

REPORT OF MEETING

CONSULTATION WORKSHOP of the REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN 2015

(MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 21–23 October 2015)



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
Historic Preservation Office

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Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

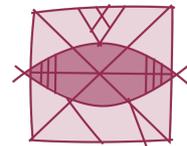
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP of the REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN 2015

(MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 21–23 October 2015, Sandy's Cafe)

Prepared by: Mabel Peter & Steve Titiml of the
Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office

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Introduction

This report is a record of the Consultation Workshop on Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office: Historic Preservation Plan 2015, which took place on 21–23 October 2015 in Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The purpose of the workshop was to consult with a range of stakeholders on the development of a Historic Preservation Plan which is a requirement of the US National Park Service, which supports the work of the Historic Preservation Office.

Date and Venue

The consultation workshop took place on 21–23 October 2015 at Sandy’s Cafe in Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The consultant arrived at the venue one day before, in order to meet for fine-tuning of the agenda and coordination of facilitation.

Consultation Team

The members of the consultation team included Ms. Elise Huffer, of the Pacific Community (SPC), and representing the Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office (RMIHPO) were: Ms. Mabel Peter, Deputy Officer; Kazutoyo ‘Yoyo’ Wase, Assistant Archaeologist/Field Technician; and Steve Titiml, Grant Manager/Field Technician.

Agenda

The consultation team agreed to a draft agenda prior to the consultation workshop (see Annex I), which was approved by the participants, as follows¹:

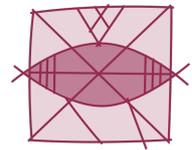
Day 1 • Registration • Opening and prayers • Formal introductions • Special remarks • Achievements, partnerships, issues and challenges • Moving towards a Historical Preservation Plan (HPP) • The role of local government and communities in historical and heritage preservation

Day 2 • A whole-of-government approach • The role of cultural experts, practitioners and artists in preserving and promoting heritage • Learning activity • Group exercise 1: SWOT analysis of historical preservation and heritage promotion in the Republic of the Marshall Islands • Group presentation and discussion • Mapping agency initiatives

Day 3 • Group exercise 2: Identifying priority areas for the HPP • Group Exercise 3: drafting of a HPP • Historical Preservation Office (HPO) survey work and work plan • Presentation of a draft of HPP goals and objectives • Group discussions • HPP next steps

Adjustments had to be made to the agenda, in light of the untimely passing of long-time Senator, Paramount Chief, and former President Jurelang Zedekaia of the Marshall Islands. The afternoon session planned for the first day of the workshop was postponed to the following day so that participants could pay their respects to the late Iroij Zedekaia.

¹ Due to the late Iroij’s funeral services, held on the first day, the sessions were moved around and the agenda was revised.



Participants

The training workshop was attended by 11 representatives from national and local agencies and bodies, as well as individuals (see list of participants in Annex II): Customary Law and Language Commission (CLLC), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Alele Museum, Local Government Division of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Office of Environment, Policy, Planning & Coordination, Ujae Atoll Local Government, Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Public School System (PSS), Youth to Youth (Y2Y), University of the South Pacific (USP), and Jack Niedenthal of Microwave Films. It was facilitated by Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and the Pacific Community (SPC) Culture Adviser, Elise Huffer.

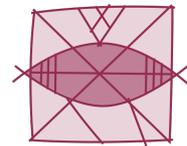


Day 1: Wednesday 21 October

Opening

The workshop was opened with a prayer by Alfred Capelle, followed by Mabel Peter who welcomed participants, and an introduction by Elise Huffer. Elise briefly described SPC's background and her work. She spoke about the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts, due to take place in Guam from May 22 to June 4 2016. She discussed RMI's lack of representation in recent years, and the need to participate at this important regional event, which brings the whole Pacific arts, culture and heritage community together.

Elise also spoke about the Regional Culture Strategy: Investing in Pacific Cultures 2010-2020, which was developed by the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture, which meets every two years, hosted by SPC. As decided by the Council – which brings together all the heads of



culture departments of SPC member countries, as well as Hawai'i, Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and Norfolk – the strategy is currently under midterm review.

Elise also pointed out that the culture programme of SPC's Social Development Division, covers three general areas: policy, heritage and cultural industries. She mentioned that SPC responds to country requests, and in this case, the culture programme is assisting with the development of HPO's Historic Preservation Plan. She concluded that it is important for MIA, HPO and SPC to fully understand how the work of other agencies contributes to cultural development in the RMI, and to learn how they can assist with the development and the implementation of the HPP.

The participants then introduced themselves and the agency and/or sector they represented.

Josepha Maddison from the Local Government Division closed the introductions by pointing out that we are fortunate to have experts representing language and arts, as well as Elise from SPC. Josepha thanked all the participants in the Marshallese language and reminded everybody to invite others to the three-day consultation. Remarks by Mabel Peter and Alfred Capelle concluded the opening of the workshop.

Session 1: RMI Historic Preservation Office: Program overview

Elise Huffer opened the session, and HPO's Steve Titiml presented on achievements, partnerships, issues that the Office has worked on, and the challenges that the Office continues to face. A PowerPoint presentation highlighted some of the Office activities and its organizational chart.

