



Solomon Islands International Waters Ridge to Reef Project

By: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management & Meteorology



Final Report 2016-2022

Prepared by: **Sammy Airahui**



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Preface

The Lead Agency for the GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Demonstration Project in the Solomon Islands is the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology. To implement this project, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between MECDM and the Pacific Community (SPC) on August 4th, 2016. At the end of the project implementation, a final project closure report is to be produced as specified in the MOA by the National Project Manager.

This Project Closure Report provide the project summary status after the signing of the MOA until the 1st of March 2022. This report introduces the national GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Solomon Islands demonstration project, project results and achievements, financial summary, implementation progress ratings, and lessons learned. This report also discusses the Summary of the Solomon Islands national demonstration project contributions to the R2R Program Outcomes, project contributions to the GEF Focal Areas, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am extremely grateful and happy about the successful achievements of the project’s goals, outcomes, and specific stress reduction targets. The Solomon Islands will benefit from the numerous reports and look forward to further support in the implementation of the Mataniko Integrated Catchment Management Plan, and most importantly, the Ridge to Reef National Strategic Action Framework.

I commend and sincerely thank GEF, UNDP and SPC for the financial and technical support rendered to the successful implementation of the Solomon Islands IWR2R Project.



Dr. Melchior Mataki

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management & Meteorology

Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEM	Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division
IW	International Waters
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MYCWP	Multi-Year Costed Workplan
R2R	Ridge to Reef
RPCU	Regional Programme Coordination Unit
SPC	The Pacific Community
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNE	United Nations Environment
WFP	Work and Financial Plan

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Basic Project Data

Project Title	Integrating watershed and coastal area management for strengthened water resource protection and coastal hazard reduction in Honiara, Solomon Islands
Project Site/ Location	Mataniko River Catchment, Central Honiara, Solomon Islands
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Programme for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal Water established • Pollution and Nutrient Sources and environmental impact identified and Management Measures Recommended. • Institutional and Civil Society awareness and capacity for action established

Contract Information	Contract number	
	Original Project Duration	January 2017 – December 31, 2019,
	Contract Extension (if applicable)	
	Contracting Party	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM)
	Contracting Party Signatory	MECDM: Dr. Melchior Mataka SPC: Audrey Auma
	Contract Amount (SPC-R2R)	USD 200,000.00
	Counterpart (Agency, Department)	USD 16,120.00
	Counterpart of other partners (e.g., development partners, NGOs, CSO, Academic, etc.)	USD 1,313.54

Executive Summary

This project closure report is account for the GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Programme Solomon Islands National IWR2R demonstration project. This report will provide the record and highlights of the implementation, status and achievements of the national demonstration project that contributes to the regional R2R programme outcomes since the signing of the MOA with Pacific Community (SPC) on August 4th, 2016. However, recruitment have been done in early January 2017 and implementation has been through to September 30th, 2021.

The Solomon Islands national pilot project of the regional R2R IW project had worked to generate local and national support for integrated R2R approaches; establish linkages, synergies, and mechanisms for learning exchange, particularly between and among communities and project stakeholders of the national GEF STAR project, national government agencies, private sectors, and civil society organizations. The Solomon Islands National International Waters Ridge to Reef focuses on 3 components; (1) Monitoring programme for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal water established; (2) Pollution and Nutrient Sources and environmental impact management measures recommended, and (3) Institutional and Civil Society awareness and capacity for action established. Most of the activities under each component have been implemented over the years till its closure on September 30th, 2021, and reports of the activities were shared with all stakeholders and can be accessed on the Pacific Ridge to Reef website or portal.

According to the project's results and achievements, part of the activities was implemented, and most have been on track as planned. The financial output for the reporting period totalled USD \$ US\$180,917, with total spending of USD \$ US\$180,917, and a 100 % utilization rate. The Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) has co-finance this project in kind for a total of USD\$16,120 as implementing agency.

The overall rating for the demonstration project is Highly Satisfactory (HS), such that seven (7) out of eight (8) outcomes were completed, and twenty-two (22) out of twenty-four (24) outputs were completed. Implementation of all 3 components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as "good practice".

Notably, the project experienced delays and COVID-19 which significantly impacted implementation. The project started late after the MOU was signed in 2016 and recruitment was done a year later in 2017. Notwithstanding, the late recruitment, the project implemented all its approved workplan activities, supported by two (2) no-cost extensions. The project was ended on a high note.

Moreover, the Solomon Islands successfully delivered its stress reduction targets of 575 ha catchment protection measures through sustainable land use. Equally, the project also delivered on its secondary stress reduction of 200 ha conserved and protected wetlands through the completion and implementation of the Mataniko Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICM Plan). If fully implemented, it can conserve and protect a much larger catchment and wetlands area of approximately 2,000 ha, which far exceeded the above target of 200 ha.

