



GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries

REPORT

Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee



**Townsville, QLD, Australia
July 29 - August 3, 2018**

First published in Suva, Fiji Islands in 2018 by Pacific Community (SPC)

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SPC/GEF/R2R

Regional Project Co-ordinating Unit

Geoscience Division, Pacific Community

SPC - Private Mail Bag - Suva, Fiji

Tel: (679) 337 0733/Fax: (679) 337 0040

Web: <http://www.pacific-R2R.org>

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For citation purposes this document may be cited as:

SPC, 2018 Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods. SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC 3 Report

List of Abbreviations

AWP	Annual Work Plan
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CEPA	Centre for Environmental Protection Agency
CRIC	Climate Resilience Investment Committee
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EU	European Union
EWACC	Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF SGP	Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GEM	Geoscience Division (Pacific Community)
HRR	Harmonized Results Reporting
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
IDA	Island Diagnostic Analysis
IW	Integrated Waters
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JCU	James Cook University
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KCSO	Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTVKTV	Matavai Kitavai
MYCWP	Multi Year Costed Work Plan
OEEM	Office of Environment & Emergency Management
OEEM	Office of Environment and Emergency Management
PCG	Programme Coordination Group
PEBACC	Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project
PFD	Programme Framework Document
PGC	Post Graduate Certificate
RAPCA	Rapid Priority Coastal Area Assessment
RPCU	Regional Programme Coordinating Unit
RSC	Regional Programme Steering Committee
RSTC	Regional Science and Technical Committee
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNE	United Nations Environment
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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Introduction

The implementation of the GEF Pacific R2R IW Regional Project is carried out under the general guidance of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) specifically formed for this purpose. The RSC includes the designated national R2R Focal Points who have been involved in the design phase of the project, as well as GEF Operational Focal Points. The RSC's role is to provide managerial and governance advice to the project, and to guide the PCU in the implementation and monitoring of the overall regional project. The representatives from the GEF Implementing Agencies – UNDP, FAO and UNE will participate in the meetings to foster cooperation and coordination of the National STAR projects within the R2R programmatic approach. Technical advice will also be provided to the RSC by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee.

Responding to country feedback at the 2nd RSC in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, the design considerations for the 3rd RSC in Townsville, included:

1. Separating the technical and scientific discussions to be tabled for the consideration of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee, held at the margin of the RSC3, for their expert review and recommendations to the RSC.
2. Separate programmatic discussions for deliberation by the Regional Programme Coordination Group (RPCG), with a summary presented to the RSC.

Chairpersons of both bodies reported to the RSC on the outcomes of their deliberations.

Another key design consideration was the introduction of a pre-RSC workshop to familiarize the members with new tools to enhance programme coordination and project management.

The RSTC and RPCG meetings were held on July 29, the pre-RSC3 workshop on July 30, and the RSC3 meeting 1 – 3 August, 2018 in Townsville, Australia.



Welcome Remarks

The SPC Deputy Director, Community Disaster and Resilience Programme, Ms. Rhonda Robinson welcomed the Pacific R2R Regional Steering Committee and the respective Implementing Agencies to the meeting. Ms. Robinson acknowledged and highlighted:

- The launch of the James Cook University Program as a significant achievement of the programme.
- The sub-regional cluster meetings that have been delivered allowing projects to learn and share across various thematic areas.
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings which forged improved collaboration at the national level.
- The trialling of the Rapid Coastal Assessments Methodology in Vanuatu.



Ms. Rhonda Robinson, SPC Deputy Director
Community Disaster and Resilience Programme

Ms. Robinson explained that the Pacific R2R Programme draws on national experiences and challenges. SPC, has over the past several years, made an effort to understand and deliver the design and implementation of an integrated and programmatic approach across a range of areas. The Pacific region is the first region on the globe that has brought together climate change and disaster risk management i.e. on policy, planning and implementation across a range of stakeholder groups and manifested through the Framework for Resilience Development in the Pacific (FRDP). It is through such an approach that technical synergies could be gained, but

also programmatically, the value from joint planning, resource mobilisation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) learning.

The Pacific R2R IW regional project strongly supports a national approach to delivering the work, by supporting and working alongside countries to strengthen national frameworks and operational systems at the country level. However recognising that the work is carried out alongside partnerships and implementing agencies. SPC therefore acknowledged UNDP, UNE, FAO, GEF and other partners.

The IW R2R Regional Project has some good examples to share with the rest of the region and the world, in demonstrating this approach (integrated or programmatic) to ultimately strengthen resilience.

Ms. Robinson, acknowledged the contributions by Mr. Marc Wilson i.e. during his time with the IWRM project and with his brilliant work on the design and implementation of the R2R project.

Lastly, Ms. Robinson also acknowledged the RPCU team at SPC for the great effort in organising the regional meeting. Refer to participants list in Annex 1.

The UNDP Deputy Team Leader for Resilience and Sustainable Development, Dr. Winifereti Nainoca acknowledged the owners of the land on which the regional meeting venue is being located in Townsville, Australia. On behalf of UNDP, Dr. Nainoca also welcomed and acknowledged the presence of country representatives, CEOs, Directors, GEF operational focal points, the STAR Project Managers, the IW Project Managers, UNDP Fiji and UNDP Samoa. UNDP also acknowledged SPC and the brilliant contributions by Mr. Marc Wilson towards the R2R Program.

Dr. Nainoca emphasised on the importance of the mid-term review and encouraged the IW and STAR projects to take advantage of the week's deliberations and to list ways in which the two projects can work together in achieving an integrated programmatic approach. The meeting was reminded that the GEF indicators are set high based on the sustainable developments goals, which is linked to global and national frameworks. The Regional and National R2R projects must be able to tick the GEF boxes.

Election of Officers

(Chairperson Tonga, Vice-Chairperson; and 2 Rapporteurs)



Chair: Ms. Rosamond Bing, Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Tonga.

Dr. Milika Sobey reminded the RSC that according to its Rules of Procedure, elected officers would hold office until subsequent meetings, at which time the Vice-Chairperson would be promoted to Chairperson. In addition the Rules of Procedure also stated that the Committee shall elect two Rapporteurs from among its members at the beginning of each meeting.

Ms. Rosamond Bing, CEO Ministry of Lands, Surveys and Natural Resources (Tonga) was nominated Chairperson of the committee during its second meeting in July 2017.

The RSC was invited to nominate individuals as Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteurs. Samoa nominated Solomon Islands. PNG second. Motion carried.

Vice Chair: Chanel Iroi, Solomon Islands

Nomination of Rapporteurs: Mere Bainimarama (Fiji) and Gwendolyn Sisor (Palau)

The Chair acknowledged the meeting for the election of Tonga as Chair of the 3rd RSC.



Vice Chair - Mr Chanel Iroi, Undersecretary – Technical Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands

Documentation available to the meeting

Dr. Sobey guided the RSC through the meeting documents available on USB drives that was provided. Refer to Annex 2 for List of Documents. (<https://www.pacific-r2r.org/resources/meeting-documents/rsc-3-2018/272-spc-gef-r2r-rsc-inf-2-provisional-list-of-documents/file>)

Programme of work and arrangements for the conduct of the meeting

Dr. Sobey informed the committee on the change in programme from previous years, where the discussion papers have been presented at the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) meeting.

Adoption of the Report of the 2nd RSC Meeting

The Chairperson invited the committee to review the highlights of the 2nd RSC meeting that was circulated to all members in March 2018. The RPCU noted the amendments raised by Nauru, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to the RSC2 meeting report. FSM moved to adopt the minutes. Second by Tuvalu. Meeting minutes endorsed and adopted by the 3rd RSC Meeting.



The RSC also agreed that a draft meeting report be circulated one month following the RSC meeting whereby the committee will provide feedback and amendments within a month.

Dr. Josie Tamate, Niue suggested that key outcomes coming out of the weeklong meeting is produced and viewed at the end of the meeting.

Dr Josie Tamate,
GEF Operational Focal Point, Director-General,
Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Niue, Alofi, Niue

Amendments of the Agenda

The Chairperson introduced the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Regional Project Coordinating Unit (RPCU) and invited the RSC to propose amendments or additional items for consideration. Refer to Annex 3 for Provisional Agenda.

Dr. Jose Padilla proposed to add as an agenda item 'Update of the Pacific IW Strategic Action Programme'.

Samoa moved to adopt the agenda. Second by Niue. Motion carried. The RSC adopted the 3rd meeting agenda.

Country Presentations on National-Level Implementation of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

National R2R IW and STAR Project Managers were invited to deliver their respective country presentations on national-level implementation including the joint activities under issues and concerns in the implementation of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme.

Countries reported:

1. Highlights of project implementation
2. Facilitating factors
3. Project management and Implementation Issues and Resolutions
4. Jointly implemented activities and programmatic issues needing RSC's action and/or decisions

Refer to Annex 4 for details on Country Reports.



Ms Maria Helen Tuoro,
Ridge to Reef Coordinator,
Cook Islands



Ms Jaime Short
Director WATSAN/Relieving GEF IW
R2R Project Manager, Cook Islands



Ms Rosalinda Yatilman
Ridge to Reef Project Manager,
FSM



Ms Faith Alexandra Siba,
IW R2R Project Manager,
FSM



Mrs. Mere Bainimarama
Environment Officer,
Fiji



Ms Beverly Sadole
National Manager – GEF R2R,
Fiji



Ms Phaedora Harris
National R2R Project Manager,
Nauru



Mr. Murphy Ribauw
IW R2R Project Manager
Nauru



Ms Crispina Konelio
National GEF IW R2R Project Manager,
Niue



Ms Rose Alphonse
Policy Analyst,
PNG



Mr. Senson Mark
National GEF IW R2R Project Manager
PNG



Ms Leena Muller
IW Project Manager, R2R Specialist
Palau



Mr. Warwick Harris
Acting Director,
Marshall Islands



Julius Lucky
Project Manager IW R2R Project
Marshall Islands



Mr. Fata Eti Malolo
Principal Watershed Officer/
IW Project Manager, Samoa



Mr. Tamati Fau
EWACC Project Coordinator
GEF National R2R STAR, Samoa



Mr. Sammy Airahui
National IW R2R Project Manager
Solomon Islands



Mr. Douglas Yee
Nat. Project Coordinator - Integrated
Forest Management
GEF/FAO Integrated Forest
Management Project
Solomon Islands



Mr. Taniela Hoponoa
Project Manager
Tonga



Mr. Pesega Lifuka
Project Coordinator, IW Project,
Tuvalu



Mr. Walter Pulogo
Acting Director
Tuvalu



Mr. Ericksen Packett
R2R Project Coordinator,
Vanuatu

Status of GEF/UNDP/SPC Pacific Regional IW R2R Project Implementation

Dr. Milika Sobey presented the Status of Implementation of the Regional IW R2R Project highlighting the Progress of the development outcomes, the R2R Project financial status and issues and concerns related to the Regional IW R2R Project and the Pacific R2R Programme. There are 5 components, 10 indicators, 27 outputs and 83 activities to achieving the project objectives, noting that a number of projects will end in December 2019.

