



GEF IW R2R/ RSTC-TC.2 WP.20

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Second Series Technical Consultation of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Radisson Blu Resort, Denarau, Fiji, February 15-17, 2021

Session 6 – Looking Ahead Post-Ridge to Reef

Next Phase of Ridge to Reef: A Scoping Session

Summary:

The paper provides brief overview of the **overall focus of the proposed successor project** of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program. Building on the experience and emerging results of the current GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program and the Regional International Waters Ridge to Reef Project, this paper also aimed to seek technical inputs and recommendations on the possible **outputs** that are fit for purpose, and the corresponding **processes** that are efficient, culturally sensitive and appropriate in the Pacific Region, to progress preparation of the proposed successor R2R project.

Recommendations:

The R2R Technical Consultation is invited to: -

- (i) Discuss and evaluate emerging lessons learned ([link here](#)) from the implementation/testing by the child projects of the GEF R2R Program which are useful considerations (outputs/ processes) in the formulation of the next R2R project;
- (ii) Discuss and recommend indicative outputs that will contribute towards the achievement of the agreed project outcomes for the next R2R project.
- (iii) Where possible, identify appropriate, effective, and efficient pathways and processes for replicating and ultimately mainstreaming Ridge to Reef approach in the proposed successor R2R project.
- (iv) Discuss the need for the establishment of a WG tasked with the developing the proposed successor R2R project. Participants are also requested to prepare a draft ToR for this small WG to be considered at the next RSTC formal session.
- (v) Prepare a new iteration of the concept paper approved by RSC/RSTC that would based on outcomes of discussion in (i) to (iv) above.

Introduction:

1. The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program is a program comprising of 15 child projects (14 STAR and one Regional IW) implemented across the 14 Pacific Island Countries. The Regional IW R2R project serves as the coordinating unit of the Program.
2. Fulfilling the coordination role, the RPCU is also consolidating information about the program results and lessons learned from implementing various interventions geared towards effective governance of natural resources.
3. Last year the RSTC/ RSC considered the concept note and proposal to start discussing a next phase for the project. The Committees agreed for a follow up streamlined next phase post R2R of future upscaling R2R investments and ICM planning relative to post-R2R and COVID-19. The next R2R project focuses only on priority focal areas supporting research and development (e.g., research to develop regional standards in pollution from animal/human waste), capacity building, and replicating/ upscaling innovative technologies and development measures thereby securing ecosystems goods and services following the R2Rclimate resilient approach and inclusive green economic pathway.
4. This paper builds on those decisions and invite Participants to consider the broader questions of acceptable outputs and processes which may be appropriate in the proposed successor R2R project.

Emerging lessons

5. In October 2020, child projects of the Program reported on their preliminary contributions to the GEF focal areas and emerging lessons learned from the implementation experience ([link here](#)).
6. In summary, child projects reported:
 - a. Child projects acknowledged Ridge to Reef is an effective approach for sustainable resource governance. However, this approach requires convergence of ideas among stakeholders and agreements on clear pathways for achieving desired results. As a Programme, a unified science to policy continuum should have been established among the child projects to ensure technical and scientific robustness as basis for achieving Programme results. The design of each child projects should have considered the temporal aspect (started at the same time), steering and governance body harmonized – all geared towards the achievement of Programme outcomes.
 - b. Mainstreaming R2R requires strong political support from the highest governance level through the inter-ministerial committee (IMC). It is assumed that the IMC shares the responsibility of joint action and decision for achieving results. In practice however, Project Steering Committees (PSC)5 are established solely for the purpose of project steering rather than serving as platform for mainstreaming R2R. Some PSCs are so concerned with project management and operational issues such as contracting, staffing, and spending. The latter is a management function as opposed to the expected role of the PSC – that is to provide strategic guidance and directions for mainstreaming R2R tested approaches.
 - c. For those countries with joint PSC, a greater chance of success was reported. Joint planning took place at this level and the PSC provides clear directions and guidance. The requisite for this is a strong Project Management Unit (PMU) that is providing excellent secretariat role for instance by supplying accurate monitoring data and information, as

basis for PSC decisions. 15. At the GEF Pacific R2R Programme level, the steering structure remained unclear. The Regional Programme Steering Committee (RPSC) as defined in the Programme Framework Document (PFD) that was endorsed by 14 Pacific island countries (PICs) in April 2013 in Australia, is not functional. During the last RPSC meeting in July 2019, it was reiterated that the RPSC's role would be to steer, guide and advise the Regional International Waters Ridge to Reef project.

