

# GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



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## What is the Ridge to Reef Programme?

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme is an initiative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) involving a number of its implementing agencies and the Pacific Community. It aims to support PacSIDS in addressing national priorities and development needs while delivering global environmental benefits across multiple focal areas of the GEF, including: biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, sustainable forest management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Given the close inter-connections between land, water and coastal systems in PacSIDS, the planning and management of freshwater use, sanitation, wastewater treatment and pollution control, sustainable land use and forestry practices, balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, hazard risk reduction, and climate variability and change is best achieved through integrated and coordinated efforts.

Building on already effective cross-sectoral coordination and planning established through the GEF Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project, the R2R Programme embraces the inter-connections between the natural and social systems in a whole of island approach from the 'ridges', through coastal watersheds and habitats, and across coastal lagoons to the fringing 'reef' environments.

Inherent in the approach is the need for the integration of stakeholders - including communities, and national governments within such a cross-sectoral planning framework which is described by PacSIDS as a 'community to cabinet' approach. This emphasizes effective engagement and participation of stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of initiatives aimed at fostering integrated approaches to natural resource and environmental management in PacSIDS.



**GOAL:**

To maintain and enhance Pacific Island countries' ecosystem goods and services (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural) through integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resource management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

**PURPOSE:**

Mainstreaming of Ridge to Reef (R2R) principles in the promotion of climate resilient approaches to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in PacSIDs through strategic planning, capacity building and actions to sustain livelihoods and preserve ecosystem services.



## Programme Snapshot

Initiatives of the programme aim to deliver tangible and quantifiable national and global environmental benefits by focusing on a more cross-cutting approach to water, land and coastal management that captures complementarities among the following GEF focal areas: biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, sustainable forest management, and climate change.

### **TIMELINE AND BUDGET**

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef programme is financed for 5-years via a USD 91 million package of GEF grants and USD 333 million of national and regional co-financing.

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:** UNDP, FAO and UNEP

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** Pacific Community (SPC)

**IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES:** Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

### **PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES**

Programme activities are organised under the following areas of work: on-the-ground demonstration projects addressing national priority environmental and natural resource management issues; the strengthening of governance and coordination arrangements for integrated approaches to land, water and coastal management; the development of results-oriented approaches to programme delivery and reporting, including harmonisation of GEF results reporting frameworks with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway; and regional coordination.



6. National R2R STAR Project  
Tonga, 2016





## **GEF R2R STAR PROJECTS**

Significantly, the programme is comprised of 13 national GEF R2R STAR<sup>1</sup> projects which address national priorities and development needs while delivering global environmental benefits. These UNDP, UNEP and FAO implemented projects are executed nationally on a bilateral basis in partnership with local stakeholders. Each GEF R2R STAR project has been provided an International Waters (IW) funding increment to support intra-regional capacity building and knowledge sharing.

## **GEF INTERNATIONAL WATERS R2R PROJECT**

The operation of the R2R programme is supported in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing through the regional International Waters R2R project which is executed regionally by the Pacific Community. R2R pilot projects, to be implemented through the R2R IW project are designed to strengthen R2R integration by establishing synergies among the work of the various sector agencies and the GEF R2R STAR projects, between government and communities, and civil society and the public sector.

## **PROGRAMME COORDINATION**

Coordination support is provided by the Pacific Community (SPC), a regional intergovernmental organisation that works with Pacific Nations across a wide range of areas relevant to programme implementation, including water resource management, geoscience for development, public health, forestry, fisheries, disaster management, youth, gender and culture. The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), hosted by the Pacific Community's Geoscience Division in the Fiji Islands, is tasked with the provision of technical, operational, reporting and monitoring support as requested by the participating Pacific Island Countries.