Through active participation and partnerships created with stakeholders and communities within the Mataniko River Catchment, the national IW R2R demonstration project has contributed to International Waters Focal Objective IW3, Outcome 3.3: IW portfolio capacity and performance enhance from active learning/KM/ experience sharing.

Introduction

The Solomon Islands are an archipelago of approximately 1000 scattered islands that vary considerably in size, physical and hydrologic characteristics. The types of islands range from high volcanic to tiny low coral atolls. The higher islands have river systems whilst low coral atolls have no natural surface water systems and are completely dependent upon rainwater catchments and groundwater. Water resources availability in the Solomon Islands ranges from sizeable rivers to small streams from high mountainous and dense forest islands to rainwater harvesting and thin freshwater lens of underground aquifers of the small low-lying atolls and islets.

Improper development practices such as logging and the traditional slash-and-burn method of farming have gradually destroyed the quality and capacity of rivers and streams, threatening the availability water to many parts of the country. With the increase in population, underground water sources are under threat due to human activities, saltwater intrusion, and sea-level rise.

Governance issues are those of fragmented institutional arrangements that come with fragmented responsibilities with water resources and sanitation funding, development, and management. Given the fragmented responsibilities, coordination continues to be a challenge across sectors.

Additionally, there is an inadequate and outdated governance framework that prevents integration between all sectors for water and sanitation development. However, there are good examples of specific management plans under revised legislation that can be adopted for the WATSAN sector.

In terms of the stakeholder engagement, Solomon Island's national pilot project of the regional R2R IW project will work to: generate local and national support for integrated R2R approaches; establish linkages, synergies and mechanisms for learning exchange, particularly between and among community leaders and project stakeholders of the national GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) projects planned under the broader Ridge to Reef programme; develop local experience in linking IWRM to coastal area management; and stimulate cross-sectoral participation in the planning of coordinated investments in land, forest, water and coastal management in the participating countries. Given the range of stakeholders identified by the GEF IWRM Solomon Islands Project, the preparation phase of the regional R2R IW project in the Solomon Islands has been based on a consultative process involving national government agencies, community representatives, and civil society organizations.

The National Ridge to Reef Project known as the Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Project was implemented under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM). The ministry plays an important role in assisting the Government to provide an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of the Solomon Islands through sustainable use of natural resources, provision of meteorological services, reducing the risk of the impact of climate change and other hazards to communities, and managing disaster preparedness and their consequences.

Situational Analysis, project issues, needs

In the Solomon Islands, there is an increasing demand for water which therefore needs proper management and development. The demand relates to both quality and quantity. For example, in urban areas population has drastically increased over the years with limited expansion in the water supply sector. Lack of effective liquid and solid waste management due to pressure from urban planning and uncontrolled developments is exacerbated by lack of maintenance of sewer infrastructure, no proper sewerage treatment and regulatory compliances result in raw sewerage disposal directly to rivers and coastal areas. Similarly, rural populations have experienced deterioration in freshwater quality due to land-use changes (logging and agricultural practices). Moreover, underground water sources are under threat due to human activities, saltwater intrusion, and sea-level rise. Improper development practices such as logging and the traditional slash-and-burn method of farming have gradually destroyed the capacity and quality of rivers and streams, threatening the availability of water to many parts of the country. Urgent and decisive action must begin now to address water resource management issues in the country. The essential, initial tactic is the alteration of attitudes towards water. Water must be generally acknowledged to be a precious resource that we cannot do without. Water must be the environmental issue at the top of the agenda of governments, institutions, and individuals alike.

The GEF Pacific Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Project has been one of the valuable entry points for strengthening integrated approaches to natural resource management, and as well as been effective in guiding stress reduction in water and sanitation sector, especially provision of safe and reliable water supplies to rural communities and urban centres in the Solomon Islands. However, there was little emphasis on water resource management and infrastructure rehabilitation and developments for water and wastewater services.

Moreover, the above issues have begun to be addressed through the cross-sectoral planning and management initiatives of the GEF Pacific IWRM Project. Needs still exist and have been identified within a GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef context. These include establishing a monitoring programme for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal water; identifying pollution and nutrient sources and environmental impact and; establishing institutional and Civil Society awareness and capacity outreach.

Project Scope, components, and anticipated results

The Solomon Islands national pilot project of the regional R2R IW project will work to generate local and national support for integrated R2R approaches; establish linkages, synergies, and mechanisms for learning exchange, particularly between and among communities and project stakeholders of the national GEF STAR project, national government agencies, private sectors, and civil society organizations.

