



GEF R2R/ RSTC.6/ Inf.02
Date: 20 September 2020
Original: English

**Sixth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee
for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme**

Suva, Fiji 19th and 20th October 2020

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Welcome and Prayer

1. The Chair will call the meeting to order, confirm the quorum and commence the meeting.
2. As done in the past, the rules and procedures used in the conduct of this Committee meeting shall follow those set out under Regional Science and Technical Committee (RSTC) TOR, closely following those governing the conduct of RSC meetings.

Introductory Remarks

3. The Chair will announce decisions of the RSC with respect to membership and revised TOR of the Committee.
4. Chair will seek confirmation of the membership in view of decisions taken by the Fourth RSC last year in 2019. The RSC agreed that delegates and observers to the annual RSC meetings can participate in the RSTC formal sessions. In accordance to the Committee TOR the Chair will now request for nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair. The TOR states that these positions shall be filled in every annual meeting of the Committee. The Chair will raise two options:
 - (i) Agreement to retain current chair and co-chair for another term of the remaining period till project closure; and
 - (ii) Agreement and endorsement of new chair and co-chair.

The Secretariat will resume the role of rapporteur for the meeting.

Opening Remarks – Pacific R2R Regional Programme Coordinator

6. Depending on election results, the (new) Chair will call the meeting to order and offer brief vote of thanks for the outgoing Chair.

Chair will invite SPC Representative for his opening remarks and followed by introductory remarks from UNDP as Head of GEF Implement Agency for the GEF Pacific R2R Programme.

7. If appropriate, the R2R Programme Coordinator and the Chair of RSTC will also give brief introductory / opening remarks.

House-keeping

8. Chair will announce that the duration of the virtual meeting will be two days with up to 3-hours block each day, from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Meeting invite and link details will be provided for those have registered for the meeting. There will be no tea break and delegates are encouraged to stay engaged throughout the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Adoption of Provisional Agenda

9. Chair will announce the first order of business and invite comments on the provisional agenda.

Chair will invite the Committee to approve the agenda.

Agenda Item 2. Review of the Minutes from 5th RSTC meeting and Action Items

10. The Committee will review records of the last meeting and discuss matters arising, if any. The relevant paper is *RSTC-6_WP.01*. The record of the RSTC first technical consultation is also available for reference, as information paper *RSTC-6_Inf. 05*.

12. Chair will invite general comments on the records, before proceeding to matters arising. Chair will invite the Secretariat to speak to these matters arising from the records.

Chair will invite the Committee to approve the Records of the 5th RSTC meeting. If appropriate, Chair may also invite the Committee to note the Records of the RSTC 1st technical consultation. Key recommendations from that technical consultation will be considered at relevant agenda items of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Chair's Report 2020 – Highlights, Challenges and Opportunities

13. The RSTC Chair will announce that the paper was considered at the panel/breakout session and there may be recommendations forthcoming for the Committee to consider. However, for purposes of those who did not participate in those discussions, 7 minutes will be given for a brief presentation of the paper.

14. Chair will present his report focusing on the highlights, challenges, and opportunities. It is important the Committee discuss broader vision building on past lessons to improve the work of the Committee in the remaining duration of the project, and beyond. The chair is also expected to provide his visions and guidance for the Committee to deliberate and achieve project goals and objectives. The outcome of technical consultation earlier in the year was a good starting point. The details of the highlights and opportunities are contained in the meeting paper, *GEF R2R/RSTC.6/WP. 02*.

Chair will invite the Committee to discuss and respond to specific questions set out in the paper, and the recommendations from panel discussion.

Agenda Item 4. Progress update on implementing MTR recommendations and management responses

14. The RSTC Chair will announce that the paper was considered at the panel/breakout session and there may be recommendations forthcoming for the Committee to consider. However, for purposes of those who did not participate in those discussions, 7 minutes will be given for brief presentation of the paper.

