

Marshall islands electric vehicle infrastructure

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) submitted its second NDC in 2018 at COP 24 in Katowice, making it the first country in the world to do so. The revised NDC set binding targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent below 2010 levels in or before 2025 and by 45 percent before 2030. An additional document was submitted to complete the NDC in December 2020, as part of the Climate Vulnerable Forum's Midnight Climate Survival initiative championed by the Marshall Islands' President. This document further prioritizes climate financing, gender, and human rights as critical issues on the NDC agenda for RMI, all of which are reflected in the implementation of its NDC Partnership Plan 2019-2021.

The Marshall Islands NDC Partnership Plan 2019-2021, launched during COP 24, outlines six priority outcomes and 33 concrete actions to be taken in an effort to accelerate NDC implementation and translate long-term goals into concrete immediate actions. The Plan's six key priority outcomes are:

The fourth priority centers on enhancing the capacity of citizens and public and private sectors actors to contribute to NDC implementation. This involves formal and non-formal education for climate change and sustainable development, such as several programs and activities at the school level and for youth supported by UNDP, which includes translating climate-related educational materials into Marshallese to increase its reach. Across the climate work, the government prioritizes whole-of-society consultation processes on climate change impacts and options to feed into its climate policies and actions. The country is also assessing whether its governance systems are fit for purpose and accelerating inter-ministerial coordination for NDC and Partnership Plan implementation.

Fifth, which is discussed more below, is financial management. A strong effort is being made to ensure that all national strategic development plans, economic policies, and budgeting frameworks are consistent with climate change objectives and policies and that policy coordination and policy coherence are strengthened. Through the ADB's NDC Advance support, existing financial landscape assessments, including exploring opportunities for private sector engagement and investment planning have been conducted. Coordination on climate financing is also a key priority identified through the Climate Finance Taskforce's work, including strengthened capacity.

To address financing needs, a Climate Finance Action Plan was developed in 2019 through Partnership engagement and it focuses on priority alignment, aid coordination, internal governmental coordination, donor coordination, developing an effective grants mechanism, private sector engagement, and a resource mobilization strategy. One action plan key is aligning government plans and pursuing an integrated approach. In the short term, this means aligning all sectoral plans, ministerial plans, key climate documents, and international agreements related to climate. This also entails utilizing one system of baselines and indicators to ensure SDG and NDC alignment.

In addition, GGGI is working with the Department of International Development Assistance (DIDA) to strengthen its capacity and revised the fiscal policy on external aid.

ADB's NDC Advance support to the Marshall Islands will support an assessment of the country's current climate finance policy framework, identifying climate finance gaps and institutional development needs. It will follow up on the potential pooled climate finance framework as well as assess the potential for innovative financial instruments and private sector investment. This is through the established coordination mechanism that centralizes all climate-related activities and is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, engaging with key stakeholders in a whole-of-society approach to raise NDC awareness and strengthen capacity on climate change issues, especially with regard to the most marginalized and vulnerable communities in the country.

We greatly appreciate the commitment to the Partnership and the financial support for the Support Unit and the Partnership Action Fund (PAF) provided by our Development Partners: Belgium, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

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