Key Components	Expected Outputs	Anticipated Outcomes
1. Monitoring programme for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal water established	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sampling methodology, analysis and reporting process identified and established. 2. Baseline assessment of pollution and nutrient loads entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal Water undertaken. 3. Stakeholder consultation conducted and institutional entry points for the State of the Honiara Coastal Waters Reporting Framework identified. 4. State of Honiara Coastal Waters Report disseminated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Honiara Adjacent Coastal Water Sampling methodology, analysis, and reporting process operational. 1.2 Baseline pollution and nutrient loads entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal Water established. 1.3 State of Honiara Coastal Waters reporting framework institutionalized.
2. Pollution and Nutrient Sources and environmental impact management measures recommended	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder consultation to identify sources of Nutrients and environmental impact conducted (see component 1 - SHCW Report output). 2. Coastal environment impact assessment (EIA) conducted. 3. Mataniko Watershed Management Plan available and implemented. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Primary pollution and nutrient sources defined and quantified. 2.2 Impact on the coastal environment assessed. 2.3 Integrated Honiara Coastal Management Plan.
2. Institutional and Civil Society awareness and capacity for action established.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate measures to raise community awareness of waste management issues and mobilise for behavioural change to waste disposal undertaken. 2. Cross-sectoral engagement and participation in national waste management and pollution control activities promoted. 3. Opportunities for PPP in the Tourism sector identified 4. Partnership agreement between the MECDM and the Barana Ecotourism Association forged. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Increased active community awareness of waste management issues and mobilised for behavioural change to waste disposal. 3.2 Enhanced cross-sectoral remediation action through partnerships with government, civil society, and the private sector. 3.3 Environmental and public health safeguarded via targeted reductions in nutrient and pathogen contamination of coastal areas.

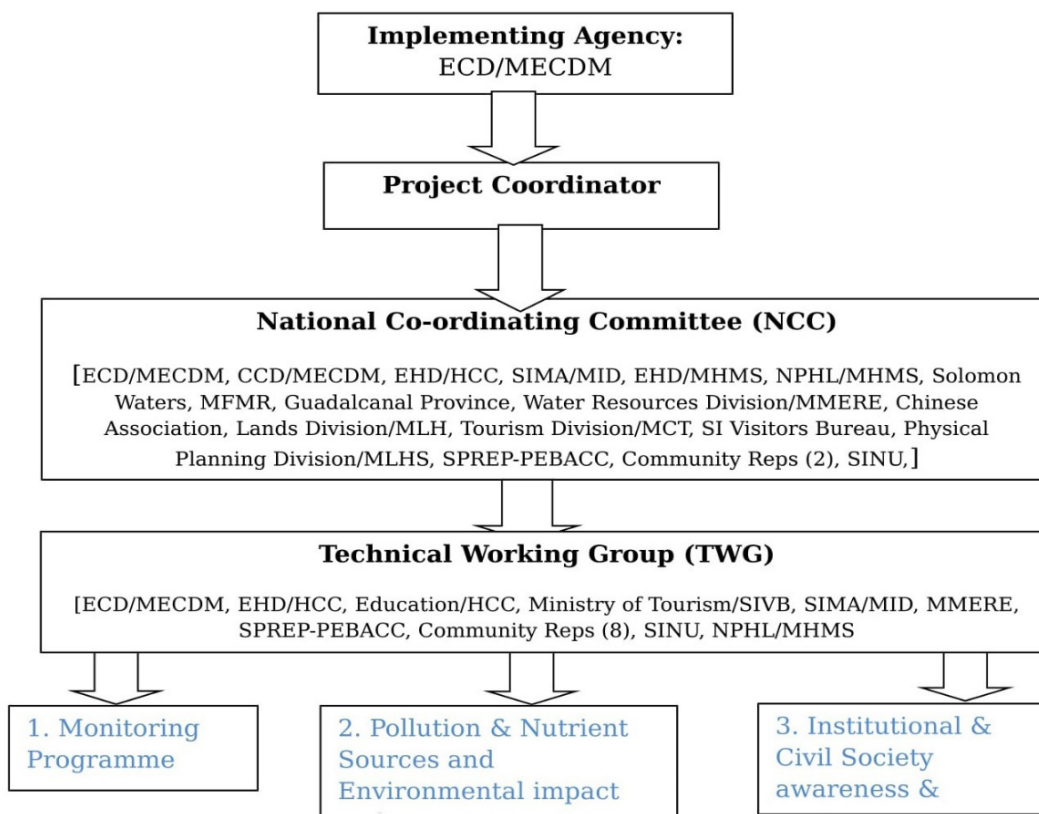
Project Organization and Management

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) has been mandated to coordinate and was the national executing agency for this national GEF Pacific IWR2R project in the Solomon Islands through the country GEF R2R Focal Point, the Under Secretary of MECDM. The vision of MECDM is “A safe, sustainable and resilient environment for the Solomon Islands”. The mission of MECDM is purposely to provide an enabling environment for the safety and socio-economic development of the Solomon Islands through the application of necessary safeguards on:

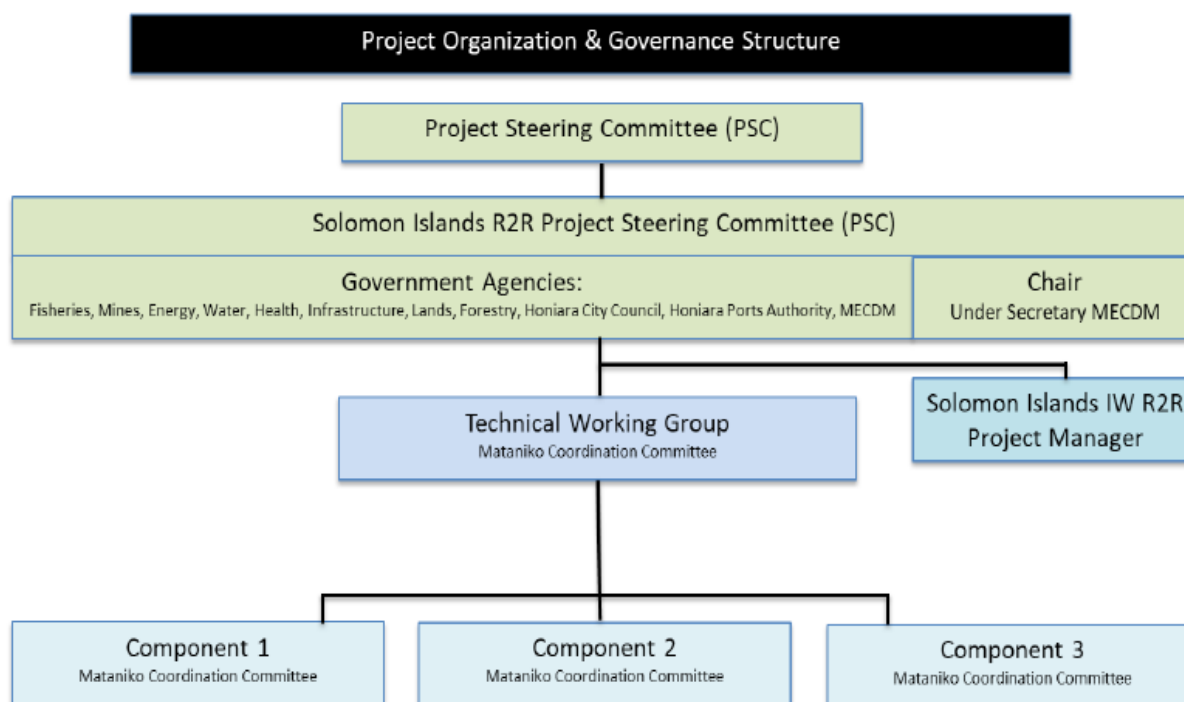
- Sustainable use of natural resources;
- The provision of meteorological services;
- Reducing the risk and impact of climate change and other hazards to communities;
- Leading and managing disaster preparedness and its consequences; and
- Developing and supporting the planning and service delivery functions of the ministry.

A Coordinating body was set up by the previous IWRM Project through Cabinet endorsement in 2012, known as the National Inter-Sectoral Water Coordinating Committee (NIWCC). The NIWCC had a Terms of Reference upon which to establish and work and membership was a representation of government, NGO, and civil society. The NIWCC was the overall steering body that gave advice on policies, plans and legislation and recommend actions related to water, sanitation and the environment, consulting with and advising to government. However, recently, towards the end of 2018 during the first PSC meeting, the national IWR2R demonstration project decided to set up a project steering committee (PSC) that will oversee the management of the national IWR2R demonstration project. The project manager for the national IWR2R acted and provide secretarial service to the PSC which was housed at the MECDM. The diagram or organogram of the NIWCC presented in the MOA and project document and the new structure or diagram of IWR2R PSC are described below:

Previous IWR2R Organisational Framework



Revised Organisational Framework 2018



Project Stakeholders and Engagement

During the 1st Regional Inception workshop held in Nadi, Fiji in October 2016, supervisors, country representatives and appointed project managers were presented with Stakeholder Analysis Toolkit. This toolkit contained most stakeholder engagement strategies, including stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, their impacts on the project, stakeholders' expectations, and issues, as well as analysis.

