



RSTC5 Inf.4
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Fifth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee
for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Nadi, Fiji 28th July 2019

**Third Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the
SPC/UNDP/UNE/FAO/GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme**
29th July 2018
Townsville, Australia

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1. Action Items

- Endorse to the RPSC the following for approval and appropriate action:
 - 1.1 Harmonized Results Reporting: The committee agrees to the Framework for the Harmonized Results Reporting and endorses the same for implementation. Dr. Nainoca raised the need to identify available resources/budget in the country documents and that countries are aware of the cost of the activity before endorsing the HRR template. This work will be led by the Country Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser Jose Antonio.
 - 1.2 Programmatic website: The committee endorses the technical requirements in the proposal to enhance current website as indicated in the Terms of Reference. It is recommended that the proposal is considered by the RPSC for the consideration and endorsement of the Boards of the STAR projects for its inclusion in its work plan and budget with the technical assistance from the RPCU. It is proposed that the cost of the development of the website and associated databases is shared equitably among on-going participating projects under the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme. This work will be lead by the Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser Dr. Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafileo.
- RPCU to share with FAO links to all the regional project toolkits.

2. Highlights

- ❖ Ms. Rhonda Robinson expressed that SPC acknowledges that there are elements of the programme that needs to be addressed and recognizes that it has been a challenging period for the RPCU. The RPCU acknowledges the guidance and support of the RSTC in moving forward with the work-plan and budget and drawing on the technical expertise of the RPCU and RSTC.
- ❖ The RSTC recognized the need to articulate with the people that are involved in the collection of baseline data, a clear understanding of the purpose and the questions that need to be answered.
- ❖ Acknowledge and use local expertise and capacities available in-country to carry out the technical work on the ground e.g the Vanuatu RAPCA
- ❖ Linking activities to national documents will rally support at the national and community level.
- ❖ Data analysis and the interpretation of data is a gap in countries. There is a need to identify ways in which to address and overcome this challenge.
- ❖ FAO raised their interest in carrying out the RAPCA in the 4 project sites in Kiribati. This was acknowledged and noted by Dr. Sobey.
- ❖ Ms. Newland recommended that RSTC consider the partnership with CCRES and to trial this with Vanuatu by training one or two RPCU staff and the same could be carried out with the National staff.

- ❖ Dr. Padilla proposed a longer time frame to be allocated to RSTC to be able to discuss and craft the responses to the technical recommendations from the Mid-Term review.
- ❖ Dr. Padilla also urged the Regional R2R to accelerate the recruitment of the Regional Programme Coordinator and the Project and Science Leader.

3. Papers presented at the RSTC3

3.1 Water Quality Baseline Assessments

Ms. Emma Newland presented the paper on Monitoring the Effectiveness of National IW R2R Pilot Site Activities where it was highlighted that a tool to support the development of an Environmental Monitoring Plan has been trialled in 3 countries; Tuvalu, Vanuatu and FSM. The tool will be refined further following feedback from the RSTC. Dr Joe Padilla voiced concern that countries had yet to produce baseline data for the GEF stress reduction targets before any monitoring could be conducted. None of the countries had produced any baseline data so Dr. Sobey suggested that such a baseline survey could be included as part of the course assessment for EV5963 starting the week of August 6th. Dr. Sheaves confirmed that this suggestion could certainly be accommodated and would be a win-win situation for the countries and JCU. Dr. Sheaves also indicated the need to articulate with participants involved in the collection of baseline data and those that are carrying out the analysis in the field i.e that they must have a clear understanding of the purpose of the work that is being carried out and the questions that they need to answer. This will also ensure that people are able to make decisions on the ground if the need arises. It was shared with the RSTC that the Toolkit for Environmental Monitoring will be included in the 3rd unit of the JCU Post Graduate Certificate. Dr Sobey opined that the assessment requirement could be linked to the completion of these plans. The Committee discussed the possibilities to set up sub-committees to support specific technical aspects such as water quality and forestry assessments.

3.2 RAPCA Vanuatu

Dr. Sobey presented an update on the Testing of Rapid Coastal Assessment Methodology (RapCA) in Vanuatu. The following were highlighted i.e

- The activity was a success. It acknowledged and used local expertise and capacities available in-country to carry out the work.
- The RAPCA activity was tied to the Tagabe River Management Plan which paved the way for implementation of the plan on the ground. Therefore, linking activities to national documents will rally support at the community level.
- The activity involved the support and participation of traditional land owners. The landowners utilised the RAPCA reef survey findings as a baseline for the marine conservation area in their community, which is soon to be officially gazetted. It was also the first time for landowners to be involved in technical work on the ground.
- It was identified that data analysis and the interpretation of data is a gap in-country which likely applies to the Pacific region as a whole.