The presentation illustrated the financial status and funds share per GEF Focal Area, per Country (based on PDF and based on individual Prodoc), and the funds share per Component (diagrams available on power point presentation).

The Pacific R2R Programme Components are as follows:

1. National GEF STAR funded Multi-focal Area Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries
2. Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate Resilient Land, Water, Forest and Coastal Management
3. Regional and National/Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management
4. Regional Program Coordination

The highlights of the presentation focused on the Status of the Implementation of the Regional IW R2R Project along with its five components, namely:

1. National demo to support Ridge to Reef ICM/IWRM approaches for island resilience and sustainability
2. Island-based investments in human capital and knowledge to strengthen national and local capacities for R2R ICM/IWRM approaches, incorporating climate change adaptation
3. Mainstreaming of R2R ICM/IWRM approaches into national development planning
4. Regional and national R2R indicators for reporting, monitoring, adaptive management and knowledge management
5. Ridge to Reef regional and national coordination

The update concluded that:

1. Majority (21) of the targets are on-track and (7) with delays.
2. Overall project performance is rated by the RPCU as moderately satisfactory.

Questions and Comments

Mr. Bryan Star, Nauru sorted clarification on the role of the RSTC with regards to technical requests from countries. Nauru is supportive of the programmatic approach concept and is seeking ways through the RSC to fast-track some of the requests from Nauru. Achieving the programmatic work for the IW project is a challenge at the national level. Nauru also commended the M&E work carried out by Mr. Jose Antonio, Country Coordination, M&E Adviser.

Dr. Sobey informed that the RSTC meet once every six months and advised that all technical requests are to be channeled through individual country focal points within the Project Management Unit (PMU). The designated country focal point would refer the request to a PMU staff or to members of the RSTC that have the necessary technical expertise, if in any case the focal point does not have the necessary expertise to respond to the request. However, the purchasing and use of funds is decided by the countries.

Dr. Jose Padilla added that the support provided by the country focal points are demand driven i.e. countries would need to request RPCU for a country visit which could fast-track some of the requests. Ms. Rhonda Robinson then informed the RSC that the Regional Program Coordinator (RPC) position and the Project Science Leader (PSL) will soon be advertised and the positions will be filled in 2 to 3 months' time.

Mr. Douglas Yee of STAR in Solomon Islands noted that it is not included in the illustrations provided through the presentation and sorted for clarification. Mr. Jose Antonio responded that the Solomon STAR project is not officially included in the GEF Pacific R2R Programme. In addition, Dr. Padilla responded explaining that the approved PFD does not include the Solomon Islands due to the government having programmed and committed resources prior to the approval of the PFD. However, Solomon Islands is able to participate in regional activities with confirmation from FAO. Ms. Jessica Sanders, FAO, responded to the discussion saying that there is a provision within the PFD for the participation of the Solomon Islands in regional activities. It is a discussion to be had with the Project Steering Committee so that it is included and approved in the annual work plan. Solomon Islands added that programmatic implementation is a challenge and the approach will need to recognize national counterparts and partnerships in countries that need to be consulted on the programmatic approach. Further to the discussion, Mr. Chanel Iroi informed the meeting that initial discussions on the PFD and the case of Solomon Islands not being involved in regional activities, took place 5 to 6 years ago in Brisbane where Solomon Islands saw the need to focus on national activities only given that the previous GEF Cycle was regionally focused. The government recognized the need to focus the new GEF cycle interventions on national activities only.

Mr. Malaki Iakopo, Samoa, acknowledged the update presented by the RPCU and raised that Samoa could not contribute to some regional activities or trainings in 2018 due to national protocol issues.

Dr. Nainoca, suggested to Solomon Islands, as a regional activity, to carry out a project as part of the water quality measures both for the Solomon Islands IW and STAR that would complement the 2018 World Environment Day theme 'Beating Plastic Pollution'.

The Chair concluded the session and reiterated the challenges faced by the RPCU in retaining staff and the importance of having Project Managers in place.

Regional R2R IW Project Financial Status



Mr. Maika Vulaono, Finance Team Leader, SPC

Mr. Maika Vulaono, SPC, presented the Financial Status of the Pacific Regional IW R2R Project and highlighted that the budget remaining balance is at US\$7425,240 which is to be budgeted for 2019 & 2020.

In terms of the Budget vs Actual, the overall coverage of the budget is at 28% and this is due to a number of factors including, procedural matters, monitoring matters etc. It was evident through the country presentations the lack of human resources. The presentation highlighted the need to work and communicate more frequently in order to achieve targets by 2020.

The presentation also provided an update in terms of Actual vs Annual work-plan budgets and the sub-recipient/advances to countries. In summary:

- The budget for 2018 – 2019 is the minimum level that the project needs to achieve in order to keep track with timelines.

- Projects/countries need to seek advice or additional support from the RPCU around areas of concerns.
- There is a need to reassess priority areas and relook at the big tick items.
- Projects need to commit funds for this period.

Discussion

Mr. Bryan Star, Nauru shared that one of the ways in which projects can utilize funds is to carry out processes in which to measure progress on the ground team. Nauru is working with projects in country to carry out similar activities.

Tuvalu sorted clarification on how countries are receiving their money without any acquittals to which Mr. Vulaono advised, that funds are being dispersed to countries once 80% of acquittals have been submitted.

Regional R2R IW Project Workplan and Budget



Ms. Rhonda Robinson, SPC Deputy Director
Community Disaster and Resilience Programme

Ms. Rhonda Robinson, SPC, presented the Regional R2R Programme Workplan and Budget for the next 12 months and informed the RSC that Dr. Andrew Jones, Director SPC GEM Division, currently looks after the R2R Programme at SPC and has been directly involved in the development of the workplan and budget. Refer to Annex 5 for approved work plan and budget.

Nauru stated that a workplan is yet to be developed for the STAR project in Nauru, and sorted clarification if the proposed R2R workplan and budget would accommodate for new activities following the approval by the RSC. An example raised by Nauru as an activity to be included in its project workplan once it is developed, was Nauru's interest in engaging with Marshall Islands on a twinning exercise to share experiences on the work around compost piggery waste. However if the RSC approved the workplan and budget, there were concerns that upcoming activities as such might not be catered for. Ms. Robinson advised that the budget under Component 1 will cater for country workplans and that there are elements in the budget to accommodate for activities as such. Nauru also raised the need to consider having a programmatic plan.

Nauru stated that a workplan is yet to be developed for the STAR project in Nauru, and sorted clarification if the proposed R2R workplan and budget would accommodate for new activities following the approval by the RSC.

Ms. Rhonda Robinson further referred to the MOA which was a guidance document throughout the development of the workplan and budget. In terms of changes within the project at the national level, as inquired by Ms. Karika (Cook Islands), there are exceptions if the activities aligns with the overall objective of the project. If it doesn't align with the objectives of the project, it will require further discussion. This was supported by Dr. Nainoca who further urged that countries only introduce activities that align with the log-frame and for which resources have been allocated for.

Countries are able to request for funds, provided that 80% of acquittals have been submitted. In terms of contracts ending 2019 and for the purpose of unspent funds, the Mid-Term review process will provide guidance on the extension periods, however projects are to accelerate execution rates leading up to the mid-term review. This was in response to Palau, Ms. Leena Muller.

Palau further sorted clarification on the warranty of purchased water quality kits, to which Ms. Emma Newland informed that the warranty sits with SPC. The transfer of warranty from SPC to the countries will need to be sorted.

Ms. Mere Bainimarama, Fiji inquired if there is consultation support available within the program that Fiji could utilize to endorse the catchment management guidelines recently developed through the AVS project, as this is one of the project outputs for Fiji. Ms. Robinson responded that the midterm review will provide an indication of timelines and funding for activities that need to be completed.

In responding to Ms. Louisa Karika, Cook Islands, Dr. Nainoca clarified that requests for further funding will require the submission of an annual indicative work-plan which will need to be further approved through the RSC. This is if the R2R project have fully utilized the budgeted US2.7million. Mr. Vulaono added that any further funding is taken from the US7million pot of funding for the R2R Programme.

Ms. Maria Tuoro, Cook Islands raised the need to strengthen transparency and to have a standard GEF/UNDP process used by both the STAR and IW projects at the national level. Cook Islands expressed the difficulty in establishing 1 board at the national level, due to different components of the two projects.

Dr. Josie Tamate, Niue sorted clarification given that projects are required to develop a multi-year costed workplan, however the RSC is being consulted to approve an annual workplan. Ms. Robinson explained that the proposed annual workplan has an affixed budget which will be reconciled with the multi-year costed workplan (MYCWP). Mr. Jose Antonio added that the MYCWP is an evolving document which when properly accomplished could serve as a basis in requesting additional funding by the PICs to the Regional IW R2R Project. He added that the MYCWP is a tool that gives opportunity for countries to forecast, indicate and implement national activities that contribute to the objectives of the Regional IW R2R project.

Dr. Padilla, UNDP opined that the Regional IW R2R program undertake a bottoms up budgeting process when developing the workplan and budget.

Samoa moved to adopt the workplan and budget. Niue second the motion by Samoa. The Work-Plan and Budget was adopted by the 3rd RSC.

Regional IW R2R Project Forward Planning

Mid Term Review

Mr. Floyd Robinson, UNDP Pacific Office presented the Mid-Term Review which is an independent mandatory process for all GEF-financed full-sized projects (FSPs). It is primarily a monitoring tool designed to identify progress, challenges and outline corrective/remedial actions to ensure that a project is on track. The MTR process addresses both UNDP & GEF requirements and should be initiated after the completion of the 2nd APR/PIR, regardless of the length of the project.



Mr. Floyd Robinson, Environment Analyst,
UNDP Pacific Office

UNDP plays a leading role in this Review and will work closely/in partnership with SPC - including recruitment and finalisation of report. The purpose of the MTR is to:

1. Assess the efficiency and effectiveness of a project in achieving its intended results. (ie. how is/was the project managed?)
2. Assess the relevance and sustainability of outputs/outcomes. (ie. did the project achieve what it was supposed to achieve?)
3. Provides evidence-based information that is independent, credible, reliable and useful. (ie. serious process!)
4. Key to managing for results and reinforcing accountability for results.
5. Key for learning and sharing knowledge to improve project design.