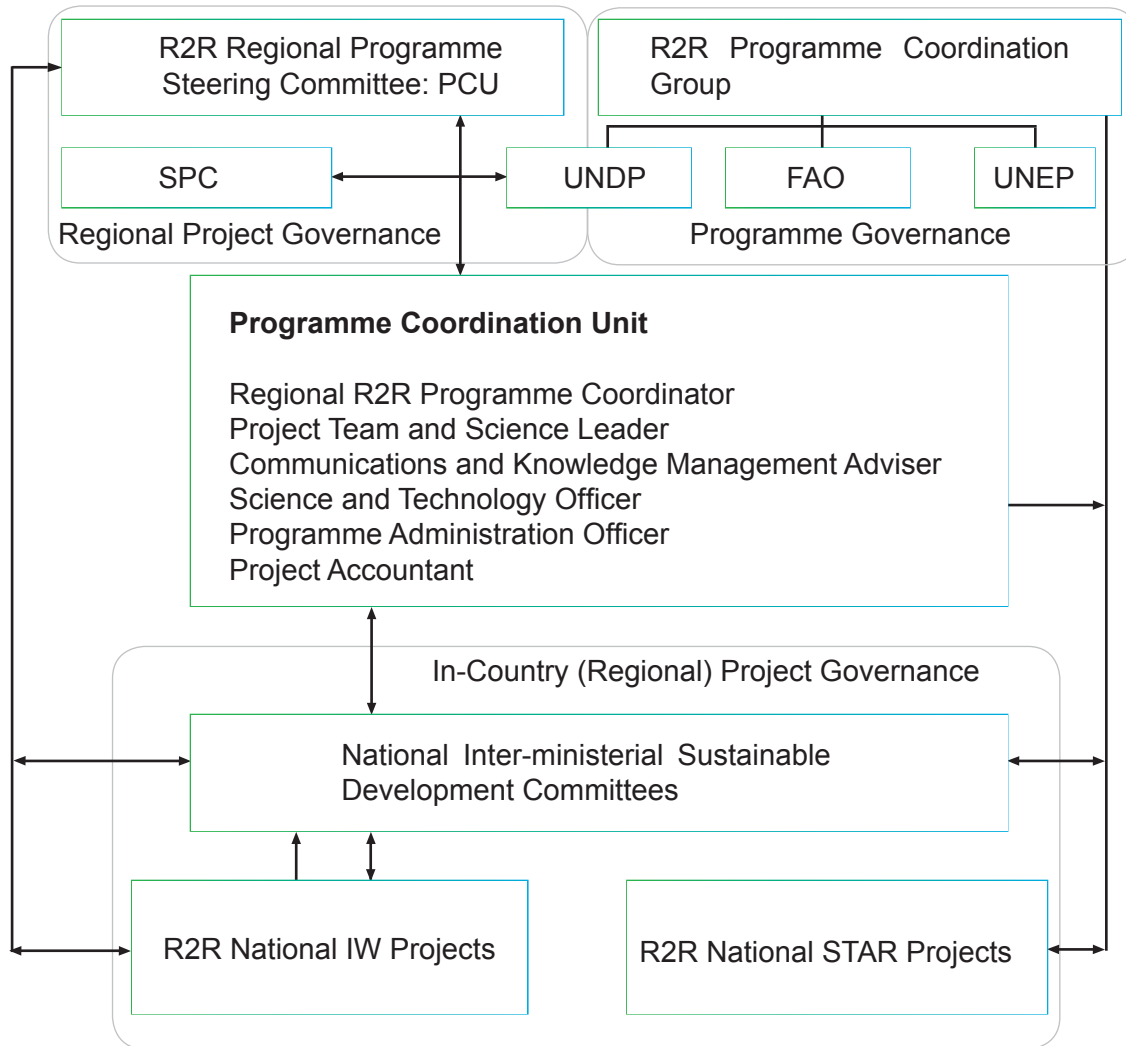
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1 STAR is the GEF's System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources



7. Republic of Marshall Islands, 2016

## Governance Structure





8. Nukulaelae  
Tuvalu, 2016



# Guiding principles for R2R in the Pacific

The guiding principles for the application of the Ridge to Reef approach in Pacific Small Island Developing States was agreed through regional and national consultative processes during the programme's conceptualization and preparation phases.

## **1. Acknowledging inter-connections of Land, Water and Coastal Systems**

Recognising the linkages and shared impacts between land, water and coastal systems in PacSIDS.

## **2. Promotion of R2R Community to Cabinet Approaches:**

Promoting integration of communities from grassroots to cabinet for cross-sectoral planning and implementation for inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

## **3. Catalyzing community action via locally driven solutions:**

Understanding local contexts and supporting locally driven solutions are key to fostering ownership, sustainability and resilience.

## **4. Doing is Seeing the Need**

Promote national demonstration projects aimed at strengthening local experience in linking Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to Integrated Coastal Management (ICM).

## **5. Investment in island-based human capital**

Supporting local capacity development to enable informed decision making and resilience building.

## **6. Gender Mainstreaming**

Recognising the value in gender diversity for an integrated approach during planning and implementation processes.

