

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF)

Section B
“Request for Funding” Form

Note. Please complete and enclose both Section B.1 “Project Summary and Endorsement Form” and Section B.2 “Detailed Project Proposal”, following the section structure and guidance provided below on what to include in each section of the proposal. Thank you.

Section B.1
Project Summary and Endorsement Form

Please fill in sections a, b, c, f, g, h and i, and either section d or section e.

- a.** Country requesting support: The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)
- b.** Title of project proposal: Listing of Lib Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands as its third Wetland of International Importance
- c.** Category of assistance requested (please consult the Operational Guidelines and indicate one option only):

Contracting Parties:

- ☒ Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Please indicate relevant Goals and Targets (s):

Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.

Please fill in **either** section **d** or section **e** below:

- d.** If the financial support sought from the NWF is requested to carry out part of a larger project, please indicate:
 - Title of the main project:
 - Duration of the main project:
 - Total cost of the main project:

- Amount requested from the NWF:
 - Have the main project and the other funds been approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - If yes, please indicate the sources of these funds, showing whether the source is in-country or external:
- e. If the proposed project is a stand-alone activity, please indicate:
- Duration of the activities to be covered by NWF grant: 12 months
 - Amount requested from the Ramsar NWF: USD 18,000
 - Other financial contributions (including in-kind) – indicate whether these are from in-country or external sources: In-kind technical assistance to manage the project has been secured from the Environment Protection Authority in its capacity as the Ramsar Administrative Authority for RMI.
- f. Name, address (including phone/fax numbers and e-mail address) and website of the recipient agency, i.e. the institution responsible for the project, specifying the name and contact details of the person responsible for preparing and executing the project.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

Website: The EPA doesn't have a website; however it runs a Facebook page
(<https://www.facebook.com/rmiepa.outreach/>)

Contact details of the person responsible:

Name: Ms Lani Milne, Chief of Coastal, Land and Conservation

Email address: lani.milne@gmail.com

Phone: +6926253035/5203

- g. Summary (maximum 500 words)
Describe background, justification, objectives and intended follow-up. Indicate if the project will be carried out in a Ramsar site(s) or how it otherwise contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and the fulfillment of its objectives:

The Lib Island is a triangular-shaped table reef consisting of a single landmass, with a total area of 93 hectares. The island is exceptional in that it contains a large central depression, measuring about 57 hectares, forming a pond or lake (Lib Pond). The communities residing on Lib Island expressed interest to include their ecologically and culturally important island in the List of Wetlands of International Importance "Ramsar List". The Environmental Protection Authority of the RMI in its capacity as the Ramsar Administrative Authority is willing to support the communities' initiative to designate Lib Island as the RMI's third Ramsar site and requests financial and technical assistance to carry out the relevant studies and consultations. Thus, this project will aim to undertake a baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity and use that information to compile the necessary documentation to add the Lib Island onto the Ramsar List. The project will also aim to better understand and document the ecosystem services and benefits provided by the island wetlands to demonstrate multiple services and benefits provided by those

wetlands. Furthermore, the project will carry out a workshop among local communities to inform and raise their awareness on the implications (develop and implement management plan, maintain the ecological character of the site) and benefits of Ramsar listing (improved access to funding opportunities, technical assistance from Ramsar Secretariat and its partner organizations, marketing opportunities etc). Inputs from partners, national and local stakeholders will be sought throughout the project implementation period to ensure synergy with ongoing programmes and projects. Although developing a management plan is beyond the scope of this project many of the activities will naturally lay the groundwork for such a management plan.

h. Endorsement of this project application by the Ramsar Administrative Authority:

Please confirm the importance of this proposed project in relation to your national Ramsar Convention implementation priorities. **Please tick (✓) only one of the following statements:**

1. The project's outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority. OR	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
2. The project's outcomes will deliver increased implementation capacity for a lower national priority. OR	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The project's outcomes will not directly lead to increased implementation capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Institution/Agency: Environmental Protection Authority

Name/Title: Ms. Moriana Philip - General Manager

Date: 3/31/17

Signature:



Please return this form along with the Detailed Project Proposal to:
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF), Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
 28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 999 0169, E-mail: asia.oceania@ramsar.org

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Section B.2

Structure and contents of Detailed Project Proposal

Notes:

- i) Please follow the section headings and sequence and the guidance for what to include in each section.
- ii) Please use a maximum of **five (5) pages** (A4 size paper) to provide detailed information on your proposal, following the headings and instructions given below. Please do not use margins of less than 1.5 cm, and do not use letters smaller than 10-point font size.