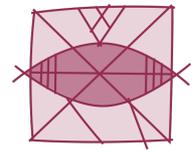
Organisational Chart

Secretary of Internal Affairs is the Historic Preservation Officer (non-HPF-funded)

- Oversees, supports, and helps implement all HPO activities
- Voting member of RMI Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

Deputy Officer (Mabel Peter) heads the office and reports to the Secretary/HPO Officer (non-HPF-funded)

- Prepares annual HPO grant application, RMIHPO budget report, and end-of-year report
- Oversees HPO operations (projects, permits, etc.)
- Implements the RMI National Historic Preservation Legislation
- Non-voting member of the RMI ACHP
- Consults with various councils, committees and ministries to ensure that the local culture is adequately and accurately represented
- Helps develop and implement public outreach programs



Professional(s): Archaeologist/Anthropologist (HPF-funded)

- Both positions are currently vacant

HPF Accountant (Rejene Capitol) (non-HPF-funded)

- Monitors and reviews projects conducted by HPO
- Prepares reprogramming requests
- Prepares HPO annual financial report
- Reviews projects conducted by contractors

Assistant Archaeologist/Field Technician, Kazutoyo Wase (non-HPF-funded)

- Assists staff archaeologist in conducting surveys, inventories, and other projects
- Monitors earth-moving projects in RMI and at USAKA, Kwajalein Atoll
- Acts as cultural liaison and translator on most projects, especially in outer atolls
- Translates and transcribes recorded interviews
- Assists staff archaeologist in maintaining the RMI National Register of Historic Places
- Acts as liaison between HPO and traditional leaders, government ministries and agencies, and local governments
- Review applications for land modification and diving permits and issues permits for approved applications

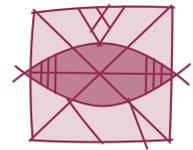
Grant Manager/Field Technician, Steve Titiml (HPF-funded)

- Assists in historical research
- Maintains and organizes historical documents
- Assists on survey and inventory projects
- Issues land modification and dive permits
- Assists HPO anthropologist maintain the RMI National Register of Traditional Sites
- Liaises between traditional leaders, government ministries and agencies, and local governments
- Assists in writing proposals for outside funding

Assists Deputy HPO with end-of-year reports

Other Activities

- In addition to its administrative function, the HPO also conducts other preservation activities, including Archaeological Survey and Inventory, Oral History and Ethnography, and maintaining the RMI Register of Historic Places.
- In Archaeological Survey and Inventory, the HPO is responsible for conducting nationwide surveys and inventories of historic and cultural properties. This involves the identification, evaluation, and recording of information about historic and cultural properties that are made accessible for development planning and educational purposes.



- The HPO receives funding from both the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the US Government. Since 1985, the HPO has been the recipient of a Historic Preservation Fund Grant administered by the US National Park Service, Department of the Interior.
- This grant is provided to the HPO on an annual basis, and is earmarked for program areas including program administration, public education, site nomination and registration, site development, archaeological survey and inventory, and oral history and ethnography.
- Once every four years, the grantor conducts a program review to ensure that the goals and objectives have been met, and then provides recommendations for future improvements.

Projects

Some of the Office's completed projects since 2010 include:

- Joachim deBrum house assessment
- Traditional canoe building through Waan Aelöñ in Majel (WAM)
- Ethnographic/Archaeological survey of Ebon Atoll
- Public outreach and awareness campaign
- Ujae survey
- Marshallese warfare (submitted to the National Park Service for approval and currently under review)
- Audit
- ERW clearance with outside agencies
- Ralik-Ratak translations
- LiModrel's Well sign post
- Culture Resource Officers (CRO) training

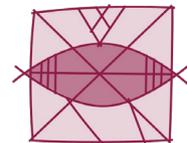
Discussion

In response to the presentation, participants raised a number of issues:

- the lack of concern for heritage preservation in the RMI – as indicated by the lack of protection for the Joachim deBrum House in Likiep (see below);
- insufficient communication about the importance of heritage, culture and language by responsible institutions;
- the strict confines of the current funding arrangement through the National Park Service (NPS); and
- the duplication of work by different agencies and lack of communication between them.

Participants also considered solutions to the above issues.

Alfred Capelle informed participants that the Joachim deBrum House in Likiep is no longer standing, as a result of a tropical storm earlier in the year. He reminded participants that the Joachim deBrum House is a historical site belonging to the late Joachim deBrum, who was instrumental in acquiring Likiep Atoll, making it the only privately-owned island in the



Marshall Islands. The legacy of Joachim deBrum was maintained by the deBrum family, but this important heritage structure is now destroyed and lost to future generations.

Carol Curtis (Alele Musuem) asked if the library (deBrum House Collection) was safe. It was made clear that the family members of the late Joachim deBrum dispersed the contents of the library amongst themselves, and that HPO did an assessment survey and stored most of the larger artefacts in a storage container on Likiep. However given the circumstances of the situation, the HPO has no way of knowing exactly how much of that is left.

