



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

Status of implementation on the MTR Recommendations to the Regional IW R2R Project

WP: GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP.04

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RSC 5 – Plenary

Virtual Meeting, October 22-23, 2020, 1030H-1330H





This presentation aims:

- ✓ to inform the members of the RSC on the implementation progress of the MTR recommendations to the Regional International Waters Ridge to Reef Project; and
- ✓ for RSC to review the management response and corresponding status of implementation as basis for providing strategic focus and advice.



Basic information

- ❑ **Scope:** August 2015 to December 31, 2018
- ❑ **Duration:** February 2019 to June 9, 2019
- ❑ **Team composition:**
 - Mr. David Coates, Team leader – Environment and Sustainable Development
 - Ms. Ma. Susan J. Lucero – Governance specialist
- ❑ **Consultation and site visits:**
 - Visited five sites representing poor-medium-best performers (CI, Fiji, Palau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
 - Consulted 68 people representing the IA and EA & stakeholders of both STAR R2R & IW R2R
- ❑ **Overall rating:** Moderately unsatisfactory
- ❑ **18 Recommendations** for enhancing achievement of results

MTR recommendation implementation status

MTR Recommendations	Actions	Status
1 – Review and update of national IW logframes	Done	Completed
2 – Review of lessons learned and best practice from previous IWRM	Consultancy	Ongoing
3 – Re-evaluate project linkages with other national activities & processes	Consultancy	Ongoing
4 – Mainstreaming Ridge to Reef	Consultancy	Ongoing
5 – Adopting an Ecosystems Goods and Services approach	IW Fiji	Ongoing
6 – Reassessing the Science to Policy Continuum (IDA-RapCA-SoC-SAP/F)	Modified S2P	Ongoing
7 – Mapping Ridge to Reef contributions to SDGs	HRR	Ongoing
8 – Website structure and purpose	Consultancy	Ongoing
9 – Reassessing multi-focal website features	Consultancy	Ongoing
10 – Delivering outcome 4.2 – Pacific R2R Website (also in relation to Recommendations 8 & 9).	Consultancy	Ongoing

MTR Recommendations	Actions	Status
11 – Compiling lessons learned	Consultancy	Ongoing
12 – A no-cost extension	Done	Completed
13 – Reporting links and information sharing across the Regional R2R Programme	RSC 4 & RPCG	Ongoing
14 – Clarifying RPCU's programme role and programmatic implementation modalities	RSC 4 & RPCG	Ongoing
15 – Capacity building focus – ensuring effectiveness and scientific results	Consultancy	Ongoing
16 – Reassessing the role and structure of the RSTC	RSTC 5	Ongoing/ Completed
17 – Communication strategy based on clearly defined Theory of Change	Guidance documents	Ongoing
18 – Gender issues	Budget allocated	Pending

MTR recommendation implementation status

MTR Recommendation	Status
1 – Review a	Ongoing
2 – Review IWRM	Completed
3 – Re-evalu processes	Ongoing
4 – Mainstr	Ongoing
5 – Adoptin	Ongoing
6 – Reasses SoC-SAP/F)	Ongoing/Completed
7 – Mapping	Ongoing
8 – Website	Pending
9 – Reasses	
10 – Deliveri relation to Rec	

- ✓ **3 completed (Recommendations: 1, 12, 16)**
- ✓ **13 ongoing (Recommendations: 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14, 15,17)**
- ✓ **1 pending (Recommendation: 18)**

Detailed account on the status of implementation can be found on the working paper: **Status on the implementation of MTR recommendations to the Regional IW R2R Project: [WP: GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP.04](#)**

Programme related (MTR Recommendations 2, 3, 4,11,15)

- RPCU commissioned consultants that will assist RPCU in achieving the MTR Recommendations 2 - (Review of lessons learned and best practice from previous IWRM), 3 – Re-evaluate project linkages with other national activities and processes, 4 – options for mainstreaming Ridge to Ridge, 11 – Compiling lessons learned, and 15 – Capacity building focus.
- **Consultancy 1 (Options for Mainstreaming R2R)**: Aims to develop a framework document for effectively mainstreaming R2R for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Region (responding to MTR Recommendations: 2,3,4,11)
- **Consultancy 2 (Human Capacity assessment)**: Aims to identify national human capacity needs and develop a Capacity Development Guide for Ridge to Reef in the Pacific Region (responding to MTR Recommendation: 15)

Together with the IW Project Managers, provide proactive support on the following:

- providing documents requested by the consultants
- linkage to appropriate authorities and offices/officers who may serve as information gatekeepers



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References:

MTR report

MTR recomm and management response matrix

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Detailed Status



MTR objective and focus

- ✓ MTR aims to gain an independent analysis of the progress mid-way through the project
- ✓ Focus on identifying potential project design problems, assessing progress towards the achievement of project objective, and documenting lessons learned about project design, implementation and management.



