls Support Service*.

**Step 4 (continued):** After determining the grievance is project related but is not of a serious or sensitive nature, the DCP will advise the Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA and CIU Safeguards team. The DCP and Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA (with support of the CIU Safeguards team) will attempt to resolve the concern to everyone’s satisfaction within 24 hours, or within 2 weeks if consultation with other parties is required.

**Steps 5-6:** If resolution is not achieved within 2 weeks, the situation will be referred to the Director, MIMRA who will also attempt to resolve the matter within 2 weeks.

**Step 7:** If resolution has still not occurred following attempts by the Director, MIMRA or the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome proposed by the Director MIMRA, the Aggrieved Person may refer the matter to the appropriate legal or judicial authority. The decision of the Court will be final.

A complaints register will be maintained and will show the details and nature of the complaint, the complainant’s name, the date and actions taken as a result of the investigation (outlined further below).

The PIU Project Coordinator in consultation with the CIU Safeguards team, may review and amend the GM process, where appropriate and make adjustments to consultations, the GM, community engagement, Project implementation and other aspects as necessary to avoid future complaints and grievances if and when required.

#### 7.4.1. Dealing with GBV, SEA/SH and VAC Complaints

Highest priority will be given to grievances concerning GBV, SEA/SH or VAC. The Project will first seek to ensure that the victim is safe and has access to required support services. For these reasons, a referral will be made to the Women United in Marshall Islands Weto in Mour: Violence against Women and Girls Support Service. ~~In the case of alleged perpetrators, the matter will be referred to the police for investigation.~~ This process will be reviewed and confirmed during Worker Code of Conduct awareness sessions, including disclosure options to ensure accountability, confidentiality and sensitivity.

In addition to following this process, all concerns related to GBV, SEA/H, and VAC need to be addressed using a “Survivor- Centered Approach.” The Survivor-Centered approach means that:

- The rights, needs, and wishes of the survivor (or victim) is the foremost priority of everyone involved with the project.
- The survivor has a right to:
  - be treated with dignity and respect instead of being exposed to victim-blaming attitudes.
  - choose the course of action in dealing with the violence instead of feeling powerless.
  - privacy and confidentiality instead of exposure.
  - non-discrimination instead of discrimination based on gender, age, race/ ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, HIV status or any other characteristic.
  - receive comprehensive information to help them make their own decision instead of being told what to do.
- The safety of the survivor shall always be ensured. Potential risks to the survivor will be identified and action taken to ensure the survivor’s safety and to prevent further harm, including ensuring that the alleged perpetrator does not have contact with the survivor. If the survivor is an employee, reasonable adjustments may be made to the survivor’s work schedule and work environment to ensure their safety.
- All actions should reflect the choices of the survivor.
- All information related to the case must be kept confidential and identities must be protected. Only those who have a role in the response to an allegation should receive case-level information, and then only for a clearly stated purpose and with the survivor’s consent.
- The survivor must provide informed consent to progress with each stage of the complaints process. Survivors may withdraw their consent at any time during the process.
- The PROPER GRM will not participate in community or customary dispute resolution processes or pay compensation to the survivor or anyone else (i.e., their relatives or community) as in most cases these processes do not uphold the survivors’ rights.

To properly address GBV, training and sensitizing of project workers is essential, including civil works contractors (including sub-contractors and suppliers), supervision consultants, other consultants who may have a presence in the project adjoining communities—as well as Implementing Agency staff. At a minimum, training should include:

- What GBV, particularly SEA and SH, is and how the project can exacerbate GBV risks

- Roles and responsibilities of actors involved in the project (the standards of conduct for project-related staff captured in CoCs)
- GBV incident reporting mechanism, accountability structures, and referral procedures within agencies and for community members to report cases related to project staff
- Services available for survivors of GBV; and
- Follow-up activities to reinforce training content.

GBV training will be organized by the PIU with support from the CIU, E&S team.

### **7.5. Grievance Record Keeping**

All complaints or grievances submitted will require the completion of a Grievance Report Form which will include the following information:

- i. Name of the complainant
- ii. Address
- iii. Name of the person filling in the Grievance Claim Form (if not the complainant)
- iv. Full description of complaint issue, including background, sketches and maps where appropriate
- v. Description of the requested corrective action
- vi. Date of grievance submission, and
- vii. Signature of complainant, the person filling in the form and the person who received the form.

