



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

Regional Coordinator's Status Report

GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Samasoni Sauni, Regional Program Coordinator

RPCG – Meeting

Virtual Meeting, October 20, 2020, 1400H-1600H



Development progress Regional IW R2R Project

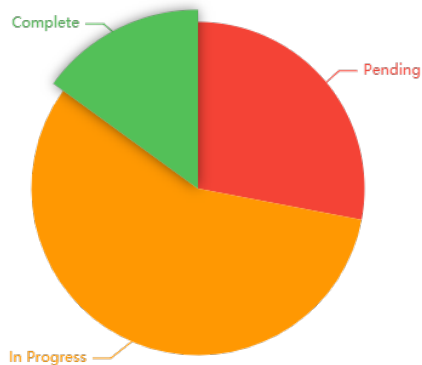




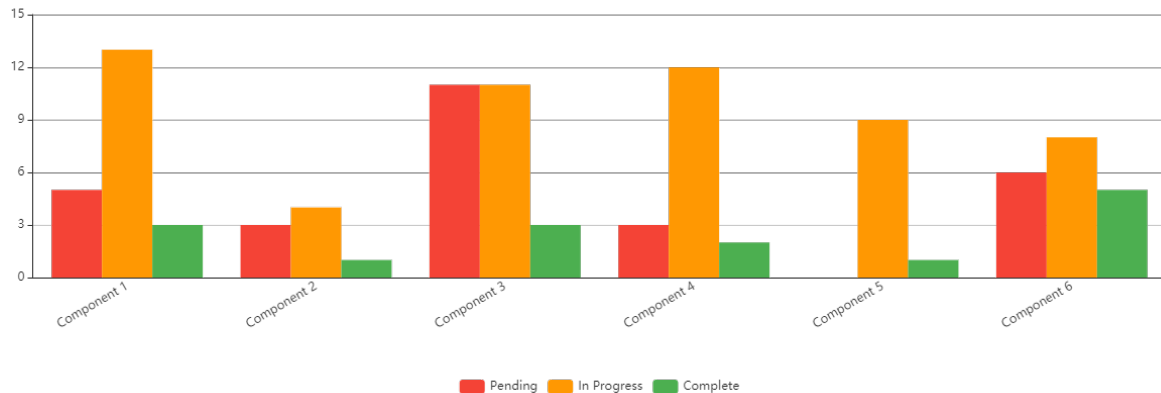
Activity monitoring – Regional IW R2R project

- Pending
- In Progress
- Complete

Overall Activity Status



Activity Status Per Component

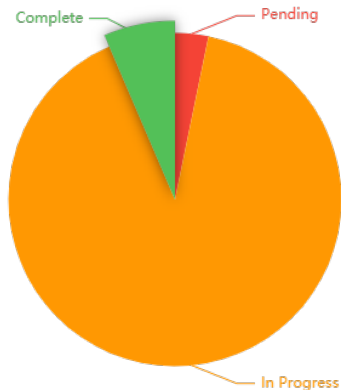




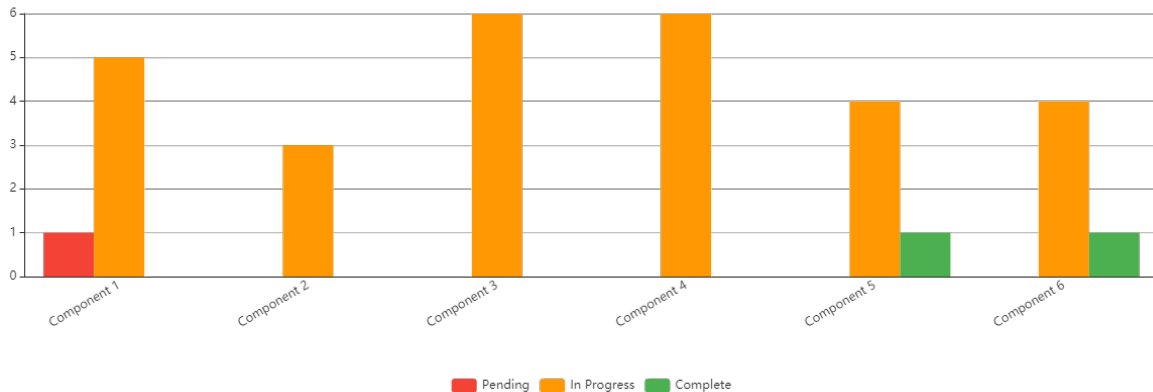
Outputs monitoring - Regional IW R2R project

