

Terms of Reference (TOR)
Individual Consultant
Republic of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

Title:	1.2.2.3 - Communication officer
Location:	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
Duration:	2 years (full-time, local hire)
Tentative Start Date:	As soon as possible

A. Background

The Republic of the Marshall Islands in the Western and Central Pacific comprise of twenty-nine (29) low lying coral atolls and five (5) low coral islands. These atolls and islands are scattered over the expanse of the Pacific, with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2 million square kilometers.

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) has been mandated by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) government to facilitate the management, sustainability and responsible use of marine resources of the Marshall Islands, while maximizing benefits from the use of fisheries within environmental limits. To fulfill its mandate, MIMRA departments are divided into Coastal, Oceanic, Corporate Services and Finance, Legal, Administration, and Executive Management.

To support the implementation of the World Bank Financed RMI PROPER Project, a Project Management Unit (PMU) consisting of a Project Coordinator, Finance Officer, Environment and Safeguard Officer and Project Assistant will work in the already established PMU in RMI MIMRA. The RMI PROPER PMU is responsible for coordinating the administrative management and implementation of the Project with the RMI Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce (RMI MNRC), within MIMRA. MIMRA will also be responsible for preparing and implementing the Project in accordance with guidelines and regulations as well as the annual work plans and budgets which will detail project activities and eligible expenditures.

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) commissioned a marine pollution study under the auspices of the World Bank funded Marshall Islands Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program based on concerns about water quality in the Majuro Lagoon and marine contamination affecting reef and pelagic fishes throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Water quality is an urgent issue in Majuro, and to effectively address this problem, sewage management must be improved. In addition, solid waste must be managed so that degrading infrastructure, vehicles, and waste do not leach into the marine environment. These risks must be further situated within a food security framework such that recommendations to limit fish consumption do not create or make worse food insecurity and/or micronutrient deficiencies. Ultimately, environmental sources of pollutants must be addressed.

B. Main Objective of the Assignment

The Objective of this position is to:

- a. develop and manage effective communication strategies to advance the implementation of the Marine Pollution Report's recommendations and;
- b. Provide support for developing The PROPER project communication outputs.

C. Scope of Services

The Communications Officer will:

- i. **To facilitate effective communication and coordination among key stakeholders to promote awareness, ensure timely information dissemination, and support the implementation of marine pollution mitigation strategies.**
 - Collaborate with the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) to implement Marine Pollution Report recommendations.
 - Support the formation and operation of a Task Force dedicated to addressing the Marine Pollution Report's recommendations.
 - Schedule and coordinate all Task Force meetings, ensuring efficient communication and progress tracking.
 - Work closely with the MIMRA and EPA teams to implement marine pollution mitigation strategies, ensuring alignment with project objectives.
 - Monitor the Marine Pollution budget, ensuring resources are utilized effectively.
- ii. **Lead PROPER project's internal and external communications and outreach in the Marshall Islands.**
 - Develop and implement communication strategies to support the overall goals of PROPER/MIMRA.
 - Develop relevant communications material to ensure effective dissemination of information about the PROPER project to the public, government, and project stakeholders through various communication platforms, including local and international mainstream media.
 - Create and manage content for various communication channels, including social media platforms, websites, newsletters, and press releases.
 - Develop and disseminate press releases and other media materials to generate positive media coverage.

- Manage and update social media accounts with engaging and relevant content.
- Ensure accurate and timely communication of project progress and achievements.
- Coordinate communication activities with other departments and external stakeholders.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication strategies and activities.

iii. Specific Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Tasks

- Developing and maintaining the M&E framework, schedules, and a knowledge management system.
- Conduct daily media monitoring, ensuring that management are made aware of current media, social media, and other public discussions regarding the project.
- Work closely with the E&S Safeguards Officer to monitor community and stakeholder positions and emerging risks, and to advise management on appropriate communication measures.
- Contribute information regarding M&E to Annual Work Plans and Budgets;
- Work with MIMRA IT Department to Ensure web-based database is set up for the project use and public consumption.

D. Expected key deliverables

- Regular Monthly reporting on communication activities, outreach efforts, and impact
- Organization and facilitation of public awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagement events.

E. Required Skills and Experience

Essential Education:

- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Management, Project Management, Communication or a related field.

Essential Knowledge/ Experience:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated work experience in project management
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English and Marshallese.

Desirable:

- Experience in environmental monitoring, enforcement, and emergency response.
- Understanding of marine ecosystems, pollution prevention, and RMI environmental regulations.

F. Position Duration

The position is for a 2-year term, with potential extension based on performance and funding availability. The position is subject to a 6-month probationary period.

G. Location

The staff will primarily work from the **MIMRA main office** but will collaborate with **EPA** throughout the contracted implementation phase.