The national ridge to a reef demonstration project in Solomon Islands stakeholders includes:

- Solomon Islands Water Authority (SIWA)
- Environmental Health Divisions (Honiara City Council & National Public Health Laboratory)
- Water Resources Division (Mines & Energy)
- Environment & Conservation Div. (MECDM)
- Meteorological Services Div. (MECDM)
- Climate Change Div. (MECDM)
- Forestry Resources Management (MF&R)
- Ministry of Land & Housing (ML&H)
- Geological Survey Div. (MMERE)
- Agriculture Research Div. (MAL)
- Women Development Div. (MWYCA)
- Live & Learn Education (SI) NGO
- SI College of Higher Education (SICHE) or Solomon Islands National University (SINU)

During the inception workshop organised by the MECDM through the national R2R IW project in January 2017, after the recruitment of the project manager, most stakeholders mentioned above did not manage to attend, however, there are a handful of stakeholders did show interest in fostering partnership with the IWR2R demonstration project in the Solomon Islands.

Stakeholders	Roles
Environmental Health Division (MHMS)	Support R2R in its implementation
Environmental Health Division (HCC)	Support in implementation and awareness programmes in the catchment area
National Public Health Laboratory (MHMS)	Implementation and facilitation of water quality sampling
WWF SI	Collaborate with R2R in awareness programmes
CEFAS (UK)	Support R2R in implementation, water quality sampling and monitoring within the Mataniko river and the Honiara Coastal
Solomon Water (SW)	Implementation
SPREP/PEBACC	Implementation
Tourism Division (MCT)	Planning and implementation
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau (SIVB)	Implementation
Planning Division (MLHS)	Implementation
Solomon Islands Maritime Administration (SIMA)	Implementation
Forestry Division (MFR)	Implementation
Fisheries Sector (Inshore) (MFMR)	Participate in the facilitation of RAPCA
Water Resource Sector (MMERE)	Implementation
Environment & Conservation Division (MECDM)	Planning, facilitation, and implementation and housed the GEF IWR2R demonstration project
Solomon Islands National University	Implementation
Mataniko River Catchment Community Representatives	Implementation

The R2R Programme's approach to stakeholder engagement is based on the model designed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). The IAP2 model of stakeholder

engagement begins with Inform, consult, involve, collaborate & empower. The level of stakeholder engagement that the demonstration project used includes community consultations, face to face meetings, public meetings, focus groups, facilitated events, presentations, and printed publications. Moreover, different engagement strategies have been useful to target the type of goal achieved from different engagement activities.

Project Results and Achievements

This section covers the outputs and achievements from the start of the project until February 29th, 2022.

The implementation status is indicated as “Complete”, “On track as planned”, “Deviated from plan”, and “Not Completed”. The results are presented following the results logic below.

Component/ Outcomes/ Outputs	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs, and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed or not completed indicate the reason
Component 1	Monitoring Programme for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal (HAC) Water	
Outcome 1.1	Conduct consultation to establish sampling methodology and reporting processes	Completed
Output 1.1.1	Collection and collation of existing sampling methodologies and processes	Complete
Output 1.1.2	Desk review and analysis of existing sampling methodologies and processes to determine possible enhancements	Complete
Output 1.1.3	Present result of the desktop study for validation by the MECDM	Complete
Output 1.1.4	Document experience in the application of the enhanced sampling methodology	Complete
Outcome 1.2	Baseline assessment of pollution and nutrient loads entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal Water conducted	Complete
Output 1.2.1	Collection and desk review of existing literature, survey and assessment reports on the pollution and nutrients loads entering Honiara	Complete
Output 1.2.2	Compile and review data on pollution and nutrient loads entering Honiara	Complete
Output 1.2.3	Conduct survey through observation, interviews, and mapping	Complete
Output 1.2.4	Collect and analyze water samples and conduct ocular observations to determine the extent of solid waste pollution	Complete
Output 1.2.5	Present results of the baseline assessment to the MECDM and also to the appropriate stakeholders	Complete
Component 2	Pollution and Nutrient Sources and environmental impact identified, and management measures recommended	
Outcome 2.1	Prepare a report of primary pollution and nutrient sources and share it with stakeholders in an awareness-raising workshop	Complete
Output 2.1.1	Conduct survey through observation, interviews, and mapping where there is a gap in existing literature/surveys/documents	Complete
Outcome 2.2	Honiara Coastal Environment Baseline Assessment	Complete