Participants agreed on the need to improve the communication and dissemination of information of the work of the HPO and heritage issues in the RMI. One solution put forward was to *revive the HPO radio program that existed in 2014*. The HPO staff agreed that public outreach in the outer islands was important, and that the only means to get the information to those islands is through radio. Alfred Capelle suggested that *heritage and language should be included in the curriculum*. A revised history book was published, but due to contestations from prominent families on the accuracy of the contents, the Nitijela Senate delayed its endorsement, and the books were never distributed.

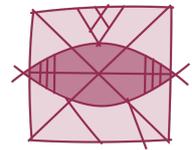
Alfred highlighted the need to address culture and heritage issues, which currently cannot be funded through the NPS and don't meet the grant agreement conditions. There is a lack of available funds for time-sensitive preservation projects. To address this gap, he suggested that it would be a good idea for the RMI Government to match the grant awards to give HPO more flexibility on other programs it cannot fund currently.

Alfred also noted that many agencies/ministries seem to be duplicating work. The facilitators indicated that one of the aims of the present workshop was to determine which groups or agencies HPO and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) could partner with to eliminate duplication and improve collaboration and coordination. The discussion then focused on which agencies or groups the HPO have worked with and which of these initiatives were successful or which needed more consideration.

The following action points/recommendations were agreed to by the participants:

- HPO should seek to partner effectively with other agencies and bodies
- The HPP should specifically identify lead agencies for the HPO to collaborate with
- The Ministry of Education to have input into the HPP
- HPO to review overall preservation legislation and to circulate the legislation to partner agencies for review and comments
- The RMI government to address the building needs of Alele Museum so that it can play a productive role in preserving the culture and heritage for the Marshall Islands

After the morning session, participants broke for lunch and ended the day's sessions early out of respect for the passing of the late Iroij Jurelang Zedekaia's burial. The group decided that as the workshop is focused on culture, it was appropriate that time be taken by participants to pay respects to the late Iroij, who was such an important man culturally and who also served as President and was the current Senator for Majuro Atoll. It was also stressed that the majority of government workers would also be attending to pay their last respects, and that reconvening the workshop the following day was appropriate under the circumstances.



Day 2: Thursday 22 October

Session 2: RMI Historic Preservation Office: Ministry of Internal Affairs

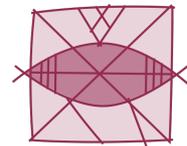
The purpose of this session was for stakeholders to gain a clear understanding of the role of both the Historic Preservation Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs in historic preservation, as well as their respective issues, challenges and accomplishments.

The morning sessions began with a presentation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs' local government Division Chief, Josepha Maddison. Josepha began by contextualising the affairs of the Historic Preservation Office and the other 10 divisions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) that it can partner with to tackle projects without having to hire externally or duplicate each other's work. But she also stated that there is a staff capacity issue that creates difficulties, including the ability to meet deadlines. On the positive side, she added that there are regular training opportunities at the Division of Lands and Surveys, which can be useful, especially in relation to cultural- and heritage-mapping, which is one of the responsibilities of the HPO and the MIA. Mapping must be prioritised now that the RMI Government has ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Culture Heritage, which requires inventorying of intangible cultural heritage in collaboration with communities. Josepha also reminded participants about the Marshallese Dri-Kapeel (traditional skills/knowledge expert) emphasising that Alfred Capelle is one himself, and suggested some of the ways the HPO could use his knowledge and skills to pass them on to future generations. During the second half of her presentation she addressed the participants in Marshallese to explain in detail the purpose and aims of the Convention, to ensure everyone could relate to the workshop and contribute to the HPP.

Discussion

The discussion focused on how to improve capacity and collaboration in the area of mapping/inventorying of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. At least one participant expressed frustration at the lack of action on the ground in spite of meetings and workshops taking place regularly. Participants agreed that it was important to work with communities on inventorying, but that it was also important to understand the role of different agencies and how they could assist the HPO and MIA.

Alfred Cappelle noted that the Marshall Islands Conservation Society has a project coming up to gather information in the outer islands on traditional moon faces. He felt quite sure that such a project may have already been carried out but that there has been no reporting, which once again raised the issue of duplication, leading to frustration in the outer islands about organisations doing research but not reporting back to communities. Kathryn Relang, Director of Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI), suggested that the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) could be a platform for coordination and collaboration between agencies working on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, as most of the attending participants' organisations were already members of CMAC, and CMAC's role is to advise on coastal and marine issues regarding conservation and preservation.



Session 3: The Role of non-governmental organizations

This session focused on the role of local and or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in safeguarding cultural heritage, and included short presentations by Carol Curtis of Alele Museum, Alfred Capelle of Customary Law and Language Customs (CLLC), and Mayor Ione deBrum representing Ebon Atoll.

Alele Public Library

Carol's presentation focused on the history of Alele and its role, and emphasised the need for increased capacity in safeguarding cultural heritage. She indicated that the museum had reopened in September 2014 due to vacancy of the head office. She described the poor state of the museum, particularly in the areas of infrastructure – including a leaking roof – finance, and personnel. She gave a description of some of the artefacts that they were able to salvage, and then discussed the loss of knowledge and tradition in the area Marshallese handicrafts.

