



NDC CHECKLIST

Marshall Islands Analysis

WWF'S NDC RATING GRADES

- ✓ NDC We Want
- i Short Way to Go
- ⊘ Some Way to Go
- ✗ NDC We Don't Want

		2015 NDC	2020 NDC	Analysis
AMBITION				
	MITIGATION			
1	Strengthened mitigation targets	RMI commits to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its GHG emissions to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025. Also communicates its intention to reduce its emissions of GHGs to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 (Excluding LULUCF).	RMI commits to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to at least 32% below 2010 levels by 2025 and to at least 45% below 2010 levels by 2030; communicates an indicative target to reduce its emissions of GHGs by at least 58% below 2010 levels by 2035; reaffirms its aspiration to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest;	Compared to 2015, the country maintains the targets for a gradual reduction until 2030. The indicative target presented for 2030 in the 2015 NDC became binding in the 2018 NDC. An indicative target of reducing GHG emissions by at least 58% below the levels of 2010 by 2035 is presented and the country reaffirms its aspiration to achieve zero emissions net GHGs by 2050 at the latest.
2	An economy-wide absolute 2030 target	RMI communicates its intention to reduce its emissions of GHGs to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030.	Absolute economy-wide emission reduction target (excluding LULUCF) to at least 45% below 2010 levels by 2030.	The country reaffirmed its commitment to reducing emissions across the economy and maintains its goal of neutralizing emissions in 2050.
3	A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned	No carbon budget mentioned.

4	NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net-Zero Long-term Strategy	Based on the more rigorous data in their Second National Communication, RMI is on a trajectory to nearly halve GHG emissions between 2010 and 2030, with a view to achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050, or earlier, if possible.	RMI presents a Long Term Strategy, aimed at net zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest, as an annex to their NDC.	The country reaffirmed its commitment to reducing emissions across the economy and maintained its goal of neutralizing emissions in 2050. The Long-Term 2050 Strategy was launched in 2018 and was presented as an Annex of the updated NDC. However, more clarity is needed on policies and plans to implement the vision for 2030 and 2050.
ADAPTATION				
5	Clear adaptation objectives	<p>The NDC states that the Joint National Adaptation Plan (JNAP) strategic goals, which are a combination of those addressed in the Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan (DRM NAP) and the National Climate Change Policy Framework (NCCPF), are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Establish and support an enabling environment for improved coordination of disaster risk management /climate change adaptation; 2 - Public education and awareness from the local to national level; 3 - Enhanced emergency preparedness and response at all levels; 4 - Improved energy security; 5 - Enhanced local livelihoods and community resilience; 6 - Integrated approach to development planning. <p>RMI also considers that adaptation action will have mitigation co-benefits, with efforts such as mangrove and agriculture rehabilitation programs likely to enhance carbon sinks as well as assist with protection of water resources and the health of the RMI people.</p>	<p>The 2020 NDC commits to producing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by the end of 2019 that should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) incorporate adaptation and climate resilience milestones, as well as suggest measures to achieve them; 2) elaborate immediate, accelerated gender-responsive actions and investments over the next 5 years (2019-2023) 3) suggest, as appropriate, updates to relevant national policies and Legislation; 4) set out a plan for significant investments in adaptation and resilience; <p>Another commitment is to present an Adaptation Communication to the UNFCCC by 2020 at the latest.</p>	<p>The country presents priority areas for adaptation, including Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Energy, Environment, Social Development and Transport sectors. Adaptation measures can be found in the 2050 strategy and a National Adaptation Plan was promised to 2019 (reviewing the JNAP).</p>

