



GEF IW R2R/ RSC.6/WP.03

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**Sixth 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 &
Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon,
Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries*

Suva, Fiji 20th to 21st January 2022

**MAINSTREAMING THE RIDGE TO REEF APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
THE PACIFIC REGION – *Conceptual Framework***

Summary:

This paper introduces a framework to mainstream the R2R approach analytically and showcasing clear guidance on the intent, conceptual distinctions in several variations and contexts particularly between strategic building blocks, before implementing an approved R2R related plan.

Generally, the conceptual framework outlines the entry points for mainstreaming R2R from strategy to reality in the Pacific context, such as:

- Steps to reach agreement (or not) to mainstream R2R approach
- Steps to reach agreement on scale and coverage
- Steps to reach agreement on theory of change, R2R Plans, On-site Management
- Approval and implementation

Moreover, the framework is linked to a technical report documenting options for mainstreaming R2R is accessible on this link, https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/R2R_Mainstreaming_in_the_Pacific_Report.pdf

The technical report provides the bases on the various entry points pivotal to securing ecosystems goods and services, ensuring food security and enhancing climate resilience of communities.

The conceptual framework to mainstream R2R approach in sustainable development in the Pacific region is ready for launching along with other R2R products at this meeting.

The meeting is invited to note the paper and endorse the conceptual framework for launching.



Mainstreaming a Ridge to Reef Approach for sustainable development in the Pacific

Conceptual Framework

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What is the Pacific R2R Programme?

The Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Programme is a multi-country, multi-GEF agency programmatic initiative guiding the coordinated investment of US\$90 million in GEF grant funding across multiple focal areas of biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land management, sustainable forest management, and international waters in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Operating across 14 Pacific Island countries, the programme aims to deliver tangible and quantifiable local and global environmental benefits by focusing on cross-cutting approaches to water, land, and coastal management with linkages across GEF focal areas including: biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, sustainable forest management, climate mitigation and adaptation and capacity development.

The programme is implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Executed regionally by the Pacific Community through the Pacific Regional Ridge to Reef International Waters project (Pacific Regional R2R IW), the R2R Programme is supported by the Regional Programme Coordination Unit (RPCU) in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing.

Pacific R2R participating countries include: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshal Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



Benefits of the R2R Approach

- The Pacific R2R Programme aims to maintain and enhance Pacific Island Countries (PICs) ecosystem goods and services through integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity, and coastal resource management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience.
- The R2R approach explores and targets ways to reduce the transfers of chemicals, nutrients and sediments from agriculture, forestry in catchments, and untreated wastewater to maintain and enhance ecosystem services by minimizing the damage from land to coastal ecosystems, including forests, agricultural lands, watersheds, coral reefs, and coastal waters.
- Improves climate resilience by supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, deforestation, forest and coastal degradation and increased carbon sequestration.
- The distinct inter-connection between land, water, and coastal systems in Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS), coupled with their high vulnerability to climatic changes and limited human resource capacity make a strong case for the R2R approach in the Pacific.
- Operating across 14 PSIDS, participating countries have the opportunity to strengthen capacity to successfully demonstrate and transfer technology to support targeted vulnerable areas, improve livelihoods and public health, and upscale their effective R2R mainstreaming efforts to support countries in achieving their sustainable development goals.
- A “whole of ecosystem” and “whole of island” approach ensures that policies, multiple sectors, agencies, and community interests are properly considered and integrated in the planning and management of resources.



R2R Mainstreaming: From Strategy into Reality

What is Mainstreaming R2R?

Mainstreaming is the “process of embedding R2R approach and processes into national, sub-national, and community policies, strategies, programs, and practices to ensure that the ecosystems and EGS in various land-sea formations in PICs are maintained and enhanced to help reduce poverty, sustain livelihoods and build up climate resilience”.

Effectively, mainstreaming R2R is better guided by analysis of various national (and regional) sustainable development planning processes, strategic frameworks, and related activities, including results of assessments for effectively mainstreaming R2R. The assessment should highlight the appropriate mainstreaming strategy, the appropriate steering platform upon which the mainstreaming shall take place, specify cooperation landscape and corresponding processes necessary and appropriate for mainstreaming R2R at the case study sites, and ultimately in the Pacific Region.

A [technical report](#) documenting options for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific context provides the bases on the various entry points pivotal to securing ecosystems goods and services, ensuring food security and enhancing climate resilience of communities.

What are the Strategies for Mainstreaming R2R?

IF national, sub-national and local stakeholders understand and value mainstreaming R2R (IWRM/ICM) approaches in their major land-sea forms to ensure the sustainable supply of ecosystems goods and services to meet their community needs and improve resiliency as a result of:

- Scaling up R2R mainstreaming of advocacy and social marketing communication campaigns based on results of comprehensive analysis and unifying messages of optimizing R2R benefit flows in PICs’ land-sea areas,
- Replicating participatory integrated R2R planning with envisioned R2R benefit flows at the local, sub-national and national levels, and
- Replicating R2R implementation of approved integrated R2R plans to realise R2R benefit flows at the local, sub-national and national levels,

THEN, the GEF Pacific R2R programme through its Regional IW Ridge to Reef (IW R2R) project has substantially supported the PICs efforts to mainstream R2R approaches for integrating protection, restoration, and development of land, water, forests, coastal resources, and biodiversity;

THEREBY, significantly contributing towards the PICs R2R vision of “maintained and enhanced PIC’s ecosystem goods and services” to help reduce poverty, sustain livelihoods, and build climate resilience.

Programme-based Approach for Mainstreaming R2R

A 'framework document' or a 'Practitioners guide for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific Region' will support efforts rolling out a programme-based R2R mainstreaming at the national, sub-national and site levels. The guide broadens the knowledge of, and equips key officials and staff of development organisations, actors of relevant sectors, project teams, advisors and consultants, researchers, academicians, NGOs, and media groups, in mainstreaming R2R.

Seven key steps of a programme-based approach to R2R mainstreaming (see Figure 1 below):

1. Mapping and spatial analysis – Governance and Advocacy
2. Securing buy-in and commitments
3. Communications and Advocacy
4. Prepare plan – Participatory process
5. Approval of Plan
6. Implementation
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