Following the presentation by Mr. Floyd Robinson, the RSC recognised the need to have the MTR timeline extended due to the quarterly and annual reporting required by projects leading up to the MTR. The RSC therefore agreed that the Mid-term review be deferred to January 2019 whereby projects are requested to adhere to the normal reporting timelines in preparation for the MTR i.e. to carry out accumulative reporting from the beginning of the project till June 30, 2018. The RPCU team at SPC will recommend countries to be visited by the MTR Consultant.

Update on the Post Graduate Certificate Program



Dr Janine Sheaves
Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme Coordinator
College of Science and Engineering
James Cook University

Dr. Janine Sheaves, the Course Coordinator for the Post Graduate Certificate Programme presented an update on the James Cook University's R2R Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma, which is a bespoke teaching and learning program developed in support of the Pacific Community's 'Ridge-to-Reef' management program. The program consists of 2 components:

- (i) Post Graduate Certificate Ridge to Reef [Semester 2, 2017 to Semester 1, 2019] and
- (ii) Post Graduate Diploma Ridge to Reef [Semester 2, 2019 to Semester 1, 2021].



Report of the RSTC Meeting

Dr. Stamatios Christopoulos presented the report of the Regional Steering Technical Committee highlighted above. Refer to Annex 6 RSTC3 meeting highlights for details.

Updates from the RPCG Meeting

Dr. Jose Padilla presented an update by the Regional Program Coordination Group (RPCG) highlighted above. Refer to Annex 7 RPCG3 meeting highlights for details.

Proposal for the application of the overhead cost on the R2R Prioritization

The Deputy Director, Disaster Community Resilience Program, SPC, Ms. Rhonda Robinson presented the SPC Project overhead costs and sought the approval of the RSC of a 10% percentage fee for overhead costs to be applied on direct expenditures incurred by the project from 1 July 2018 to project end. Ms. Robinson assured the countries that this fee does not impact on national project funds and will only apply to regional funds and on the current balance.

Mr. Malaki Iakopo, Samoa acknowledged SPC and RPCG for the information shared and requested that the application of overhead costs not have an implication on the technical components i.e. referring to the work by Dr. Sobey and Ms. Vunisea on the Gender component.

Tuvalu and Niue supported the proposal put forward by the SPC and recognised that the application of overhead costs was a decision coming out of the CRGA, and which SPC need to report on.

Samoa moved to endorse the 10% overhead costs. Second by FSM. The RSC endorsed the application of 10% overhead costs on the balance of the R2R Regional funding, noting that this does not impact on the national project allocations.

Update of the Strategic Action Program for the Pacific Islands IW



Dr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP

Dr. Jose Padilla, UNDP presented the Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the Pacific International Waters Project. The SAP was implemented by SPREP in 1997 and was formulated in order to access the GEF funding for the IW program. It has been a pioneering effort in integrating national and regional priorities with Global Environmental Concerns building on previous consultations, frameworks and policies.

The presentation went on to propose a TDA and SAP for the 'Water-Related Concerns' of the 1997 Document. This includes:

Transboundary (and National) Diagnostics Analysis, TDA

- To identify the priority environmental concerns in the region
- To make use of secondary information from various national and regional sources
- To contextualize the current water governance

The TDA is a 'scientific' document that will have to be reviewed by the RSTC and endorsed by the RSC. As appropriate, it may have to be endorsed by a regional governing body like SPC.

Strategic Action Program, SAP

- Building from the TDA, propose solutions to address the transboundary concerns
- Proposed solutions are described and targets are specified over a specific time frame
- At the project level, RSTC and RSC to 'negotiate' on the elements of the SAP
- Endorsement by the countries is also required

The SAP is a 'politically-negotiated' document to be endorsed at the Ministerial Level

TDA/SAP could provide the basis for a successor regional project/program to R2R that will include national-level concerns

The SAP will require the following actions, to be endorsed by the RSC

- TDA/SAP Consultant
- Assistance in compiling all relevant documents from all partners
- Allocation of around USD 100,000 to cover professional fees, missions, presentations at RSTC/ RSC, Ministerial meeting, etc. Amount to be confirmed (TBC).
- Additional resources may be needed if a regional workshop becomes necessary

Recommended Action: Endorsement by the RSC

Discussion of the TDA/SAP by RSC

Dr. Padilla clarified that the proposed USD100,000 is intended to be applied to the Regional Project allocation. Within the PFD that was originally approved by the GEF, the amount for the Regional Project was about US\$9.8 million, however upon endorsement, UNDP managed to increase that by USD0.5 million for the purpose of program coordination. Therefore the SAP activity could be accommodated by the half a million dollars allocation.

Following extensive discussions on the proposed TDA/SAP activity, the RSC recognized and agreed on the following:

- There are concerns that the activity might be a duplication of efforts.
- Some countries like RMI have already committed to activities for GEF7 and therefore do not have the capacity to commit to the TDA/SAP process.
- Countries are currently working on aligning the R2R project with national arrangements therefore the enabling environment to conduct a TDA/SAP process is not envisioned.
- The representation of the RSC does not have the authority to endorse the proposal.
- The RPCU felt that it is a discussion to be had within the team given the costing of USD100,000
- The RSC agreed to defer the decision to allow time for SPC and UNDP to discuss further.



Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo,
Communications and Knowledge
Management Adviser, SPC



Programmatic Website
 Status of regional programme and national investments
 Programme and Project Results Reporting
 Regional and national capacity building and knowledge sharing
Regional Project Website
 and associated databases

Website and Database Development

Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo presented the Status of the current regional project website and associated databases, and a Proposal for Enhancement (RPCU) 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. Mangisi-Mafileo explained that the new proposed website will provide, among others, the status of regional programme and national investments as well as provide country results dashboards with information national projects and activities.

It was mentioned that the proposal was tabled at the RSTC for recommendations to the RSC for Endorsement. It is recommended that the proposal is considered by the RSC 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



Dr. Milika Sobey,
Consultant – Capacity Adviser & Science Leader, SPC

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 led by the Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser Dr. Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafileo.

Proposal for an R2R Framework for Reallocation of Unspent Funds

Dr. Milika Sobey presented the Proposed Framework for Reallocation of Unspent Funds. In considering project expenditures and delivery to date, several questions arise:

- The challenges each national demonstration project has faced in project execution and expenditure of quarterly advances;
- What expenditure targets could be established for the annual review of the Regional Program Steering Committee; and
- What guiding principles could be used for the reallocation of project funds in the case demonstration projects do not meet agreed delivery expectations and associated expenditure targets?
- As per the precedent set in the GEF Pacific IWRM Project a similar framework be developed for inter-sessional consideration of the GEF Pacific R2R Regional Programme Steering Committee.

The GEF Pacific IWRM Project implemented a Reallocation of Unspent Funds management framework in year 3 of implementation. This framework included the following guiding principles:

- i. GEF Funds allocated to the Pacific IWRM Project will be fully spent by the end of the Project
- ii. Projects meeting performance targets shall have expanded funding opportunities and, conversely, projects failing to meet performance requirements shall have diminished funding i.e., performance will be rewarded
- iii. Funds forfeited by underperforming projects will be added to a Funds Reallocation Pool
- iv. Funds from the Reallocation Pool shall be available to facilitate overall Project Implementation at both National and Regional levels and provide incentive for good performance
- v. The RSC may agree on priority areas for the reallocation of funds

As per the precedent set in the GEF Pacific IWRM Project a similar framework is proposed to be developed for inter-sessional consideration of the GEF Pacific R2R Regional Program Steering Committee.

Discussion

Nauru recognized that the proposal of unspent funds by the RPCU is for the purpose of both the countries and their implementing agencies, and therefore must be considered by countries. Mr. Bryan Star further reiterated the RSC request for site visits by the RPCU.

Dr. Padilla stressed that countries not only focus on country demonstrations but as well as on the regional components.

The RSC agrees that an inter-sessional paper outlining the rationale and criteria of the R2R Framework for Reallocation of Unspent Funds to be considered by the RSC.

Wrap-up and next steps

- The RSC preferred that the meeting program used over the past two RSC meetings is maintained where the Monday program is included in the main RSC meeting rather having it as a separate session. This has been noted for consideration by the RPCU.
- Commended SPC for the paperless meeting and that all the discussion documents are provided with access to the links.

Next Meeting

- The next RSC meeting will take place in Nadi, Fiji noting that it does not clash with the ECW meeting dates.

Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked the Regional Steering Committee for a productive and constructive meeting and which was conducted in a respectable manner recognizing the various challenges and issues that have been raised. Special appreciation extended to all project partners noting that it has been an opportunity to reflect on country commitments. Dr. Milika Sobey shared the same sentiments by the Chair and commended the RSC for conducting a paperless meeting. In addition, the RSTC and RPCG meetings were conducted earlier in the week to allow the week's deliberations to be more focused on countries.