FINANCE				
6	Finance Commitments	RMI looks to regional and global cooperation for support in pursuit of these mitigation and adaptation-related development priorities. While RMI considers its INDC as a full national commitment to be undertaken without pre-conditions, the country is at present heavily reliant on external assistance for capacity and financial resources in key national sectors.	The 2018 NDC mentions that RMI will establish a long-term finance strategy to implement the NDC, the future NAP and the 2050 Strategy. RMI will identify and consider options for a more coordinated and centralized approach to applying for, and monitor, related overseas aid and investment.	Mitigation and adaptation actions are highly dependent on the availability of finance and technology support. RMI acknowledges the need of a long-term climate finance strategy to more effectively attract investment for implementing the NDC, the NAP and other aspects of the 2050 Strategy.
7	Clear conditional targets	The NDC specifically mentions that international support is critical to enable RMI to implement the actions enshrined in its national plans and policies. In addition, international support for its efforts to transition towards a low-emissions energy sector through greater use of renewables will be needed, as well as substantial assistance to meet its adaptation objectives, given its high vulnerability.	The 2018 NDC mentions the need for more effective oversight and coordination, including for establishing a clear mechanism to enable and improve the efficiency of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) coordination, to attract the necessary levels of future climate finance consistent with domestic priorities. It is therefore recommended that the Government urgently considers how to deliver a more coordinated and centralized approach to applying for, and monitoring, overseas aid and investment. At the same time, means of implementation for short term action in line with the priorities of this 2050 Strategy are also critical. Implementation of RMI's NDC Partnership Plan, which identifies the immediate priorities for action and existing gaps, and coordinates support from partners to achieve these priorities, will be very important.	The NDCs acknowledges the need for international finance, as well as for improved oversight and coordination to improve the efficiency of ODA. No cost estimates are presented.
8	Moving from conditional to unconditional targets	While RMI considers its INDC as a full national commitment to be undertaken without pre-conditions, the country is at present heavily reliant on external assistance for capacity and financial resources in key national sectors. If national circumstances change, RMI will, to the best of its ability, stay on course to achieve its emissions targets. External assistance will continue to be important.	The NDC mentions RMI is setting "at least" targets, thus sending a clear signal of intent to try to overachieve against them, and that they are a floor for ambition, not a ceiling. That is, however, conditional on the necessary and even further means of implementation to be available. At the same time, the transition to renewable energy could present net future cost savings from reduced imports of fossil fuels and bring other co-benefits, for example.	The conditionality element and the need of means of implementation are present in both NDCs. No clear cost estimates and specific outcomes for the support are presented.

FOSTERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

9	Increased sectoral coverage	Energy, including Electricity Generation; Transport (land and shipping) and Other (cooking and lighting); and Waste. Emissions from sectors not listed are negligible. Absolute economy-wide emission reduction target (excluding LULUCF).	Energy (Electricity Generation, Domestic Transportation, Other (cooking and lighting); and Waste. Emissions from sectors not listed are negligible. Absolute economy-wide emission reduction target (excluding LULUCF).	Same sectoral coverage in both NDCs.
10	Quantitative Sectoral targets	Reduce emissions from electricity generation sector by 55% in 2025, and 66% in 2030; from transportation (including domestic shipping) by 16% in 2025 and 27% in 2030; 3) from waste by 20% by 2030, and; 4) from other sectors (cooking and lighting) by 15% by 2030.	Sectoral measures are defined and, in some cases quantified, in the 2050 Climate Strategy. For example, in the Domestic Transport sector based on the ocean, the country seeks to reduce transport rates by 3%; Regarding the food sector, cooking with kerosene will be eliminated in favor of LPG until 2025, and in the lighthouse scenario, electric cooking will be used to phase out LPG until 2050. In its electricity roadmap, the country emphasizes the importance of energy security and a reduction in its imports of fossil fuels. By 2025, the country aims to have its major grids able to run on “diesel-off” mode, using 100% renewable energy, during part at least part of the day.	Some quantitative sectoral targets are presented in the 2050 Climate Strategy.
11	Key structural sectors included	The NDC mentions the development of a public education and awareness of effective Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management from the local to national level; and a pledge to assist with protection of water resources and health.	Health, education, training & public awareness considerations are mentioned as part of RMI's forthcoming National Adaptation Plan. The 2050 Strategy mentions the need to review and consolidate policies and measures on adaptation and climate resilience, as well as social and economic policies, to align with strategic principles and priorities.	Education, health, information and human rights are considered in the updated NDC and medium and long-term commitments are expected to be presented in the upcoming National Adaptation Plan.
12	Just transition policies	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned

13	Cross-sectoral approaches	<p>The fuel price spike in 2008 drew national attention to the need to reduce the reliance on imported fossil fuels, and to scale-up renewable energy as a replacement. Since 2008, there has been a rapid expansion of solar investment to add renewable energy generation to the existing diesel-powered grids on the urban islands. This, along with the introduction of supply-side efficiency measures by the RMI Energy Company (MEC) and demand-side load reductions, has led to a recent decline in fuel oil usage for electricity generation. A monitoring plan has been developed as part of the National Energy Policy to tie the key strategies of the energy sub-sectors to the overall vision of the energy sector and the Vision 2018.</p>	<p>RMI's decarbonization pathway relies primarily on transitioning the electricity sector away from fossil fuels. The heavy reliance on fossil fuel imports represents a highly significant energy security risk. RMI envisages to leverage a combination of demand and supply-side reductions to reduce GHG emissions and facilitate the long-term transition. The forthcoming Electricity Roadmap will be a positive step towards addressing some of these concerns.</p>	<p>The updated NDC identifies a cross-sectoral approach to move away from fossil fuels and transition to renewables.</p>
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INCLUSIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION

14	Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design	<p>RMI's INDC was developed through an all-inclusive process of engaging relevant stakeholders in and outside government, including the country's first National Climate Change Dialogue and three rounds of stakeholder consultations. This process has produced genuine national ownership of the INDC and highlighted synergies with other UNFCCC-related processes, including National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, National Adaptation Planning, and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).</p>	<p>The NDC mentions that a key recommendation from stakeholders is that this 2050 Strategy is reviewed and updated, as necessary, every five years as a minimum, including to identify new and relevant technologies and policy options. The key outcomes and recommendations from the 2nd National Climate Dialogue and the Partnership Dialogue held in July 2018, once identified, should be collected and used in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy as well as to inform future updates. Additional comments received in the future from stakeholders of all levels should be similarly collected and used. In that sense the 2050 Strategy should be treated as a living document. Women, men, and youth should be included and engaged as valuable stakeholders in identifying and addressing the climate change concerns of their communities and to share knowledge for responses to ensure their strengthened resilience. Further support should also be commissioned from gender organizations in RMI, as well as gender and human rights experts in advocacy, engagement and capacity building, and for enhancing sector-specific gender considerations.</p>	<p>The 2020 NDC and 2050 mention participatory processes such as National Climate Dialogues and the Partnership dialogue. In specific Stakeholder consultation is also mentioned for further NDC updates. Women, men, and youth are also recognized as valuable stakeholders. One recommendation in the Gender and Human rights section is to participatory community led, bottom-up approaches to identify challenges and best practices with stakeholders and beneficiaries;</p>
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15	Disclosure of information	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	In both NDCs, direct dialogues with stakeholders in the construction of the NDCs were mentioned. However, the documents did not describe details about the consultation process.
16	Reporting back on process	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.
17	Participatory Climate governance structures	Not mentioned.	Effective implementation of the 2050 Strategy will require coordinated efforts across all sectors, including governance, GHG emissions reductions, adaptation and resilience, finance, and monitoring, reporting and verification. The NDC mentions that for gender and human rights, it is recommended to utilize participatory community led, bottom-up approaches to identify challenges and best practices with stakeholders and beneficiaries.	In addition, it does not present governance with the participation of non-state actors, such as the creation of a specific committee or working group on the subject.

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18	Linkages with SDGs	Not mentioned.	The NDC mentions that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) link gender equality (Goal 5) and climate change (Goal 13). SDG Target 13b suggests countries should: 'Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities'	Progress is observed, as in 2015 the country did not mention strategies related to SDGs and in the 2018 NDC there is a direct reference to SDGs related to gender equality and climate action.
19	Measurable Nature-based Solutions	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	The NDCs do not mention nature-based solutions.

TRACKING PROGRESS

20

A transparent national system to track implementation

A monitoring plan has been developed as part of the National Energy Policy to tie the key strategies of the energy sub-sectors to the overall vision of the energy sector and the Vision 2018. The guiding principles for implementing this Policy are aligned with the principles adopted for national, sub-regional, regional and international initiatives, which include the Micronesian Energy Initiative, the Regional Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP), and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative Goals.

The 2050 Strategy acknowledges that institutional arrangements and the roles and responsibilities for data collection, management, monitoring, analysis and dissemination should be reviewed and policies put in place to ensure that a more effective system is implemented. It is also mentioned that either the Tile Til Eo Committee (TTE Committee), established to facilitate the production of this 2050 Strategy, or another body, should have a role in monitoring the alignment and consistency of relevant legislation, policies and measures with the 2050 Strategy; overseeing the update of the 2050 Strategy every five years – including the goals it contains; monitoring progress towards achievement of RMI's current NDC; and recommending the targets and goals of future RMI NDCs.

Although a system for tracking progress is not presented, the updated NDC acknowledges the need for such a system and explores possible institutional arrangements and roles for the revision of the strategy every 5 years.

WWF checklist for the Republic of the Marshall Islands' 2020 NDC assessment

Mitigation
Adaptation
Finance
Fostering system change
Inclusiveness and Participation
Contribution to Sustainable Development
Tracking progress

Republic of the Marshall Islands' rating grade after assessment:

 Short Way to Go

For more information

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