Customary Law & Language Commission

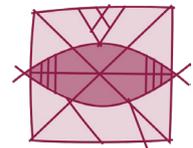
Alfred Capelle of the Customary Law & Language Commission (CLLC) explained what they are mandated to do under the Customary Law & Language Commission Act of 2044-35. Mr. Capelle discussed the issues affecting CLLC, which some of the other agencies presently face, including lack of capacity and funding, and insufficient communication leading to the duplication of projects, which appears common across other ministries. He informed participants that CLLC is working on a new Marshallese dictionary. This will ensure that official spelling of Marshallese words is developed. This will regulate orthography of words that are either misspelt or have different spellings – old and new – such as is the case of *Yokwe*, which is the current spelling for 'hello', and *lakwe*, which is its old spelling. He was also interested to see how CLLC could collaborate with HPO beyond the provision of translations.

Local Government

Ebon Mayor, Ione deBrum, presented on some of the grassroots projects that they have developed on Ebon to revitalize the community, and for income generation, such as the Copra Oil extraction project. She also echoed the frustration of communities in outer islands, including Ebon, regarding agencies coming out and doing all sorts of research, and collecting information from the community, but not reporting back or following up on the ground. She explained that communities are willing to help and to make their atolls a better place, but that sometimes they feel as if outside groups come in and repeat projects that they have already developed.

Women United Together Marshall Islands

Kathryn Relang, Director of Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), described WUTMI's role, which is to serve as the voice of women in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She explained that WUTMI has chapters in the outer islands to carry out the WUTMI mandate – except in Namu and Enewetak Atolls. WUTMI organises an annual meeting in



Majuro, which brings together NGOs, local agencies, and representatives from their island chapters. WUTMI is planning for the 2016 conference to focus on cultural heritage.

The Director introduced WUTMI's comprehensive five-year plan, which was endorsed in 2014 during an executive meeting. The plan outlines WUTMI's goals and objectives which include:

- Strengthening of language and culture
- Documenting stories and way of life
- Reviving traditional songs and dance
- Producing children's lullaby songs as a means of improving motor and cognitive skills
- Teaching ways of cleaning and planting

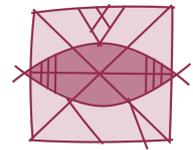
This discussion brought up the subject of Culture Resource Officers (CROs) as a means of reaching out in communities. This has been an area of strength in WUTMI's programming through the WUTMI Island chapters, which forms a network of community based leaders.

Elise Huffer mentioned that Vanuatu has a program that utilizes culture field workers from local communities to carry out mapping on a specific topic every year. The women field workers meet annually and have produced a range of reports. Kathryn Relang informed participants that there is a similar project being proposed by the College of the Marshall Islands and the University of Hawai'i. Kathryn mentioned that WUTMI's campaign on violence against women and researchers needs to go through a vetting process, much like a research fee would be imposed for vetting amongst a peer review group.

Kathryn questioned HPO's role in relation to deep sea mining and referred to the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA) as the authority in conservation of marine resources under the Ministry of Resources & Development. Although HPO currently has no jurisdiction in deep sea mining, it was pointed out that traditionally Marshallese have place names for deep sea ridges, which may have some merit for later discussions on their potential cultural importance. The ridge-to-reef concept employed in some conservation plans across the Pacific could perhaps be a way to address this issue, and participants asked whether heritage legislation could mitigate environmental issues such as this one.

Microwave Films

The next speaker, Jack Niedenthal of Microwave Films, and Bikini Atoll representative, talked about his background and film career. He indicated that Microwave Films started five-to-six years ago, and that his films emphasize using Marshallese language with English subtitles so that they are understood and relevant to Marshallese communities. Jack mentioned that when showcasing *Jilel* in the United States with a large population of Marshallese citizens, he noticed an alarming number of children reading the subtitles because they do not know how to speak Marshallese. He is currently working on a Marshallese Batman movie about a smart and rich hero who loses his powers; but in a Marshallese twist, the hero uses *manit* – cultural values and custom – to regain his powers. He also has an ambitious plan to put on a Marshall Islands arts festival focusing on music, dance and arts. Currently it is a dream he hopes to make happen in 2016 and the theme he has in mind is *awa en Majol*, which roughly translates to Marshallese time or island time, in that everything moves at a slow and steady pace. His hope is that this festival would



eventually grow big enough and gain enough momentum that it would contribute to the promotion and celebration of Marshallese culture and custom.

Session 4: Whole-of-government approach

This session focused on the work of government departments as it relates to historic and cultural preservation.

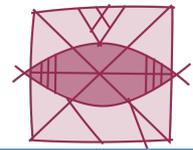
Environmental Protection Authority

The afternoon session on the role of government departments in cultural preservation and promotion started off with a presentation by Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) representatives Jessica Zebedee and Barry Rilang. They discussed EPA's role and the different divisions within EPA: coastal, environment, and outreach. Jessica described her function working in the outreach department in the areas of education and awareness; morning clean-up around the homestead in the Marshall Islands is somewhat traditional. Barry talked about his role in the coastal department and EPA's development process in regards to permitting. This also links culture and heritage with EPA's role in protecting the environment and resources in the Marshall Islands.