If assistance is required, the claimant can request help with a verbal grievance to complete the form from the Contractor or PMU (where appropriate). Grievances report forms can also be submitted electronically through the CIU Safeguards website or email.

Every concern or complaint received by the DCP will be allocated a unique File identifier, such as PROPER GM – 2022 #1, PROPER GM – 2022 #2 etc.

A hard copy of the Grievance Report Form will be filed by the DCP in a locked filing cabinet, will be treated as confidential and will not be accessible to other people.

Details of each concern or complaint will be entered into a master file excel spreadsheet which will be stored by the Project Coordinator in a password protected project sub-folder: [\\Safeguards\Complaints](#).

Information relating to GBV, SEA, HT or VAC will be treated as personal and confidential [retained within Project management and PSC] at all times and shall only be made available to WUTMI and approved authorities (such as the police) if required.

Language barriers and insufficient literacy levels shall also not prevent any persons from lodging a complaint. The Grievance Claim Form shall be written in English and in Marshallese and disclosed during consultation.

Complaints or grievances are to be recorded in a Complaints Register held by the PMU with a copy also kept by the CIU Safeguards Team. The register is to clearly indicate whether an issue has been resolved or is still outstanding. The following records generated by this procedure will be stored in hard copy at the PMU office and in electronic format:

- Grievance Claim Forms.
- Letters of request.
- Memorandums of field investigations, consultations and meetings; and
- Photographs, maps, drawings.

If an issue has been resolved, the register will include the following information:

- Completed Grievance Resolution Form.
- Action taken (including evidence of action taken, i.e., photographs, receipts, etc.);
- Date of resolution; and
- Signature of complainant and person responsible for issue resolution.

## 7.6. Reporting and Learning

One of the purposes of the PROPER GM is to ensure that the project learns from its grievance process, reports on the kinds of issues raised, and makes improvements, as needed, in response to people's concerns and feedback. To this end, the following procedures will be followed:

### Incident Reports

- Within 12 hours, Complaint Recipient must notify the Project Coordinator
- Within 12 hours, the Project Coordinator must complete the Grievance Form and initiate the investigation

### Monthly Reports

- The Project Coordinator completes monthly reports that summarize all new complaints, enquiries and grievances received, the type of concern and the number of days it took to resolve the matter. Monthly reports also summarize the status of any outstanding matters from previous months.

### Six Monthly Reports

- The Project Coordinator completes a six-monthly report for CIU and the World Bank, that contains (among other things) the following statistics:
  - Total number of grievances and complaints received
  - Total number of grievances and complaints resolved
  - Total number of grievances and complaints active
  - Total number of grievances and complaints unresolved
  - Average number of days to resolve grievances and complaints.
  - Six-monthly reports also need to specify any changes the project has made in response to existing or previous complaints.

**Immediate Reporting to CIU and the World Bank** by the Project Coordinator under the following circumstances:

1. Grievance or complaint is related to physical injury or death, including those incurred because of gender-based violence.
2. Grievance or complaint received relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH), violence against children or human trafficking.

**Immediate Reporting to WUTMI-WIM** by the Project Coordinator of the following:

Grievance or complaint is related to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment, or violence against children.

If there are more than 30 complaints/grievances recorded, the MIMRA Director may decide to investigate any patterns or repetition of issues that need addressing. The MIMRA Director may decide to get independent consultancy services to review and provide advice.

## 8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

During the project implementation, the PMU will prepare semi-annual reports on the project progress, including the environmental and social performance of the Project. These reports will be for the GoRMI and the WB and will include an update on the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and grievance management. Examples of data that may be used in the reports include:

- **Engagement:**
  - Number and location of community awareness-raising or training meetings.
  - Number of men and women that attended each of the meetings above.
  - Number, location, attendance, and documentation of the meetings held with the authorities and communities or other stakeholders.
  - For each meeting, number and nature of comments received, actions agreed during these meetings, status of those actions.
  - Number and nature of engagement activities with other stakeholders, disaggregated by category of stakeholder.
  - Issues raised by NGOs and other stakeholders, actions agreed with them, and those actions' status.
  - Number and nature of project documents publicly disclosed.
  - Number and nature of updates of the project website.
  - Number and categories of comments received on the website.
- **Grievance Mechanism:**
  - Number of grievances received, disaggregated by complainant's gender and means of receipt (telephone, e-mail, discussion).
  - Number of grievances received from affected people, external stakeholders.
  - Average time of complaint's redress process, disaggregated by gender of complainants and categories of complaints.
  - Number of grievances which have been (i) opened, (ii) opened for more than 30 days, (iii) those which have been resolved, (iv) closed, and (v) number of responses that satisfied the complainants during the reporting period disaggregated by category of grievance, gender, age and location of complainant.
  - Trends in time and comparison of number, categories, and location of complaints with previous reporting periods.
- **Additional internal monitoring** is to be reported quarterly by the CIU and provided to WB. This monitoring will include:
  - Stakeholder engagement activities conducted during each month.
  - Public outreach activities (meetings with stakeholders and newsletters).
  - Entries to the grievance register and status of grievance resolution.
  - New stakeholder groups (where relevant).
  - Stakeholder engagement activities planned for the next month, and beyond (where appropriate).

- Grievances:
  - Total number of complaints / grievances received; Total number resolved; Total number under investigation / not yet resolved; Total number not yet resolved and exceeds the recommended close out time of 1 month or 3 months.
  - Short paragraph on any significant grievances currently not yet resolved and any risks to project implementation.
- The Project team will prepare Incident Notifications for the WB, if and when required.

## 9. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### 9.1. Responsibilities for Implementation

The owner of this SEP is the PMU who will lead its implementation, however, there are many roles that input to the implementation of the activities specified in this SEP. The PMU team will need to coordinate closely with other parties to ensure the successful implementation of this plan. The key parties involved in the stakeholder engagement process and their responsibilities are provided in Table 3.

*Table 3: Responsibilities for Implementation*

Party	Responsibilities
PMU	Plan and implement the SEP. Manage the GM. Prepare Annual SEAP as part of work plan. Manage project information releases (e.g., media releases, website uploads, etc). Monitor of and report on E&S performance to the project team and the WB.
CIU Safeguard Team	Provide support to the PMU in implementation of SEP. Provide support to the PMU in preparation of SEAPs and activity-specific SEAPs Provide E&S training. Reporting.
Consultants	Implementation of the SEP for their scope of work and working with the PMU and CIU to ensure the right stakeholders are identified and involved in their work program. Preparation of activity-specific SEAPs as required.
Civil Works Contractors	Contractors engaged to undertake works will be responsible for implementing any environmental and social protection and mitigation measures as outlined in their Terms of Reference and accompanied instruments (e.g., ESMP). Support the PMU in engaging with stakeholders relating to communicating the scope and timing of works.

### 9.2. Implementation Budget

The PMU and the CIU shall ensure that the total cost of implementation of this SEP (including time inputs, material, and reimbursements) is budgeted for within the Project Budget including activity specific costs.

When contractors/consultants are to be engaged for specific scopes of work, the general expectations regarding stakeholder engagement will be detailed in each Terms of Reference/Scope of Works and contractors/consultants are to include sufficient fundings in their proposed budgets to cover the engagement required (including the preparing of a task-specific SEP if required).

The CIU Safeguard Team will provide technical assistance and oversight (at no cost to the Project) on all aspects of stakeholder engagement to support the PMU and contractors engaged by the Project. If additional E&S support is required, external assistance will be sought by the Project or CIU.

The ESMP provides an indicative budget of \$270,000 for MIMRA to implement all E&S risk management requirements, including the SEP, over the six-year implementation period. Of this amount, \$90,000 (i.e., \$15,000 per year) has been allocated for stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops, including venues, refreshments, printing etc. for meetings. It also includes travel for key PMU and CIU staff (including PPE, accommodation, flights, car hire, fuel etc.).

## Annex 1: Summary of Stakeholder Consultation Meetings during Project Preparation

### PROPER Stakeholder Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Attendees:**

Rusila Bituwaqa (RB) – PROPER Project Coordinator

Florence Edwards (FE) – MIMRA Deputy Director

Moriana Phillip (MP) – RMI EPA General Manager

Beverly Johnson (BJ) - RMIEPA

Dua Rudolph (DR) – Marshall Islands Conversation Society (MICS)

Emma Kabua (EK) – MIMRA Reimaanlok Network

Kimber Rilometo (KR) – CIU Safeguards Officer

Colleen Peacock (CP) - CIU Social Safeguards Advisor

Garry Venus (GV) – CIU Environmental Safeguards Advisor

**Notes of Meeting:**

RB welcomed all attendees to meeting – purpose to introduce MWIU to the PROPER Project.