- d. Cooperation means to collaborate, work together, join, or combine forces or resources to achieve the Programme objectives. Active and meaningful participation means to invest, to contribute, to play a part. Both terms – cooperation and participation, are emphasized in the Programme Framework Document. However, in practice, majority of the child projects reported that cooperation and buy-in of and among R2R stakeholders needs improvement. A carefully and properly conducted stakeholders' mapping and analysis needs to be done to ascertain the willingness to participate and cooperate meaningfully.
 - e. Processes, rules, and procedures are directed towards achieving the Programme objectives. As demanded by the Programme, new processes and procedures will have to be instituted and for the same to be clearly understood by the stakeholders to eliminate confusion and enhance compliance. For example, clear agreements among executing agency and project partners through MOA/MOU helped ensure transparency and understanding.
7. On upscaling, child projects also recommended that R2R Programme must demonstrate inclusive steering, cooperation and meaningful participation, and responsive processes. Specifically, upscaling of a well-designed R2R Programme requires (i) a well-defined strategy based on agreed science to policy continuum (e.g. common implementation framework), and clear processes directed towards safeguarding ecosystem goods and services, improving climate resilience and improve livelihoods, (ii) an effective, meaningful participation, ownership and commitment by stakeholders, (iii) demonstrable political support, community acceptance and active involvement; and (iv) a realistic timelines and adequate resources to deliver project objectives and outcomes that respond to domestic priorities or aspirations and meeting international targets.

Looking ahead – next phase

8. On the other hand, feedback from the Program implementers were obtained during the pre-RSC meeting held on October 2020 ([link here](#)) indicated that a more streamlined project shall be developed and should focus on upscaling of R2R investments and integrated coastal management planning.
9. Priority focal areas of the next project should be on supporting research and development, capacity building and replicating innovative technologies and development measures aimed at securing ecosystems goods and services following the R2R-climate resilient approach and inclusive green economic pathway.
10. In the RSTC Chair's report, it was also emphasized reviewing sampling designs and standardizing, for ensuring cost effectiveness, and understanding contextual differences in the regions. In addition, the chair also encouraged balancing between pure science, social science, traditional knowledge, community to cabinet dynamics when looking at the R2R system and to understand the people's needs.

Scoping session

11. On this premise, the second RSTC technical consultation meeting is an appropriate venue for conducting a scoping session whereby strategic recommendations can be identified and deliberated. Results of and agreements will be documented and will serve as building blocks for future project proposal formulation activities.
12. To achieve the outputs of this scoping session, the participants will be requested to contribute to the discussions relative to their experience in testing various interventions and studies.
13. Participants can choose to participate in sub-group according to the five thematic focus.
14. There are five thematic focus such as (i) resource assessment & modelling; (ii) resource management planning; (iii) innovative technological solutions and socio-economic package; (iv) options for enhancing national and regional policies; and (v) inclusive pathways for mainstreaming R2R.
15. Participants will be asked to identify, discuss, and deliberate emerging lessons in each of the five thematic focus. Outputs of this session will be shared in the plenary.
16. **Working title:**
 - a. Mainstreaming R2R sensitive, inclusive and climate smart solutions for effective governance of natural resources in the Pacific Region.
 - b. Mainstreaming R2R sensitive, inclusive and climate smart solutions for securing ecosystems goods and services in the Pacific Region.
17. Each sub-group will be given 45 minutes to reflect, discuss, deliberate, and prepare a brief presentation about the records of their discussions such as:
 - a. Not more than 5 key (emerging) lessons learned from testing (refer to point number 12 of this paper) and highlight the corresponding opportunities for replication and/or upscaling.
 - b. Based on 17a, recommend corresponding major outputs or that contributes to the mainstreaming outcomes.
 - c. Within the sub-group, nominate a focal person that will participate in drafting the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Formulation of Project Concept.
 - d. Recommend mainstreaming pathways (i.e., institutions, networks) as effective mechanism for achieving mainstreaming outcomes.
18. Using the presentation template, each sub-group will be given 10 minute to present in plenary.

Recommendations:

The R2R Technical Consultation is invited to: -

- (i) Discuss and evaluate emerging lessons learned ([link here](#)) from the implementation/testing by the child projects of the GEF R2R Program which are useful considerations (outputs/ processes) in the formulation of the next R2R project;
- (ii) Discuss and recommend indicative outputs that will contribute towards the achievement of the agreed project outcomes for the next R2R project.

- (iii) Where possible, identify appropriate, effective, and efficient pathways and processes for replicating and ultimately mainstreaming Ridge to Reef approach in the proposed successor R2R project.
- (iv) Discuss the need for the establishment of a WG tasked with the developing the proposed successor R2R project. Participants are also requested to prepare a draft ToR for this small WG to be considered at the next RSTC formal session.

Annex 1: Sub-group presentation template (e-copy will be made available)



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

Session 6: Looking Ahead Post Covid and R2R Next Phase R2R: A Scoping Session

Thematic Sub-group: _____

Sub-group focal: _____ Sub-group members: _____

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Key lessons learned

Key lessons	Opportunities for upscaling
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	




2



Major outputs

Major outputs	Means of verification
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	



3




Mainstreaming pathways

Name of the organization/institution	Possible contact point
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	



4



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

VINAKA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Presented by:
Shah Antonio, CCMEA


Presentation prepared by:
Shah Antonio, CCMEA

Photo credits:

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Nanuet Lal, Graphics and multimedia assistant

Template: Shah Antonio, CCMEA

References:
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