Details of proposal

A. Background and justification

Background information should provide basic factual and descriptive information to put the problem(s) in its local, provincial, national, or regional context, including relevant sectoral information, government objectives, policies, plans, and ongoing programmes. The amount of background information presented should be limited to what is essential to understand the current circumstances. Describe briefly the human population living in the project area and, if the project will be carried out at a certain location, the site should be described and ideally a map should be attached to show the location.

In the Pacific region there are six Ramsar Contracting Parties (Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa). To date, these six countries have designated only eight Ramsar Sites altogether. This indicates the need to significantly increase the network of Ramsar Sites throughout the region. RMI joined the Ramsar Convention in 2004, and listed Jaluit Atoll and Namdrik Atoll as Ramsar Sites in 2004 and 2012 respectively. The government is willing to increase the network of its Ramsar Sites and designate the Lib Island as its third Ramsar Site.

Apart from contributing to Ramsar Convention's implementation in the country, the Ramsar listing of Lib Island will also help RMI meet the targets made under other international and regional commitments. Under Aichi targets RMI has committed to conserving 11% of their through setting up protected areas or similar mechanisms. In 2006, the President of RMI signed the Micronesia Challenge, a commitment by Micronesian countries and territories to "effectively conserve 30% of nearshore marine and 20% of terrestrial resources by 2020".

To achieve these international and regional commitments, RMI has been successfully implementing the Reimaanlok process that serves as an overarching framework for conservation at the national level. The Reimaanlok process helps island and atoll communities set their conservation goals in line with national priorities and policies and provides guidance on key

strategies to achieve those goals. It encourages islands and atolls to establish conservation areas on individual islands and manage them through community-based resource use plans, and provides necessary technical and policy support for communities in doing so. Thus, the Ramsar listing of Lib Island will be carried out in line with Reimaanlok process and steps; and in turn, the Reimaanlok process will ensure that the Ramsar listing of Lib Island is followed by drafting and effective implementation of a community-based management plan of their marine and terrestrial resources.

Figure 1: Reimaanlok process, and steps for developing and implementing a management plan



Lib Island (sometimes referred to as Ellep) is located in the Ralik Chain of the Marshalls, some 64 km (35 nautical miles) southwest of Kwajalein (Ebeye Islet) and about 453 km (245 nautical miles) northwest of Majuro at 8°21' north latitude and 167°40' east longitude, and ranks 28 in land area amongst the group. The island is a triangular-shaped table reef consisting of a single landmass, with a total area of 93 hectares. The island is exceptional in that it contains a large

central depression, measuring about 57 hectares, forming a pond or lake (Lib Pond). While the formation of such an enclosed body of water continues to be debated, there appears to be a link with the process of guano (bird dropping) deposition to form lagoon bottom substrate. With sufficient guano, plenty of rainfall, and abundant organic detritus, this would result in the formation and deposition of a clay-like calcium phosphatic mud capable of sealing the lagoon from its subterranean connections to ocean waters. Over a period of many years, the island's rainfall would convert the system to that of a lake.

The population of Lib Island is approximately 100 and they largely depend on subsistence farming and fisheries for livelihood.

Figure 2: Location of Lib Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands



Figure 3: Topography map of Lib Island



B. The problem(s) to be addressed

In this section identify the problem(s) that can usefully be addressed by this project and covered by the objectives described in section C. Determine the underlying causes of the problem(s) and the aspects that can be addressed by this proposal with NWF support.

Despite its obligation under Article 2.1 to identify and add suitable wetlands onto the List of Wetlands of International Importance “Ramsar List” RMI has designated only two Ramsar Sites between 2004 and now. The government is willing to increase the network of its Ramsar Sites, however, is restricted by lack of relevant technical expertise and financial resources.

