



GEF IW R2R/ RSC.5/ Inf.6
Date: 18 September 2020
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**Fifth Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual) for the
GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Project entitled:**

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

Suva, Fiji 22nd to 23rd October 2020

ANNEX 1 –PRE RSC-PANEL/ BREAKOUT GROUP SESSIONS (VIRTUAL)

**SESSION 1 - INFORMATION SESSIONS WITH STAR AND IW PROJECTS
[TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30PM, OCTOBER 6TH and 7TH 2020]**

What is it about?

Session Facilitator, Mr Samasoni Sauni will present brief overview of the briefing session stating clear purpose and expected outcomes. The session aims to engage and socialise R2R participating countries' managers and coordinators to the information and working papers relevant for the RSTC and RSC meetings. This would ensure managers are prepared for the broader discussion at panel/breakouts, RSTC and RSC formal sessions.

Who should attend?

- Project Managers
- RPCU staffs
- Directors/Heads of Departments are also invited to join.

- (i) Tuesday 6th October 2020, 10.30-11.30
IW session – IW Project Managers/ Coordinators and SPC-RPCU staff
- (ii) Tuesday 6th October 2020, 11.30am-1.30pm
STAR session – STAR Project Managers and Supervisors (or Directors/Heads of Departments), UNDP, UNE, FAO, and SPC.
- (iii) Wednesday 7th Oct 2020, 10.30am-12.00pm

IW/STAR session – Discuss summary of responses from IW/STAR projects sessions; trial run for conducting RSC virtual meeting

(iv) Wednesday 7th Oct 2020, 12.00-1.30pm

SPC and UNDP for reflection, de-briefing on final preparations

Secretariat will prepare outcome of discussion.

DISCUSSION

Guiding question

(I) *What do you consider critical issues of the project needing focused discussion at the RSTC and RSC meetings?*

SESSION 2 – COUNTRY REPORTING – GEF FOCAL AREAS AND LESSONS LEARNED HIGHLIGHTS [THURSDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30 PM, OCTOBER 8TH 2020]

What is it about?

Session Facilitator, Mr Jose Antonio will invite **R2R STAR Project Managers** to present brief report focusing on the GEF Focal Area reporting and lessons learned highlights in implementing programmatic approach. Presentations will follow alphabetical order:

10.30 – 11.45 - Seven countries presenting: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue and Palau.

11.45 am – 1.30 pm - Seven countries presenting: Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Secretariat will prepare outcome of discussion and consolidate clear recommendations for plenary, if any.

DISCUSSION

Mr Antonio will invite discussion and interactions on the reports as presented.

Guiding questions: -

- (i) Discuss the success rate of project contributions to the overall GEF Pacific R2R Programme?
- (ii) Discuss lessons learned from programmatic implementation?
- (iii) Identify thematic areas emerging from lessons learned presented that could be consolidated and further explored as regional strategic lessons useful in the consideration of upscaling future R2R investments?

Draft recommendations to plenary emerging from discussions presented and cleared.

SESSION 3 – PROJECT CLOSURE AND TERMINAL REVIEW [TUESDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30PM, OCTOBER 13TH 2020]

Session Facilitator, Samasoni Sauni will welcome participants and provide an overview for the session. UNDP and SPC will jointly present relevant details on project closure and terminal evaluation.

Facilitator will open the floor for discussion and questions.

SESSION 4 - A STOCKTAKE OF THE WORK SO FAR, WITH COVID-19
[WEDNESDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30PM, OCTOBER 14TH 2020]

Session Facilitator, Dr Fononga Vainga Mangisi-Mafileo will provide brief overview and invite brief presentations on reference papers. She will advise participants that the Secretariat will prepare outcome of discussion and consolidate clear recommendations for plenary, if any.

MTR Recommendations and Management Responses on the GEF Pacific R2R Project - Updates Mr Antonio will present to the Committee, for its information and consideration, a short update of progress implementing the RSC approved MTR recommendations and management responses.

Participants will be given the opportunity to clarify matters critically impacting implementation of their respective projects (especially for the STAR projects). For instance, joint steering and programmatic implementation (advocacy towards changes in planning process and/or policy), data and information sharing, and results reporting.