Component/ Outcomes/ Outputs	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs, and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed or not completed indicate the reason
Output 2.2.1	Review Terms of Reference for the assessment and advertise	Complete
Output 2.2.2	Recruit, Engage and monitor consultants undertaking the assessment	Complete
Output 2.2.3	Review and vetting the final report of the Honiara coastal Baseline assessment	Complete
Output 2.2.4	Present the Baseline report to the MECDM for approval	Complete
Outcome 2.3	Recruit, engage a consultant to develop the plan (Multi-sectoral Plan)	Complete
Output 2.3.1	Building on component 1 outputs (SHCW), the team of consultants will draft the Mataniko River Integrated Watershed Management Plan	Complete
Output 2.3.2	Organize a workshop to present the draft Mataniko Integrated Watershed Management plan	Complete
Output 2.3.3	Finalization of the Mataniko River Integrated Watershed Management Plan	Complete
Output 2.3.3	Packaging and printing of the Mataniko River Integrated Watershed Management Plan	Complete
Component 3	Institutional and Civil Society awareness and capacity for action are established.	
Outcome 3.1	Undertake community waste management training	Complete
Output 3.1.1	Undertake community clean up campaigns	Complete
Output 3.1.2	Undertake community waste management awareness program	Complete
Outcome 3.2	Opportunities for PPP in the Tourism sector identified	Complete
Output 3.2.1	Conduct consultation to explore opportunities for collaboration	Complete
Output 3.2.3	Draft an Action Plan that would embody the possible activities ensuring responsible ecotourism enterprise	Complete
Outcome 3.3	A partnership agreement between the MECDM and the Mataniko River Catchment /Barana Ecotourism Association forged	Not Completed/Lack of consultation
Output 3.3.1	Draft a memorandum of understanding between the MECDM and the Mataniko River Catchment /Barana Ecotourism association	Not Completed/Lack of consultation
Output 3.3.2	The signing of the MOU	Not Completed/Lack of consultation

Financial Summary

SPC-R2R Financial Contribution

Amount	Total Amount Spent	Utilization Rate ¹ (Percentage)
US\$200,000	US\$180,917	100%

Materialized Co-financing

Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²	Amount ³ (USD)
Solomon Islands Government (MECDM)	In-Kind	17,443.54
Others		

Implementation Progress Ratings

1. Inputs:

- Despite the late transfer of funds or tranches from the regional office, most of the activities were implemented and were carried out throughout the entire time frame of the project. Implementation of consultancy services was also carried out by local experts and local consultancy firms recruit and engage were able to undertake work. COVID-19 impacted the delivery of support services and resources to progress project implementation. For instance, project works requiring technical support from outside the Solomon Islands had to be cancelled due to lockdowns and restrictions of movements.

2. Outputs:

- According to the timing of the implantation, the overall work was done satisfactorily by the project team and the local consultancy team although delays in the completion and submission of a few reports. Several of the project outputs conducted by local consultants took a while to complete, and tremendous efforts were put in by the regional office and national project unit to improve and enhance the quality of the reports and related deliverables.
- 22 out of 24 project outputs were completed satisfactorily (see details in the Annex section).

3. Objectives:

- Most of the outputs have contributed to the project's objectives. The objectives of the project have been achieved at the end of the project in 2021. No doubt there were challenges delivering on project outcomes, and the project opted for alternative strategic and adaptive measures such as using local expertise and the use of virtual platforms to provide technical support online.

¹ Amount spent divided by amount budgeted/planned multiply by 100.

² Grant or In-kind

³ Total cash and monetized in-kind contributions.

- 7 out of 8 outcomes were completed satisfactorily. Also, Solomon Islands IW R2R project stress reduction targets of 575 ha of catchment protection measures, and 200 ha of conserved and protected wetlands were completed satisfactorily (see details in the Annex section).

4. Sustainability of the project results:

- The sustainability of the demonstration project results depends much entirely on the Mid-Term Report (MTR) that was previously undertaken and careful forward planning. The MYCWP has helped a lot in the timely implementation of most activities. Mostly, technical, and financial attention should be given to communities that live in the Mataniko River Catchment. Most of the activities should be given to the Solomon Islands Government for the sustainability of the project. This includes a commitment to mainstream R2R and community to cabinet approaches and implementing the Solomon Islands Strategic Action Framework
- One of the many highlights relates to SPO 3: To synthesize approaches that encourage sustainability of the ecosystem goods and services through green economic assessing and analyzing the changes in supply, provision, or production within the catchment. The project assisted in the development of a watershed trust fund by creating sectoral partnerships with Solomon Water, Barana park committees and other catchment communities within Honiara Basin together with support from MECDM. These actions fostered support to the sustainability of the project after it is closed.