- Pending
- In Progress
- Complete

Overall Output Status



Output Status Per Component



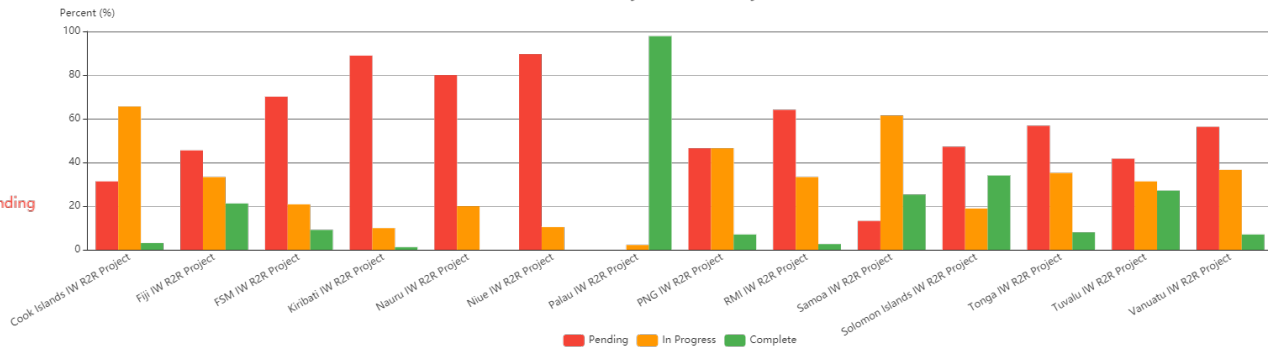
Activity monitoring – MYCWP of 14 PICs

- Pending
- In Progress
- Complete

Overall Activity Status



Activity Status Per Project

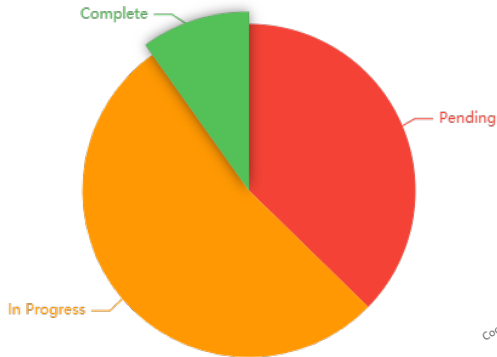




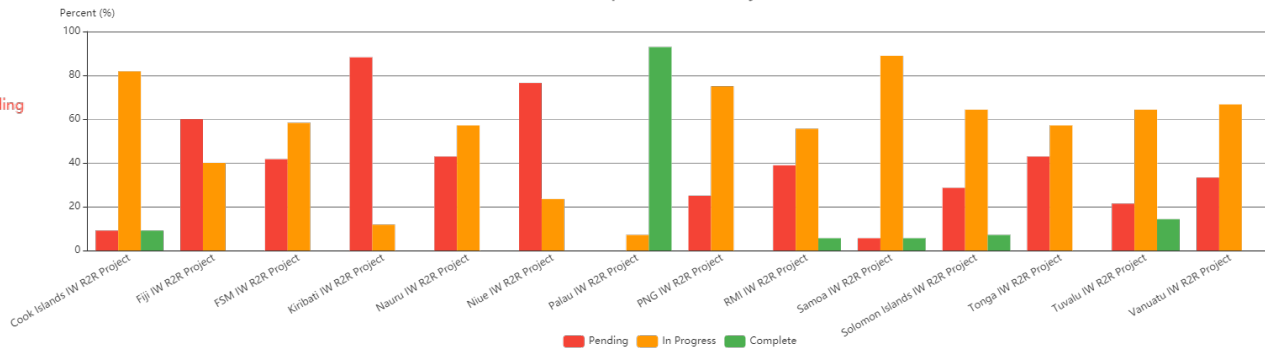
Outputs monitoring – MYCWP of 14 PICs

- Pending
- In Progress
- Complete

Overall Output Status



Output Status Per Project



Development progress – Regional IW R2R Project

Component	Outcome	As of Jun 2019	As of June 2020
1	1 – Pilot testing of innovative solutions	Off track	On track
	2 – National diagnostic analysis	Off track	Off track
	3 – Multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks	Off track	On track
2	4 – National and local capacity on ICM and IWRM	On track	On track
	5 – Incentive structures for retention of local expertise/ human resource needs for ICM/IWRM	Off track	Off track
3	6 – National and regional strategic action framework for ICM/IWRM	Off track	Off track
	7 – Coordinated approaches for R2R	On track	On track
4	8 – National and regional integrated and simplified frameworks for integrated multi-focal projects	On track	On track
	9 – National and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practice & LL	On track	On track
5	10 – Effective program coordination of national and regional R2R projects	On track	On track



Overall rating

Development objective (DO)	July 2018-June 2019	July 2019-June 2020
Development objective (DO)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Implementation progress (IP)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory



