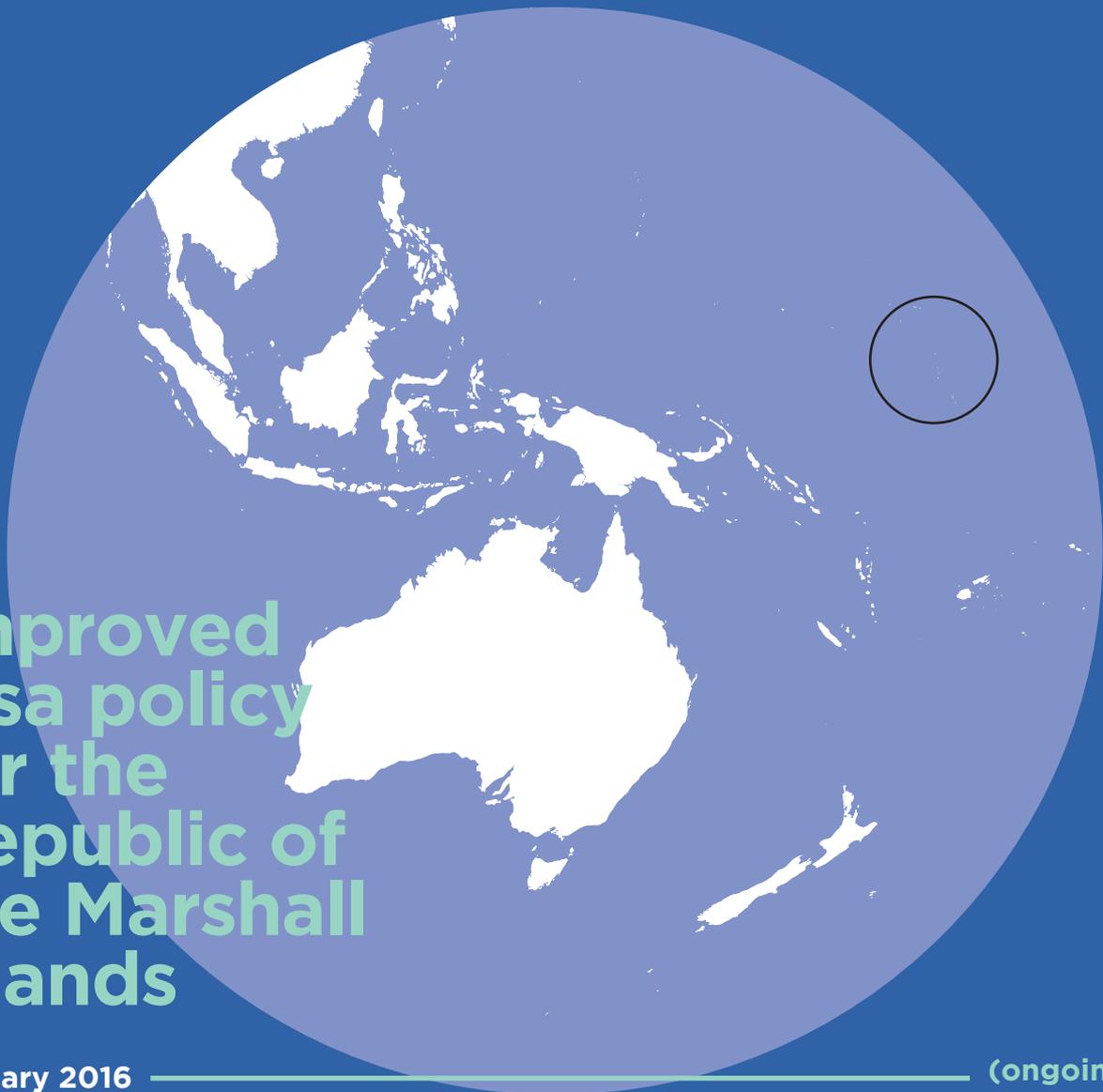




MARSHALL ISLANDS

Pacific



Improved visa policy for the Republic of the Marshall Islands

February 2016

(ongoing)

Requesting entity
Ministry of Justice

MARSHALL ISLANDS | VISAS

Background

Small Island Developing States, such as the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) have significant challenges in monitoring and controlling their borders in light of increased international travel, bio-security concerns, human trafficking, and immigrant labor. The country is composed of 29 mostly sparsely-populated coral atolls scattered over a vast area in the North Pacific. The huge geographic area with multiple entry

points by sea and air pose difficulties in monitoring mixed migration given the limited financial resources, lack of expertise, and necessary tools and technical support within the RMI. The Division of Immigration (DoI) ensures that minimum standards are met but is in need of long term direction. There is no standard operating procedures or computer-based data management system to track immigration trends or

visa issuance. The lack of a database for visa tracking and foreign national profile building puts a large time strain on limited staff who must manually search for files to update and identify those overstaying their visa. Similarly, there is no visa issuance system in place. In short, the DoI lacks a vibrant visa policy that is conducive to the national development strategy.

Objective

Improve the overall service delivery of the RMI and, specifically, putting in place new visa policy for DoI.

Activities

Provide recommendations for a visa policy inclusive of standard operating procedures (SOPs), migration data management system, and compliance framework;

Provide recommendations on how to improve implementation of the EU and RMI Short Stay Visa Waiver Agreement.

Expected results

A proposal for a Visa policy detailing visa issuance systems is drafted containing recommendations on how to improve the implementation of the EU-RMI Short Stay Visa Waiver Agreement;

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for visa issuance are drafted;

A migration data management system program is developed;

A Tracking and Compliance framework is produced.