5. Risks/Assumptions/Conditions:

Context	Specify the identified Conditions, Assumptions and Risks	Provide your assessment in this column
Conditions	<p>Full commitment and compliance throughout project implementation.</p> <p>Access and available capacity in-country.</p> <p>Broad uptake and support by communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>The signing of the MOU signifies government commitment to project implementation. However, COVID-19 and capacity challenges impacted progress, which led to delays and watered-down commitments and support from relevant agencies, communities, stakeholders, and partners in the formal and informal sectors.</p>
Assumptions	<p>Sufficient resources and resourcing with partner collaborations to maintain implementation progress at the national and community levels.</p>	<p>Provided the water quality kits and technical support from Government agencies and NGOs to carry out the Honiara Coastal Assessment and Mataniko Watershed Management Plan. With the support from Commonwealth Litter Programme (CLiP) facilitate the action plan for Mataniko River Catchment and by the Ecological Solution Solomon Islands, Pasifika HR Services.</p>
Risks	<p>Limitation of capacity to implementation</p>	<p>There was expertise found in other agencies in the government and private sector that carry out the most implementation</p>

Also, assessing the overall risk factors (internal or external) to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives is rated as "Low Risk.". Use the following scale in rating the risks:

High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Modest Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% of those assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.

6. Overall Implementation Progress Rating

The overall rating of the implementation progress is “Highly Satisfactory” and the basis for this rating is given in the matrix below. e rating, use the following rating definition:

The overall rating for the demonstration project is Highly Satisfactory (HS), such that seven (7) out of eight (8) outcomes were completed, and twenty-two (22) out of twenty-four (24) outputs were completed. Implementation of all 3 components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.

Notably, there were delays which impacted implementation. The project started late after the MOU was signed in 2016 and recruitment was done a year later in 2017. Notwithstanding, the late recruitment, the project implemented all its approved workplan activities, supported by two (2) no-cost extensions. The project was ended on a high note.

Moreover, the Solomon Islands successfully delivered its stress reduction targets of 575 ha catchment protection measures through sustainable land use. Equally, the project also delivered on its secondary stress reduction of 200 ha conserved and protected wetlands through the completion and implementation of the Mataniko Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICM Plan). If fully implemented, it can conserve and protect a much larger catchment and wetlands area of approximately 2,000 ha.

The table below contains the rating definitions for the “Overall Implementation Progress Rating.”

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Project Contributions to the Regional IW R2R Program Outputs and Outcomes

This section provides snapshots of the national project contributions to the Regional Ridge to Reef program components such as:

1. National demonstration to support R2R ICM/IWRM approaches for island resilience and sustainability. Specifically, an account of the status of:

1.1 Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving ICM, IWRM and CCA (linked to the STAR via a larger Pacific R2R network).

Target 1 – catchment protection measures; improved catchment management/ sustainable land use strategy = 575 ha.

Target 2 – conserved and protected wetlands; ICM Plan 200ha.

The Solomon Islands national ridge to reef demonstration project contributed to the regional ridge to reef program via (see details in the National R2R Programme Document):

- Programmatic governance structure - Project Steering Committee was set up to monitor activities of the IW R2R project with IW R2R NPM providing secretarial service
- Sectoral integration & stress reduction target - Water quality monitoring and sampling were designed during the planning workshop and were carried out on a quarterly basis at the sampling sites in the Mataniko River Catchment area.
- Capacity strengthening - 2 staff enrolled in the post-graduate certificate ridge to reef sustainable development and complete their postgraduate certificate at James Cook University
- Partnerships, collaboration & networking - IW R2R established a partnership with Cefas of UK and other national stakeholders in carrying out the water quality sampling along the Mataniko River Catchment. CLiP programme under the UK Government supports the IW R2R project, Mataniko Rehabilitation Project and SPREP/PEBACC project in designing an Action plan for the Mataniko River Catchment
- Community-cabinet approach - Participatory planning through IW R2R provides support in designing Mataniko Watershed Management Plan
- Community awareness & outreach - IW R2R supports communities within the Mataniko River Catchment in clean up campaigns by providing basic resources such as tools to carry out activities through community engagement
- IWR2R Support the Pasifiki HR Services in their consultancy service that undertakes the Honiara Coastal Assessment.
- ICM Planning - IWR2R through ESSI has developed the Mataniko River Catchment Watershed Management Plan

1.2 National Diagnostic analysis for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments.

The Solomon Islands published its first State of Environment Report in 2008, and consultations have been done regarding the second State of Environment Report by SPREP in July 2018. Most of the groundwork such as data collections and literature reviews and national consultations has been done through SPREP support, however, not to duplicate work, it was agreed that RPCU and IW R2R in consultation with stakeholders come up with a framework to design the State of the Coast Report (SoC) that will contribute to the Diagnostic Report. However, SoC was not developed because the Solomon Islands has been involved with the current SOE. With that, the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) was developed by the Telios Corporate Consultancy Service as well as the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) which was accepted by the MECDM and RPCU of SPC.