MTR team composition

David Coates - Team leader, Environment and Sustainable development

Ma. Susan J. Lucero – Governance specialist



MTR Overall rating (Start till March 2019)

Development objective (DO)

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Implementation progress (IP)

Moderately Unsatisfactory

Rec 1: Review & update of national IW logframes

Management response

SPC will advocate for and support national logframe reviews to ensure that outputs (and outcomes) contribute directly to the achievement of the Regional IW R2R project, and plausibly to the GEF Pacific R2R programme outcomes.

SPC and UNDP note that review and update of national logframes is determined by national processes and current framework conditions.

Revised national IW R2R logframes should be submitted to RSC for information.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW Project Managers, agency heads and stakeholders review and update the national logframe, particularly the end of project targets and update the corresponding MYCWP.

Status: Completed. The updated logframes are required for requesting no-cost extension



Rec 2: Review of lessons learned

Management response

Agreed. Parallel to the review of national logframes, SPC will document and/ or review lessons learned and best practice from previous separate IWRM and ICM investments considering current realities and opportunities, with the objective of deriving further lessons learned, particularly regarding impact, upscaling and sustainability, and opportunities for mainstreaming R2R into national planning and policies.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

Under the guidance of the RPCU, IW national Project Managers and national stakeholders will collect data and information on the impact of previous IWRM, ICM and R2R investments and identify opportunity/ ies for mainstreaming R2R given current national priorities and resources. The results of this review (report) will be made available in the period August to December 2019.

Status: Ongoing. RPCU made available guidance documents and held virtual meetings to guide the development of lessons learned papers. An ongoing consultancy to document the lessons learned in the national implementation of various efforts in mainstreaming R2R. A simple guide for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific Region will be made available. This activity is also affected by Covid19.

Rec 3: Re-evaluate project linkages with other national activities & processes

Management response

Agreed while recognising that there is a need to overcome barriers to linkages and relationships between relevant projects and activities at local and national level. These are internal matters but obviously impact on successful implementation of project activities and achieving deliverables.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

In parallel with recommendation 2, and under the guidance of the RPCU, IW national Project Managers and national stakeholders will determine areas of collaboration with other national projects, ensuring alignment to national priorities. Results of this activity will provide input to the revised logframe and are expected to be incorporated in the MYCWP (see recomb 1).

Status: On-going. An ongoing consultancy to document the lessons learned in the national implementation of various efforts in mainstreaming R2R. A simple guide for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific Region will be made available. This activity is also affected by Covid19.



Rec 4: Mainstreaming R2R

Management response

Agree, this will be undertaken in parallel with recommendations number 1, 2 and 3. SPC will work towards documenting and publishing: (i) PICs strategic plans and planning processes and relevant policies; (ii) Opportunities for mainstreaming R2R in the short-medium-long term, and (iii) Possible options for actually mainstreaming R2R.

The abovementioned information could be the basis for crafting a Regional IW R2R knowledge product: “Options for mainstreaming R2R in Planning and relevant Policies in the Pacific”.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW Project Managers and STAR Coordinators will facilitate and support the RPCU in the conduct of mapping to determine options for effective national mainstreaming of R2R. The schedule for this activity will be determined after the RPSC meeting.

Status: On-going. An ongoing consultancy to document the lessons learned in the national implementation of various efforts in mainstreaming R2R. A simple guide for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific Region will be made available. This activity is also affected by Covid19.

Rec 5: Adopting an EGS approach

Management response

Agreed. SPC recognises the value of the EGS approach both in achieving Regional IW R2R project outcomes and GEF Pacific R2R Program outcomes. EGS has been and will be incorporated in various technical studies and science-based initiatives.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW and STAR projects will facilitate, make data accessible, and provide inputs to the development of knowledge products depicting experience and lessons from GEF Pacific R2R Program implementation. The framework for joint knowledge products will be made available by the RPCU.

Status: Ongoing. This will be carried out in Fiji.