There is very little information on Lib Island’s biodiversity, ecology, and ecosystem services and values in scientific literature. a study undertaken in 2014 by School of Oceanography of the University of Washington examined the geochemistry of Lib Pond, studies the surrounding vegetation, created a bathymetric map, and analysed sediment cores collected from Lib Pond, which were as deep as 8m below the pond, to reconstruct the climate conditions of Lib, and by proxy the neighbouring region, over the last 2,000 years. The study revealed that the island is rare in the biogeographic region in that it contains a large central depression. As such, the island meets the Ramsar criterion 1 “sites containing representative, rare or unique type of wetland”. However, insufficient information on fauna and flora and ecosystem services and values prevent from filling in the Ramsar Information Sheet which is an essential part of the Ramsar nomination process.

Although the communities on Lib Island are willing to support the designation of their island as a Ramsar site there is insufficient awareness on the obligations and additional responsibilities such action will bring for the government as well as the local leadership. These obligations

involve developing and implementing a sound management plan so as to ensure effective conservation of the island's wetland ecosystems as well as monitoring and periodical reporting of its ecological character. On the other hand, communities need to be informed on the potential benefits of Ramsar label such as improved access to funding sources, improved access to technical expertise, opportunities to develop ecotourism etc. Although developing and implementing a management plan is beyond the scope of this project during the consultation with communities the project management will try and identify management priorities for the proposed Ramsar site, understand what skills and capacities the communities need to be able to better manage the site upon its designation, and include them in the follow up plan.

C. Objective(s)

General Objective(s):

Please study the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

(http://www.ramsar.org/library/field_document_type/resolutions-and-recommendations-530/field_tag_body_event/conference-of-contracting-parties-366/field_tag_body_event/cop12-punta-del-este-2015-509) and indicate the issues that are being addressed in this project, and to which Goals and Targets of the Plan they relate.

To contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 by expanding the Ramsar Site Network through listing of an ecologically unique wetland on Lib Island as a Wetland of International Importance, thus committing to ensure the conservation and wise use of the wetland and the associated ecosystem services in the long term;

Specific Objective(s):

The objective states the results to be achieved by the project. These results should address and solve the problems and issues identified in Section B. Objective statements should define the intended results that should have been achieved by the end of the project. For clarity and ease of understanding, objectives should be written in standard grammatical patterns and phrases, e.g., ...to develop the management and governance of a wetland..., ...to achieve the wise use of..., ...to raise awareness of wetland values..., ...to reinforce the capacity of institutions to..., ...to identify the wetlands..., etc.

1. A baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity markers and indices is undertaken;
2. Community members have increased understanding of conservation benefits, commit to long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site, and identify priorities for community-based management planning of the site;
3. The Ramsar Information Sheet and maps (topography and GIS) for the proposed Ramsar site are compiled, completed, and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for addition to the Ramsar List.

D. Outputs

Outputs are results or products of the project to achieve an objective. Several outputs may be necessary to enable the achievement of an objective. The vocabulary used should describe the finished products or a completed result, e.g., "a management plan", "a feasibility study", "trained personnel".

- 1.1. A baseline inventory of Lib Island's wetlands and associated biodiversity;

- 2.1. Community members are well-informed on the benefits of conserving and sustainably managing their natural resources;
- 2.2. Communities' commitment is secured for long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site;
- 2.3. A draft management plan that reflects priorities for community-based management planning;
- 3.1 A suitable Ramsar Information Sheet and maps (topography and GIS) completed with the latest information available on the characteristics of the proposed site.

E. Activities

Explain all the activities that will be undertaken to produce each output. Explanation of the activities should be detailed and analytical so that at the end of this section the methodology of the project is clear. The vocabulary used should describe actions that will be taken, e.g., “conduct training”, “consultation with ministries”, “organize seminars”. A full description of how these activities will be carried out should be provided, including details such as, for example, the person and organization executing the activity, sampling or monitoring methodologies, types of materials to be produced, number of publications to be printed, number of people attending workshop, cost of food and accommodation, etc.