The detailed updates are provided in the meeting paper *GEF IW R2R/ RSC.6/WP. 04* and power-point presentation. The paper specifically invites discussion and decision on progress of implementation.

Status of the regional IW R2R project

Mr Sauni will introduce the discussion paper *GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP. 05* on the status of the GEF Pacific International Waters R2R Project. Based on their status report in the working paper and power-point presentation, the participants will be given ample time and opportunity to reflect, discuss and clarify management and implementation concerns.

Participants will be able to use this information and opportunity to recommend appropriate management measures that will enhance and facilitate achievement of the project outcomes.

DISCUSSION

Dr Mangisi-Mafileo will open for discussion focusing on guiding questions presented for each paper. A quick summary of recommendations will be presented in closing the session. The panellists Mr Antonio and Mr Sauni will respond to specific questions or issues of clarifications from the papers.

With focus on the session them of stocktake, it would be good to spend time looking at the challenges face progressing implementation of the MTR recommendations and regional IW R2R project. As well identify areas need strengthening and other appropriate measure needed to enhance achievements – e.g. given the COVID-19 pandemic impacting on projects and thus delays, do we need more time to deliver? Note the discussion may also link and therefore revisit when we get to other sessions.

Guiding questions: -

- (i) Clarify matters that critically impact implementation projects and delivering on joint steering and programmatic implementation, data and information sharing and results reporting?
- (ii) Reflect on implementation and challenges for the Regional IW R2R project and recommend appropriate measures to enhance achievement of project outcomes?

Draft recommendations to plenary emerging from discussions presented and cleared.

SESSION 5 – SPECIAL TOPICS

[THURSDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30PM, OCTOBER 15TH, 2020]

Session Facilitator, Mr Antonio will welcome participants and briefly present an overview of the session. There will be three working papers and brief presentations to generate discussion on this session of special topics.

Brief presentations will follow:

- (i) (Modified) R2R science-policy framework, *GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP. 09*
- (ii) Conceptual framework on spatial prioritization procedures (regional guidelines, publications, factsheets), *GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP. 10*
- (iii) R2R information management systems, *GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP. 11*

Discussion

Facilitator will invite discussion based on the following guiding questions: -

- (i) Reflect on the (modified) approved R2R Science-Policy theory of change adapting to changing circumstances, and provide renewed commitments, if any, towards mainstreaming R2R in either planning process and/or policy development;
- (ii) Reflect on the importance of R2R approach in natural resource management and governance, and the utility of land-sea modelling as a decision support tool and endorse the regional guidelines;
- (iii) Discuss and appreciate the importance of available-accessible data and information sharing, including through the newly developed (and soon to be launched) R2R Regional Science Portal and database, currently called “Pacific State of Coast Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme.”

SESSION 6 – LOOKING AHEAD COVID-19 AND POST-R2R

[FRIDAY, 10.30AM – 1.30PM, OCTOBER 16TH, 2020]

Session Facilitators, Mr Samasoni Sauni and Ms Rhonda Robinson will jointly facilitate and moderate this session. Facilitators will welcome participants and provide brief overview of the session. This session aims to encourage strategic discussion on the next step into the future, with respect to a next follow up phase or project supporting future R2R investments and ICM planning, or not. There are two (2) papers to guide discussion in this session:

- (i) RSTC Chair’s report 2020 – highlights, challenges and opportunities, *GEF IW R2R/RSTC/WP. 02*
- (ii) What’s next, post R2R and COVID-19, *GEF IW R2R/RSC.5/WP. 15*.

Discussion

Facilitator will invite discussion on the presentations and guided by the following questions: -

- (i) Discuss and ask questions for clarifications on timelines, specific tasks and associated outputs?
- (ii) Discuss and provide inputs into the concept paper, whether or not there is interest to support designing a more streamlined R2R project in upscaling future R2R investments and ICM planning?

NOTE: All meeting papers (also to be used in these pre-RSC meetings) are expected to be uploaded before the end of September 2020.