Rec 6: Re-assessing IDA-RAPCA-SOC-SAF-SAP continuum

Management response

Agreed. SPC has reassessed the Theory of Change for R2R mainstreaming following the IDA-RAPCA-SOC-SAF-SAP technological continuum, as the basis for national testing and demonstration.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW national projects will need to indicate their willingness to support the implementation of the IDA-RapCA-SoC-SAF continuum. The entire process requires that national projects will facilitate and fully support (i.e. in terms of project managers' time and expertise) the formulation process as outlined in the "Theory of Change".

Status: Ongoing. Consultation meetings with the participating national IW R2R projects. None of the PICs were interested to pursue the complete science to policy continuum. Hence, RPCU decided to modify the approach as an adaptive strategy. RPCU focused on PICs that are willing to carry out a number of Science to Policy processes in the continuum. Also, the modifications were presented for RSTC endorsement to the RSC. This activity is also affected by Covid19.

Rec 7: Mapping R2R contribution to SDGs

Management response

Agree. Although this recommendation contradicts the MTR findings (see page 61 line 28 onwards), SPC finds this recommendation appropriate. Mapping the potential contributions to SDG is captured in the Harmonized Results Reporting (HRR) tool, as well as the Aichi Targets.

The integrated delivery is and will be dependent on the IMC and/or the national project steering committees including the mandated/focal agencies for reporting SDGs.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR national Coordinators complete the Harmonized Results Reporting tool which covers the respective project contributions to the SDGs and submits them to RPCU.

Status: Ongoing. This is part of the HRR module under the Pacific Website Redevelopment Phase 2. Each child project will have the opportunity to visualize its SDG and Aichi contributions. This activity is also affected by Covid19 (i.e. consultant can not perform onsite support).

Rec 8: Website structure and purpose

Management response

Agree. The associated database is a separate platform from the Regional IW R2R project website.

Also, the schematic of this website with multi-focal area features was presented to the RSTC and RPCG in Townsville. Both bodies have indicated no objection to the Regional IW R2R project building this website.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW project provides inputs in populating their respective national sub-pages.

Status: Ongoing. Pacific website redevelopment Phase 1 was already launched in March 2020. Visit www.pacific-r2r.org

Phase 2 of the Pacific R2R website redevelopment and the corresponding PMIS framework will be launched in October 2020. This activity is also affected by Covid19.

Rec 9: Re-assessing multi-focal website features

Management response

Agreed, but with some modifications.

Following up on recommendation number 8, the multi-focal reporting (Harmonized Results Reporting) is necessary and will be incorporated as an 'in-built' feature of the enhanced website.

As indicated above the structure and purpose of the website has previously been endorsed by RSTC and RSPC (Townsville).

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW project provides inputs in populating their respective national sub-pages.

STAR project submit the completed Harmonized Results Reporting tool (see also recommendation 7).

Status: Ongoing. PMIS framework is being developed. One of several modules within the framework have been completed but not yet deployed and incorporated with the website, including the MYCWP. Remaining modules include HRR, SDG and Aichi Targets Dashboard, Training Database, and JCU to be developed.

Rec 10: Delivering Outcome 4.2

Management response

Agree. SPC has initiated the process of establishing the Regional IW R2R project website that will support the achievement of this indicator.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW projects provide inputs in populating their respective national sub-pages.

STAR projects submit the completed Harmonized Results Reporting tool (see recommendations 7 & 9).

Status: Ongoing. Launched Pacific R2R Programme Newsletter (August 2020)

Rec 11: Compiling lessons learned

Management response

Agreed. SPC is willing to play this role, but requires full cooperation of STAR to do so. On the basis of existing communication and knowledge management strategies, SPC will develop a discussion paper detailing the anticipated “knowledge products (KP)” that will be developed by the project. The list of KP’s will be presented to the RSTC and RPCG. UNDP notes that information to feed in to lessons for STAR R2R can be accessed through Quarterly reports, MSC stories, PIR reports, technical reports.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW and STAR projects facilitate, make data accessible, and provide inputs to the development of knowledge products depicting experience and lessons from GEF Pacific R2R Program implementation. The framework for joint knowledge products will be made available by the RPCU.

Status: Ongoing. Guidance documents were made available such as the Regional framework for the compilation and development of LL for Pacific R2R Programme, standard template TOR for report writers, held virtual meetings and briefings on LL.