Objective 1: A baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity markers and indices is undertaken:

- Activity 1.1. Organise ToRs for a relevant technical expert;
- Activity 1.2. Carry out a baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity;
- Activity 1.3. Prepare a draft baseline inventory report based on information gathered;
- Activity 1.4. Review and finalise the baseline inventory report with inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Objective 2: Community members have increased understanding of conservation benefits, commit to long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site, and identify priorities for community-based management planning of the site:

- Activity 2.1. Carry out a consultative and awareness raising workshop with communities on the benefits of conserving and sustainably using their natural resources and secure their commitment for long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site;
- Activity 2.2. Carry out a consultative workshop with communities to identify priorities for community-based management planning;
- Activity 2.3. Prepare a draft management plan.

Objective 3: The Ramsar Information Sheet and maps (topography and GIS) for the proposed Ramsar site are compiled, completed, and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for addition to the Ramsar List:

- Activity 3.1. Prepare a draft Ramsar Information Sheet based on information gathered from the stocktaking exercise;
- Activity 3.2. Delineate the boundary of the proposed Ramsar site (including buffer zone if necessary) and create both topography and GIS maps;
- Activity 3.3. Review and finalise the Ramsar Information Sheet with inputs from relevant stakeholders;
- Activity 3.4. Provide the Ramsar Information Sheet and maps to the Ramsar Secretariat, and liaise with staff on their finalisation and addition to the Ramsar List.

F. Logical frame of the project:

Use the table below to summarize the activities undertaken to produce each output and to reach each objective. This table should be consistent with the paragraphs B, C, D and E above. It will be used to assess the project's progress.

Problems	Objectives	Outputs	Activities
<p>Lack of existing data on biodiversity and ecology of Lib Island;</p> <p>Lack of relevant technical expertise within local and national governments</p>	1. A baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity markers and indices is undertaken.	1.1. A baseline inventory of Lib Island's wetlands and associated biodiversity	<p>1. Organise ToRs for a relevant technical expert;</p> <p>2. Carry out a baseline inventory of the island's wetlands and associated biodiversity;</p> <p>3. Prepare a draft baseline inventory report based on information gathered;</p> <p>4. Review and finalise the baseline inventory report with inputs from relevant stakeholders.</p>
Lack of community-based management plan for the proposed site	2. Community members have increased understanding of conservation benefits, commit to long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site, and identify priorities for community-based management planning of the site	<p>2.1. Community members are well-informed on the benefits of conserving and sustainably managing their natural resources;</p> <p>2.2. Communities' commitment is secured for long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site;</p> <p>2.3. A draft management plan that reflects priorities for community-based management planning.</p>	<p>1. Carry out a consultative and awareness raising workshop with communities on the benefits of conserving and sustainably using their natural resources and secure their commitment for long-term, sustainable management of the proposed Ramsar site;</p> <p>2. Carry out a consultative workshop with communities to identify priorities for community-based management planning;</p> <p>3. Prepare a draft management plan.</p>

Lack of baseline data to fill in the Ramsar Information Sheet (no delineation of the proposed site boundary)	3. The Ramsar Information Sheet and maps (topography and GIS) for the proposed Ramsar site are compiled, completed, and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for addition to the Ramsar List.	3.1. A suitable Ramsar Information Sheet and maps (topography and GIS) completed with the latest information available on the characteristics of the proposed site	<p>1. Prepare a draft Ramsar Information Sheet based on information gathered from the stocktaking exercise;</p> <p>2. Delineate the boundary of the proposed Ramsar site (including buffer zone if necessary) and create both topography and GIS maps;</p> <p>3. Review and finalise the Ramsar Information Sheet with inputs from relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>4. Provide the Ramsar Information Sheet and maps to the Ramsar Secretariat, and liaise with staff on their finalisation and addition to the Ramsar List.</p>
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G. Project management arrangements and stakeholders

A plan or flow chart for management and implementation arrangements of the project should be prepared. This section should include information on the agency or body executing the project, describe institutional and technical capacities to undertake the work, and indicate the monitoring and evaluation procedures to ensure that the objectives are met. It should also include an identification of the stakeholders concerned by the project. If the implementing agency is not the Ramsar Administrative Authority, general information on the implementing agency should be provided, including details about its institutional and/or working relations with the Administrative Authority.