The discussion focused around some of the environmental degradation of marine areas through coral bleaching/dying and the harvesting of sea cucumbers. Participants were advised that the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) probably need to meet with mayors to raise awareness of the dangers of unregulated sea cucumber harvesting. Some of the possible scenarios would include closing fishing areas (issuing a moratorium), under the Protected Areas Network (PAN) Act 2015, in order to address some of these issues. Jessica mentioned that invasive seaweed, climate change, and over-fishing, have contributed to unhealthy coral systems in the Marshall Islands. Over-harvesting of turtles and the use of plastic bags are further environmental threats. There was agreement that recycling would be helpful, especially in relation to plastic and other non-biodegradable waste. Jessica stated that EPA awareness campaigns are ongoing, but that it remains difficult to influence behavioural change.

Public School System

The final presentation was by the representative of the by Ministry of Education's Public School System (PSS), who advocated for the importance of incorporating Marshallese language into the school system, through both oral and written language programmes. Cheta Anien from the PSS, discussed their joint initiative with the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) and the Customary Law and Customary Law & Language Commission (CLLC), PSS to create a curriculum for Marshallese studies in the public school system.



Day 3: Friday 23 October

Session 5: Role of cultural experts

This session focused on the role of cultural experts, cultural practitioners, and artists, and was chaired by Carol Curtis of Alele Museum.

Youth to Youth in Health

Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH) representative, Director Aluka Rakin, opened the session with a presentation that highlighted their role in the community and some of their previous projects. One of their projects brings together youth in the summer to participate in activities that include visual arts, and painting murals on buildings that highlight their culture and daily life; another is learning about *Manit in Majol* – Marshallese culture – through storytelling and local legends, skits and shows, and outreach. YTYIH also collaborates with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and with the MIA program known as *Wa Kuk Wa Jimur* – communities working together towards a goal – that brings in individuals from different agencies to go into the communities to help them implement local projects. This motto is an analogy of navigation that requires all deck hands to work harmoniously and in sync in order to navigate successfully. Aluka Rakin added that YTYIH has a weekly radio programme that deals with social issues affecting youth.

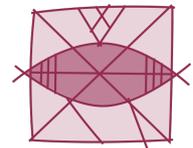
In the Q&A session that followed, Carol from Alele asked if there are chapters of YTYIH that exist in the outer islands, similar to WUTMI. Director Aluka Rakin said that there are currently chapters on Wotje and Ebeye Atolls. Carol asked if the stories that are collected by YTYIH are available for dissemination, and Director Rakin explained that they do have stories that can be disseminated, however they do not have funding for materials, so participants interested in their work can provide hard drives and they will be happy to provide any information they have. It was explained that stories are recorded through voice recorders/CD, and that it is not digitized. YTYIH does not currently have an inventory tracking the number of stories they've collected.

Elefa Handicraft Shop

The next presentation offered a private sector perspective, and was delivered by Lucia Guavis, who runs the Elefa Handicraft Shop. Lucia stated that Elefa Handicrafts promotes *amimono* – handicraft – from the Marshall Islands. Through her work, Lucia has travelled to festivals such as the Festival of Pacific Arts, as well as trade shows promoting Marshallese arts and craft, with support from national and local government, NGOs, and other sponsoring agencies.

As she attends all these forums, and is able to showcase the artwork of Marshallese people, it would be nice to have HPO incorporate the activities of groups like the Amimono Association into the plan, so that not only are we promoting our crafts, but documenting and sharing as well.

The discussion centred on the documentation and evolution of *amimono*, with a focus on the need to develop a historical timeline to follow the changes in Marshallese crafts and arts. It was noted that *amimono* is a Japanese word that has become synonymous with



Marshallese handicraft. Dr Irene Taafaki of the University of the South Pacific (USP) noted that USP is looking into the history of Marshallese weaving from pre-contact time with a focus on telling stories. One area of interest is how cultural goods were traded for items from the ships that came in during the early contact period.

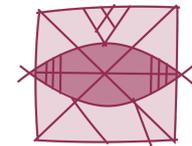
University of the South Pacific

The next presentation was delivered by Dr Taafaki on the topic of *Reviving Traditional Marshallese Weaving*, a project managed by the University of the South Pacific. She noted that the HPO funded her first presentation in Hawai'i some years back, which generated a lot of interest. She also said that she was able to view Marshallese mats at the Peabody Museum and the Bishop Museum in Hawai'i, and noted that the stories of how the mats got there are fascinating. Irene also mentioned that three years ago there was a grant from the French Government to fund a project that would help people in Tahiti relearn their arts and crafts – especially in weaving – which used the Marshall Islands as a model. She stated that USP is in its 11th year with the Marshall Islands weaving project. In December 2015, there will be a gathering of Pacific weavers from Kiribati, Guam, Tahiti, and Hawai'i to expand on other forms of weaving. She also noted that USP has worked on other projects that deal with traditional knowledge. Their collaboration with Maria Fowler, daughter to the late Iroj and former President Amata Kabua, and prominent member of Marshallese society, resulted in a book on traditional Marshallese medicine, which was published in 2006.