The Chair closed the meeting at 1.43pm.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Participants



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SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/Inf.1

Date: 19 July 2018

Original: English

3rd Regional Programme Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF/UNDP/UNEP/FAO/SPC Project Entitled: “Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities Integrated Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods”

Townsville, Australia 30st July – 3rd August, 2018

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Cook Islands

Mr. Ngametua Pokino

Secretary
Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning
P.O. Box 102,
Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel: (682) 20321
Mob: (682) 55383
E-mail: ngametua.pokino@cookislands.gov.ck

Ms Maria Helen Tuoro

Ridge to Reef Coordinator
National Environment Services
Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel: (682) 21256
Mob: (682) 51589
E-mail: maria.tuoro@cookislands.gov.ck

Ms Heimata Louisa Karika

Alternate GEF Operational Focal Point
Manager – Island Futures Division
National Environment Service
PO Box 371,
Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel: (682) 21256
Mob: (682) 70778
E-mail: louisa.karika@cookislands.gov.ck

Ms Jaime Short

Director WATSAN/relieving GEF IW R2R Project Manager
Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI)
Government of the Cook Islands
P.O. Box 102, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
Tel: (682) 20321
Mob: (682) 54302
E-mail: jaime.short@cookislands.gov.ck

Federated States of Micronesia

Ms Cynthia Ehmes

Assistant Secretary
Dept. of Environment and Emergency Management
P.O. Box PS-69, Palikir 96941, Pohnpei,
Federated States of Micronesia
Tel: +691 320 8814/8815
Fax: +691 320 8936
Mob: +691 820 3764
Email : climate@mail.fm

Ms Faith Alexandra Siba

IW R2R Project Manager
Dept. of Environment & Emergency Management
P.O. Box PS-69, Palikir 96941, Pohnpei,
Federated States of Micronesia
Tel: +691 370 3673
Fax: +691 370 3000
Mob: +691 970 1600
E-mail: faithsiba@gmail.com

Ms Rosalinda Yatilman

FSM Ridge to Reef Project Manager
Office of Environment & Emergency Management
P.O. Box PS-69, Palikir 96941, Pohnpei,
Federated States of Micronesia
Tel: +691 320 8814/8815
Fax: +691 320 8936
Mob: +691 925 4053
E-mail: ryatilman@gmail.com
Skype : yatilman

Fiji Islands

Mrs. Mere Bainimarama

Environment Officer
Ministry of Local Government, Housing &
Environment
19 McGregor Road, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 331 1699
Fax: +679 331 2879
Mob: +679 867 0135
E-mail: mere.komailevuka@govnet.gov.fj

Ms Beverly Sadole

National Manager – GEF R2R
Min. of Local Government, Housing
& Environment
19 McGregor Road, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 331 169
Fax: +679 331 2879
Mob: +679 711 5008
E-mail: beverly.sadole@govnet.gov.fj

Nauru

Mr. Bryan Star

Director of Environment
Dept. of Commerce, Industry and Environment
Government Buildings, Yaren District
Republic of Nauru
Tel: +674 557 3133
Mob: +674 557 3900
E-mail: bryanstar007@gmail.com

Ms Phaedora Harris

National R2R Project Manager
Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment
Government Buildings, Yaren District
Republic of Nauru
Tel: +674 557 2960
Mob: +674 556 7917
E-mail: Phaedore.harris@undp.org

Mr. Murphy Ribauw

IW R2R Project Manager
Dept. of Commerce, Industry and Environment
Government Buildings, Yaren District
Republic of Nauru
Tel: +674 557 3133
Mob : +674 554 4877
E-mail : mrribauw@gmail.com

Niue

Dr Josie Tamate

GEF Operational Focal Point
Director-General,
Ministry of Natural Resources
Government of Niue, Alofi, Niue
Tel: +683 4712
Mob: +683
E-mail: josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu
Skype : malamahetoa1

Ms Crispina Konelio

National GEF IW R2R Project Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
Niue Government
Alofi, Niue
Tel: +683 4018
Mob: +683 6635
E-mail: crispina.Konelio@mail.gov.nu
Skype :

Papua New Guinea

Ms Rose Alphonse

Policy Analyst
Ministry of Environment,
Government of PNG
P O Box 6601, Boroko, NCD, PNG
Tel: +(675) 301 4500
Fax: +(675) 325 0182
Mob: +(675) 7801 0303
Email: rwalphonse@gmail.com

Mr. Senson Mark

National GEF IW R2R Project Manager
Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
P O Box 6601, Boroko, NCD
Papua New Guinea
Tel: +(675) 301 4500
Fax: +(675) 325 0182
Mob: +(675) 7186 1101/7671 4588
Email: sensonhornbymark@gmail.com

Republic of Palau

Ms Umai Basilius
Policy & Planning Manager
Palau Conservation Society
P O Box 1811
Palau, 96940
Tel: +680 488 3993
Fax: +680 488 3990
E-mail: ubasilius@palauconservation.org

Ms Gwendolyn Kingtaro Sisior

National R2R Project Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment
& Tourism
P.O. Box 100, Koror, Palau, 96940
Tel: +680 767 5435
Fax: +680 767 3380
Mob: +680 775 4936
E-mail: gsisior07@gmail.com

Ms Leena Muller/IW Project Manager

R2R Specialist
Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism
P O Box 100
Koror, PW 96940, Palau
P.O. Box 100, Koror, Palau, 96940
Tel: +680 767 5435
Fax: +680 767 3380
Mob:
E-mail: mullerleena@gmail.com

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Ms Dolores deBrum-Khattil

Deputy General Manager
RMI Environment Protection Authority
P.O. Box 1322 Majuro MH 96960, Marshall Islands
Tel: +692 625 3035/5203
Mob: +692 455 1924
E-mail: doloresdekat@gmail.com
Skype ID: baby.kattil

Mr. Warwick Harris

Acting Director
Office of Environmental Planning & Policy
Coordination
5th Floor, MI Development Bank (MIDB)
Majuro Atoll 96960, MH, Marshall Islands
Tel: +692 625 7944
Mob: +692 456 4700
E-mail: warwick47@gmail.com

Samoa

Mr. Malaki Iakopo

Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Water Resources Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Private Bag, Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 67200
Mob: +685 760 3594
Fax: +685 23176
E-mail: Malaki.iakopo@mnre.gov.ws

Ms Ruth Ueselani

Water Sector Coordinator (Project Co-financing)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Private Bag, Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 67291
Mob: +685 761 0995
Fax: +685 23176
E-mail: ruth.ueselani@mnre.gov.ws

Mr. Fata Eti Malolo

Principal Watershed Officer/IW Project Manager
Water Resources Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Private Mail Bag, Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 67200
Mob: +685 775 1609
E-mail: eti.malolo@mnre.gov.ws

Mr Tamati Fau

EWACC Project Coordinator
GEF National R2R STAR {Project
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Private Bag, Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 26932
Mob: +685 7297348
E-mail: tamati.fau@mnre.gov.ws

Solomon Islands

Mr. Chanel Iroi

Undersecretary – Technical
Ministry of Environment, climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology
P O Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel: +677 28054
Mob: +677 7389872
E-mail: c.iroi@met.gov.sb

Mr. Douglas Yee

Nat. Project Coordinator - Integrated Forest Management
GEF/FAO Integrated Forest Management Project
C/- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster
Management and Meteorology
P O Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel: +677 26036
Mob: +677 7554915
E-mail: d.yee@met.gov.sb

Ms Debra Lile Kereseke

Chief Environment Officer
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology
P O Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel: +677 26036
Mob: +677 870 9683
E-mail: dkereseka@mecm.gov.sb

Mr. Sammy Airahui

National IW R2R Project Manager
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology
P O Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands
Tel: +677 23032
Mob: +677 721 7306
E-mail: psalmme@gmail.com

Tonga**Ms Rosamond Bing**

Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
P O Box 5, Vuna Road
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel: +676 823611
Mob: +676 8623611
Email: rosamond.bing@gmail.com
Skype ID:

Ms Silia Leger

National IW R2R Project Manager
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
P O Box 5, Vuna Road
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel: +676 25508
Mob: +676 7711799
Email: silia.leger@gmail.com
Skype ID: Silia Leger

Mr. Taniela Hoponoa

Project Manager
Integrated land & Agro-ecosystem Management
Systems (ILAMS)for Tonga
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Tel: +676 24522
Mob: +676 782 9494
Email: taniela.hoponoa@fao.org
Skype ID: [th.hoponoa@gmail.com](https://www.skype.com/user/th.hoponoa@gmail.com)

Tuvalu**Mr. Soseala Tinilau**

GEF Operational Focal Point
Director of Environment
Government of Tuvalu
Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: +688 20117
Mob: +688 7001014
E-mail: butchersn@gmail.com
Skype ID :

Mr. Walter Pulogo

Acting. Director
Department of Waste Management
Government Building
Private Mail Bag
Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: +688 20164
Mob: +688 7103082
E-mail: wkauajnn@gmail.com
Skype ID : walter_pulogo

Mr. Pesega Lifuka

Project Coordinator
International Waters Project
Solid Water Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT)
Government Building
Private Mail Bag
Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: (688) 20164
E-mail: tagatafoupe@gmail.com

Mr. Lamese Saamu

Environmental data Specialist
Ridge to Reef Project
Partnership House
Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: +688 20879
E-mail: jzonester@gmail.com

Mr. Mataio Tekinene

GEF Operational Focal Point
Tuvalu R2R Project Coordinator
R2R Project, Department of Environment
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment
and Labour, Government of Tuvalu
Tel: +688 20879
E-mail: tekinenemataio@gmail.com

Mr Feagaiga Penivao

Local Managed Marine Area Officer
Tuvalu Ridge to Reef Project
Partnership House
Vaiaku sd, Funafuti, Tuvalu
Tel: +688 20879
E-mail: penivaofeagaiga@gmail.com
Skype ID : feagaiga.penivao

Vanuatu**Ms Donna Tounapanga Kalfatak**

Principal Officer, Biodiversity and Conservation
Department of Environmental Protection
and Conservation
PMB 9063, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: +678 25302
Fax: +678 22227
Mob : +678 733 2848
Email: dkmoli@gmail.com

Mr. Ericksen Packett

R2R Project Coordinator
Department of Environmental Protection and
Conservation,
PMB 9063, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: +678 25302/33430
Fax: +678 22227
Mob : +678 537 2122/731 7803
Email: erickspackett@gmail.com

United Nations Development Programme**Dr. Jose Erez Padilla**

Regional Technical Advisor
Marine, Coastal and Island Ecosystems
United Nations Development Programme
3rd Floor, UN Service Building, Ratchadamnoen
Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand
Tel: (662) 288 2756
Fax: (662) 288 3032
E-mail: jose.padilla@undp.org

UNE – Pacific Office**Dr Stamatios Christopoulos**

Programme Management Officer
UN Environment/GEF Pacific Office
SPREP Campus, P O Box 240, Apia, Samoa
Tel: (678) 762 23670
Mob: (678) 764 3907
E-mail: stamatios.christopoulos@unep.org
Skype ID: stamatios.christopoulos 1

UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office

Dr Winifereti Nainoca

Dept. Team Leader – Resilience and Sustainable Development
United Nations Development Programme
Level 8, Kadavu House, 414 Victoria Parade
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: (679) 331 2500
Fax: (679) 330 1718
E-mail: winifereti.nainoca@undp.org

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Ms Jessica Sanders

Fishery Officer
Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands
Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 22127 – ext 17
Mob: +685
E-mail: Jessica.Sanders@fao.org
Skype ID: fataro10

Ms Viera Vika Bowe

Project Operations Specialist
FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands
Apia, Samoa
Tel: +685 20 710/22127 Ext. 34
Fax: +685 31 313
E-mail: Viera.Bowe@fao.org
Website: www.fao.org

Professor Marcus Sheaves

Chair – Regional Science & Technical Committee
Head of Marine, Biology & Aquaculture
College of Science & Engineering
James Cook University
Townsville, QLD 4811, Australia
Tel: +61 7 4781 4144
Mob: +61 (04) 1720 0886
Email: stamatios.christopoulos@un.org

