

PACIFIC REGIONAL INNOVATION NETWORK (PRIN)

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Innovation Report & Proposed
Innovation Work Plan **2020-2025**



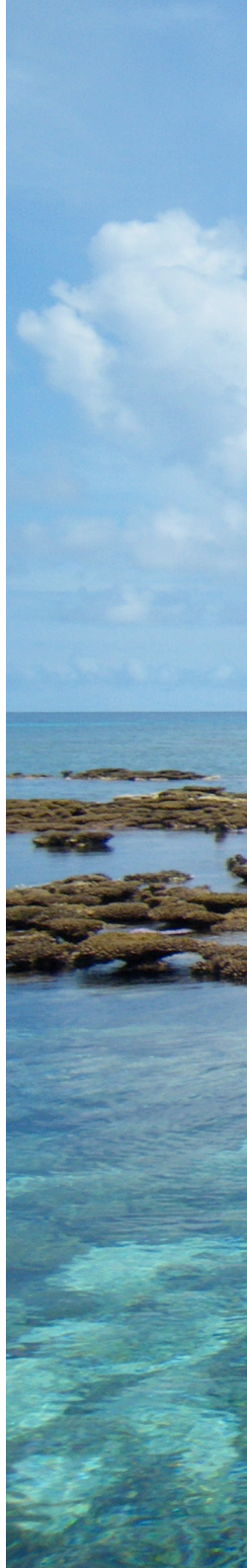
© Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) 2020

All rights for commercial / for profit reproduction or translation, in any form, reserved. PRIN authorises the partial reproduction or translation of this material for scientific, educational or research purposes, provided that USP and the source document are properly acknowledged. Permission to reproduce the document and/or translate in whole, in any form. Whether for commercial / for profit or non-profit purposes, must be requested in writing.

Produced by:
The Pacific Regional Innovation Network
In partnership between the University of the South Pacific and
the United Nations Development Programme

Acknowledgement: Acknowledgement is extended to the survey participants whose response had formulated the report and work plan. A special thanks is also conveyed to the Republic of the Marshall Islands USP campus students who conducted the survey for PRIN Marshall Islands. Sincere gratitude is extended to Dr Mele Katea Paea, USP Innovation & Research Development Coordinator who had guided the production of this report and work plan. Also expressing appreciation to Ms Rea Jean Tabaco our analyst at the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office based here in RMI.

Disclaimer: This report and work plan is provided for information and it does not purport to be complete. While care has been taken to ensure the content is accurate, we cannot guarantee it is without flaw of any kind. There may be errors and omissions or it may not be wholly appropriate for your particular purposes. In addition, the publication is a snapshot in time based on historic information which is liable to change. The Pacific Regional Innovation Network accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information contained in this document.