Irene also described some of the other programs that USP offers – including Tourism and Hospitality – that teach traditional sports, games, songs, and dance. She said that Roger Ray, who was a resident in Enewetak studying nuclear radiation, donated his archives to USP, which are currently being digitized. Another USP activity is the Ailuk Atoll project, which is a month-long pilot project for harvesting fresh water using minimal urban technologies; Ailuk Atoll is known to be one of the country's high-drought-risk atolls. The equipment for the project arrived, but with some materials missing, so contractors asked the residents to apply local methods and source local materials, thus forming a true partnership. This process provided evidence that involving the community and letting them take ownership, results in a successful outcome.

In other developments, USP indicated it is working on reviving Marshallese culinary arts – there were originally 52 dishes known but now only 22 are being made – and it is also promoting sustainable transportation to reduce its carbon footprint. Irene also mentioned the barriers USP has to contend with regarding cultural taboos, in terms of sensitive subject matter she believes locals will be reluctant to discuss or share, especially if their responses are written down. USP will soon have a new campus that will enable it to expand its cultural programmes, such as culinary arts.

After the discussions there was a short learning activity in which Ujae Atoll representative Almira Cardano presented a chant (roro). She explained that chants vary and are traditionally performed for a number of activities such as preparing for navigation or war and celebrating a birth.



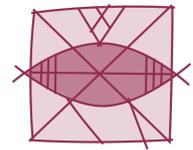
Session 6: Group Activity

The final session of the day was a group activity to carry out a SWOT analysis of historical preservation and heritage promotion in the Marshall Islands. The participants reported their findings and conclusions on the last day of the workshop.

SWOT Chart

The outcomes of the consultation are outlined below:

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity of the people • Some cultural and traditional knowledge (TK), skills and practices existing and transmitted in outer island areas and in urban settings • Pride in unique skills and knowledge • Strong cultural institutions/programs – e.g. WAM, Jaki-ed, YTYIH, WUTMI, HPO • Awareness programs/publications • Existing conservation areas – bio- cultural diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased networking/collaboration between programmes/institutions – e.g. CMAC • Language policy and legislation (Bill 85) • Cultural preservation and promotion plan (HPP) • World Heritage site (Bikini) and 2003 ICH Convention • Promotion of RMI’s unique culture within and outside RMI – transmission to younger generations, local food production/preparation • Other sectoral programs can emphasise TK and positive cultural values in their work in rural areas – e.g. climate change adaptation, WUTMI • Existing conservation funding and expertise to promote cultural knowledge and practices – documenting, transmission, revival
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a centralized cultural institution • Lack of political will to support cultural preservation and development • Funding • Lack of cultural/arts education and professional education in cultural management • Lack of recognition of local expertise/<i>Dri-kapeel</i> • Cultural barriers to transmission • Lack of recognition, capacity and activity of Council of Iroj • HPO vulnerability – NPS requirements, access to finance, unpredictability of travel logistics • Urbanisation – lack of appreciation for and transmission of cultural knowledge • Insufficient cultural resources – e.g. books in Marshallese language • Excessive demands on, and lack of support for women – impedes production of cultural goods and ability to transmit cultural knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued uncertainty and lack of funding dedicated to cultural preservation • Continued lack of political will • Uncertainty of future of Compact of Free Association Agreement between the United States of America and the Marshall Islands arrangements and funding • Climate change • Continuing migration • Impact of globalization • Transport/distances



Session 7: RMIHPO Survey

The next session was a presentation by Steve Titiml on the survey work that has been carried out by the HPO. The purpose of this session was to create understanding around the activities undertaken by the HPO over the past few years.

Presentation on HPO's Survey Work

In his presentation, Steve spoke about what is involved in the survey work conducted, and what steps need to be followed:

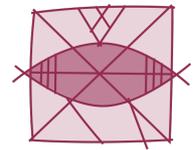
- Steve operates on a two-to-four man team – when staff are available – otherwise two can carry out the work; but this makes it difficult to cover larger areas.
- Steve works with the Archaeologist in mapping and surveying, while Yoyo aids the Anthropologist with interviewing local residents.
- The HPO survey/mapping is low-tech, kept simple with tape and compass, GPS, and drafting paper for maps.
- Revisit previous historical sites to update condition as well as GPS points to make sure of accuracy.
- Always enlist local help to get them involved in the projects for a sense of ownership and to facilitate work on properties which also includes identification of sites and traditional and sacred sites, which may be prohibited without consent.
- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in which HPO is designated to assist outside organizations like Cleared Ground Demining and Golden West Humanitarian Organization to conduct ordnance clearance on affected atolls.