Dr Janine Sheaves

Coordinator of Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme
College of Science and Engineering
James Cook University
Townsville, QLD 4811, Australia
Tel: +61 7 816 739
Mob:
Email: Janine.sheaves@jcu.edu.au

Mr. Floyd Robinson

Environment Analyst
Resilience and Sustainable Development Team
United Nations Development Programme
Level 8, Kadavu House, 414 Victoria Parade
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: (679) 331 2500
Mob: (679) 710 2338
E-mail: Floyd.robinson@undp.org

UNDP – Multi-Country Office

Ms Anne Patricia Trevor-Stanley

Programme Officer,
Environment & Climate Change
Multi-Country Office for Samoa,
Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau
United Nations Development Programme
One UN House, SIDS Street, Tuanainato, Samoa
Tel: (685) 23670 Ext. 50
Mob: (6785 777 4028
E-mail: anne.trevor@undp.org
Web: www.ws.undp.org

Mr. Isaac Rounds

Deputy-Chair, Regional Science & Technical Committee
Carbon-Offset Manager
Conservation International
Fiji Office, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679
Mob : +679
E-mail : irounds@conservation.org

Ms Aliti Vuniseya

Consultant – Gender Adviser
P O Box 1321, Nabua
Suva, Fiji
Mob: +679 973 4873
Email: vuniseyaliti@gmail.com
Skype ID: vunisea liti

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Private Mail Bag GPO
Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 3381 377
Fax: +679 3370 040/3384 461
Website: www.spc.int / gsd.spc.int

Dr Milika Sobey

Consultant – Capacity Adviser & Science Leader
GEF Ridge to Reef Programme
Mob: +679 992 8895
Email: milikasobey@gmail.com

Mr Jose Antonio

Country Coordination, Monitoring and
Evaluation Adviser
GEF Ridge to Reef Programme
Mob: +679 735 9223
Email: josea@spc.int

Mr Andreas Antoniou

Hydrogeologist/Groundwater Modelier
Disaster & Community Resilience Programme
Geoscience, Energy & Maritime (GEM) Division
Mob: +679 992 2113
E-mail: andreaa@spc.int

Mr. Maika Vulaono

Finance Team Leader
Mob: +679 943 0256
Email: maikav@spc.int

Ms Sereima Kalouniviti

Information System Lead Researcher
Geoscience, Energy & Maritime Division
Email: sereimak@spc.int

Mr Lorima Vueti

Video Editor and Camera Operator
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Email: lorimad@spc.int

Ms Rhonda Robinson

Deputy Director
Disaster & Community Resilience Programme
Geoscience, Energy & Maritime (GEM) Division
Mob: +679 993 4770
E-mail: rhondar@spc.int

Mr. Peter Sinclair

Water Resources Monitoring and Assessment Coordinator
Disaster & Community Resilience Programme
Geoscience, Energy & Maritime (GEM) Division
Mob: +679 992 2113
E-mail: peters@spc.int

Dr Fononga Mangisi-Mafileo

Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser
GEF Ridge to Reef Programme
Mob: +679 752 3060
Email: fonongam@spc.int

Ms Emma Newland

Science Officer
GEF Ridge to Reef Programme
Mob: +679 937 8194
E-mail: emman@spc.int

Ms Verenaisi Bakani

Programme Administrator
GEG Ridge to Reef Programme
Mob: +679 971 5757
Email: verenaisiba@spc.int

Mr. Navneet Lal

Web and Print Graphic Multimedia Assistant
Geoscience, Energy & Maritime Division
Email: navneetl@spc.int

Mr Sonal Aujla

Communication Assistant
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Email: sonala@spc.int

Annex 2: List of Documents



SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/Inf.2

Date: 18th June 2018

Original: English

3rd Regional Programme Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF/SPC/UNDP Project Entitled: *"Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries"*

Townsville, Australia, 31st July – 3rd August 2018

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Discussion Documents

SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/1	Provisional Agenda
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/3	RSC2 Meeting Report
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/4	Meeting Report (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/5	Status of the GEF Pacific R2R International Waters (IW) Project
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/6	Draft Harmonized Results Reporting for the Pacific R2R Programme
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/7	Status Of Website and Associated Database Development
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/8	Regional Workplan and Budget for the GEF Pacific R2R IW Project
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/9	Mid-Term Review
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/10	Update on the Post Graduate Certificate Program
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/11	Update of the Regional Programme Coordination Group
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/12	Report of the Regional Science and Technical Committee

Information Documents

SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/Inf.1	Provisional List of Participants
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/Inf.2	Provisional List of Documents (<i>this document</i>)
SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/Inf.3	Draft Programme

Annex 3: Provisional Agenda



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SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.3/1

Date: 28th June 2018

Original: English

3rd Regional Programme Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF/SPC/UNDP Project Entitled: “Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries”

Townsville, Australia, 31st July – 3rd August 2018

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
 - 1.1. Welcome address from Ms Rhonda Robinson, Deputy Director, Disaster and Community Resilience Programme, on behalf of SPC
 - 1.2. Welcome addresses from UNDP on behalf of the GEF Implementing Agencies
 - 1.3. Group photos
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
 - 2.1. Introduction of the Participants
 - 2.2. Election of Officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson; and 2 Rapporteurs)
 - 2.3. Documentation available to the meeting
 - 2.4. Programme of work and arrangements for the conduct of the meeting
 - 2.5. Adoption of the Report of 2nd RSC Meeting
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
- 4. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON NATIONAL-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME: ANNUAL STATUS REPORTS AND WORKPLANS**
- 5. STATUS OF THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME**
 - 5.1. Annual Report of the Status of Implementation of the GEF R2R International Waters Project
- 6. PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE GEF PACIFIC R2R IW PROJECT**
 - 6.1. Presentation on Criteria for Increasing the Fund Allocation to PICs
- 7. REGIONAL IW R2R PROJECT FORWARD PLANNING**
 - 7.1. Mid Term Review
- 8. UPDATE ON THE POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**
- 9. REPORT OF THE RSTC MEETING**
- 10. REPORT OF THE RPCG MEETING**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12. CLOSING**

Annex 4: Country Reports

Country	Highlights of STAR Implementation to date	
	End of Project Indicators	Status as of June 30 2018
Cook Islands	Marine Park baseline was to cover 1.1 million km2	We have achieved the Marine Park status by including all of our EEZ – 1.9 million km2. We have the Marae Moana Act 2017 passed in Parliament
	Marine Surveys – All the southern group except Palmerston.	Manuae and Takutea (uninhabited) completed.
	Increase in Protected Natural Areas	Mokoero formalised as a Nature Reserve (the only significant and almost undisturbed leeward coastal forest left in the Cook Islands).
Niue	New Conservation Area and Community Reefs identified.	Beverage Reef is included in the LSMPA 40% for Niue – R2R/NOW Partnership. Discussion ongoing as part of the Marine Spatial Planning
	Ecological Surveys completed – Reptiles, Caves and Marine	The rare olive skink re-discovered in Aug 2017; new findings of previously undiscovered species from cave fauna survey ie fresh water shrimps.
	Communication Strategy developed and launched	With Cabinet for endorsement
Samoa	1. National Building Code	Completed
	2. Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) for Apia Urban Area (R2R)	Completed. Published and launched.
	3. Construction Flood protection wall for Vaisigano Segment 1	About 80% complete. Current contract completion date is October, 2018
Tonga	1. Component 1: IMPROVING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR INTEGRATED LAND AND AGRO-ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT; Outcome 1.1: Increased acknowledgement and incorporation of integrated land and agro-ecosystem management principles in national policies, laws, and regulations; Output 1.1.1: Policy intention papers to inform sectoral policy and planning processes.	Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop a series of Policy Intention reference papers to inform sectoral policy and planning processes on issues related to integrated land and agro-ecosystem approaches. •Drafts PIPs prepared for MLSNR, MAFFF, MEIDECC & MIA. •Stakeholder consultations & trainings to follow. • Activity 1.2.1.1: key software and configuration tasks necessary for data improvement work, PROCURED & RECRUITED
	2. Component 1: IMPROVING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR INTEGRATED LAND AND AGRO-ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT; Outcome 1.2: Reliable information on land tenure is available to guide land use planning and facilitate the application of sustainable land management nationwide; Output 1.2.1: National System of Land Administration enhanced, and operational with spatial functionality of SOLA utilized to recommend allowable land uses, monitor land use changes over time and clarify tenure;	• Activity 1.2.1.2: Tonga SOLA based land administration system. RECRUITMENT PROCESS • Activity 1.2.1.3: Develop and make available GIS-based applications that utilize the spatial and cadastral functionalities of Tonga SOLA for evidence-based negotiation of land use planning, management and tenure rights and for monitoring land use changes over time at the village pilot sites under WORK IN PROGRESS

Country	Highlights of STAR Implementation to date	
Tonga	<p>3. Component 2: SITE-BASED CAPACITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED NEGOTIATION OF LAND USE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND TENURE RIGHTS; Outcome 2.1: Capacities for evidence-based and negotiated formulation of resource management plans at landscape and village levels, clarification of farmers' tenure rights and obligations;</p> <p>Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder mechanisms for the negotiation of resource management and tenure;</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1.1: Initial dialogue and participatory diagnostics in target areas,</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1.2: Facilitation of negotiation processes leading to social territorial agreements,</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1.3: Participatory review and systematization of processes in order to define strategies for sustainability of negotiation and planning mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILAMS Plan drafted
Tuvalu	<p>1. Number of biodiversity surveys at terrestrial and marine fauna and flora completed and updated every 2 years. (Supports delivery of GEF5 indicators 1.2 & 2.1 (BD1 & BD2); Project Component 1 – Focusing in conservation areas).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete BIORAP for Funafuti & Outer Atolls. • Complete bioindicators identification. • Ongoing monitoring of bioindicators. • Ongoing capacity building of IOs, Kaupule, Schools, Communities. • Ongoing mgt plans development/review for conservation areas/LMMAs. • New conservation area data invented.
	<p>2. Number of new sustainable land management (SLM) interventions introduced on Funafuti, Nanumea and Nukufetau that positively contribute to food security development on those islands. (Supports delivery of GEF5 indicators 3.2 (LD3); Component 2 – Focusing on integration of land and water management).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete ground truth soil, geological, topographic and land resource characterisation field assessment. • Complete manual interventions on SLM. • Ongoing development of posters, brochures of above manual. • Social media awareness programs of above interventions ongoing. • Ongoing training of IOs at the Taiwan Fiafia Garden to promote food security on outer islands, avoiding salt intrusion problems. • Complete Funafuti Seaweed (Sargassum) assessment. • Implementation of remedial measures for Ffuti seaweed problem: • Vetiver grass introduction & planting. • Water quality baseline data. • Removal of seaweed at site 1.

