



## Ridge to Reef Project

## R2R NEWSLETTER



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Project Activity on Funafuti Island

Photo from R2R

**I**t was a busy quarter of the year for the Ridge to Reef (R2R) project. There were so many activities and tasks to fulfill.

A team from the R2R project visited the outer islands on a mission on identifying of bio-indicators for the 8 islands.

The team covered the three islands of the central; Nukufetau, Vaitupu and Nui; three islands of the South Funafuti, Nukulaelae, and Niulakita; and the three islands of the

North including Nanumaga, Nanumea and Niutao.

The R2R team to the Northern islands was led by Mr. Feagaiga Penivao, while the Project Coordinator Mr. Mataio Tekinene led the other team to the Central Islands Nui, Vaitupu and Nukufetau.

The other team to the southern islands was led by Ms. Ivy Tumua Latasi. "We have successfully accomplished all the trainings for the all the islands in this activity

have all been submitted."

"Our Team covered the eight islands and together with community members on each island, identified island level bio indicators," said Mrs. Latasi.

"The list of bio-indicators for each island will be shared back to each island. When the islands see that there are bio-indicators in short supply or rare, the islands could take proper monitoring and conservation methods to conserve these bio-indicators for both



Meeting with the people of Vaitupu Island,

Photo taken by R2R team

land and the sea,” he added.

The team also conducted workshops for communities on these islands to identify community monitoring methods for biodiversity.

The training had been an eye opener for most of the community members and island leaders learnt about the importance of monitoring of the conservation areas for further improvement.

Mr. Mataio Tekinene - Project Coordinator said, “During the workshop most of the community members of these islands men-

tioned that it was their first time to learn about the different biological monitoring methods”. They also shared that they do not have any traditional monitoring method being practiced before.

Some members of the Kaulupe mentioned that they have done some monitoring in the past but just visiting the conservation area to make sure that no one is fishing or taking anything from their conservation areas.

They also did not think it was essential to collect any information from the conservations

areas to help them improve their conservation areas for future planning.

“Also during the visit, R2R teams were able to Train R2R Island Officers (IO’s), island representatives and community members on the different island level biodiversity monitoring.

The final adoption of some of the monitoring methods that encourage the communities to practice is postponed until each Island has developed their Conservation Management Plan.



Group Presentation at Nanumaga Island

## Pictorial of Workshops in the Outer Islands



Groups of Nukulaelae people brainstorming ideas to be presented.



Photo taken by R2R team

## Pictorial of workshops in the Outer Islands



Group Photo, at Nanumaga Island



Discussing with the people of Nanumaga,

Photo taken by R2R team



Discussing with the people of Nukufetau Island.

Photo taken by R2R team



Talks with the people on Vaitupu Island. Photo supplied by R2R team



Group Photo: Nanumea Island.

Photo taken by R2R team



Group Work: Nanumea Women in discussion. Picture from R2R photo library

## Pictorial of Workshops in the Outer Islands



Group Photo at Niulakita Island

Photo by: R2R Team



Discussing with people of Niulakita

Photo by : R2R Team



Courtesy Meeting with Nui Kaupule



GIS Training with Vaitupu Kaupule staff

## BIORAP Survey to Outer Islands of Tuvalu



Nui elders discussing traditional methods of management BI-



Women of Vaitupu gathered to hear BIORAP

The R2R Biodiversity Rapid Assessment Project (BIORAP) Survey had completed on all the islands of Tuvalu.

The survey was to identify different ecosystems (land & marine) and hotspots on each island.

Local Management Officer of the Project, Mr. Feagaiga Penivao said all the results for the eight islands will be compiled and send to the Project's

Contracted International Consultant Professor Randolph Thaman to prepare a BIOAP Report for these islands.

The Project has engaged the services of Professor Thaman so that the Project could complete the report on a timely manner.

The report for Funafuti has completed and submitted while the report for the other islands is targeted to complete in Oc-

tober.

"The main aim of the biodiversity assessment was to bring in all the information about the resources each island have on land, in the sea and in the air plus their numbers, said Mr. Penivao"

"The report would provide a clear understanding on the biodiversity status of Tuvalu and the next steps for islands to take to conserve the resources they depend on for livelihood.."