Discussion

- The following questions and concerns arose out of the discussions: How local communities are informed of findings if the reports are mostly done in English, and whether there will be translations into local vernacular for locals to read
- If locals will be compensated
- How historical content should be reported on when there may be several opinions on the historical merit and content of a particular site
- Where the reports go and why we do them
- Process by which the HPO decides what atoll to survey and why
- If locals can submit project proposals to do surveys
- What difficulties the team has encountered and how has it dealt with those situations
- Why HPO only does surveys, and where can they be accessed

Session 8: Historic Preservation Plan 2015: Priority Areas

The workshop ended with another group work session in which participants were asked to identify priority areas for the HPP. However, during the workshop, it became clear that one of the difficulties of the HPO was that its legislative mandate – under the 1991 Act to promote the preservation of the historic and cultural heritage of the Republic of the Marshall Islands – was too broad in comparison to the HPO's real purpose: staffing, capacity and funding. Participants agreed that it was important to develop an HPP – which was the purpose of the workshop itself – but also to consider priorities in the area of cultural development in the Marshall Islands, and how a focused HPP would fit within this. Participants drew up a list of priorities in small groups and presented them in the final session of the workshop. The priorities were categorised under



four main areas: Cultural Institutional Strengthening; Inventorying/Surveying/Mapping; Human Resource Development; and Language Preservation and Promotion.

Cultural Institutional Strengthening

- Create a ministry/bureau/division of culture
- Establish MOUs/MOAs between key agencies and NGOs that play a role in cultural preservation and promotion
- Make efficient use of existing bodies such as CMAC
- Strengthen capacity of key cultural bodies
- Re-establish ACHP and ensure it meets as required
- Increase HPO networking with professional cultural and academic groups
- Update HPO filing systems
- Review and address infrastructure of cultural organizations (Alele, HPO, WUTMI)

Inventorying, Surveying, Mapping

- Initiate inter-agency collaboration for inventorying priority intangible cultural heritage – canoe building, navigation, fishing, house building, crafts, dance, songs, chants, stories, flora and fauna, medicinal knowledge, food preparation and preservation, values around wellbeing
- Identify and document tangible cultural heritage
- Re-assess previously surveyed sites and increase local and partner participation in surveying

Cultural Human Resources Development

- Identify, recognize and mobilize community cultural experts (*Dri-kapeel*, CROs)
- Provide training to CROs
- Work with community groups including young people on developing surveying and inventorying capabilities
- Assist with development of materials and curriculum for formal, informal and non-formal education
- Professional development of HPO staff and staff of partner agencies
- Fill HPO staffing vacancies
- Award scholarships to RMI students in cultural fields at undergraduate and graduate levels

Language Preservation & Promotion

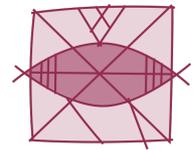
- Implementation of Bill 85 when it is enacted
- Promote correct use of standardized Marshallese

Awareness & Promotion

- Review, organize, publicise and disseminate existing cultural data (inventory)
- Recover endangered data – e.g. floppy disks, CDs, paper documents

Closing

In closing the workshop, the facilitators agreed with the participants that it would be necessary to hold a second workshop in early 2016 to develop both an HPP and a wider proposed strategy for cultural and arts development in the RMI. The facilitators also undertook to complete a draft report for circulation to participants.



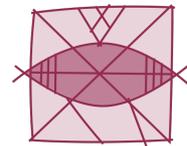
Annex I: Agenda

RMI Historic Preservation Plan Consultation

October 21–23, 2015, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Day 1: Wednesday, October 21st, 2015

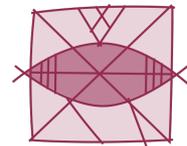
- 8:00- 8:30 Registration
- 8:30- 10:00 Opening/Program
- Devotion: Alfred. Capelle (MILC)
- Welcoming Remarks: Hon. Minister David Kabua (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
- Formalities: Iroij Michael Kabua (Chief, Senator Kwajalein)
- Formal Introduction: Mabel Peter (HPO)
- Special Remarks: Elise Huffer (SPC)
- Closing Remarks: Secretary & HPO Molly Helkena (Ministry of Internal Affairs)
- 10:00-10:30 Housekeeping/Morning Tea/Group Photo
- 10:30-12:00 ***Session 1: Achievements, partnerships, issues and challenges***
- Chair: Elise Huffer (SPC)
- Presentation: Historic Preservation Office
- In this session the HPO will present the work it has been carrying out over the past years, including completed projects, successful partnerships and other achievements. The HPO will also provide a short description of how it operates, its legislative obligations and status, and some of the challenges it faces.*
- Open discussion and Q & A
- 12:00- 1:00 *Lunch (in house)*
- 1:00-2:00 ***Session 2: Moving towards a Historical Preservation Plan***
- Chair: Hon. Madame Mayor Lone Debrum (MIMA)
- Presentation: Ministry of Internal Affairs, RMI Historic Preservation Office, Alele Library & Archives
- This session will discuss the rationale for a HPP including HPO will examine the context within which the HPP will be established and how the HPP will be a potential contribution to cultural protection, preservation and promotion in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.*
- 2:00- 3:00 Panel Discussion: Council of Iroij, WAAM, USP, WUTMI
- Open discussion and Q & A
- 3:00- 3:30 *Afternoon Tea*



