

Preliminary national diagnostic for environment statistics

Country: REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) for Asia
Pacific Small Island Developing States

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National vision

- Our national vision for sustainable development, biodiversity, green economy and ecosystems for Republic of the Marshall Islands is:

**A Resilient Marshall Islands to
the impacts of Climate Change**

Policy priorities and policy tools

- Sustainable development policy priorities:
 - (1) Strengthen the Enabling Environment for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation including Sustainable Financing;
 - (2) Adaptation and Reducing Risks for a Climate Resilient Future;
 - (3) Energy Security and Low Carbon Future;
 - (4) Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery and
 - (5) Building Education and Awareness, Community Mobilization, whilst being mindful of Culture, Gender and Youth

- Policy tools in place or planned:
 - Vision 2018
 - Joint National Action Plan Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (2014-2018)
 - RMI Energy Policy and Action Plan
 - RMI Climate Change Roadmap 2010
 - RMI Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan (2008-2018)
 - RMI Climate Change Roadmap 2010
 - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP-2000) existing Project to revise/update
 - National Strategic Plan (2015-2017)
 - Majuro Declaration – 2013

Institutions

- Stakeholders in environment sustainable development and green economy policy: *Chief Secretary, Office of the Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, Ministry of Resources and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office, Women United Together Marshall Islands, Marshall Islands NGOs, Marshall Islands Conservation Society*
- Institutional mechanisms in place to make sustainability and green economy decisions:
*National Disaster Committee, Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC),
National Climate Change Committee, Water Task Force,*
- *The role of the National Statistical office is monitoring and reporting on the National Strategic Plan through annual consultations.*

Knowledge

- Key documents and data sources:
 - Census Reports
 - National Strategic Plan
 - Joint National Action Plan Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
 - RMI Economic Review
 - Marshall Islands Visitors Authority (Annual Reports)
 - Energy Policy

Existing compilations

- SEEA Central Framework Accounts
 - Land cover and land use
 - Water resources
 - Supply and use for water
 - Supply and use for energy
- SEEA Ecosystem Accounts
- Other FDES indicators
 - Extreme events and disasters

Context

- Other national statistical development activities
 - RMI Economic Review
 - Sustainable Development Goals – NSO will start reporting on this better data collection and dissemination of statistics
 - RMI SIDS Report 2013
 - Draft State of Environment (SOE) to be adopted October 2016
 - College of the Marshall Islands will be hosting a technical discussions on atoll-appropriate digital elevation modelling techniques given RMI's unique atoll geography. This seminar that will be conducted by a team led by Jeff Danielson (USGS Coastal National Elevation Database Application Project) to introduce a combination of methods for data gathering including traditional manual surveying and remotely elevations in the Pacific, particularly in the RMI.

International activities focused on environment, sustainable develop...

- International activities focused on environment, sustainable development, biodiversity or green economy:
 - Micronesia Challenge:
RMI-FSM-CNMI-Guam-Palau agreed to conserve 30% of marine resource and 20% of terrestrial resources by year 2020

Priorities

- Enabling environment – Progress toward sustainable development depends on strengthened management systems that are attuned to local needs, are data-driven and have measurable outcomes. Local, national and international stakeholders must each work more closely to find and forge solutions for effective delivery of services and assistance.
- Climate change – Climate change is a truly cross-cutting issue for the RMI and the Pacific as a whole. It is impossible to talk about development in the Pacific without considering the impact of climate change, which is an existential issue for many countries, particularly atoll states like RMI.
- Fisheries/Oceans/Coastal Management – Ocean-based resource management (the so-called Blue Economy) is absolutely critical to development in the RMI and among its Pacific neighbors.
- Education – The RMI cannot implement solutions to its problems if it does not have the human resources or capacity. The quality of education (rather than simply quantity) should be emphasized
- Health – The explosion in rates of NCDs represents a health crisis for the RMI and others in the Pacific. Health care systems must be strengthened to respond to this crisis as well as other concerns.

Source: RMI SIDS report 2013

Constraints

- Ready to test
 - Accounts/indicators:
- Need capacity building
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There is need for capacity building for stakeholders, data producers and users on the importance of the System of Environmental Economic Accounts
- Need data development
 - Accounts/indicators:
There is need for training on data development for all producers of these environmental economic accounts information. Also a need to have a centralised database where all the data can be stored and ready to be presented to data users.
- Need institutional coordination or financing
 - Accounts/indicators:

Opportunities: Priority Actions

1. Account/Indicator:

Actions:

2. Account/Indicator:

Actions: