



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

Report on the 6th Meeting of the *Regional Scientific and Technical Committee* GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Prof. Marcus Sheaves – RSTC Chair, James Cook University
5th RSC Virtual Meeting, SPC Suva Office, Fiji



Appointment of Officers

The ToR requires nominations of Chair and Co-Chair which shall be filled in every annual meeting of the Committee. With the project winding down and closure:-

The Committee reappointed Prof. Marcus Sheaves and Dr Isoa Korovulavula into their current positions as chair and co-chair, respectively



Last RSC meeting record and action items

The Committee reviewed the records of the last meeting and discussed matters arising as presented in the paper.

The Committee noted the responses corresponding to the decisions and recommendations set out in the paper. The Committee further noted details of specific action items will be considered and discussed as separate agenda items during the course of the meeting.

Project closure and terminal evaluation

The Committee considered information of the Regional IW R2R Project closure and terminal evaluation. The UNDP outlined key areas of the ToR including fees, timelines and consideration for the engagement of local consultants to support terminal evaluation work.

The Committee supported revisiting discussion of timelines for the terminal evaluation, following the RSC decision on the proposal for a no-cost extension. The Committee endorsed the outcomes and recommendations of the Pre-RSC panel discussion on this presentation and recommend transmitting to the RSC for consideration and approval.

What's next, post R2R and COVID-19?

The Committee considered two papers specifically looking at a possible next phase post R2R and COVID-19, and discussed range of options that could be explored further into the future for further test or scaling up of innovative technologies in future R2R investments.

The Committee endorsed the outcomes and recommendations of the Pre-RSC panel discussion on the paper. Therefore, the Committee recommends further consideration and approval of the RSC on a next phase project post R2R, and a no-cost extension beyond September 30 2021 of the current project.

JCU Report, 2020

The Committee considered the JCU course report which provide good progress of the Post Graduate Diploma, however recognising serious challenges of several students falling behind their studies.

The Committee noted the JCU course report and recommended that the RSC: -

- (i) Supports current efforts of both JCU and RPCU to assist students who are falling behind their studies.*
- (ii) Further support preparation of dedicated workplans by JCU that would allow students to catch up and submit late assignments.*
- (iii) Considers the seriousness of the matter where university regulations are continually challenges and possibly undermined to accommodate commitments to enable students complete late assignments and therefore continue their studies.*
- (iv) Endorse that if all efforts fail for students to satisfy the requirements of passing the subjects, the JCU and RPCU will kindly request withdrawal from the course.*



Discussion and Decisions

The Committee further discussed the outcomes and recommendations of the Pre-RSC panel discussion.

The Committee endorsed the decisions of the Pre-RSC session on the papers under the stocktake theme and recommend transmitting these to the RSC for further consideration and actions. Key decisions are:

- ***Regional guidelines to implement ‘modified’ science to policy theory of change***
- ***Regional guidelines to implement spatial prioritization procedures***
- ***Next phase post R2R***
- ***No cost extension***



R2R website re-development and related tools online

The Secretariat reported on the progress of the R2R website re-development and related online tool.

The Committee thanked the Secretariat for reporting on progress of the R2R website redevelopment and related online tools. It also underlined the importance of a dedicated portal on COVID-19 in the R2R website recognising similar efforts done on other programmes of the SPC including public health.

The Committee recommended exploring further the proposal including identifying focal points responsible for feeding information into the website and the RPCU as the administrator.



Pre-RSC Outcomes & Recommendations

The Committee considered the update related to the launching of the R2R Science Portal as presented by the Secretariat.

The Committee recommends that the RSC: -

- (i) Endorsed and launched the R2R Science Portal, which includes the R2R information management systems;*
- (ii) Notes the useful utility and application of the Pacific State of Coast Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme, and that it links to other data infrastructure/ systems of the SPC.*
- (iii) Supports linking the R2R data infrastructure to other regional and global data sources for purposes of sharing and minimising chances of duplications; and*
- (iv) Notes caution and effective use of controls to ensure quality of data (including methods & designs employed to collect that datasets) feeding into the R2R data systems*





Samasoni Sauni



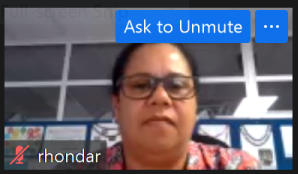
John Carreons



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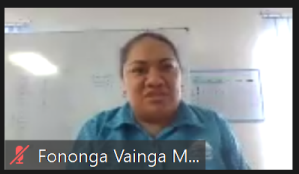