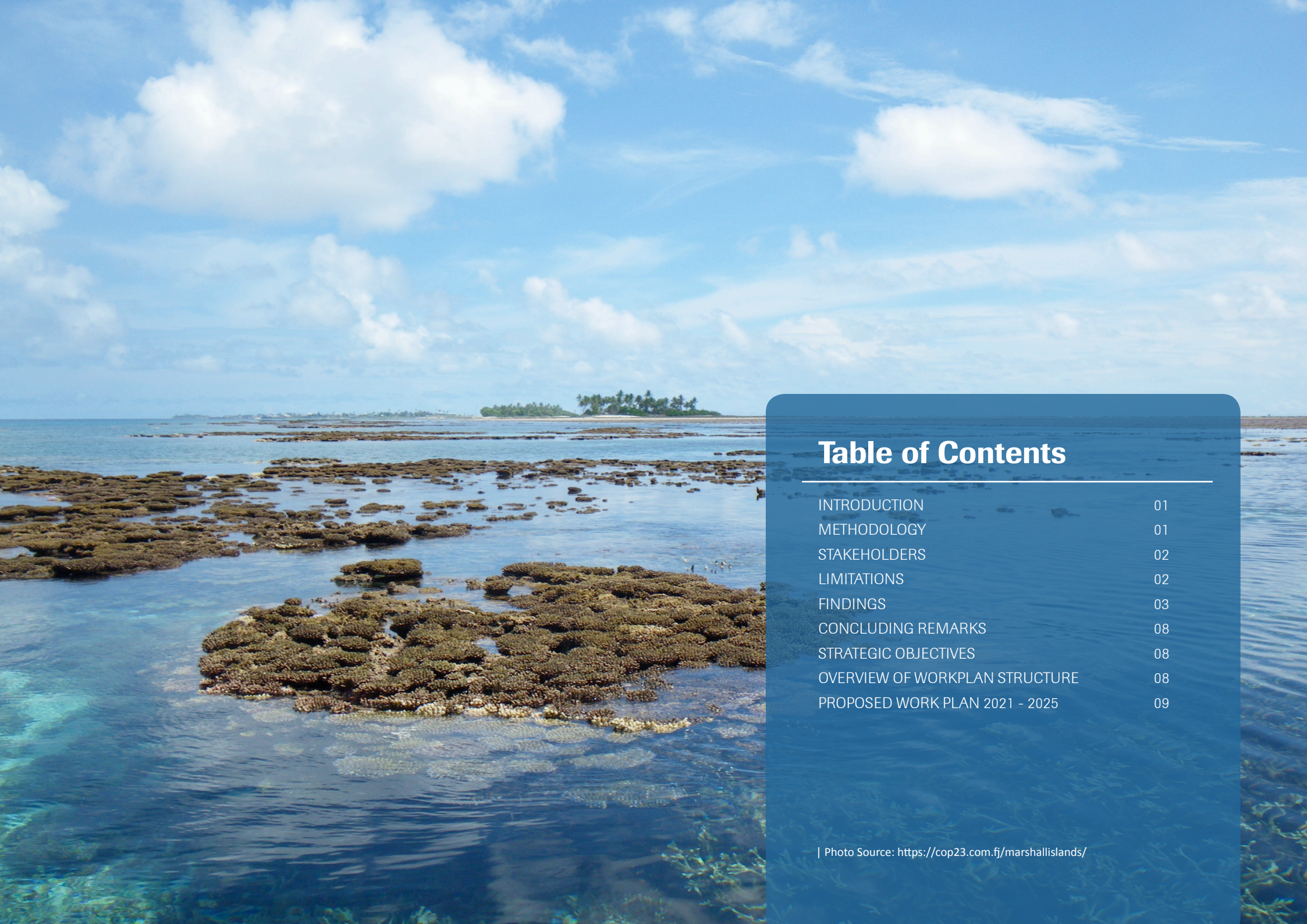


Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	01
METHODOLOGY	01
STAKEHOLDERS	02
LIMITATIONS	02
FINDINGS	03
CONCLUDING REMARKS	08
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	08
OVERVIEW OF WORKPLAN STRUCTURE	08
PROPOSED WORK PLAN 2021 - 2025	09

ACRONYMS

EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPPSO	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
IPR	Intellectual Property Right
MEC	Marshall Islands Energy Company
MICNGOs	Marshall Islands Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority
MNRC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce
MoCIA	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO(s)	Non – Government Organisation(s)
NTC	National Training Council
OCIT	Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism
PII	Pacific International Incorporation
PPW	Pacific Pure Water
PRIN	Pacific Regional Innovation Network
PSC	Public Service Commission
PSS	Public School System
RMI	The Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
ToR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USP	The University of the South Pacific
WAM	Waan Aelōñ in Majel

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1: Sample size by gender	Page 1
Figure 2: Sample size by organisation	Page 2
Figure 3: Sample size by industry	Page 2
Figure 4: Way Forward	Page 7

Table 1: Examples of country’s strengths on innovation	Page 5
--	--------

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Innovation Report and Proposed Work Plan Tables and Figures

1. This report synthesises the response from a survey on Innovation carried out in May 2020 in RMI.
2. The tables and figures contained in the report are representative of the sample population of the survey conducted during the period mentioned above.
3. All data displayed in the tables and figures belong to the Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN).

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) consists of a collection of islands, islets and atolls, surrounded by sea and has a population of 53,158 as recorded in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The University of the South Pacific (USP) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) in February 2020. This is probably the first network of its kind aiming to develop and strengthen local innovation that is applicable and acceptable in the Pacific context. The Network attempts to address the issue of research equity by fostering a culture of creativity across the region by localising innovation at the country level and strengthening collaboration amongst stakeholders. It aims to reach out to the community in an innovative way.

On May 4th – 15th, 2020 a group of research assistants were tasked to carry out a survey in the Marshall Islands. Various stakeholders from government ministries, non-governmental organisations, private sectors and from influential individuals with no particular affiliation were interviewed face-to-face (see Appendix A for a list of all participants). The aim of the research was to determine the scope of understanding of innovation within the Marshallese context and how these innovations have been or can be supported locally. Additionally, the research was an attempt to stipulate the way forward in these innovation processes and to identify ways of supporting such innovations. The results helped form the basis of the innovation work plan for RMI which will be implemented by all local stakeholders.