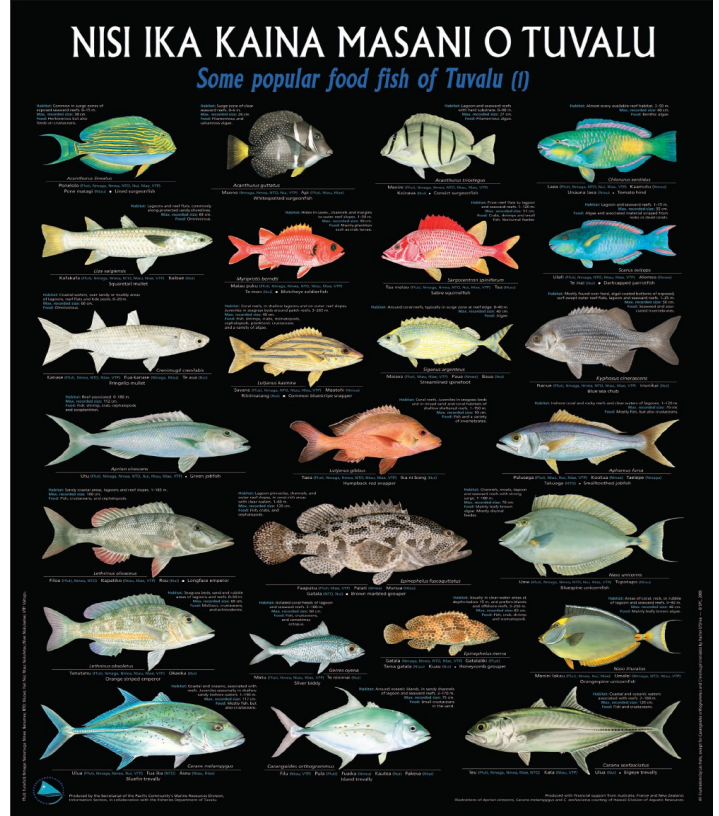


Refreshment in the 'Manatua Mai Au' Falekaupule with Nui people after hours of workshop while enjoying the cool easterly breeze

## Picture of Some Fishes, Plants & Animals in Tuvalu



Deep Water Fishes of Tuvalu



Reef Fishes of Tuvalu



Some Plants of Tuvalu



Provided by Yvette D'Unienville



Provided by R2R Project



Provided by Yvette D'Unienville

## Conservation to adapt to climate change impacts and Marine

One of the activities of the R2R project under the component : Conservation of Island and Marine Biodiversity was the conducting of desk review by a Local Consultant, Mr. Alan Resture on the current status of each Island Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Earlier this year, a Local Consultant was hired to conduct the desk review on the current

status of each island LMMA'S and MPA's.

Project Coordinator Mataio Tekinene said , “the desk review will help provide information to the project on the current status of each Island LMMAs and MPAs.”

Following the review, the R2R team got down to train island officers, members from each island community and Kaupule on the importance of conservation for their liveli-

hoods and to adapt to impacts of climate change.

The training had been carried out in all islands of Tuvalu.

It was reported that this activity was supposed to be conducted by each Island Officer on their Islands but due to the late start of activities in the beginning of the year, the project decided to involve Kaupules and community members from the community to be part of the training and awareness.



Nanumea Island



Nukufetau Island



Nanumaga Island

## Get serious about Monitoring & Evaluation

R2R Project takes Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) seriously knowing full well that it is a process that helps improve the performance of the project and achieve results.

Its goal is to improve current and future management of outputs, outcomes and impacts.

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system was developed by an M&E Specialist from the

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Mr. Aaron Smith in the first quarter of the year.

The M&E system had been shared with the different Stakeholders of the Project and UNDP to provide feedbacks.

A Reporting System was also developed by PIU to make sure that the project has clear reporting procedures.

As most of the Island Officers were present during the development of the M&E and the Project Reporting System, it was the perfect opportunity for them to build their capacity on the M&E and Reporting System.

The R2R team also shared the Project Reporting System to Island Officers so that they could understand the different procedures in the Project Reporting System.



## Into water and soil of the islands

The serenity of the outer islands was tempting for any new visitor to the islands. However, it wasn't a time to enjoy for the team as they tried to complete all the tasks before the next trip of the vessel to the islands.

One of which was to identify resource indicators (soil & water quality) for land and water through consultation with communities.

Consultations were only held on the islands selected by the Project for this component and have been fruitful in identifying resource indicators for land and water on the islands.

Lamese Saamu, - R2R Environment Data Specialist said, "all the training reports for Funafuti, Nukufetau and Nanumea have also shared with the Project Implementing Unit Team."

Feagaiga Penivao (LMMA Officer) said, "After identifying the resource indicators, commu-

nities discussed among themselves and agreed to the different resource indicators for land and water identified by each group.

Following discussions, participants and facilitators (R2R



Team) confirmed all the resource indicators for land and water for the particular islands. Next, the R2R Island Officers, Island leaders and community members were trained on the significance of land and water resources monitoring and management.

Project Coordinator Mataio

Tekinene said "eventhough the R2R team was not able to carry out the soil characterization to produce detailed ground truth soil, geological, topographic and land resource characterization due to the delay of funds from United Nations Development Programme UNDP."

"The project had planned to contract a consultant to complete this activity as soon as possible in the near future."

The time for that activity was instead used by the team to conduct a desk review to identify gaps to better inform the development of the Tuvalu Climate Resilient SLM Technique Guide.

This desk review was conducted by a Local Consultant and the Draft and Final Report have been submitted to PIU.