Highlights for the period July 2019 to June 2020

- Reviewed the national logframes of 14 IW R2R projects
- Developed the corresponding MYCWP based on the revised logframe and national development priorities
- Assessed and approved the no-cost extension of the 14 national IW R2R projects
- Successfully completed preparation of the R2R spatial prioritization procedures and modelling and conducted the testing and trialling in Vanuatu.
- Provided technical and administrative support to all 14 national projects
- Assessed and approved all progress and financial reports

Highlights for the period July 2019 to June 2020

- Successfully provided support in the conduct of the external audit
- Commissioned consultancies for carrying out the RapCA for Tonga and Cook Islands
- Commissioned consultancy for Fiji RapCA, site diagnostic and ecosystem goods and services (EGS) valuation soon to go out to tender
- Commissioned consultancy for the redevelopment of the Pacific R2R Website and the corresponding Project Management Information System (PMIS)
- Launched phase-1 of the Pacific R2R website development



Strategic issues and adaptive measures

Strategic issues

Challenges in ensuring **technical robustness** as basis for decisions in sustainable resource governance

Limited local capacity, disparity in technical skills and management experience among managers, and **turnover of staff**

Covid-19 Pandemic travel restrictions

Adaptive measures

Modification of science to policy theory of change enforced in combination with adaptive management measures

Augmentation of technical support through national and regional technical service providers

Non-conventional approach for providing support to national implementation



Specific adaptive management actions during Covid-19 Pandemic

- (**Intensified**) non-conventional approach for providing advisory support (technical, management, administrative) to national implementation – provision of written guidelines and conduct of virtual meetings
- **Change in modality of contracting** consultants – i.e. engaging national consultants versus international consultants
- **Application of national procurement process** versus SPC procurement for regionally driven activities to facilitate decisions in contracting of works and services (e.g. studies and surveys)
- **Direct access to funds** allocated for regionally driven activities by national projects
- **Reallocation of travel budget** (except for RSC, RSTC & JCU face to face meetings)
- **Granting additional request for no-cost extension** to national projects to mitigate implementation delays (e.g. Cook Islands and Palau)

RPCU update on its role in GEF Pacific R2R Programme



Highlights on the following:

1. Compilation of lessons learned and knowledge products
 - ✓ RSC approved guidance document on the documentation of lessons learned, Standard ToR, etc.
 - ✓ Virtual meetings held on the following: LL, CMS of the Pacific Website, etc.
2. GEF Focal Areas reporting, experience in Programmatic Approach (Pre-RSC Session 2)
3. Support of STAR project to achieving MTR Recommendation number 2,3,4,11&15
4. Special topics – (Pre-RSC Session 5): Session outcome document focusing on the programmatic issues and opportunities raised)
5. Strategic and operational issues for RPCG Action
6. ...

1. Compilation of lessons learned & knowledge products

- Regional framework for the compilation and development of lessons learned for Pacific R2R Programme drafted and endorsed by the RSC4 (August 2019).
- TOR for report writers provided to IW/STAR project coordinators and managers (December 2020).
- Country briefings on lessons learned have been conducted for the regional programme (September 2020); with separate country briefings for Tuvalu, Palau, Samoa, Cook Islands and PNG (Q2 – Q3 2020).
- Countries have requested extensions from June 30 for submissions on titles and summaries to July 29.

Country	Project		Thematic areas	
Cook Islands	STAR	IW	Capacity Building and sustainability, Conflict Resolution (land ownership) (STAR) and Project design (IW)	
Fiji	STAR		Participatory planning and policy process (community to cabinet) 1.2.2 Functional catchment management committees in Tuva, Votua in Ba and Labasa; 3.2.4.2 Knowledge management - Biophysical/demographic/Socioeconomic data collected and analysed; 1.3, 1.5 ICM Plans developed for 4 catchments.	
FSM	* STAR			
Kiribati				
Nauru	STAR		1.3, 1.5 Participatory Planning and policy - Development and approval of the Coastal Fisheries & Aquaculture Act 2020. Draft LMMA plans to be later included in regulations	
Niue				
Palau	STAR	IW	1.2.6 Capacity building (water quality monitoring program), 1.2.3, 1.5, 1.2.6 mainstreaming to sectoral policy (Greenboots), 1.2.2, 1.4 MNRET creating new institutional structures	
PNG				
RMI	STAR		1.2.2, 3.2.4.2, 3.2.3 Participatory planning and policy - REIMANLAK 8 Step Process as the operational guideline – knowledge management (incl. traditional knowledge) MIS, participatory planning and institutional structures – PAN Office and Action Plan (Output 1.1-1.3 and 3.1-3.3) , 1.2.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.2.6 Outputs 2.1 – 2.4,	
Samoa				
Solomon Islands				
Tonga		IW	1.1.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.5 Community to Cabinet stakeholder engagement, media and policy advocacy	
Tuvalu	STAR	IW	1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.3, , 1.2.7, 1.3, 1.5 8 ISPs have R2R principles integrated that incorporates ICM, MSP and IWRM	
Vanuatu		IW	1.1.3, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.7 Improved inter-agency partnership in sustainable catchment management and 2) Community to local government partnerships for sustainable land and surface water use preserving livelihood	