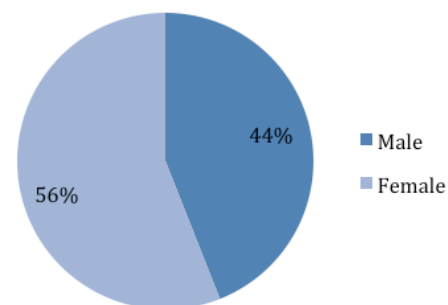
METHODOLOGY

Target respondents were selected based on their availability and they were representatives of various sectors of the community. An email was sent to thirty four stakeholders inviting them to participate in the survey. A total of sixteen (16) people (7 males and 9 females) ranging from the ages of 20 – 74 years old took part in the face-to-face interviews that took two weeks to complete from May 4th – 15th. These

sixteen interviewees, two were non-Marshallese, were the ones who responded to the email seeking their permission to be interviewed (refer to Appendix A). The University of the South Pacific (USP) students were contracted as interviewers on April 27th. A one day training about the questionnaire and the basics of interviewing was held on April 30th. The research assistants were paired up in twos to conduct this face-to-face interviews following a schedule (see Appendix B).

The interviewers read out the questions and recorded the responses. After each session the interviewers were also tasked to do a summary report of how the interview went and the main points discussed. All questions were open-ended questions but the interviewers were also allowed to do follow-up questions if they thought responses were vague and needed further clarification. The questionnaire was divided into four parts: respondents' data, their interpretation of innovation, what is/was innovation in the local context, and where they saw innovation going into the future.

Sample size by Gender



The visual Sample size by Gender is an indication of the responses received to participate in the survey. In no way does it indicate any bias towards female responses as both genders views are considered equally important.



Once the survey was completed, all answers were then encoded into an Excel file, with each row representing each respondent's answers to the questions. The Marshall Islands Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) personnel were tasked with encoding the data from June 9th to the 25th. Basic descriptive methods were applied in presenting the data of the respondents' whereby commonalities were identified to group responses since the interviewees were from different spectrums of society. For the open-ended questions responses were manually coded by grouping each response into categories where patterns and trends were identified and analysed.

At the time when this survey was conducted, most responses received were from government (refer to visual Sample size by organization type). It is reiterated that it does not mean that all findings for this report is solely based on government responses. Other sectors contributions in the RMI are also included in the survey findings.

Refer to Appendix C for the questionnaire that was used to gather information for this survey.

STAKEHOLDERS

These sixteen (16) stakeholders were from government ministries, training and employment, environment, coastal and ocean fisheries, energy, cultural affairs, education and transport sectors (refer to Appendix A).

LIMITATIONS

The sample size may not be representative of all stakeholders. One of the challenges faced is the COVID-19 pandemic that had limited the participation of some of the stakeholders as they had other pressing priorities to commit to. Nevertheless the data collected is very much

useful as an initial attempt to understand innovation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