"The desk review managed to identify gaps which would be used by the project in the development of the new Tuvalu Climate Resilient Sustainable Land Management Technique Guide," said Ivy Semaia -Deputy Project Coordinator.

## Challenge the way forward

Challenges have always been inevitable in a lot of activities, and R2R is no exception.

The project encountered some challenges throughout this first quarter of the Project. How-

ever, the lessons learnt from the challenges had provided the R2R project to take heed of them in preparations for the project's future endeavors.

The late arrival of funds for



Tiale Flower

Photo by: R2R



Women of Nanumea contributing to group activity

Photo by R2R

this quarter from UNDP office was one of the biggest hindrance to the Projects progress during this quarter and most of its planned activities were on-hold until the arrival of funds.

“It was something beyond our control, so we would be requesting UNDP to relook into this matter and to ensure that the funds could be received on time in the future in order for the project to move as planned,” said the Project Coordinator, Mr. Mataio Tekinene.

Due to their busy schedules at this time of the year, key Stakeholders (Lands Department, Agriculture Department and the Fisheries Department) were not available to get involved in activities of the project and as a result they were not able to join the teams to the outer islands.

“But despite the challenges, the team envisaged that delibera-

tions and brainstorming on spe-

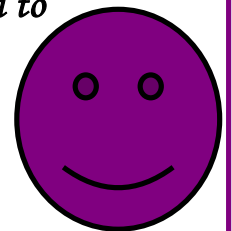
**“ It was something beyond our control, so we will be requesting UNDP to relook into this matter and to ensure that the funds is received on time in the future in order for the project to move as planned. ”**

cific activities would provide a common understanding before the actual consultations took place.,” said Mr. Tekinene.

“The project hopes to boost the involvement of key stakeholders such as the Lands Department, Department of Agriculture and the Fisheries Department in the implementation of project activities.”

“R2R is also looking at engaging Regional Agencies in discussions on how to carry out some of the activities in each island community more effectively,” added Mr. Tekinene.

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## The trail onwards

R2R has more tasks up its sleeve for quarter 2 of 2017, April to June.

One of the major activities that the project sets for this quarter, is the engagement of island communities in consultations regarding the current status of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) for each island, taking into account the sizes, challenges faced by islands and the root cause of the challenges. The real test here is getting island communities to think beyond today and not be complacent with the LMMAs/MPAs but to explore opportunities for extensions.

From there, the project will work together with the

National Adaptation Programme of Action NAPA 2 and Tuvalu's Fisheries Department to review and develop LMMA/MPA management plans for each island to be incorporated into the Strategy Plans for each island.

In addition, the Project will work hand in hand with the Tuvalu National Library and Archive in setting up an e-library system for Tuvalu so that crucial information about Tuvalu could be made available to everyone.

The project will continue working on compiling the island reports on activities that were conducted by the 3 teams from R2R in quarter 1, including; finalizing data entry of Bio-rap survey, identification of bio-indicators, conservation aware-

ness, monitoring training and GIS

training. From these island reports, the project will then develop a national report on these and used it as baseline information.

The project, upon receiving confirmation from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on its very busy schedule this year, has deferred the Ground Water Assessment for Nanumea, Nukufetau & Funafuti right to quarter 3 next year (2018). It will be held back to back with a training for local journalists.



Provided by: R2R

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NEW R2R BOARD FOR R2R

**Attempt** on the formation of the project Board and its members has been made. Cabinet had considered the proposed request from the R2R Project through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Environment. However, the Project Board had been established and sat for their inauguration meeting.

### MONITORING

**Monitoring** of activities at this first quarter seem to be irrelevant as the project just get started and none on the ground activities have been implemented. With the current log frame, there is still a need to align Indicators with Baseline Information so that Project objectives will be easily monitored.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

**As** the Project Teams were engaged in BIORAP on the outer islands, there wasn't enough time to compile risks encountered. Similarly to the situation in the last quarter of 2016, most risks that were foreseen by the project that will adversely impacts on the implementation of project activities couldn't be registered, tracked closely nor actively monitored.

## MEET PROJECT IMPLEMENTING UNIT STAFF



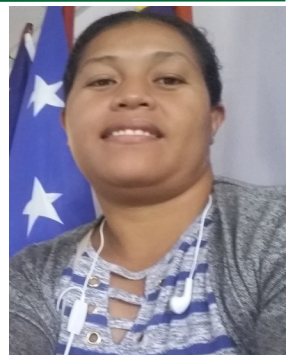
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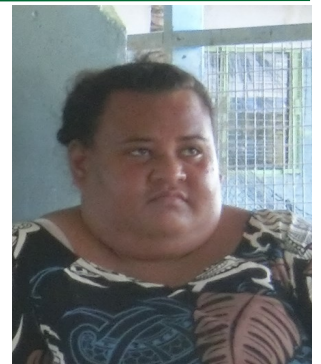
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