



GEF IW R2R/ RSC.4/ 9

Date: 29 July 2019

Original: English

Fourth Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef 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

Nadi, Fiji 30th to 31st July 2019

Fifth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Project

28 July 2019

RSTC Chair's Report – Outcomes & Recommendations

1. The Committee noted the need to be more action oriented and to meet more regularly if needed to better support the program implementation. The Committee status is considered relatively poor because in most cases it is largely sidelined, process focused and fails to deliver on its TOR more efficiently. It recommends the RSC recognises the important role of the Committee and support opportunities for more active and relevant action-oriented interventions.
2. The Committee agreed Prof. Marcus Sheaves, JCU University continues in the position of the RSTC Chair, and elected Dr Isoa Korovulavula of USP as Co-Chair. It recommends noting and approving these new appointments of the Committee.
3. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the methodology and formula used to calculate estimated levels of land area and pollution levels, in order to review project countries' milestone targets. At the same time the Committee also considered the need to be clear about the assumptions, risks and uncertainties when using this methodology. The formula uses data

standard for piggeries based on Australian and American Commercial piggeries, where circumstances not the same that of tropics in this region.

4. The Committee also noted the '*Revised and Updated Environmental Stress Reduction Targets of the Regional IW R2R Project*', and recommend sharing this information with R2R Star Projects for their inputs and updates for reporting to the Programme Framework Document.
5. The Committee considered and supported future studies focusing on estimating nutrient concentrations and BOD of human and animal faeces and urine, and the efficacy of different waste treatment systems. The Committee recommended future research to improve estimated loads for waste pollution with more applied research on nutrient contents of human and animal wastes closer to point source of pollution in tropical areas of this region.
6. The Committee agreed with recommendation of mainstreaming ecosystem goods and services but to do so within the scope of (and not to replace) the current DPSIR framework. The Committee:-
 - Recognised the value of the EGS approach – and that it is an appropriate goal to work towards in the future;
 - Noted the current DPSIR approach comprehensively address the objectives as originally developed; and
 - Noted an EGS approach would need considerable additional data so could best be deployed in projects where data were yet to be obtained.
7. The Committee discussed the pros and cons as well the application of both frameworks, recognising resources and time left of the project to undertake fully fledged EGS activities. On the one hand, there are options of progressing both frameworks in parallel noting opportunities of trialling and training on EGS approach. On the other hand the committee also considered the option to note the recommendation and to be considered in future project design given the limited timeframe and budget.
8. The committee adopted the EGS approach and not to the extent where EGS framework is a better choice than the DPSIR framework. The Committee disagree with the recommendation if the intention is to replace the current DPSIR with EGS. If resources allow, support implementation of both DPSIR and EGS frameworks (hybrid) focusing on opportunities for strengthening the scientific approach while avoiding duplication efforts on indicators.
9. The Committee supported for the testing and training on EGS approach and EGS valuation through current pilot projects and JCU training. It also adopted the recommendation and that it should be considered in future project design if possible given the limits of timeframe and budget.
10. The Committee considered and endorsed the trialling of this Theory of Change or revised strategy for the preparation of IDAs/SoCs, and report back the results for further consideration. The trial provides the opportunity to understand what datasets are needed in developing spatial prioritization procedures (Step 4).
11. The Committee noted the MTR recommendation on the RSTC composition and *modus operandi*. The Committee discussed the suggested amendments, which seek to tighten the TORs in

support of the programmatic approach consistent with the MTR recommendation. However the Committee was unable to unanimously agree on the changes. This means reject amendment on 'project' instead of 'programme' due to the fact that the RSTC has the oversight and ability to deal with the IW part of the program as a whole. The RSTC advice on the IW project can be shared with the STAR projects, considering that RSTC do not have the oversight on the STAR projects.

12. The committee endorsed the recommendation to review the R2R Communications Strategy in light of the MTR recommendation, and that the endorsed proposed approach on the strategy would also usefully extend to STAR projects. The committee also discussed and agreed to minor changes in the following statement:

The project communications strategy needs to be vigilant that its primary role is to communicate about the project objective, which is R2R, and ~~de-emphasise~~ contextualise micro-scale activities (although such can be good communication/promotional opportunities where successful).

13. The Committee considered and agreed on the proposed regional programmatic framework and template for Pacific R2R lessons learned. It endorsed the revised draft framework including Annex 1 & 2 subject to the incorporation of the RSTC inputs for recommendation to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for their consideration and approval. The 7th step on impact was considered appropriate to understand better actual impacts of policy actions, for instance, new or revised legislations. The Committee also agreed on the proposed implementation schedule.
14. The Committee considered the conceptual framework on spatial prioritisation procedures; and endorsed and approved the concept on spatial prioritisation procedures for trialling in one or more countries if practical, and the reporting of outcomes for further consideration.
15. The Committee noted the review and highlights of the JCU course with students performed at an expected rate given the various challenges.

List of Participants

Name	Affiliations
<i>Invited Members</i>	
Prof. Marcus Sheaves (Chair)	James Cook University
Dr Isoa Korovulavula (Co-Chair)	IAS, University of the South Pacific
Dr Salome Taufu	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Conway Pene	Consultant
<i>GEF R2R Implementing Agencies, GEF R2R Executing Agency & Secrétariat - SPC</i>	
Dr Jose Padilla	UNDP Bangkok Office
Dr Winifereti Nainoca	UNDP Pacific Office
Floyd Robinson	UNDP
Anne Trevor	UNDP

Dr Manoela Pessoa De Miranda	UNE, Samoa
Jessica Sanders	UNFAO, Samoa
Rhonda Robinson	SPC, GEM
Peter Cusack	SPC, GEM
Samasoni Sauni	SPC, GEM
Emma Newland	SPC, GEM
Dr Fononga Mangisi-Mafileo	SPC, GEM
Jose Antonio	SPC, GEM
Dr Jade Delevaux	Consultant