



GEF IW R2R/ RSC.6/WP.07

Date: 7th January 2022

Original: English

**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

James Cook University (JCU) Final Report

The paper presents the final report of the JCU-SPC teaching program on R2R Sustainable Development. The highlights of the programme are the successful completion and graduation of students in the Graduate Certificate and Diploma in R2R Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts the students greatly with several forced to drop off the courses due to internet connectivity issues.

Looking forward, it is important for JCU to absorb and add on the Graduate courses on R2R Sustainable Development to their own list of courses on offer. It is also important that that future R2R investments continue to support capacity building and support extending coverage to Masters and PhD levels on R2R Sustainable Development.

The meeting is invited to note and endorse JCU final report with a view of supporting future R2R investments in formal and informal training, and with specific focus on continuing current academic courses on R2R Sustainable Development in the next and future R2R projects and programmes.



Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Program

Graduate Diploma in Ridge to Reef
Sustainable Development
&
Graduate Certificate in Ridge to Reef
Sustainable Development

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Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Program

Post Graduate Certificate of Sustainable Development

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Post Graduate Diploma of Sustainable Development

Introduction

James Cook University's [Graduate Certificate](#) and [Graduate Diploma](#) in Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development was a bespoke teaching and learning program developed in support of the Pacific Community's 'Ridge-to-Reef' management program. This program aimed to maintain and enhance the value and resilience of Pacific Island countries 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 Pacific Islands are diverse in size, geography, climates, and people, requiring a diverse suite of competencies with participants requiring.

- (i) Personal Professional Skills including project management and leadership
- (ii) Integrated Biophysical Expertise including broad-based understanding of ecosystems, their components, and their functioning as interconnected units
- (iii) Good Governance Competence including expertise in strategic planning, policy development, governance, and management and
- (iv) Appropriate tools to support these Ridge to Reef tools.

In addressing the key competencies, the R2R program build upon participants' existing knowledge, ensure their research and assessment are specific to their Pacific Island Country of origin's environmental and conservation sector whilst seeking to create a community of practice across the Pacific Island Countries.

Results for R2R Sustainable Development Program

The Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Program consisted of two components:

- [R2R Graduate certificate](#) - The graduate certificate broadened the skills and knowledge that R2R students have already gained from their undergraduate degree as well as developing a broad range of new skills.
- [R2R Graduate Diploma](#) - Students that successfully complete the R2R Graduate certificate were eligible to enrol into the R2R Graduate Diploma.