Sample size by Organisation Type

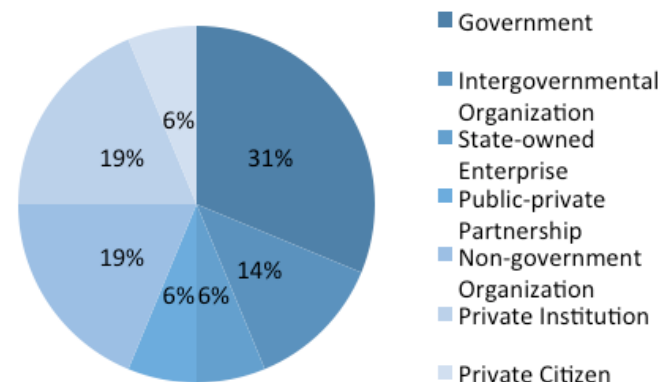


Figure 2: Sample size by organisation

Sample size by Industry

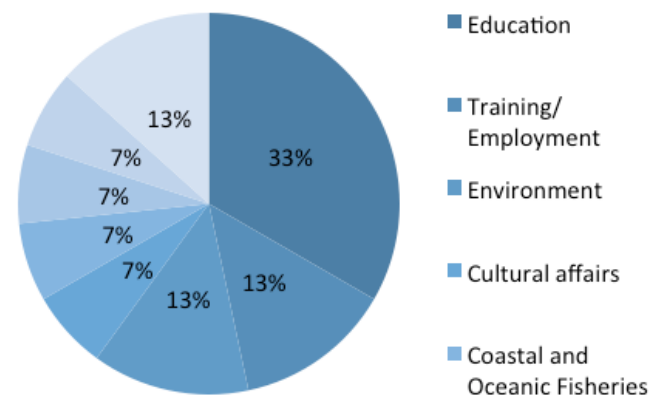


Figure 3: Sample size by industry



| Photo Source: https://www.scidev.net/objects_store/thumbnail

FINDINGS

Part 1: Understanding Innovation in the local context

Respondents were asked to give examples of innovation in the country or within their area of expertise. Nine of the respondents gave specific answers relating to this mentioning:

One Island One Product initiatives – this being a source of investment and employment opportunities for locals, Tobolar – a company that uses copra where new processes and new products are being created which is good for the RMI economy, Pacific Pure Water (PPW) – new processes incorporated using local products which again is good for the economy, Jaki-ed – producing creative products that is an income-generating one and improves creativity relating to traditional Marshallese mat weaving, Waan Aelöñ in Majel (WAM) – re-learning traditional canoe making providing training and employment for the locals, also saves money and helps reduce carbon emission (sea transportation), Solar energy – cheaper energy source, local involvement in this project.

Others stated general programs of innovation relating to the environment looking into climate change, especially in addressing climate change threats particularly the rising sea levels. Furthermore, culture where the process of relearning traditions using traditional skills and understanding the importance of culture were examples of innovative projects. Project management, government policies, health and

handicrafts were other mentions of aspects of innovation.

“... use local knowledge and apply it to business context ...”

- Anonymous survey participant

In general responses indicate that there are existing innovative practices in the country but there is a need to target youths to participate in these especially those that do not wish to pursue further academic studies. According to the majority in this survey, innovations need to benefit the people (especially the locals) in the following ways: income generating; sharing and collaborating of knowledge and skills and networking. Involvement and empowering locals especially women were key areas.

“Women here are very active ... usually it’s women’s projects ... that are more successful and have greater impact on society ...”

- Anonymous survey participant





| Photo Source: <https://www.enidnews.com/news/>

It is apparent that there exist surplus amounts of donor partners who are willing to sponsor and donate to such causes. However, collaborations amongst stakeholders together with communities need to show commitment and team work to ensure continuity of innovative practices to co-exist. Local talent (and knowledge) and resources are not an issue as these are available on island.

“... resources that the country and the people can actually take advantage of ... fish and coconut.”

- Anonymous survey participant



Photos: Examples of local Marshallese handicrafts

Part 2: Supporting Innovation in the local context

These are people who possess abilities, values and creativity that can be harnessed for the development of their own country. There is a need to re-vitalize the use of canoes for transportation purposes and to combat climate change.



Photos: Sea Transportation – revival of canoe building done at Waan Aelöñ in Majel (WAM).



| Photo Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/>

The highest percentage of respondents (31.3 percent) stated that the presence of donors and organizations and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) can support these innovations in the Marshall Islands. In addition, 25 percent of respondents said that the values and characteristics such as openness and interconnectedness are the strength of the local people which can be successfully utilized to support innovative processes. A total of 25 percent of the respondents mentioned that empowered women and local people can play critical roles in supporting innovation. Another 18 percent of respondents mentioned that people’s ability to explore and navigate and their creativity specifically in handicrafts are strengths that Marshallese people possess. Moreover, being surrounded by water and having access to marine resources as identified by the respondents (12.5 percent) is a key asset to the development of innovative projects.

No	Area Specific examples	Ranking
1	People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity – handicrafts • Ability to explore and navigate • Empowered women and locals • Values and characteristics (openness and interconnectedness) 	1st
2	Presence of donors and organizations	2nd
3	Marine resources	3rd

Given the strengths that Marshallese have, it is important to ensure that support mechanisms are put in place to sustain its successful utilization in innovative projects. First and foremost is the need for education and training, the involvement of specific sectors, funding, collaboration between concerned parties, revival of traditional customs and sustainable development. A total of 43 percent of respondents emphasized the importance of how these strengths can be supported through the involvement of specific sectors such as women (12.5 percent), youth (12.5 percent), locals (12.5 percent) and church (6.3 percent). Women empowerment should be taught at an early age and specific gender roles should be abolished. Also, schools should conduct courses that focus on both male and female accomplishments internationally and in the Pacific. It is also imperative for educational institutions to educate the public and to teach the Marshallese language and culture.