Winifereti Nainoca

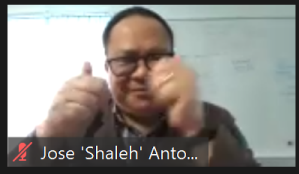


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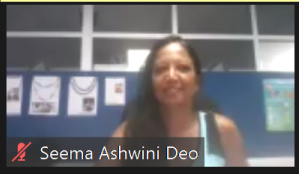
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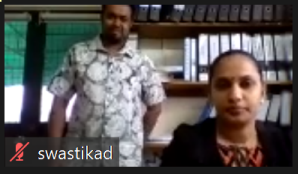
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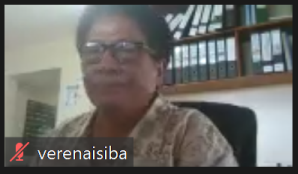
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Seema Ashwini Deo



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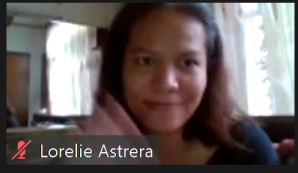
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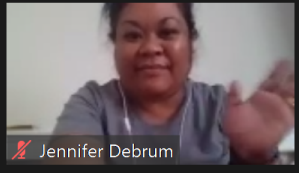
PIFS - Salome Taufa



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Presenter

SPC, Presentation

Amelia Raratabu



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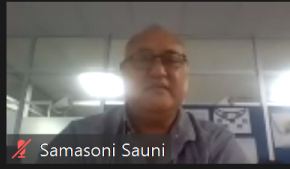
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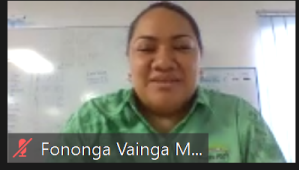
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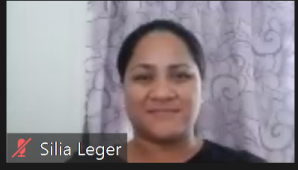
Marcus Sheaves



Rhonda Robinson



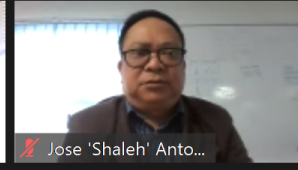
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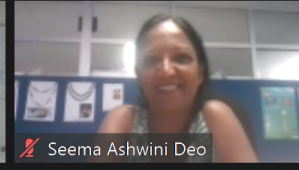
Silia Leger



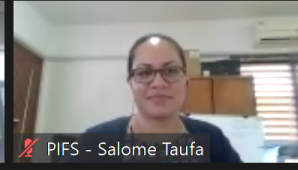
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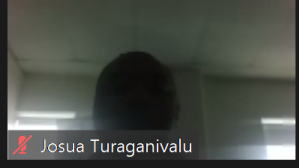
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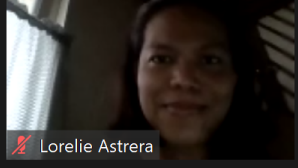
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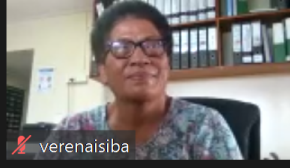
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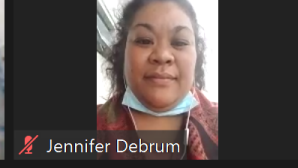
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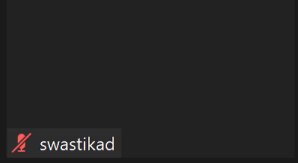
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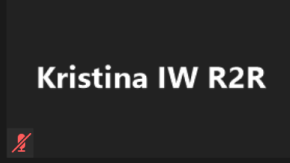
Sammy Airahui



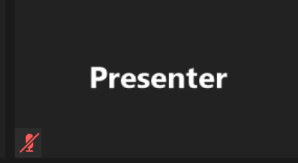
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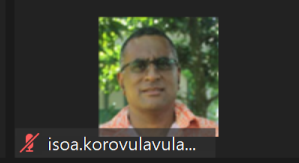
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Kristina IW R2R



Presenter



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