Following the update shared by Milika, FAO raised their interest in carrying out the RAPCA in the 4 project sites in Kiribati. This was acknowledged and noted by Dr. Sobey.

The RSTC Chair concluded and stated that as people get more equipped in collecting data, the challenge in interpreting that data somehow increases. There is a need to identify ways in which to address and overcome this challenge.

3.4 Draft Harmonized Results Reporting

Mr. Shaleh Antonio presented and guided the RSTC through the Draft Harmonised Results Reporting form stating the rationale behind the tool, in terms of project and programmatic reporting, that it is supposed to compliment rather than duplicate existing reporting mechanisms. The tool also intends to capture various aspects of the project that contributes to achieving the outputs and outcomes along with its intended contribution to the GEF focal areas, Aichi Targets, and SDGs.

It was recommended through the RSTC that countries indicate the needs and requirements to successfully execute the HRR activity.

Dr. Nainoca raised the need to identify available resources/budget in the country documents and that countries are aware of the cost of the activity before endorsing the HRR template.

Dr. Jose Padilla inquired if it is possible to have a multi focal area results tracking tool. Mr. Antonio clarified that the HRR template is indeed a multi-focal area tracking tool.

3.3 Proposal for Enhancement of Pacific R2R Programme website and database development

Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo presented the Status of the current regional project website and associated databases, and a Proposal for Enhancement of the Pacific R2R Programme website and associated databases highlighting the following key lessons learned:

- Incentivisation of programme communications and knowledge sharing.
- The online platform and website functionalities
- Sufficient resourcing
- Specific accountabilities and identification towards content developers and development.

Dr. Jose Padilla suggested to propose to the RSC for a programme wide website with links to implementing agencies information pages. The RPCU to propose through the RSC to the STAR projects to consider having a programmatic website. Mrs. Nainoca further advised the RPCU to look through the STAR projects component 4 and to identify available resources.

It was acknowledged by the RSTC that a regional programme website will facilitate:

- Status of regional and national investments
- Programme and Project Results Reporting
- Regional and national capacity building and knowledge sharing

3.5 Update on the Diagnostics Analysis Processes

Emma presented an update on the Diagnostic Analysis Process and highlighted that SPC is proposing a partnership with the Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services Project (CCRES) project. The CCRES project have developed a suite of tools that could be applicable throughout the diagnostic analysis process. Ms. Newland recommended that RSTC consider the partnership with CCRES and to trial this with Vanuatu by training one or two RPCU staff and the same could be carried out with National teams.

Ms. Jessica Sanders, FAO raised the need to first map out existing activities or projects to avoid any overlapping and pointed out that Vanuatu had conducted some work around the coastal areas, which might be similar to the diagnostics analysis activity being proposed.

3.6 Gender Mainstreaming Progress Report

Ms. Aliti Vuniseya presented the Gender Mainstreaming Progress highlighting the Gender Analysis and contextualized Gender Action Plan where gender inclusive activities were carried out in Samoa, Vanuatu, FSM, Palau and RMI. The regional Gender Mainstreaming toolkit had been developed and shared with countries. The main purpose of the toolkit was to assist project managers in carrying out the gender work and to be able to document gender activities in countries. Ms. Vuniseya also shared the following lessons from the consultancy work i.e:

- The need to collaborate with people that are already involved in projects on the ground.
- Some countries raised that there are too many gender trainings and that countries must be able to execute the work utilizing the knowledge and skills from the trainings. Its time to let the countries do the work.
- The NGO's can be also be utilized to carry out some activities on the ground.
- People don't read existing reports and carry out their own background research and to identify information and resources that are there that can be utilized to carry out a particular activity. This is a challenge across the pacific.

Dr. Nainoca commended the work carried out by SPC and Ms. Vuniseya and further stated that the project is about quality assurance where the project rating can easily increase.

Ms. Jessica Sanders expressed FAO's interest in carrying out gender mainstreaming work for Kiribati and shared that FAO together with SPC has in the past carried out 5 overviews on gender mainstreaming. These are resources that could contribute to the gender activities.

4. Other Matters

- Dr. Padilla proposed a longer time frame to be allocated to RSTC to be able to discuss and craft the responses to the technical recommendations from the Mid-Term review.
- Dr. Padilla also urged the Regional R2R to accelerate the recruitment of consultants.

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