Country	Highlights of STAR Implementation to date	
Tuvalu	3. Creation of a suitable and implementable digital metadata platform to accommodate new biodiversity, agroforestry, land management, water management and climate change datasets with appropriately trained staffs from different departments/key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete GIS training of IOs, key stakeholders, Kaupule staffs and community members. • Complete E-Library development and ongoing support. • Complete Environment GIS System. • Ongoing updating of above GIS System. • Complete Environment website: www.tuvaluenvironment.tv • Complete data management SOP of the Environment. • Ongoing newsletter development. • Social media webpages – facebook, twitter. • Posters development. • Ongoing preparation for educational campaign of the project.
FSM	1. Institutions with sectoral responsibilities for the development and conservation of the High Islands, together with relevant CSOs and community partners, are capacitated for coordinated action at the wider landscapes on SLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessments completed for four States of the FSM. • Development of Capacity Building Strategy to target areas in the SLM and PA scorecards with low scores
	2. Management and rehabilitation of critical ecosystems implemented to enhance functional connectivity, reduce erosion, improve water quantity and quality and reduce coastal flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Dry Litter Piggeries in Kosrae. • Identification of forest for rehabilitation in Chuuk. • Rehabilitation of Savannah forests in Yap via composting
	3. A National and State-level Legal and Institutional Framework have been established to improve management effectiveness of PA's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk have established PAN laws. • Project to work with Yap to endorse the draft PAN regulation. • PAN framework anticipated to be reviewed in the upcoming Congressional session in September 2018
Nauru	1. Communication Strategy	Completed
	2. Leadership training course – develop and deliver a leadership training course targeting all district leaders in Nauru on the subject of leadership and sustainable management including R2R approaches (5 districts)	5 Community leaders, 5 Project technical support officers, 2 environment officers, 2 climate change officers, 3 PMU staff, 3 fisheries community officers trained.
	3. 8 FADs to be deployed and 22 canoes built for the 5 pilot districts	5 FADs have been deployed; 5 canoes have been built and canoe-making materials delivered to the 5 pilot districts

Country	Highlights of STAR Implementation to date	
Palau	1. Proactive level implementation of the 5-Year Airai State Watershed Management Plan	75%
	2. Improved Inter-Agency Partnerships	90%
	3. Development of PM&E plan with monitoring	25%
Marshall Islands	1. PAN Coordinator and Office is operationalized	MIMRA will take lead in establishing the PAN Office and recruit Coordinator
	2. Number of Natural Resource Management Plan developed and adopted by local authorities	Only one of five atolls have adopted Natural Resource Management Plan
	3. National repository for spatial biodiversity and resource management information enhanced and sustained	RMI working with SPREP to access GCF to address spatial planning gaps
Fiji	1. Fiji R2R Work Plan being implemented on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of RPMU • Induction workshop • Partners Planning Workshop, March 13 – 15, 2018 • The 1st PSC was conducted on June 11th, 2018. • AWPB Signed on July 11, 2018
	2. Important Biodiversity conserved in 6 catchments, including riparian, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, endemic and rare species and genetic diversity (especially in keystone species, agrobiodiversity, forest genetic resource)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Implementing/Lead agencies • Partner Consultation and awareness raising meetings (Northern, Western & Central Divisions) • Special meeting with PAC on approval of BIORAP sites by USP. • Work plan approved by PSC
Papua New Guinea	• Strengthen Policies relating to PA Management and Biodiversity Conservation;	• PNG PA Policy endorsed 2014 & Draft PA Bill 2016 and Implementation Plan– Consultations
	• Expansion to the landscape level, 151 000 ha & effective management of the YUS Conservation Area	• YUS CA expanded from 76 000 ha to 140 000 ha
	• Community livelihood assistance in the YUS CA	• Comm. Livelihood :Conservation Coffee and Cocoa and health and education
	• Community livelihood assistance in the TMR landscape proposed CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Protein: Fish, Rabbit and chicken • Awareness, training and education programs • Water tanks

Country	Highlights of STAR Implementation to date	
Solomon Islands	1. Number of sites identified for inclusion into protected area system, including boundaries and their biodiversity status and threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No official number of sites under the project. •Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands (Partner) currently conducting PA processes with 8 tribes in Mt. Maetambe.
	2. Number of management plans produced based on international best practice and integration of local knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No official management plans under IFMP. •ESSI as partner have progressed with establishing Management Plans with two tribes (two allotments).
	3. Indicator CCM-5: Number of staff trained on carbon measuring and monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A number of trainings have been conducted with achievements and outcomes since 2017.

Annex 5: Work Plan and Budget for the GEF Pacific IW R2R Regional Project

GEF Pacific IW Ridge to Reef Annual Budget and Workplan 2018-2019

Component	Outcome	Outputs	2018		2019		71200	71300	71400	71600	72100	72200	72400	72500	72800	73300	73400	74100	74200	74500	2018-2019 Total	2018-2019 Total																				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	International Consultants	Local Consultants	Contractual Services - Individuals	Travel on Office Business	Contractual Services - Companies	Equipment & Furniture	Comm. and Audio Visual equipment	Supplies	Information technology equipment	Rental & Maintenance of other equipment	Professional Services	Audio Visual & Printing Production Costs	Miscellaneous expenses																							
1	1	NATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS TO SUPPORT R2R ICM/WRM APPROACHES FOR ISLAND RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY																																								
			1.1	Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, WRM and Climate Change Adaptation [linked to National STAR Projects via larger Pacific R2R network]					972,000	15,000			3,720	60,000										2,380	1,053,000																	
			1.1.1	14 National pilot project area diagnostics based on R2R approach including: baseline environmental state and social data incorporating CC vulnerabilities; and local governance of water, land, forests and coasts reviewed									60,000												60,000																	
			1.1.2	14 national pilot projects test methods for catalyzing local community action, utilizing and providing best practice examples, and building institutional linkages for integrated land, forest, water and coastal management					972,000	15,000		3,720													2,380	993,000																
			1.2	National Diagnostic Analyses for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/WRM reforms and investments						108,000	72,000						2,000									182,000																
			1.2.1	Priority areas for replication in each of 14 participating PICs characterized in diagnostics for ICM/WRM reforms, investments and CC adaptation in 14 PICs													2,000									2,000																
			1.2.2	Methodology and procedures for characterizing island coastal areas for ICM investment developed						108,000	72,000															180,000																
			1.3	Multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks established for strengthened 'community to cabinet' ICM/WRM							204,000	20,000														224,000																
			1.3.1	Institutional relationships between national and community-based governance structures strengthened and formalized through national 'Ridge-to-Reef' Inter-Ministry Committee in 14 Pacific SIDS																						-																
			1.3.2	14 National Private-sector and donor partnership forums for investment planning in priority community-based ICM/WRM actions							204,000	20,000														224,000																
COMPONENT 1 TOTAL																					972,000	123,000	276,000	23,720	60,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,380	1,499,000	1,499,000
2	2	ISLAND BASED INVESTMENTS IN HUMAN CAPITAL AND KNOWLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR RIDGE TO REEF ICM/WRM APPROACHES, INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION																																								
			2.1	National and local capacity for ICM and WRM implementation built to enable best practices in integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and climate change adaptation																				240,000	240,000																	
			2.1.1	Innovative post-graduate training program in ICM/WRM and related CC adaptation delivered for project managers and participating stakeholders through partnership of internationally recognized educational institutes and technical support and mentoring program with results documented.									240,000													240,000																
			2.1.2	Capacity for civil society and community organization participation in ICM/WRM and CC adaptation strengthened through direct involvement in implementation of demo activities with results documented.																						-																
			2.2	Incentive structures for retention of local 'Ridge to Reef' expertise and inter-governmental dialogue on human resource needs for ICM/WRM initiated					30,000																	30,000																
			2.2.1	National human capacity needs for ICM/WRM implementation identified and competencies of national and local government units for ICM/WRM implementation benchmarked, tracked, and capacity building support secured with results documented.					30,000																	30,000																
2.2.2	Existing public service commission salary scales and required functional competencies of key ICM/WRM personnel analyzed; appropriate guidelines and incentive structures explored to encourage retention skilled and experienced staff.																						-																			
COMPONENT 2 TOTAL																					30,000	-	-	-	240,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270,000	270,000
3	3	MAINSTREAMING OF RIDGE TO REEF ICM/WRM APPROACHES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING																																								
			3.1	National and regional strategic action frameworks for ICM/WRM endorsed nationally and regionally									23,500								101,500	1,000			126,000																	
			3.1.1	National recommendations for 14 PICs for coastal policy, legal and budgetary reforms for ICM/WRM for integration of land, water, forest, coastal management and CC adaptation compiled and documented with options for harmonisation of governance frameworks								13,500										97,500				111,000																
			3.1.2	Inter-ministerial agreements and strategic action frameworks for 14 PICs on integration of land, water, forest and coastal management capacity building in development of national ICM/WRM reforms and investment plans endorsed by leaders								10,000										4,000				14,000																
			3.1.3	National "State of the Coasts" reports for 14 PICs completed and launched to Pacific Leaders during National Coastal Summits (Yr3) in coordination with national R2R projects and demonstrated as national development planning tool, including guidelines for diagnostic analyses of coastal areas																			1,000			1,000																
			3.2	Coordinated approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and climate change adaptation achieved in 14 PICs.							24,000	16,000										4,000	2,000			46,000																
			3.2.1	National networks of national ICM/WRM pilot project inter-ministry committees formed by building on existing WRM committees and contributing to a common results framework at the project and program levels								6,000										3,000				9,000																
			3.2.2	Periodic inter-ministry committee meetings in 14 PICs conducted and results documented, participation data assembled and reported to national decision-makers and regional forums																		1,000	2,000			3,000																
3.2.3	Community leaders and local government from pilot projects networked via periodic national and regional round-table meetings complemented by community tech exchange visits																						-																			
3.2.4	Participatory techniques used to gauge learning and change in perception among inter-ministry committee members in 4 pilot PICs (sub-regional, mix of high island, atoll settings)							24,000	10,000														34,000																			
COMPONENT 3 TOTAL																					-	-	24,000	39,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,500	3,000	-	172,000	172,000
4	4	REGIONAL AND NATIONAL 'RIDGE TO REEF' INDICATORS FOR REPORTING, MONITORING, ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT																																								
			4.1	National and regional formulation and adoption of integrated and simplified results frameworks for integrated multi-local projects								35,000	10,000									30,000				75,000																
			4.1.1	National and regional reporting templates developed based on national indicator sets and regional framework to facilitate annual results reporting and monitoring from 14 PICs								15,000										15,000				30,000																
			4.1.2	Unified/harmonized multi-local area results tracking approach and analytical tool developed and proposed to the GEF, its agencies and participating countries								15,000	10,000									15,000				40,000																
			4.1.3	National planning exercises in 14 Ppc SIDS conducted with relevant ministries on embedding R2R results frameworks into national systems for reporting, monitoring and budgeting								5,000														5,000																