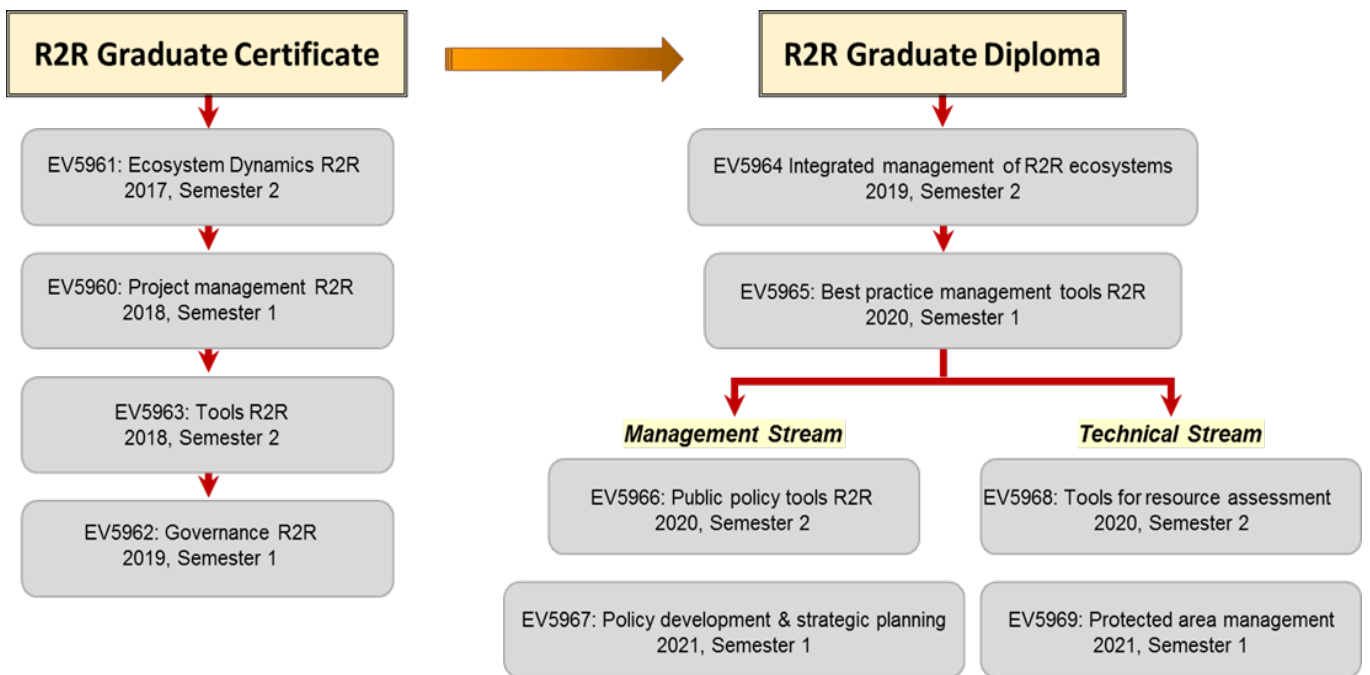
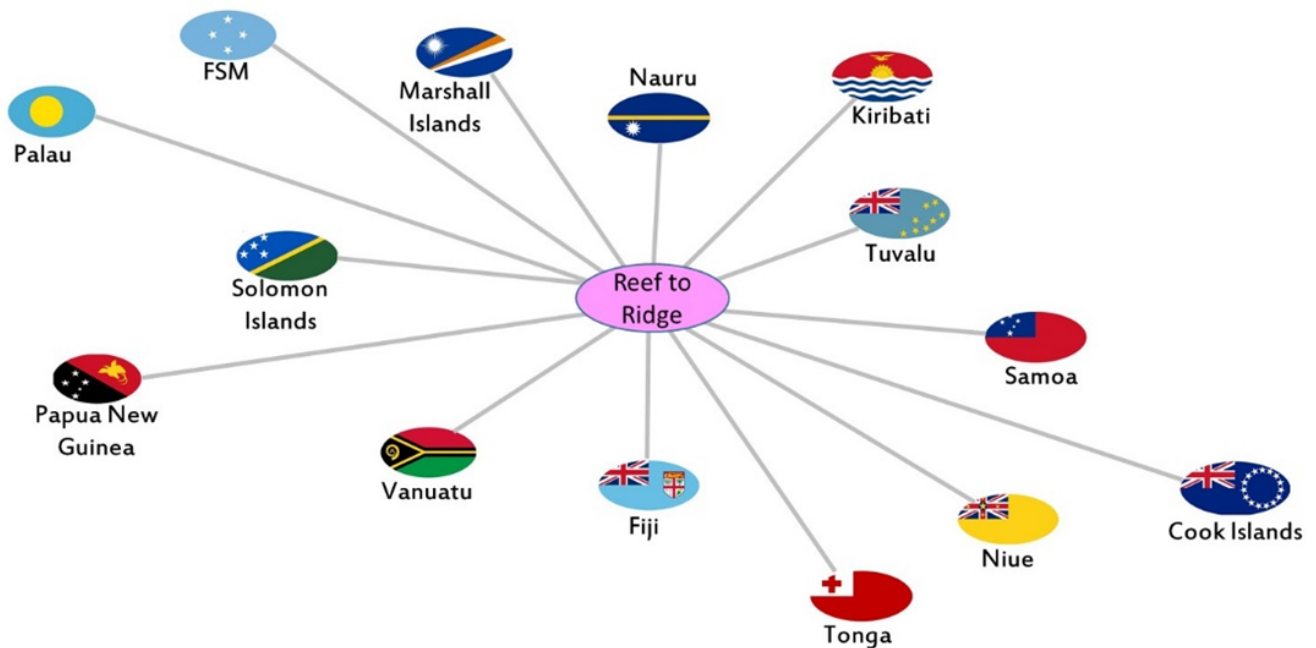
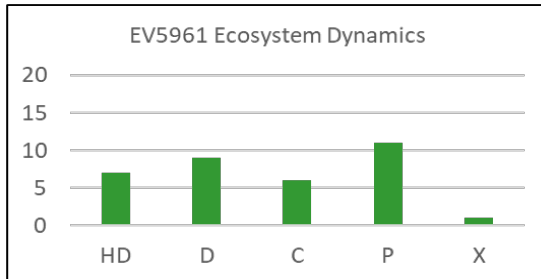


Figure 1. all subjects in the Ridge to Reef Graduate Certificate and the Graduate Diploma



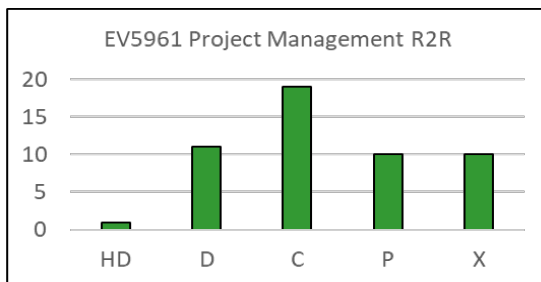
R2R Graduate Certificate of Sustainable Development

The figures below show the results for the four subjects in the R2R Graduate Certificate of Sustainable Development



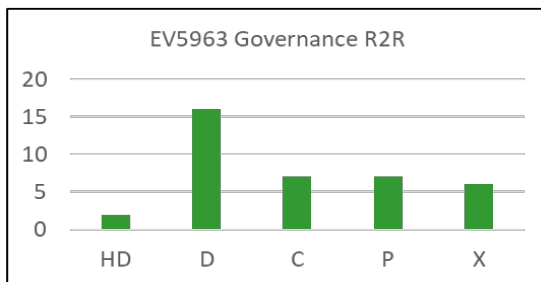
EV5961 Ecosystem Dynamics

- Subject ran in second semester 2017
- 42 students enrolled
- Subject ran in Tonga