## **7. Supporting National and Regional Planning**

Aligning the R2R Framework at national and regional levels to global and regional agreements and strategies – the Sustainable Development Goals, the Samoa Pathway, Smaller Island States (SIS) Regional Strategy and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.



9 & 10. National R2R STAR Project  
Tonga, 2016



## **8. Application of Marine Spatial Planning in R2R Planning and Management**

Improving collaboration between users and reconciling sectoral interests to conserve biodiversity as well as addressing human needs, including livelihood considerations through the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning.

## **9. Integrating Climate Variability and Change Considerations in National Planning**

Taking into consideration climate variability, its effects on the R2R water cycle and the impact on Pacific people and economies during national planning.

## **10. Supporting Results-Oriented Planning and Action**

Endorsing results-based approaches to manage programs and projects reaffirming PacSIDS commitment to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Accord for Action (2008).

## **11. Effectively communicating benefits of integration and lessons learned**

Effectively highlighting the benefits of integrated approaches to convince government agencies, local institutions and community leaders to champion change.

## **12. Guiding and coordinating investment in the sustainable development of island communities**

Demonstrating tested and refined approaches in island contexts and leveraging national resources and donor support towards these integrated approaches.

## **13. Promoting public/private partnerships**

Building strategic partnerships between the public and private sector for integrated efforts and knowledge sharing as well as providing financial sustainability to the programme.

# Fostering resilience in the Pacific

**“Think Globally, Act Locally”**

## **Ridge to Reef Benefits**

The programme was developed to provide an opportunity for PacSIDS to develop and implement integrated approaches for the sustainable development of island economies and communities. The practical application of R2R principles present PacSIDS with a unique opportunity to:

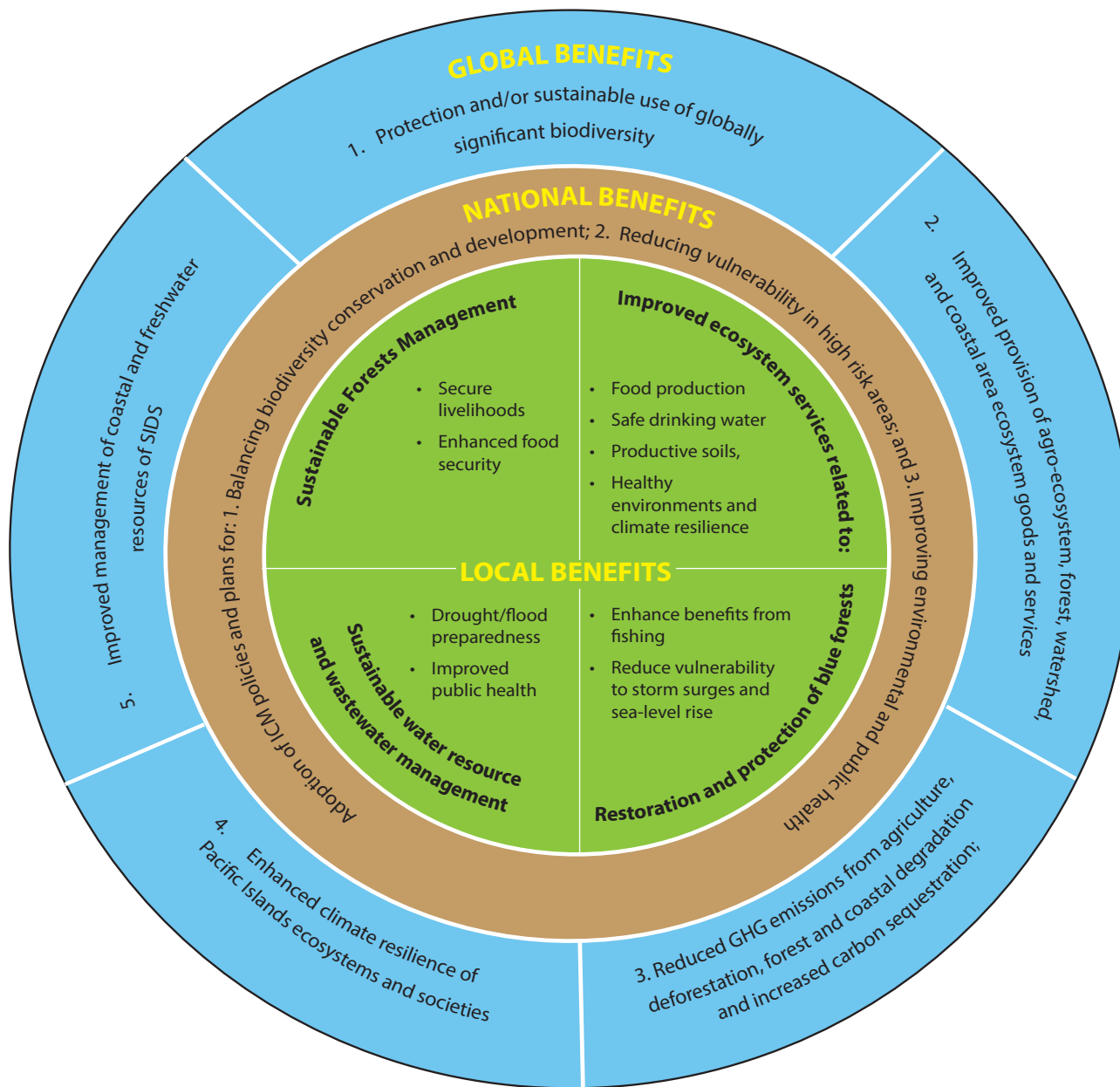
**UPSCALE:** Test, refine, replicate and upscale effective mainstreaming efforts of ICM/IWRM/SLM/SFM concepts, practices and policies.