- 3:30- 5:00 **Session 3: The role of Local Government and Local communities in historical and heritage preservation**
- Chair: Mabel Peter (Deputy HPO)
- In this session the panelist will discuss their current roles in historical preservation, the challenges they face, their achievements, and suggestions for areas of focus over the 2015-2020 period.*
- Panel: MIMA, WUTMI, CROs, Dri-Kapeel, MIVA, MICS
- 5:00 Housekeeping/ Adjourn

Day 2: Thursday, October 22nd, 2015

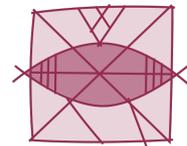
- 8:00- 8:30 Recap of Day 1 HPO & SPC
- 8:30- 10:00 **Session 4: A whole of Government approach**
- Chair: Aluka Rakin
- In this session Government departments will provide information on how they work towards Historical Preservation in their work area and how they envisage collaboration under a new plan for the HPO.*
- Panel: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Resources and Developments, OEPPC, EPA, Chief Secretary's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs
- 10:00- 10:30 *Morning Tea*
- 10:30- 12:00 **Session 5: The Role of Cultural experts, Cultural practitioners, and artists in preserving and promoting Heritage**
- Chair: Carol Curtis (ALELE)
- In this session the panelists will discuss how their projects and work contribute to preserving and promoting heritage; how they currently collaborate with the HPO, and how that collaboration could be enhanced in the future through the HPP.*
- 11:00-12:00 Panel: Alfred Capelle (MILC), Youth to Youth in Health, Jaki-Ed Revival Project, Elefa, Microwave Films, Hon. Hilda Heine, Marie Maddison MIVA, JAMBO Arts, WAAM, Matthew Holly
- Open discussion and Q & A
- 12:00-1:00 *Lunch (in house)*
- 1:00-1:30 **Group Exercise 1: SWOT analysis of Historical Preservation and Heritage promotion in the Republic of the Marshall Islands**
- In this session participants will break into groups and carry out a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of heritage preservation and promotion in the country. At the end of the session, each group will report back on its discussions and findings.*
- Open discussion and Q & A



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- 1:30- 3:00 **Session 6: Historical Preservation and Education**
- This session will discuss the teachings and learning of heritage in education (formal, informal & non-formal) and how this currently relates to the role of the HPO, and the potential for future collaboration and initiatives.*
- Panel: National Training Council, WAAM, College of the Marshall Islands
- 3:00- 3:30 **Learning Activity 2 Field Visit: Alele Museum & Afternoon Tea**
- 3:30-5:00 **Session 7: HPO Survey Work**
- In this session the HPO will share a practical example of its islands survey work*
- 5:00 *Housekeeping/ Adjourn*

Day 3: Friday, October 23rd, 2015

- 8:00- 8:30 Recap of Day 1 & 2: HPO & SPC
- 8:30-10:00 **Group Exercise 2: Identifying Priority areas for the HPP**
- Participants will break out into groups and identify priority areas of work for the HPP drawing on the SWOT and keeping in mind the roles of different actors, their potential contributors, constraints, challenges, and achievements in Historic preservation.*
- Group Presentation & Discussion**
- 10:00-10:30 *Morning Tea*
- 10:30-12:00 **Group Exercise 3: Drafting a HPP**
- Participants will break out into groups and draft goals and objectives for each of the priority areas, followed by group presentations.*
- Short Learning Activity 4- performance**
- 12:00-1:00 *Lunch (in house)*
- 1:00-3:00 **Session 8: Presentation of draft HPP Goal and Objectives**
- In this session the HPO and SPC facilitators will present back the goals and objectives proposed by the working groups for agreement, finalization and prioritization by the participants.*
- Closing of Workshop*



Annex II: Participant List

RMI Historic Preservation Plan Consultation

October 21–23, 2015

Republic of the Marshall Islands

1. Mabel Peter	Historic Preservation Office
2. Benson Langidrik	Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination
3. Steve Titiml	Historic Preservation Office
4. Josepha Maddison	Local Government Division/ Ministry of Internal Affairs
5. Kazutoyo Wase	Historic Preservation Office
6. Almira Gordano	Ujae Atoll Council Woman
7. Lucia Guavis	Elefa Handicrafts Shop
8. Carol Curtis	Alele Museum
9. Hanty Kaisha	Public School System
10. Marilyn Lakabung	Gender Office; Ministry of Internal Affairs
11. Belmar Graham	Customary Law & Language Commission Office
12. Barry Rilang	Environmental Protection Agency
13. Jessica Zebede	Environmental Protection Agency
14. Alfred Capelle	Customary Law & Language Commission Office
15. Yone Wase	Public School System
16. Cheta Anien	Public School System
17. David Hough	Customary Law & Language Commission Office
18. Kathryn Rilang	Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI)
19. Ione Lutip Debrum	Mayor: Ebon Atoll
20. Jack Niedenthal	Microwave Films
21. Aluka Rakin	Youth to Youth in Health
22. Irene Taafaki	University of the South Pacific
23. Rejene Capitol	Historic Preservation Office