Rec 12: A no-cost extension

Management response

Agreed. A no-cost extension should be based on MTR recommendations including revised national logframes and the renewed Regional IW R2R project monitoring plan.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW projects request that SPC extend their national project completion date with the intention to achieve the end of project targets indicated in their respective/ updated national logframes.

Status: Completed. The Regional IW R2R project was granted by UNDP a no-cost extension until September 30, 2021. All 14 national IW R2R projects were also extended.

Rec 13: Reporting links and information sharing across the Regional R2R Programme

Management response

Agreed. SPC will bring this issue to the RPCG will include this in the agenda. SPC believes that all GEF implementing agencies (UNDP, UNE and FAO) should be requested to provide structured reporting of the outputs and outcomes from the implementation of the various child projects under the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR projects collaborate with RPCU in fulfilling the programmatic goal of the GEF R2R program. Specifically the STAR projects proactively share data and information, and contribute in jointly developing knowledge products (see recommendation 11).

Status: Ongoing. RPCU through GEF IA, UNDP and directly to the STAR projects, is still advocating for sharing of information and submission of data that will be used to report on the contributions of the Programme to the GEF Focal Area.



Rec 14: Clarifying RPCU's programme role and programmatic implementation modalities

Management response

Agreed.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR projects collaborate with RPCU in fulfilling the programmatic goal of the GEF Pacific R2R program. Specifically, provide data and information requested by RPCU, and proactively send copy of progress reports and relevant studies.

Status: Ongoing. RPCU already brought up the issue to the attention of the RPCG. Refer to the RSC 4 meeting report, agenda 7, agenda 10, including the discussions in agenda 15.1).



Rec 15: Capacity building focus

Management response

Agreed. Partly agreed. SPC will implement planned activities with a capacity building perspective while ensuring effective and high quality technical and scientific results.

Technical and scientific activities will be conducted using established criteria, such as but not limited to: participatory and gender sensitiveness, capacity and willingness of the PICs to support the application of the full-cycle of the technological/methodological continuum, sub-regional representation and consideration of geophysical characteristics.

Both UNDP and SPC contend that the quality of science applied cannot be compromised.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR and IW projects and national stakeholders participate in capacity building activities

Status: Ongoing. The project is largely employing the participatory approach in the delivery of various development measure. The basis for this is the stakeholder engagement analysis which was introduced by the RPCU at the start of this project.

Rec 16: Re-assessing the role & structure of RSTC

Management response

Agreed. SPC will present a paper to RSTC proposing review of the Committee's terms of reference and composition.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR projects submit their technical approaches, methodologies and scientific studies for scrutiny by the RSTC thereby enriching the scientific and technical robustness of the results and outcomes.

Status: Ongoing. One of the main agenda during the RSTC meeting in July 2019 was the composition and functions of the RSTC. It was clarified that the RSTC shall be the technical platform for ensuring scientific robustness of the measures implemented by the Regional IW R2R project. Results of the decisions and innovative findings of the RSTC will be shared to the STAR projects. In addition, attention to the RSTC meeting was also expanded (on voluntary basis) to include members of the national projects. Moreover, a technical consultation meeting was also held in February 2020 to share and engage with technical staff of both STAR and IW about the technical aspects of their respective projects.

Rec 17: Communications strategy

Management response

Agreed. The main intention of the communications strategy is to guide the GEF Pacific R2R program and the respective child projects (including the Regional IW R2R project), in crafting both visibility and advocacy plans.

Specific to the Regional IW R2R project, promotion of project goal, outputs and activities, and the knowledge gained thereof (from publishable knowledge products) will be based on a clearly defined/ established Theory of Change (ToC) concepts and tools which have been agreed by RPSTC and RPSC to be tested or trialed.

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

STAR projects collaborate with RPCU in fulfilling the communication goals of the GEF Pacific R2R program. Specifically, by providing data and information requested by RPCU, and proactively providing copies of progress reports and relevant studies.

Status: Ongoing. See also recommendations 8,9,10,11.

Rec 18: Gender issue

Management response

SPC will also conduct gender audits of all R2R guidelines and manuals produced.

UNDP proposes that SPC conduct gender assessments

Implications for STAR and IW Projects

IW projects continuously record sex-disaggregated data and support the conduct of gender-audit, as requested by RPCU.

Status: Pending. RPCU will commission a gender specialist that will perform gender audit on all materials (knowledge products) produced by the Regional IW R2R project.



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