



MFAT Management Response to Restoring Island Resilience mid-term evaluation

May 2025

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
Strengthen the Navigator platform to improve user engagement and data collection, including for Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), traditional knowledge (TK), and climate outcomes	<p>Partially agree - MFAT agrees with the reviewers around the potential of the Navigator system, in terms of tracking country needs and priorities, allocating work, and tracking the progress of PRISMSS programmes.</p> <p>However MFAT understands that the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) has delivered a number of previous training sessions have been delivered to build capability and awareness of the Navigator. MFAT will discuss with PRISMSS further opportunities to strengthen usage of Navigator, including by government officials and NGOs, and how data from the platform can be analysed and presented.</p>
Strengthen the RIR MERL Framework by including critical enablers and expanding data collection approaches to better track GEDSI, TK and climate outcomes	<p>Agree – the critical enablers highlighted in the report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partner capacity; • partner-led delivery; and • equitable design. <p>PRISMSS have recruited a GEDSI and TK adviser to support delivery in line with these critical enablers. MFAT (including MFAT’s GEDSI and Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) advisers) will engage with this adviser to understand opportunities for further MERL strengthening, including qualitative and quantitative evidence on how RIR is achieving climate and ecosystem impact.</p>
Develop locally appropriate approaches to build in-country ownership	<p>Agree - MFAT supports the plan for the GEDSI and TK adviser to develop an engagement framework for PRISMSS. MFAT understands this will include guidance around inclusive facilitation approaches, to ensure the voices of different groups can be heard. In addition to this work in progress, MFAT considers this to be a longer term focus area for PRISMSS, linked to the below recommendation around in-country capability.</p>

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Implement a more systematic approach to building in-country capability for ISM	<p>Agree - PRISMSS completed capability mapping for all countries to inform engagement and delivery of activities during MISCCAP, and Pacific Invasive Species Indicator surveys provide additional data on where capability support is most needed. This data is recorded in the Navigator system and informs planning and delivery of activities.</p> <p>MFAT supports ongoing work to further embed and mainstream invasive species management across the Pacific. This includes supporting in-country expertise and integrating into climate and development policy (such as National Adaptation Plans). This has can generate more country ownership and support for future invasive species activities, particularly in countries PRISMSS has more recently started supporting – such as Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.</p>
Strengthen the integration of GEDSI and TK by building on existing good practice	<p>Agree - The report included a case study of ‘Community Voices in Action’ in Tonga (on p.25). The case study concludes that “acknowledging and respecting the community’s wealth of local knowledge, [Vava’u Environmental Protection Association] operates on a sharing and partnership model encouraging community buy-in. This case study, and other examples of good practice, can inform GEDSI and TK work for PRISMSS, including the engagement framework development.</p> <p>While MFAT has an immediate interest in strengthened GEDSI and TK through delivery, these are considered critical factors to unlock future sustainable funding for PRISMSS – including funding from other bilateral donors, as well as the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund proposals.</p>
Review PRISMSS's project development and implementation model to better support all critical activities	<p>Partially agree – Many of the challenges in RIR development and implementation were due to tight delivery timeframes. However MFAT recognises some shorter term approaches to strengthen these components – including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the update to the PRISMSS Strategy; • development of the engagement framework; • the recruitment of the project development specialist to support future climate finance proposals and wider planning work; and <p>In the longer term, MFAT agrees with the reviewers that PRISMSS would benefit from more cohesive overarching PRISMSS governance, which could evolve from the current Steering Group membership (with strategic level representatives from each partner organisation).</p>

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Strengthen PRISMSS's strategic approach through use of shared/integrated frameworks and review the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for the RIR Activity	<p>Agree - The mid-term review notes potential governance improvements include “more clearly differentiating operations and strategy, and more explicitly linking to governance arrangements in-country”. On the former aspect, there have been some steps to address the former (as acknowledged in the review, following a discussion at the November PRISMSS meeting) – this includes involvement of the following members of the Steering Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President, Conservation Programmes from Island Conservation; and • The newly recruited Director, Biodiversity Conservation at SPREP. <p>MFAT will engage with SPREP on strengthening overarching governance for PRISMSS (including beyond the RIR project timeline), and in-country governance linkages.</p>
Adopt more inclusive investment design processes for future MFAT funding	<p>Partially agree – contingent on future funding availability. MFAT accepts there was a relatively short period from business casing to delivery, driven by external factors (largely the 2022-2025 International Climate Finance Commitment Period). Involving key in-country representatives, alongside delivery partners, could result in a more locally owned, contextually appropriate activity.</p> <p>There are opportunities for a strong participatory design approach to the current GEF, AF and GCF concepts/proposals under way. Depending on future MFAT funding being available, MFAT should engage with relevant Pacific posts to support a co-design process involving relevant government officials.</p>
Explore complementary funding mechanisms to support comprehensive, long-term ISM	<p>Agree - PRISMSS has a track record of securing multilateral funds from GEF, and ongoing proposal work is under way for GEF, AF and GCF has been noted above. However a clearer roadmap for securing multi-lateral funds would add confidence around timing and quantum of funding. Bearing in mind MFAT’s current financial support continues to June 2026, additional bilateral sources of funding (whether from the UK, Australia or another donor) would strengthen the financial sustainability of PRISMSS.</p> <p>MFAT sees the addition of the Protect Our Marine Areas programme as a strategic step, given the additional funding opportunities present in the marine space. Island Conservation has already benefited from one of these, but other opportunities include the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, Oceans 5, and DFAT Blue Carbon programme.</p>