Figure 4: Project management arrangement



Environment Protection Authority (EPA): The primary functions are

- to preserve and improve the quality of the environment through restoring and maintaining the quality of the environment;
- to use all practicable means including financial and technical assistance to foster and promote the general welfare of the people by creating conditions under which mankind and nature can coexist in productive harmony;
- to improve and coordinate consistently with other essential considerations of national policy, governmental plans, functions, and programs and resources, so as to prevent, as far as practicable, any degradation or impairment of the environment;
- to regulate individual and collective human activity in such manner as will ensure to the people safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- to attain the widest possible range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation or impairment thereof and other undesirable consequences to the health and safety of the people; and
- to preserve important historical, cultural and natural aspects of the nation's culture and heritage, maintaining at the same time an environment which supports multiplicity and variety of individual choice.

EPA comprises of 17 employees. EPA is also the Ramsar Administrative Authority for RMI. The Coastal, Land and Conservation Division will be directly responsible for coordinating and managing all the activities to be undertaken within this project to ensure that project goals are met.

CMAC: The Coastal Management Advisory Council is a cross-sectoral working group of individuals from a range of organizations in the RMI, all with a common interest in the conservation, development and management of coastal and marine resources. CMAC functions as an advisory and coordination body, and is essential for ensuring the coordination and collaboration of national efforts in conservation. As such CMAC will provide technical inputs to the project management implementation and will ensure that the project implementation as well as follow-up steps are tightly linked and coordinated with other conservation efforts in RMI.

Local government: Members of Lib Island Local Government are Mayor, Traditional Leaders, and Council Members.

The role of the Lib Island Local government as part of this project will be to liaise with community members and support EPA in carrying out on-ground activities.

H. Work Plan:

A schedule should be presented for production of all the outputs of the proposed project during the life of the project. This work plan should indicate the order in which activities will be undertaken so as to show the sequence and relationship between activities.

[illegible]

[illegible]

I. Budget

The NWF provides a maximum of US Dollars (USD) 18,000 per strategic project or activities to support projects submitted by non-Contracting Parties to assist with their accession.

Please provide the budget costs in **your local currency and converted to US Dollars (USD) – but NOT in any other currency**. Please distinguish between the amounts to be covered by the NWF grant and by counterpart funding (if any). If there is counterpart funding, please indicate whether the funds have been secured and, if so, from which organization these funds will come. Also, distinguish clearly between counterpart funds coming from, or proposed to come from, sources within and from outside the country.

In this section a detailed budget, consistent with the previous sections, in particular with the activities described, should be presented. All items (especially salary costs) for which support is requested from the NWF must be justified in the activity section. Please include unit costs (e.g., monthly salaries, number of copies and unit cost of publications, etc.) where appropriate. Present the budget for a one-year period: the NWF contribution should be spent during a one-year period, in line with the work plan provided.

In addition to the cash funds in the budget, please also provide additional information in this section of the project proposal about any additional “in-kind” contributions to the project (e.g., provision of office accommodation, provision of technical equipment, work time of personnel paid from other sources, etc.).

Use the format below for the project budget tables.

i) ***Budget summary***

This proposal is a sample for your reference and budget information has been removed from this version of the proposal.

ii) ***Overall itemized budget***

J. Follow Up

Intended follow-up after completion of the project timetable. Please mention here what is going to be done after the project is over to ensure the long-term sustainability of the results.

As mentioned above, the Ramsar listing process will be carried out in line with the Reimaanlok process. Under the Reimaanlok process, the RMI Government is committed to encouraging the islands and atolls to set up and manage conservation areas through developing and implementing appropriate community-based management plans. Also, the Government is committed to providing technical, policy and financial support to the communities in all steps required for effectively implementing the management plan (refer to Figure 1). This project will lay the foundation for effective management of the proposed Ramsar site by aiding the communities understand better the conservation benefits and identify the priorities for community-based management planning. The Government and communities will build on this foundation and undertake the follow-up activities such as finalizing the management plan, and supporting the communities in effectively implementing the plan.

K. Bibliography

Please list key references.

Myhrold CL, Janny F, Nelson D, Ladd SN, Atwood A, et al (2014), Holocene Closure of Lib Pond, Marshall Islands, PLoS ONE 9(3).

Reimaan National Planning Team (2008), Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands 2007-2012. Published by: N. Baker: Melbourne.