4.2	National and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practices and lessons learned in R2R established.					-	-	219,000	40,000	50,000	-	16,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	335,000		
4.2.1	Regional 'Ridge to Reef' communications strategy developed and implemented and assistance provided to national R2R project including partnerships with national and regional media and educational organizations					-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000		
4.2.2	Participation in IW-LEARN activities: conferences; preparation of at least 10 experience notes and inter-linked websites with combined allocation of 1% of the GEF grant					-	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	50,000		
4.2.3	Established Pacific R2R Network, online regional and national portals containing among others, databases, rosters of national and regional experts and practitioners on R2R, register of national and regional projects, repository for best practice R2R technologies, lessons learned, etc.					-	-	219,000	-	50,000	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	281,000		
COMPONENT 4 TOTAL						-	-	219,000	75,000	60,000	-	16,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	10,000	410,000	410,000	
5	RIDGE TO REEF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION																				
5.1	Effective program coordination of national and regional R2R projects					-	-	-	296,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	53,235	351,200	
5.1.1	Functioning overall R2R program coordination unit with alignment of development worker positions contributing to coordinated effort among national R2R projects (year 1)					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	10,000	11,200	
5.1.2	Technical, operational, reporting and monitoring support provided to national R2R projects, as may be requested by PICs, to facilitate timely delivery of overall program goals																			-	
5.1.3	Assistance provided to participating countries in the Pacific R2R network, harmonized reporting and monitoring and other regional and national and capacity building modules, among others																			-	
5.1.5	Periodic planning and coordination workshops conducted for national project teams in the Pacific R2R network					-	-	-	296,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,235	340,000	
COMPONENT 5 TOTAL						-	-	-	296,765	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	53,235	351,200	351,200
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						0	0	138,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138,000	
						-	-	138,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138,000	138,000
TOTAL WORKPLAN BUDGET 2018-2019																				2,800,200	2,800,200

Workplan Year July 2018 - June 2019	Total direct budget
Component 1	1,459,000
Component 2	270,000
Component 3	172,000
Component 4	410,000
Component 5	351,200
Project Management	138,000
TOTAL	2,800,200

Annex 6: Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting Highlights

The 3rd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting took place on the 29th July 2018. The meeting agreed on the following Action Items including discussion highlights.



Action Items

- Endorse to the RSC 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 RSC 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 led by the Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser Dr. Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafileo.
- RPCU to share with FAO links to all the regional project toolkits to ensure cross-fertilization of related initiatives and projects including the gender toolkit, etc.



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.

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.

Annex 7: Regional Programme Coordination Group Meeting Highlights

The 3rd Regional Programme Coordination Group Meeting took place on the 29th July 2018. The meeting agreed on the following Action Items including discussion highlights.

Action Items

The RPCG agreed that the following projects present at the International Waters Conference, November 4th-8th 2018. The following were suggested during the meeting:

3. UNDP and FAO Tonga.
4. STAR Program Manager Tuvalu, Mataio Tekinene.
5. IW Vanuatu

Milika will prepare a paper on non-performing countries, and to specify that countries would be allowed 3 months to consider progressing at some level. This will be discussed further within the RPCU team.

Ms. Jessica Sanders, FAO will provide RPCU a list of FAO contacts in countries.

RPCU to inform Executing agencies of countries that are not responding.

Ms. Rhonda Robinson will share with the RPCG the link to the R2R Programme Manager's advertisement.

Highlights

UNDP expressed interest in collaborating with SPC and UNE on an M & E to be conducted for Palau. UNE & SPC will discuss this further.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio, SPC, presented and highlighted the GEF Pacific Programme Implementation issues faced by RPCU and further stated that the highlighted issues points to the need to establish a good coordination mechanism towards a programmatic approach. In the interim there are limitations to the operations and capacities of the RPCU. It might be worthwhile to consider having an institutionalized system in place to be effective.

Ms. Rhonda Robinson, SPC expressed that there is a need to strengthen clarity across the Pacific R2R programme as a whole.

The RPCG agreed to hold the next RPCG meetings back to back with the RSTC meetings.

Ms. Rhonda Robinson shared that SPC is carrying out a number of activities in Kiribati and is willing to share these information and resources with projects where needed.



The RPCG discussed that projects that have recently commenced, needs to be monitored on their progress in Component 4.

Agreements:

The RPCG agreed to a session on 'Integrated Approaches' at the IWC, with participation by the Pacific R2R Programme.

The RPCG agreed that the following staff and projects present at the IWC:

6. UNDP and FAO Tonga
7. Tuvalu STAR Project Manager - Mataio Tekinene
8. IW Vanuatu

Annex 8: Pre-RSC Workshop on Programmatic Planning and Reporting Highlights

The pre-RSC Workshop on Programmatic Planning and Reporting took place on 30 July, 2018 at Mercure Hotel, In Townsville, Australia.

Welcome Remarks

The R2R Programme Communications and Knowledge Management Adviser, Dr. Fononga Mangisi-Mafileo, extended a warm welcome to the GEF Pacific R2R Programme participating country representatives and representatives from the Global Environment Facility Implementing Agencies – United Nations Development Program, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and United Nations Environment.

The UNDP Regional Technical Advisor, Dr. Jose Padilla presented the Opening Remarks on behalf of the GEF Implementing Agencies indicating the importance of the Program Framework Document (PFD) in securing funding for activities across the 15 child projects of the GEF Pacific R2R Programme (referred to as the Programme). The preparatory meeting is an opportunity to discuss and address various issues and challenges and recognizing that the SPC RPCU serves as the technical support unit for the Programme. Through the session, participants would be able to identify common methodologies in Communications & Knowledge Management, Financing, technical approaches, solutions and tools, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Deputy Director DCR, SPC

The Deputy Director and Community Resilience Programme, Ms. Rhonda Robinson, introduced the DCR Programme at SPC stating that there are a number of activities within SPC which could be shared with countries. The R2R Project is an important programme for SPC in that it identifies and shows how integration could be practiced better.



Objectives

Mr. Shaleh Antonio introduced the objectives of the workshop i.e.

1. To revisit the purpose and basis for the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme initiative
2. To be informed about the draft Harmonized Results Reporting and its application to both the STAR and IW Projects in the PICs.
3. Enhancing programmatic communications and knowledge management.
4. Discuss the technical requirements and motivations of the Pacific R2R Programme.
5. For the IW R2R project managers (optional for the STAR PM) to finalize their respective country log-frames as basis for crafting the multi-year costed workplan (All IW Managers)



Proposed Harmonized Results Reporting

As an introduction, Mr. Shaleh Antonio, presented an overview of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme specifying its overall objectives, the four components, total funding portfolio allocated to each child projects under the programme, governance structure, and the role of the RPCU, among others. Then, the Proposed Harmonized Results Reporting tool was presented and acknowledged Palau for reporting back using the template which confirms that the template was useful, easy to use. Following the presentation, countries were invited to familiarize with the template and to raise questions or feedback.

Questions/Comments

- Dr. Jose Tamate, Niue, raised that there is a disconnect between the 2 projects (STAR and IW R2R) at the country level while at the same time, there are national structures in place. Countries are finding it a challenge to identify the linkages and also recognize that the STAR funding at is more than the region and this needs to be clarified and translated so that it is understood.
- Ms. Maria Tuoro Cook Islands, raised that the progress of various STAR projects greatly differ. The harmonization of projects might only be possible if there is understanding at the country level of various project status.

The RPCU acknowledged and noted the comments and questions raised which would be addressed further through the RSC3 meeting discussions.

Communications

Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo highlighted the Proposed Enhanced Programmatic Website which was presented to the RSTC and RPCG. The proposal described that it will enable all national projects to provide a status of regional programme and national investments as well as provide information on the results reporting to the country dashboards.

Countries were informed that the Regional Science and Technical Committee will be invited to:

‘Review and endorse the technical aspects of the proposal for enhancements and maintenance of the programme website and associated databases and regional and national inputs for the consideration of the Regional Program Coordination Group and recommendations to the Pacific R2R 3RD Regional Steering Committee to consider a programmatic application and adoption.’



Discussions/Questions

Niue and Cook Islands shared the same sentiments and concerns expressing that countries do not have the capacity to manage a programmatic website and also recognize that it is not a priority at the national level. The activity will rely on existing project staff, whose priority is on implementing project activities and achieving the programmatic approach. Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo responded acknowledging the concerns raised, and mentioning that the national R2R IW projects will need to support the maintenance of their project pages.

Tuvalu, PNG, Fiji and RMI supported having a programmatic website as projects will have access to data and information. Fiji requested that the Fiji country page is integrated in the Ministry’s website, due to government protocols. RMI informed the meeting that STAR project had recently completed the inception workshop therefore having a regional site will be beneficial.

Mr. Jose Padilla, RTA-UNDP acknowledged the valid feedbacks raised and clarified that the development of a programmatic website is a requirement by the GEF in order to easily track the progress of all projects and to inform GEF donors of activities taking place within the Pacific R2R Program. On the other hand it also serves as a marketing tool for the GEF.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio, SPC urged the countries to support the development of a programmatic website and further advised that any reporting captured through the Harmonized Results Reporting (HRR) can already be fed into the website. Countries will not have to sort for information and data if this is already available through the HRR.