“People come together more easily ... people have a common language and have common values and principles ...”

- Anonymous survey participant

The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA) should take a stance that normalizes gender equality and to relate it to culture. For youth, they can support their own strength by connecting with the older generation and bringing back traditional ways of learning by watching elders.





| Photo Source: The Minister of Education, Sports and Training, Ms Kitlang Kabua (centre) with two research assistants.

A total of 31.3 percent of the respondents also stated the significance of the revival of Marshallese customs and traditions and that schools can be encouraged to include this in their curriculum. Also, church leaders can help in supporting the strength of the local people by initiating innovative projects. Similarly, respondents highlighted the utmost importance of collaboration between governments, private sectors, NGOs, stakeholders, other countries, and the general public in supporting the strength of the Marshallese people.

A total of 50 percent of the respondents identified government and government ministries and agencies as the main local stakeholders that can support the strength owned and possessed by the local people. These included Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), MoCIA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC), Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OCIT), Ministry of Transportation and Communication and the Ministry of Education. Another 31.3 percent stated the critical supporting role of private sectors, such as the Chamber of Commerce, and Pacific International Incorporation (PII) while 37 percent noted the significance of local community leaders and following from this was the importance of traditional leaders. Moreover, youth (25 percent) and NGOs (25 percent) were also highlighted as important stakeholders in supporting the strength of the RMI citizens.

Finally, the role of PRIN can be identified as the establishment of network for sharing ideas, funding innovative projects, providing education and training, creating awareness, providing technical assistance

and involving local communities in innovations. It is clear that the most critical need that PRIN must address is education and training and the creation of a network that could be used for sharing ideas amongst the people of the RMI.

“Holding more programmes that promote creative thinking, having these great minds be integrated and work with the younger folk so that they can be inspired to be creative and see how they can then turn a product into something that is even better or different... it is a collaboration of people that’s the essential thing...”

- Anonymous survey participant

Part 3: Way Forward

Paving the way forward for the RMI will involve investment in education, training, and promotion of innovations. It also requires the various government ministries, non-governmental organizations, private sectors and individuals to work together and create a network that will support the spread of innovative ideas throughout the Marshall Islands. Furthermore, these innovations must involve local people using local resources and ideas and be financially supported to ensure their prompt implementation and sustainability.

It was evident in the research that the key to innovation is education and training. A total of 31.1percent of the respondents stated that it is important to provide quality education and training for people who will be involved in these innovative processes in various levels. In the early stage, children should be encouraged to develop innovative ideas and at the youth level, students are to be given the opportunities to set-up small entrepreneurial programs (business). School drop-outs should also be trained especially in the area of local handicrafts and this can become their source of income.

Another 25 percent of the respondents highlighted the need to promote and share innovative ideas and for the RMI to establish an innovative hub by providing a space that will bring together innovative ideas to be learned, shared and executed. Also, this can be supported by the establishment of a network to encourage the sharing of ideas. More importantly, these innovative processes must be supported through collaboration of government ministries, non-government organizations, public sectors and prominent individuals. This should also include the provision of expertise, funding and the proper management for projects especially with regards to shipping industries and sea transportation.

However, 12.5 percent of respondents stated that for these projects to be successful, it is critical that government policies are improved by

lessening the red-tape that usually encompass the bringing in of foreign aid and its requirements which are not flexible. Rather, there is a need to capture local people’s strengths and weaknesses and for the government to work together with its people instead of forcing them to work within the foreign framework of structured rules and guidelines. The research also emphasized the importance of engaging local Marshallese people in these innovative projects. A total of 18.8 percent of respondents stated the need to involve local people in terms of the management of projects and the utilization of local resources. This will also provide employment opportunities for the local people.