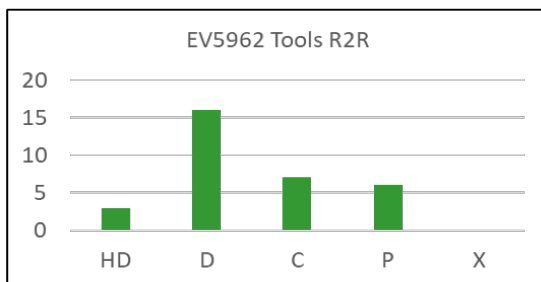
EV5961 Project Management R2R

- Subject ran in first semester 2018
- 51 students enrolled
- Subject ran online



EV5963 Governance R2R

- Subject ran in second semester 2018
- 38 students enrolled
- Subject ran in Fiji



EV5962 Tools R2R

- Subject ran in first semester 2019
- 32 students enrolled
- Subject ran online

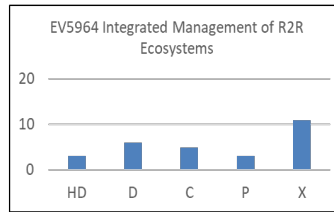
Key for Grades.

HD = High distinction. 85% to 100%
 D = Distinction. 75% to 85%
 C = Credit. 65% to 75%,
 P = Pass. 50% to 65%.
 X = Fail

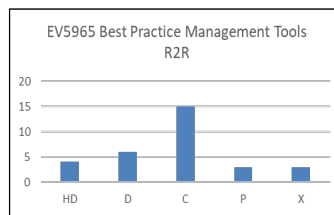
Figure 3. Figures showing the overall results for the R2R Graduate Diploma

R2R Graduate Diploma of Sustainable Development

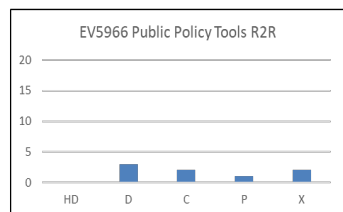
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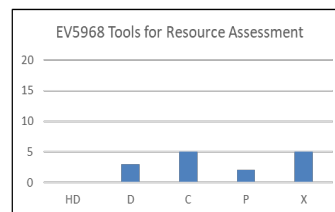
- EV5964 Integrated Management of R2R Ecosystems**
- Subject ran in second semester 2019
 - 28 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online



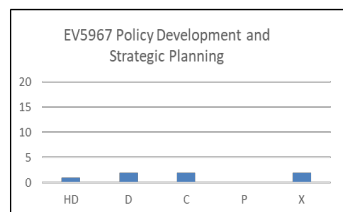
- EV5965 Best Practice Management Tools R2R**
- Subject ran in first semester 2020
 - 31 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online



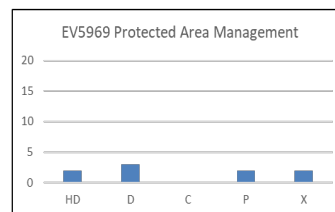
- EV5966 Public Policy Tools R2R**
- Subject ran in second semester 2020
 - 8 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online



- EV5968 Tools for Resource Assessment**
- Subject ran in second semester 2020
 - 15 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online



- EV5967 Policy Development and Strategic Planning**
- Subject ran in first semester 2021
 - 7 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online



- EV5969 Protected Area Management**
- Subject ran in first semester 2021
 - 9 students enrolled
 - Subject ran online

Key for Grades.
 HD = High distinction. 85% to 100%
 D = Distinction. 75% to 85%
 C = Credit. 65% to 75%
 P = Pass. 50% to 65%
 X = Fail

Written Results

The Graduate Certificate program.

The Graduate Certificate program ran from Semester 2, 2017 to Semester 1, 2019, with students completing one subject per semester. For subjects that ran in second semester, there was a two week Post Graduate Teaching workshop where all students and the subject staff came together for an intensive teaching workshop which included theory information, field-trips, interactive sessions etc. These Teaching weeks were very successful and a great way to get to know each other and form good relationships. Students that successfully completed the Graduate Certificate Program were eligible to enrol into the Graduate Diploma program.

The Graduate Diploma program.

The Graduate Diploma program ran from Semester 2, 2019 to Semester 1, 2021 with students completing one subject per semester. Unfortunately, during this program travel was not permitted due to the Covid Virus and therefore we could not run the Postgraduate Teaching weeks – which may have had an impact on the results. It is difficult to complete online subjects as students do not have the physical interactions with other students and the teaching staff. Due to Covid, some students were seconded to other positions, which makes study, home life and work very difficult. Many students continued with their subjects through very difficult times and they should be very proud of themselves.



JCU Attendance Graduation Ceremony in Nadi, Fiji (August 2019).