15. Chair will invite the Secretariat Mr Antonio to introduce the meeting paper *GEF R2R/RSTC.6/WP. 03*. The paper provides brief update on progress of implementing the MTR recommendations and management responses. It specifically seeks technical discussion on the challenges delivering on stress reduction targets. A lot has changed since the original design of national targets and priorities have also shifted on management approaches (e.g. stress reduction, catchment protection, habitats).

The Committee is invited to discuss progress to date and provide technical advice on overcoming potential challenges encountered by countries even with no cost-extension and impact of COVID-19. The Committee will also discuss and approve (or not) the recommendations of the panel discussion.

Agenda 5. Regional guidelines for implementing the R2R science-policy technological continuum (theory of change)

15. The Committee will consider and endorse several few changes to the strategic framework the RSC approved last year. The changes were prompted from the inability for project countries to progress implementing the full continuum of the theory of change. A regional guideline for implementing the theory of change will be presented and considered by the Committee. The working paper reference is *RSTC6_WP.04*.

16. It is important to recognize the MTR recommendation 6 on the IDA/SoC process that underpins the strategic framework outlined above and is contingent to eight (8) criteria. This include the criteria that the IDA/SoC reports should not be treated as an outcome but that of mainstreaming R2R, and that capability building is a priority. The IDA/SoC process and the strategic framework must be country-driven and identified formally as a priority with demonstrable capacity to deliver. It must be integrated and build on or add value to existing activities and processes nationally.

Chair will invite the Committee to endorse and approve the regional guidelines for implementing the R2R science-policy strategic framework. The Committee will also several few changes made to the framework.

Agenda Item 6. Procedural framework for the identification and spatial prioritisation of conservation land/sea areas

6.1 Regional guidelines

17. The Committee will consider the regional guidelines for implementing the R2R spatial prioritization procedures. The guidelines were prepared based on the design, development, application and trialling, in Vanuatu, of the conceptual framework for the identification and spatial prioritization of conservation land/sea areas or sites. The technical reports emerging from this work were presented and considered at the RSTC 1st technical consultation in February 2020. The two technical reports (Vanuatu national-scale and Tagabe Catchment local-scale spatial prioritization reports) are now available and accessible online.

18. At this session, the Secretariat will only introduce and present the regional guideline for implementing the spatial prioritization procedures. Chair will invite the Secretariat to introduce the paper *RSTC6_WP.05*.

The Committee is invited to consider and approve the regional guidelines for implementing the R2R spatial identification, selection and prioritization of coastal land-sea areas for conservation and protection.

The Committee is also invited to note further work on conclude publications for journals on this work plus factsheet currently accessible online, and possibly other knowledge products that may result from this work.

Agenda Item 7. Pacific R2R Information Management Systems (IMS)

19. Chair will invite the Secretariat to introduce the meeting paper *GEF R2R/RSTC.6/WP.06*. The paper provides an update of progress developing the Pacific R2R Information Management Systems that will serve as portal for data/ information on environment, governance, socio-economic baseline assessments using the hybrid approach of Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS), and DPSIR approaches.

This facility is expected to be launched at the RSC meeting as part of the R2R website re-development Phase 2.

Chair will invite the Committee to discuss and review progress of developing the Pacific R2R IMS, and to endorse its utility by PICs in future R2R investments.

Agenda Item 8. What's Next COVID19 and Post-R2R?

20. Chair will invite the Secretariat to introduce the meeting paper *GEF R2R/RSTC.6/WP.07*. The paper presents a conceptual framework outlining range of options that can be explored further into the future that would further test or scaling up innovative technologies in future R2R investments.

21. There is an opportunity to pre-test these options during national stakeholder consultations in progressing regional deliverables on diagnostic analyses, SoCs and SAPs/SAFs.

Chair will invite the Committee to review and endorse the conceptual framework and agree to explore further the suggested options.

Agenda Item 9. Other Matters

22. Chair will announce if there any other matters for the Committee to discuss. If none, the Chair will thank the Committee for their work. A copy of the Chair's report and recommendations will be circulated seeking further comments before it is finalised for plenary.

23. Chair will invite the Secretariat for any final words and if none then close the meeting.