Way Forward

Prospective innovation at the country level

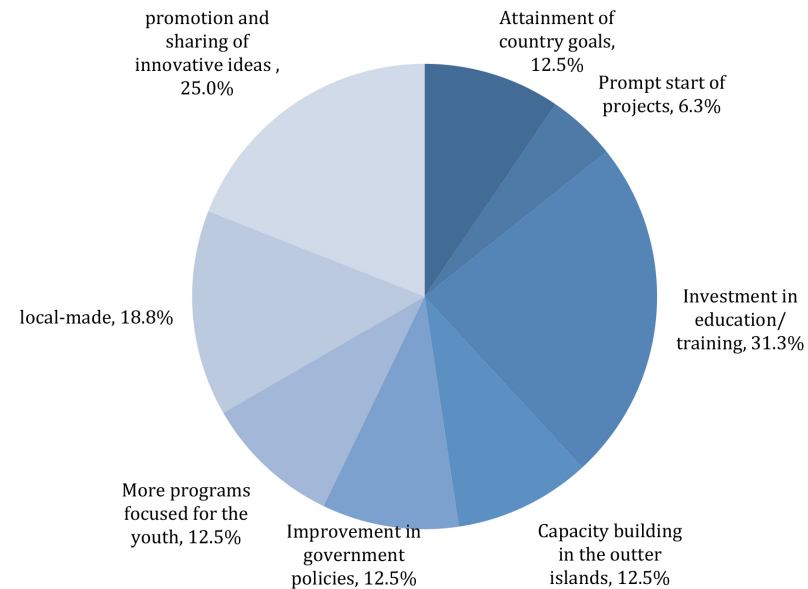


Figure 4: Different innovative projects for the RMI



In addition, 12.5% of respondents indicated the need to create youth programs that would empower them through mastering of their Marshallese identity, adaptability and positivity. Youth must believe in themselves to illicit positive changes and they ought to be actively involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and Arts programs. Another 25% stated the importance of capacity building in the outer-islands as a critical pathway to including local participation and empowering them in this process of innovation. These stated that there was a need for decentralization of the government and the need for local and national government to work together for optimum success of innovative projects. Another 12.5% also noted that it is significant to attain the country’s goal by working together in achieving the RMI Energy goal of 2050 and the 17 goals of sustainable development. The least number of respondents (6.3%), however, focused on the issue of promptness of projects; thus, the call for immediate action to the actual plan and implementation of these innovative projects.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Data collected indicate that there is existence of innovation already taking place in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). These innovations can be classified under environment (climate change, marine resources), culture, industries (fisheries, One Island One Product, Tobolar), energy (solar) and health. This survey highlighted the need for more stakeholder participation and collaboration to address the gaps that exist. Analysis indicate conclusively that most innovations are aimed at assisting the economy, provision of employment, providing sustainable sea transportation, addressing environmental issues and reviving traditional and cultural knowledge. On the whole, the creation of an innovation hub in the RMI will be a first of its kind and through capacity building ensuring a network of thinkers that on the long-run can/and will provide technical assistance with the involvement

of local communities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The 4 strategic objectives below and their respective activities (see work plan) were informed by the survey responses, and will be implemented by various stakeholders.

1. Invest in innovation and education/training
2. Create an innovative network that can build, share and engage people in dialogue to support innovative ideas and practices
3. Employ locals and youths in mastering innovation relevant for people of the RMI e.g., STEM
4. Improve government policies

OVERVIEW OF WORKPLAN STRUCTURE

Below is an overview of the work plan structure that depicts the linkages between the three (3) priority areas of the innovation work plan, its four (4) supporting objectives.

Priority Area	Strategic Objectives
Innovation in education and training	1. Invest in innovation and education/training
	2. Create an innovation network that can build, share and engage people in dialogue to support innovative ideas and practices
Innovation in capacity building	3. Employ locals and youth in mastering innovation relevant for people of the RMI e.g., STEM
Governance	4. Improve government policies

PROPOSED WORK PLAN 2021 - 2025

PRIORITY AREA 1: INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Objective 1: INVEST IN INNOVATION AND EDUCATION/TRAINING

ACTIVITY	OUTPUT(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1.1 Facilitate programs within the education system that will ensure inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced skills and attributes necessary for a dynamic workforce and resilient economy Ensure schools are well equipped with facilities, resources and quality teachers to foster a more effective learning environment Improved TVET and Workforce Development issues through the NTC, and STEM programs 	PSS, USP, Govt (national and local governments), communities (parents), civil society organizations, NTC

Objective 2: CREATE AN INNOVATION NETWORK THAT CAN BUILD, SHARE AND ENGAGE PEOPLE IN DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND PRACTICES