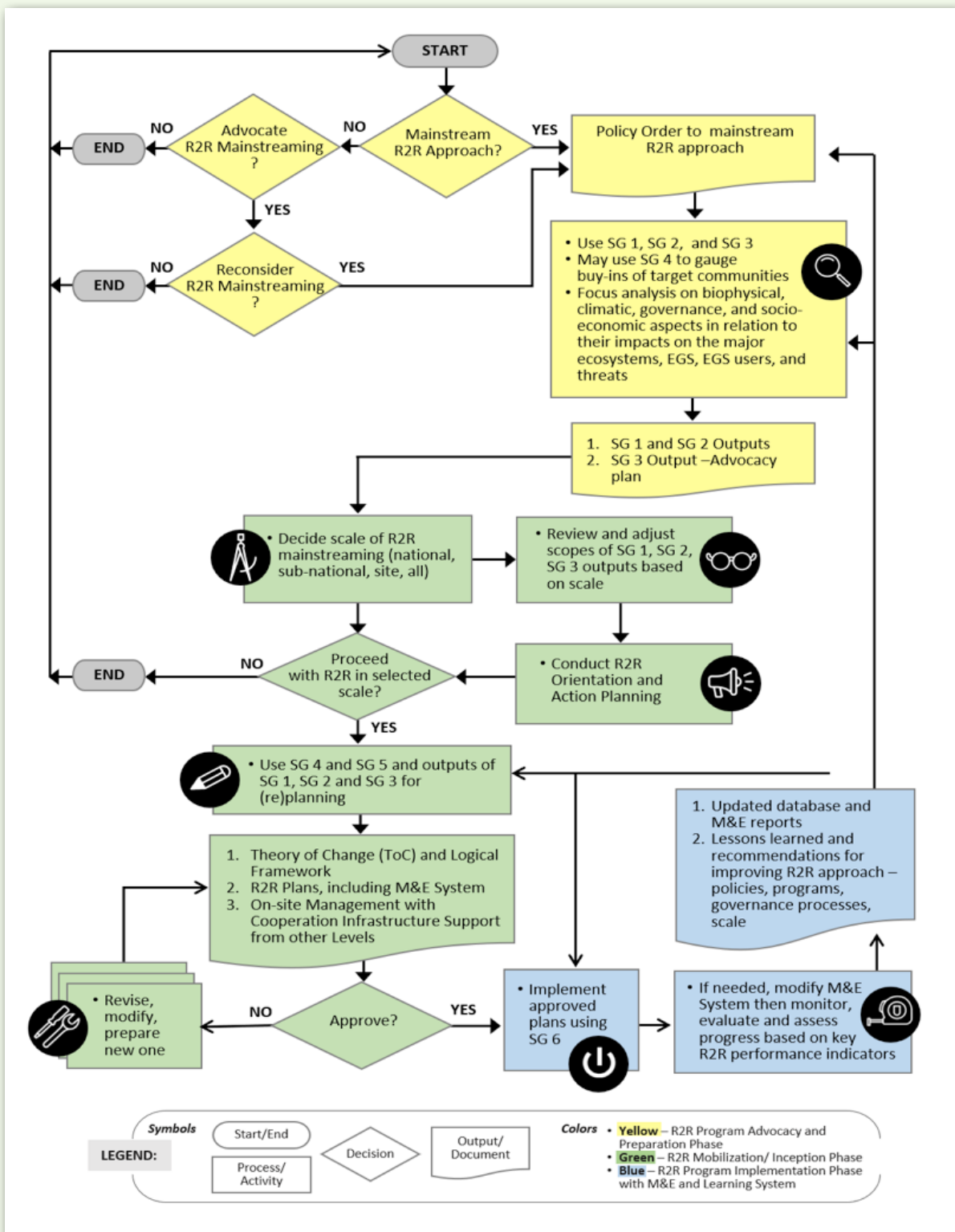
What are the Sub-Guides for Rolling Out the R2R Approach?

The 'Practitioner's Guide' emerged from the review of emerging best practices and lessons from various R2R-related frameworks, PICs' unique bio-geophysical and climatic features, policies, and governance processes, and lessons learned from the planning and implementation of IWRM, GEF IW R2R and STAR projects.

At a minimum the Guide precisely indicates the strategic approach, steering requirement, cooperation and institutional landscape, and appropriate processes, including necessary framework conditions, assumptions, and risks.

Six inter-related sub-guides (SGs) in the Guide designed for the programmatic approach to R2R mainstreaming – from preparation, mobilisation, and implementation with or without external donor and development partners - regardless of the scale of mainstreaming, as follows:

1. Sub-Guide 1 – Data Gathering, Mapping, and Analysing the Benefit Flows of Land-Sea Forms in Support of R2R Mainstreaming Strategies
2. Sub-Guide 2 – Identifying Relevant R2R Institutions and Establishing Governance Bodies for Steering, Directing, and Supporting Policy Development, Planning and Implementing R2R Mainstreaming Strategies at the Site, Sub-National, and National Levels
3. Sub-Guide 3 - Developing Strategies for Advocating R2R Policies and Programs at the Site, Sub-National, and National Levels
4. Sub-Guide 4 – Developing and Implementing Social Marketing Strategies for Target R2R Communities
5. Sub-Guide 5 – Preparing, Legitimizing, and Seeking Approval of R2R Plans at the Site, Sub-National, and National Levels
6. Sub-Guide 6 – Mobilizing, Organizing, and Strengthening R2R Site Project Management Units for Implementation



For more detail, the *Mainstreaming a Ridge to Reef Approach for Sustainable Development in the Pacific A Practitioners' Guide* can be accessed [here](#).

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