2. GEF focal areas reporting & experience in Programmatic approach (Pre-RSC Session 2)

- Each child projects were requested to report on the status of *project* contributions to the **overall GEF Pacific R2R program**, and **strategic issues and remedial measures** from the Programmatic implementation
- Draw lessons learned from national programmatic implementation in mainstreaming R2R in planning and/or policy
- Identify possible thematic area/s that could be further explored as regional strategic *regional strategic lessons for upscaling future R2R investments*.

2. GEF focal areas reporting & experience in Programmatic approach (Pre-RSC Session 2) ...

- 34 participants attended this session
- 6 child projects presented (Fiji, Nauru, Palau, RMI, Regional IW, Tuvalu)
- 1 child project not able to present but submitted the PPT material (Kiribati)
- On success rate: Implementation progress are varied among the child projects
 - ✓ All are in various stages in delivering outputs and achieving outcomes. None has fully achieved the expected outputs as indicated in the ProDoc
 - ✓ Level of delivery influenced and/or hampered by either strategic issues and/or operational limitations
 - ✓ Poor project design, ambitious targets, change in political atmosphere resulting in change priorities, ineffective governance, turfing and competing interest among stakeholders, and difficulty in enforcing processes among implementing partners – UNDP and government requirements, were regarded as strategic issues that hampered achievement of the outcomes
 - ✓ Operationally, projects were also affected by the limited local technical expertise, different technical capacities among implementors, disparity in technical skills and management experience, delays in fund transfer, slow spending by implementing partners, and staff turnover.
 - ✓ Covid-19 pandemic limits the mobility of staffs and consultants and thus affected timely production of outputs.

2. GEF focal areas reporting & experience in Programmatic approach (Pre-RSC Session 2) ...

- On lessons learned from programmatic implementation
 - ✓ R2R is acknowledged as an effective approach for sustainable resource governance
 - ✓ Mainstreaming R2R requires strong political will from highest governance level
 - ✓ Joint STAR and IW Project Steering Committee enhances the change of success
 - ✓ At the GEF Pacific R2R Programme level, Programme Steering structure remained unclear.
 - ✓ Cooperation and buy-in of and among R2R stakeholders needs improvement
 - ✓ Processes, rules and procedures should be directed towards achieving the Programme objectives.
- On thematic area/s for upscaling
 - ✓ R2R Programme must demonstrate inclusive steering, cooperation and meaningful participation and responsive processes
 - ✓ Upscaling of a well-designed R2R Program requires:
 - ✓ A well-defined strategy based on agreed science to policy continuum (i.e. common and **enforceable** implementation framework) and clear processes
 - ✓ Effective, meaningful participation, ownership and commitment by stakeholders
 - ✓ Demonstrable political support, community acceptance and active involvement
 - ✓ Realistic timelines and adequate resources

3. STAR project support to achieving the 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:** 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:** 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

4. Special topics – (Pre-RSC Session 5)

- Two of the 3 papers presented in the Pre-RSC Session 5 – Special topics, namely: Pacific **R2R Information Management System** and the Regional guidelines for the application of **R2R Prioritization and Planning Procedures**
- On R2R Information Management System
 - ✓ Contribute in populating the system with data and information by the STAR projects
 - ✓ Ensure that data and information will be analysed and utilized to inform decisions.
- On R2R Prioritization and Planning Procedure
 - ✓ Replicating the application/testing of land-sea model
 - ✓ Capacity building for understanding the model and the corresponding requirements for further testing/ replication

Strategic issues and Action requested

Strategic issues

GEF Pacific R2R **programmatic** implementation remains a challenge despite advocacy of the RPCU on the following:

1. Establishment of **Joint STAR & IW Steering Committee**
2. Submission of the **lessons learned documents** following the RSC4 approved Programmatic Guide
3. Submission of the data and information as indicated in the **Harmonized Results Reporting** template
4. **Share data, information and reports** that are relevant to the Programmatic approach for GEF results reporting

Action requested

RPCG/GEF implementing agencies to actively advocate/promote to the STAR project (Project Steering Committees (PSC) or Project Board, and to project managers or project coordinators) for supporting and complying with the requirements of the Programmatic approach.



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

Presented by:

Shaleh Antonio, CCMEA

Presentation prepared by:

Shaleh Antonio, CCMEA

Photo credits

Layout

Navneet Lal, Graphics and multimedia assistant

Template: Shaleh Antonio, CCMEA

References:

STAR Project Document

PFD

ProDoc Regional IW R2R project

ProDoc STAR Projects

VINAKA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