**BUILD CAPACITY:** Build capacity of local professionals, new stakeholder groups, and community leaders to plan and adopt integrated and participatory mechanisms to complement traditional measure and approaches.

**SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS:** Introduce resilient measures through pilot demonstrations to reduce economic losses, increase farmer income, and sustain drinking water supplies.

**IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH** Improve human health with continued access to safe drinking water during droughts and reduction of sewage pollution of groundwater supplies and shellfish.







11. National R2R STAR Project  
Tonga, 2016



**Programme activities** are organised under the following programme components:

**Component 1 – National multi-focal area demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries**

Each national R2R Program project will feature a representative, multistakeholder Steering Committee including relevant local and national government agencies, NGO/CBO, private sector and UN system participants (known as a national inter-ministry committee (IMC) building on the structures that have already been established in each PIC through the existing UNDP/UNEP/GEF IWRM project).

National IMCs will meet bi-annually to review progress, provide strategic advice and support adaptive project management.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Ridge-to-Reef approach achieved in demonstration sites through the scaling up of IWRM and introduction of ICM towards integrated management of natural resources and to reduce watershed and coastal pollution in priority catchments;
2. Improved terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation in priority catchments and linked coastal areas;
3. Carbon stocks restored and enhanced in priority catchments and coastal areas;
4. Sustainable forest management (SFM) achieved through institutional strengthening, demonstration pilots and innovative schemes in priority catchments;
5. Sustainable financing schemes developed to support biodiversity conservation and integrated approaches, including REDD+ in priority catchments Improved resilience to climate change of island ecosystems and communities in priority catchments.



12. IWRM Project  
Vanuatu, 2010



13. National Water Summit  
Palau, 2010

## **Component 2 – Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate resilient land, water, forest and coastal management**

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. Enhanced policies, regulations and institutions for integrated Ridge-to-Reef approaches in place in PICs;
2. National and local capacities for ICM, IWRM, SLM and SFM improved to enable best practice in integrated, climate resilient Ridge-to-Reef approaches in natural resource management.

## **Component 3 - Regional and National/Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, M&E and Knowledge Management**

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. National/local indicators and M&E system(s) for simplified and integrated approaches for R2R;
2. National and regional platforms for sharing of best practices and lessons learned in R2R.

## **Component 4 - Regional Programme Coordination**

The R2R programme as a whole will be guided by an R2R Program Steering Committee (PSC) which will meet annually to review progress, provide strategic guidance and advice, and facilitate program level coordination and communication. The R2R PSC will include representatives from each PIC.

The regional project will provide overall R2R coordination support and will be executed through the Pacific Community (SPC). UNDP has a firmly established partnership with SPC as an Executing Agency with strong comparative advantage in water and coastal resources management and this R2R programme component will build on and complement the existing UNDP/UNEP/SPC efforts and partnerships.

The Regional Programme Coordinator leads the R2R Program Coordinating Unit (PCU) which provides technical and programmatic support not only for the regional project activities but also for the national R2R projects as may be requested by the countries.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. Effective coordination of overall programme, national and regional projects delivers enhanced program effectiveness, efficiency and delivery.



The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

**[www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)**



The Pacific Community is an international development organisation with 26 member countries and territories. It is the principal scientific and technical agency proudly supporting development in the Pacific region since 1947.

**[www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)**



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