Exercise 1 - Communications Exercise

Looking at a regional campaign for R2R participants were asked to break into their country groups and brainstorm ideas capturing on butcher papers the following:

R2R Principle 1: Acknowledging inter-connections of Land, Water and Coastal Systems

Recognizing the linkages and shared impacts between land, water and coastal systems in Pacific SIDs. To demonstrate what are your issues and who are your audiences



Country	Feedback	Motivation Values	Key Messaging	Channel Products
Cook Islands	<p>Make sure that people appreciate the connectivity/linkages.</p> <p>Use children – they make adults feel guilty.</p> <p>Use Land owners.</p> <p>Target owners – are the communities. We have to integrate how we work with ourselves</p>	<p>Leave something behind.</p> <p>Public health.</p> <p>Care for God’s creation – target the churches.</p> <p>Economy – want more and more money, tourism is growing.</p>	<p>Every action has consequences. Dream the possible dream.</p>	<p>Facebook</p> <p>Videos</p>
Samoa	<p>Politicians – people all know that it harms the environment. Campaign will focus on raising the water and governance agenda. Look at government leaders, head of departments and community and industry leaders.</p> <p>Discuss the pressing water issues, discuss</p> <p>Look at the current policy framework, SGS etc.</p>	<p>Water scarcity, CC, impacts, land issues, land use issues, water should be free.</p> <p>International Leaders Forum that takes place in Singapore.</p>	<p>Strengthening partnerships.</p> <p>Water as a commodity from God, targeting the water sources.</p>	
Fiji	<p>Awareness Raising through education / information sessions, going grassroots levels. The communities are well versed. Need wider ecosystem approach?</p> <p>Target audience – communities.</p>	<p>Fiji have established antirock – there are different reps from different provinces, conduct sessions to take it back to their communities.</p>		<p>Short videos sent out to communities.</p>
Tuvalu	<p>The objective is to raise the awareness on the interconnectivity of different ecosystems</p> <p>Target audience are the children.</p>	<p>Water security. Looking at share information with the community and also remind them of the 2011 drought in Tuvalu. The interconnectivity of ecosystems is important.</p>	<p>Develop games out of the messages and also to mainstream this into school curriculum that teachers could teach. Debate in schools on the topic of ecosystems.</p>	<p>Radio programs.</p> <p>Product – develop posters and videos.</p>
Papua New Guinea	<p>Objective – raising the R2R interconnections.</p> <p>Target audience – parliamentarians, key departments, private sectors, communities, civil society, schools, and churches.</p>	<p>Funding opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunity to support national governments.</p>	<p>[Refer to flip chart]</p>

Country	Feedback	Motivation Values	Key Messaging	Channel Products
Solomon Islands	Objective - All stakeholders at all level understanding ecosystems	Conservation for the future generations, a lack of understanding and knowledge about conservation.		Websites, radio programs, outreach campaigns
Nauru	Nauru has a Communications Strategy in October 12, 2017. The Objective is to build strong community leadership and support. Target Audience – local leaders, fisher folks, heads of households, political leaders, and non-fisher folks.	I'm proud to be a Nauruan and I'm committed to doing my part.	To reduce littering, to fish more responsibly. Knowledge management.	Identify a champion. Nauru does not have a website or Facebook page.
Niue	Have the national communication strategy in-place with the support of the R2R staff. Objective – Target Audience – Primary and secondary audience.			
Palau	Objective – Target audience – partners.	Partners	place some cultural value or feeling to it	Have a national forum or dialog, similar to that in Palau.
Tonga	Objective - enhance information sharing amongst stakeholders. Target audience – fisherman, stakeholders.	Food security, conservation of biodiversity, leadership gender balance.	TV, Radio, SMS messaging, community consultation, trainings, national events such as the agriculture show.	To develop websites, TV programs, newspaper, articles, Facebook page and twitter.

Country	Feedback	Motivation Values	Key Messaging	Channel Products
Federated States of Micronesia	Promoting Ecosystems management. Target audience – land owners, municipal governments. A lot of good work is done at the community level.	Food and Water Security	Communities must be able to understand as there is a limited understanding on the ecosystem services and what it can provide.	Social Media, newsletters, radio announcements.
Marshall Islands	Objective - to ensure all stakeholders are aware. Target audience - traditional leaders and communities.	Access to clean water, having clean environment.		Social media etc. Setting R2R during national events.

Exercise 2: Knowledge captures and Sharing

An Experience Note template was provided to participants which covered a range of topics related to project management, stakeholder involvement, technical issues, demonstration projects and more. Countries (IW & STAR) were invited to highlight on the template, the top 3 experiences that have impacted the implementation of the project and to submit the hard copy to be published for the IWC Conference.

The Cook Islands STAR project expressed interest in holding a knowledge exchange forum. She explained that the 2017 workshop on the Most Significant Change technique was very useful, and that it could feed in to this process.

Mr. Jose Padilla proposed to have a contest with a prize i.e. the combined number of likes or retweets could be a winner over a period of time. Encouraged the RPCU to propose a mechanism in which to capture the proportion number of tweets relative to the population as the islands differ in size and population.



Technical Requirements

This Session was moved as part of the JCU Course learning week, where participants would be introduced to the Toolkit for developing an Environment Management Monitoring Plan.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio, SPC, explained that in the reporting template for country presentations, an opportunity to capture programmatic issues and concerns are possible. The intention of which is to dissect problems in the country level Programmatic implementation and identify appropriate solutions and measures to enhance the functional implementation of the programmatic approach (as envisioned in the Programme Framework Document). He then presented the sample issues and concerns raised by Fiji, FSM and Palau on country programmatic implementation and invited countries to actively participate in the discussions and where appropriate raise questions and comments.

Cook Islands expressed the existing challenge between the STAR R2R and IW R2R in trying to work together given the number of reporting requirements that needs to be satisfied, while at the same time the pilot sites

for the IW and STAR are situation in different locations. Countries agreed that the design of the project greatly contributes to the operational challenges faced at the national level.

Ms. Mere Bainimarama, Fiji raised the challenges faced with internal processes in getting the overhead approval to implement activities. Fiji is seeking interventions from SPC and UNDP to assist the Project in moving the project forward.

Ms. Rosamond Bing, Tonga enquired if the programmatic approach have the flexibility to cater for the changes in procurement processes at the country level noting that the enabling environment is provided by the implementing countries and if SPC and UNDP is able to accommodate that.

Tuvalu shared the delay of implementing activities around underground water assessment, or pilot sites for the STAR R2R Project.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio posed the question to the countries 'Is the Programmatic Approach working well at the country level, and indicate the facilitating and hindering factors for such - Why or Why Not?'

Feedbacks from the table:

- There is a difficulty in communications between the STAR & IW projects. PNG, Vanuatu and Cook Islands expressed that challenges at the country level is due to the project design. Countries (PICs) also inquired if there is communication amongst the GEF implementing agencies (UNDP, NUE, and FAO).
- During the implementation phase, the roles and responsibilities are not clear for the IW, STAR and the Implementing agencies.
- Is UNDP Pacific Office communicating with the UNDP country offices?
- Dr. Winifereti, UNDP clarified that some of the projects are implemented by Samoa and Fiji. The responsibility for implementing lies in the country office that oversees a number of countries. However countries can copy Wini, Floyd and Ann when communicating with their respective country offices for possible follow-ups if needed.
- Tuvalu shared that it is a challenge with countries having differing partnerships with executing agencies. It might be worthwhile to have an MOU so projects are committed to working together. For the case of Tuvalu, each department prioritize activities within their respective portfolios.
- Cook Islands sorted clarification on what a programmatic approach would look like and is there a best practice example that the project could learn, or is the Pacific R2R Program aiming to practice a successful programmatic approach.
- Further to the question raised by Cook Islands, Niue added that there are too many layers that needs to be considered when trying to achieve the programmatic approach and taking into account the core functions at the national level. At the national level, countries are trying to prioritize and align with national arrangements and as well with the R2R project requirements. There are those that prefer the programmatic approach and there are those that prefer to work in silos due to various reasons.
- PNG identified that the activities of the STAR project could integrate and implement some of the IW requirements, however there is the need to acknowledge that there are still communication and coordination issues with the STAR and IW projects at the national level.
- Nauru raised that the IW project in Nauru finds it difficult to consult and collaborate with project partners. Nauru suggested that SPC set-up a model on how to do this better.
- FSM, Fiji, RMI and Palau shared that the programmatic approach will work if there is one Project Steering Committee for both STAR and IW that provides guidance in-country.
- Samoa agreed that a programmatic is important and for it to succeed, countries must work together in order to assist the region. The Harmonized Results Reporting (HRR) system, is a tool that will greatly assist countries like Samoa in achieving the programmatic approach.
- Several countries presumed that the project designers intended the R2R Program to be a stand-alone project. There hasn't been any reflections as to the connectivity or linkages in addressing the R2R concept.
- The issues raised may also be a result of resource allocation with the STAR having more than the IW.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio acknowledged the feedbacks and concerns raised and encouraged the countries to read the GEF Pacific R2R Programme Framework Document and to suggest solutions noting that the PFD was signed and endorsed by the respective 14 PICs. Mr. Antonio also reiterated the sentiments raised by Dr. Mangisi-Mafileo through the communications exercise on the importance of interconnectivity.

Mr. Floyd Robinson, UNDP sorted for feedback from participants on the programme set-up given that it is the first pre-steering committee discussion to take place before the RSC Meeting proper.

- Cook Islands voiced that participants could be informed in advance of what to expect during the workshop so participants could prepare relevant information/data to reflect back on. A suggestion for next time is to allow for free discussions and sharing of knowledge and experiences instead of the presentation of documents. In additions, Cook Islands noted the changes in templates and that much of the discussions would be repeated during the RSC meeting.
- Marshall Islands suggested for the session to be shorter.

Mr. Shaleh Antonio clarified that the Pre-Steering Committee Discussion is a programmatic session, not a project session. It is intended to consolidate programmatic issues, concerns, draw lessons and discuss solutions on how to achieve a successful implementation recognizing that the programme is bound to contribute to a global agenda.

Dr. Winifereti Nainoca, UNDP responded to Mr. Antonio and acknowledged his presence in the Pacific region. Dr. Nainoca shared that in the Pacific people are not always keen on speaking up or sharing insights due to different reasons. However UNDP acknowledged Mr. Antonio's support and clarification.

Multi-Year Costed Workplan

The IW Project Managers and interested participants were invited to work through and update the Multi-Year Costed Workplan based on their respective countries with the assistance of country focal points within the PCU.

Ms. Mere Bainimarama, Fiji inquired if it's possible for the PCU and Fiji to sit together and relook at the activities that were initially planned for. Fiji proposed that all the technical work are to be done by the STAR project which is under the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF). Ms. Emma Newland, SPC supported Fiji's proposal.

Dr. Nainoca, UNDP, suggested that the PCU develop a list to capture ways in which the STAR projects can work with the IW. Mr. Antonio also advised that the Regional R2R holds an annual planning exercise which brings in all projects contributing to the planning process.