GV went through the presentation focusing on matters of particular interest to EPA, MICS and Reimaanlok.

Key issues arising:

Waste management – MP agreed that there were limited facilities for waste reception in Majuro or in Neighboring Islands.

For the Majuro landfill MP noted JICA was funding a 5-year Waste Management Plan with a focus on future waste disposal in Majuro. Disposal facilities are limited. Alternative sites had been identified - e.g the Jenrok Site - but now being used as a sporting field. RMI now needs to identify landfill sites for the next 10 years.

EK asked about whether there were minimum specified requirements for dealing with community consultation and stakeholder engagement. CP responded that the key objective was that stakeholders should be meaningful engaged and that efforts are made to ensure diverse inputs are received.

CP also noted that stakeholders should be made aware of complaints and grievance processes.

MP discussed safety elements for workers potentially engaged on Project activities – team leaders are familiar with safety requirements and could accommodate any WB Project safety needs and compliance with local ordinances and requirements (such as alcohol-free restrictions in neighboring islands – safety is allocated responsibility of team leaders – specified in EPA HR policy.

EK noted that safety measures could be incorporated in Reimaanlok toolkits intended to equip community members to safely undertake activities.

MP expressed support for the follow-up to the marine pollution study including the Majuro Lagoon water quality strategy. She said EPA was happy to be involved with MIMRA taking the lead. EPA looks forward to continued involvement with MIMRA same as for the PROP Project.

## PROPER Stakeholder Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Attendees:**

James Myazoe (JM) – Ministry of Works Infrastructure and Utilities Project Management Unit

Rusila Bituwaqa (RB) – PROPER Project Coordinator

Florence Edwards (FE) – MIMRA Deputy Director

Kimber Rilometo (KR) – CIU Safeguards Officer

Colleen Peacock (CP) - CIU Social Safeguards Advisor

Garry Venus (GV) – CIU Environmental Safeguards Advisor

**Notes of Meeting:**

RB welcomed all attendees to meeting – purpose to introduce MWIU to the PROPER Project.

GV went through the presentation focusing on matters of particular interest to MWIU – mainly in relation to building works supervision. He explained that in this regard the Project might seek the assistance of the MWIU PMU in a similar way to assistance had been provided for the ECD and ESSP Projects.

JM thanked MIMRA for the presentation. He advised that if MIMRA want to use MWIU for contract management and building supervision, the initial contact should be made with the Secretary of Works.

JM also advised that the RMI Building code was presently being processed for endorsement by the Nitijela but prior to endorsement it would be appropriate for any PROPER building works to follow the requirements of the Building Code. The Code was to go to Cabinet next week then to the Nitijela.

## PROPER Stakeholder Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 27 September 2022

**Attendees:**

Miriam DeBrum (MD) – Acting Director, WUTMI

Rusila Bituwaqa (RB) – PROPER Project Coordinator Meriam DeBrum

Kimber Rilometo (KR) – CIU Safeguards Officer

Colleen Peacock (CP) - CIU Social Safeguards Advisor

Garry Venus (GV) – CIU Environmental Safeguards Advisor

**Notes of Meeting:**

CP welcomed all attendees to meeting and explained the purpose was to familiarize WUTMI with the PROPER Project.

CP provided an overview of the Project focusing on matters of particular interest to WUTMI including risks and mitigation strategies associated with GBV, SEA/H and VAC. She also explained WUTMI's role in addressing GBV related grievances.

MD thanked the PIU/CIU for the presentation and indicated that WUTMI is pleased to support the GoRMI and WB in situations involving violence against women and children and was happy to hear we are using a survivor-centered approach. The meeting included discussion about increased risk when projects use imported workers and the need for proactive mitigation. The meeting also included discussion on the need to train PROPER staff (and other WB-GoRMI project/implementing agency staff) on GBV and referral protocols and agreed to discuss how WUTMI could be involved in this training when the Director returns to RMI in November.