



# Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

## Most Significant Change

### The GEF Pacific STAR R2R Project - RMI



Name of Person recording story	Kristina Reimers
Name of storyteller	Mayor Veronica M. Wase
Date of recording	July 23 <sup>th</sup> , 2019

#### Likiep Mayor Supports Community Resilience Development



Jina David

On the beautiful and peaceful isles of Likiep Atoll, there lives three communities. The people live in perfect harmony with the surrounding environment. To sustain a subsistence lifestyle, the people gather fish from the sea, and collect food from the land, often time, they also make handicrafts to sell to neighboring islands to earn cash for other household needs.

The community from the isles of Melang and Jebal are copra farmers, since the early 1800s. They have been farming and harvesting copra all their lives as their forefathers have done before them. Copra has been the lifeblood of the communities including the landowners of Likiep since the plantations on Likiep were established by German traders, and the practice is still very strong today.

Likiep Atoll is one of the 5 STAR R2R project sites. The story is about the Likiep’s journey towards more resilient communities through conservation of natural resources and combating the impacts of climate change. The STAR R2R intervention is to assist Likiep Atoll by providing financial and technical support to the Local Government and assist the people transform the atoll into a stronger, smarter, and prosperous community.



Likiep community discussion Local Early Action Plan (LEAP)

Mayor Veronica M. Wase was selected to be interviewed given Likiep’s current position of the Reimaanlak process. Mayor Wase is also R2R project board member. When asked about changes, Mayor Wase describes that she feels the biggest change that the STAR R2R has brought about is in the



Likiep women conducting mapping exercise for their community

“bringing together of people” especially local government officials, land owners and other community members, such as women, in the process of conservation and management of community resources. Mayor Wase feels the R2R is the connection and the link for better coordination and communication among all stakeholders, especially in bringing the voice of the people on the atoll level to the national level.

In the past, the Marine Protected Areas for Likiep have been delineated and established nearly a decade ago through active community collaboration with the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority. The added value from the STAR R2R is the delineation and conservation of the terrestrial component of conservation and resource management. The Mayor of Likiep states, she is quite confident that that the STAR R2R will bring about more changes and looks forward to witnessing more significant transformation within the 5 year tenure of the STAR R2R.