ACTIVITY	OUTPUT(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
2.1 Establish innovation hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMI Innovation hub established and functional 	USP, UNDP, RMI Govt
2.2 Recruit an RMI Innovation Hub Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> innovation hub coordinator recruited and officially in place effective and efficient functioning of the Innovation Hub towards enriching collaborations and national development 	USP, UNDP, Local Govt
2.3 Create a pool of locally accessible experts to support innovation across industries within RMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local experts identified from across the industries within RMI - readily available to support innovation dialogue across the industries (locally, regionally and internationally) 	USP R&I office, Hub Coordinator, UNDP, Local Govt, Civil Society Organizations etc.
2.4 Promote strategic partnership with private and public sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> alignment of interests established leading to partnerships locally and/or regionally - agreements/MoUs signed 	



PRIORITY AREA 2: INNOVATION IN CAPACITY BUILDING

Objective 1: EMPLOY LOCALS AND YOUTHS IN MASTERING INNOVATION RELEVANT TO MARSHALLESE PEOPLE E.G., STEM

ACTIVITY	OUTPUT(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
3.1 Conduct awareness workshops to highlight the importance of creative thinking and innovation for stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> workshops successfully facilitated workshop reports made available 	Hub Coordinator, UNDP, Local Experts, Local Govt etc.
3.2 Offer trainings on how to effectively use local resources to produce unique and sustainable marketable products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> locally unique and sustainable products created training guidelines developed training report media releases 	USP, UNDP, Local Govt, Civil Society Groups, HPO, NTC etc.
3.3 Build out-islands capacity to empower the participation of locals in developing innovation for RMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outer island youths trained products specific to outer-islands created training reports 	
3.4 Explore market opportunities for local innovations that embrace both modern and traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoUs signed IPR on products established partnerships established 	OCIT, USP, Local Govt, MoCIA etc.
3.5 Build capacity of youths to secure innovation grants from donors and government financial support schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> youths trained on concept note development, proposal writing and budget development potential donors identified training on proper report writing 	USP, MICNGOs, NTC etc.



PRIORITY AREA 3: GOVERNANCE

Objective 1: IMPROVE GOVERNMENT POLICIES

ACTIVITY	OUTPUT(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
4.1 Improve practices to achieve an effective, ethical, and transparent public service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effective, ethical, and transparent public service• trainings	PSC, Local Govt etc.
4.2 Strengthen alignment and coordination across and within the public service and related public agencies that will support innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• improved coordination of resources• effective delivery services• integrated innovative and sustainable ideas into overall planning	PSC, All sectors
4.3 Establish a research and innovation working group that appraises project concepts and proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• working group ToR discussed and approved• regular meeting reports	USP, All sectors
4.3 Link RMI energy goal and SDGs in supporting innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• linkages made• SDGs achieved	MEC



Appendix A: List of PRIN participants

1. Minister Kitlang Kabua Ministry of Education, Sports and Training: kkabua@pss.edu.mh
2. Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce – Sandy Alfred:
3. Fred deBrum – EPPSO: fjdebrum@gmail.com
4. 2 reps CMI – Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono: tkoroivulaono@cmi.edu
5. Julius Lucky – NTC: ntcdr@ntcinfo.org
6. John Mar – NTC: mel_manager@ntcinfo.org
7. Elmer Lang – NTC: langberan@live.com
8. 2 Ministry of resources and development
9. Florence Edwards – MIMRA: fedwards@mimra.com
10. Emma Kabua – MIMRA: ekabua.tibon@mimra.com
11. Yoshiko Capelle UNDP JP: yoshikocapelle@gmail.com
12. 2 Wutmi Mrs. Momotaro: alik_momotaro@yahoo.com; wutmi26@gmail.com
13. 2 Handicraft Association
14. Chamber of Commerce
15. Carlos Dominic, OCIT: ceo@rmiocit.org
16. Brenda Alik, OCIT: tourismmanager@rmiocit.org
17. Aliti Koro
18. Alson Kelen WAM: alsonjkelen@gmail.com
19. PSS Junior Paul, PSS: jpaul@pss.edu.mh
20. Dustin Langidrik
21. Ione deBrum: lutipde@gmail.com
22. Maria Kabua Fowler Alan Fowler: fowleraemajuro@gmail.com
23. Handicraft Association
24. Moriana Phillip, EPA: morianaphillip.rmiepa@gmail.com
25. Tobolar: jimphilipo@gmail.com and reginamalberttar@gmail.com
26. MOHHs (Ms. Francyne Wase: wasejacklick@gmail.com
27. MoCIA x2 (Minister – the Hon. Jamie Nashion, Secretary
28. IOM (Angela Saunders: aksaunders@iom.int
29. Climate Change Department x3 (Director – Mr. Clarence Samuel: clarencesam@gmail.com, NAP Officer – Broderick Menke: broderickmenke@gmail.com, NDCs Officer – Ms. Jane Ishiguro: maruby222@gmail.com)
30. MICNGOs (Director – Mr. Ilaitia Tamata: directormicngo@gmail.com
31. MICS
32. MEC (Angeline Heine: gelheine@gmail.com)
33. MCST (Ponipate and Dr. Irene)
34. Kilom Ishiguro: kilomi@sprep.org

Appendix B: Interview Schedule

Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) in RMI Interview Scheduling

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10AM	Mr. Kilom Ishiguro: SPREP Carlson and Alex	Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono: CMI Lily and Arnold	Hon. Minister - Ms. Kitlang Kabua: PSS Hideo and Silia	Mr. Ponipate Tiko: MCST (USP Rm 202) Carlson and Alex	Mr. Ilaitia Tamata: MICNGOs Reginald and Shantel
11AM					
12PM			Student Seminar		
1PM					
2PM	Ms. Angeline Heine: MEC Reginald and Shantel	Mr. Alson Kelen: WAM Lily and Arnold Mrs. Alan Fowler Hideo and Silia			Ms. Yoshiko Capelle: UNDP GEF Carlson and Alex
3PM					
4PM	Ms. Francyne Wase: MoHHS Hideo and Silia				



Appendix C: Survey Questionnaire

Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) in RMI, Tonga, and Vanuatu

QUESTIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

The Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) is an innovative partnership initiative between the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeking to further support regional innovation in the Pacific. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Tonga, and Vanuatu have been considered for this PRIN initiative as they currently have impactful projects on innovation from national and regional perspectives.

Phase 1 of this initiative is to conduct ‘3 in-person National Talanoa’ with key stakeholders, one in each of the 3 countries, with the aim for a better understanding of innovation and how best to support this at the country level. However, the unexpected effects of the recent global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, has led to the unfortunate and untimely cancellation of ‘in-person National Talanoa’, which will now be replaced by the attached list of questions that will be distributed via online modes.

As a key stakeholder, we warmly invite you to contribute towards the development of innovation in your country, by completing the following questions. The findings will assist the USP and UNDP teams in drafting a PRIN report and a work-plan on innovation for your country. All identifying information will not be disclosed or used in any publications. We will use quotations in such a way that the individual cannot be publicly identified.

Thanking you in advance

USP TEAM CONTACTS	UNDP TEAM CONTACTS
Dr Mele Katea Paea Innovation & Research Development Coordinator USP Laucala Campus, Fiji Email: melekatea.paea@usp.ac.fj +679 3231661	Patrick Tuimaleali'ifano Deputy Team Leader, Inclusive Growth UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Email: patrick.tuimalealiifano@undp.org Tel : +679 331 2500
Dr Irene Taafaki RMI Campus Director Email: irene.taafaki@usp.ac.fj +692 625 7279/8257	Elijah Mario Programme Associate, Inclusive Growth UNDP Pacific Office, Fiji Email: elijah.mario@undp.org
Dr Robin Havea Tonga Campus Director Email: robin.havea@usp.ac.fj +676 29055/29240	
Mr Ruben Bakeo Vanuatu Campus Director Email: ruben.markward@usp.ac.fj +678 22748 Ext 178	
Mr Veresa Ceguadrau Innovation Hub Facilitator USP Laucala Campus, Fiji Email: veresa.ceguadrau@usp.ac.fj + 679 3231609	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Gender Age Country
Organization

2. UNDERSTANDING INNOVATION IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

a. Give an example of existing initiative(s) in your country that you believe have aspects of innovation.

.....
.....

b. What are those aspects of innovation?

.....
.....

c. Why are those aspects important for understanding innovation in your local context?

.....
.....

3. SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

a. Give an example(s) of your country's strengths on innovation.

.....
.....

b. In what way(s) can those strengths be supported in the local context?

.....
.....

c. Give an example(s) of local stakeholders who should be able to support those strengths?

.....
.....

d. In what ways do you expect PRIN to support innovation in the local context?

.....
.....

4. WAY FORWARD

a. What would you like to see happen in terms of innovation at the country level?

.....
.....



The Republic of the Marshall Islands Innovation Report & Proposed
Innovation Work Plan **2020-2025**