1.3 Multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks established for strengthened 'community to cabinet' ICM/IWRM.

- The IW R2R project facilitate the active participation of community stakeholders in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of on-the-ground demonstration activities. Existing national coordination mechanisms for IWRM demonstration projects and Mataniko Rehabilitation Project have been effective in guiding stress reduction in the Mataniko River Catchment protection, water and sanitation sector and driving reform of national IW R2R planning.
- Community leaders and representatives from Mataniko River Catchment were involved in workshops to gauge the people's perspective on how they interact with land and water from this important catchment.
- Workshops were also done for national stakeholders who participated and share knowledge and experiences on the ridge to the reef approaches in the Mataniko River Catchment area. Thus, this also includes companies that reside in Honiara that felt that they too were also affected by the river and activities from the Mataniko catchment.

2. Island-based investments in human capital and knowledge to strengthen national and local capacities for R2R ICM/IWRM approaches, incorporating climate change adaptation

1.1 National and local capacity for ICM and IWRM implementation build to enable best practices in integrating land, water, forest and coastal management and climate change adaptation.

- 2 staff were enrolled for the Post-Graduate Certificate on Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development at James Cook University.
- The courses were relevant and aimed at enhancing the capacity to manage the whole ecosystems including best practices in integrated land, water, forest, and coastal management as well as climate change adaptation.
- EV5961- Project Management course addresses project management from a management perspective; including the basic nature of managing projects, the advantages, and disadvantages of project management, the issues of selecting projects, how to initiate them, and operating and controlling the project. This has been one of the IW R2R strategic tools that guide its implementations.

1.2 Incentive structures for retention of local R2R expertise and inter-governmental dialogue on human resource needs for ICM/IWRM initiated.

- 2 staff that enrolled in the Post Graduate Certificate Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development at James Cook University have successfully passed their first 2 courses under the programme namely EV5960-Ecosystem Dynamics and EV5961 – Project Management.
- The Post Graduate Certificate Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development feature articulated entry and exit points, and training course assessment tasks aligned with the delivery of outputs from national projects. The programme is designed not only to increase the relevance of the training programme to local needs but to draw on the academic expertise of the involved educational institutes as a quality assurance mechanism to assist in ensuring that the outputs of national activities are technically and scientifically sound.

3. Mainstreaming of R2R ICM/IWRM approaches into national development planning

1.1 National and regional strategic action frameworks for ICM/IWRM endorsed nationally and regionally

- Although the IWR2R demonstration project has used the existing national coordinating committee to ensure smooth implementation, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) was earmarked in late 2018. Terms of Reference (ToR) have been developed for the PSC for decision making and R2R investment. This includes a review and analysis of existing relevant policies, laws, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, departmental strategic plans, and local/municipal by-laws and regulations.

1.2 Coordinate approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forests and coastal management and climate change adaption

- Efforts to integrate land, water, forest, and coastal management, including climate change adaptation, will in large rely on the effectiveness of the coordination mechanisms established to facilitate cross-sectoral engagement and inter-linkages between national governments, provincial/ local governments, and communities. Therefore, IW R2R share the same committee as the National Mataniko Rehabilitation Project since they operated in the same location. However, with the new project steering committee, the Deputy Secretary Technical of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) and GEF Focal Point have been appointed as chair of the committee and IW R2R NPM as secretariat. This will better enhance the coordination of the project.

Project contributions to the GEF Focal Areas, SDGs including Special Themes

This Chapter provides snapshots of the contribution of the national demonstration project contributions to the GEF Focal Areas such as International Waters, Biodiversity Conservation, Land Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Climate Change Adaptation. Provide response only to the appropriate GEF Focal area/s where your project contributes to. Delete those that are not applicable or relevant.

GEF Focal Areas

1. International Waters

Solomon Islands national demonstration project supports the achievement of GEF focal area -International Waters objectives.

- Through active participation and partnerships created with stakeholders and communities within the Mataniko River Catchment, training in waste management, national coordination committee meetings, workshops and awareness programs carried out, thus, it contributed to International Waters Focal Objective IW3, Outcome 3.3: IW portfolio capacity and performance enhance from active learning/KM/experience sharing.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This section captures the plausible contribution of the national projects to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the Global Goals. The project is expected to contribute to 11 of the 17 SDGs. These are SDG 1 – No poverty, SDG 2 – Zero hunger, SDG 3 – Good health and well-being, SDG 4 – Quality education, SDG 5 – Gender equality, SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation, SDG 12 – Responsible production and consumption, SDG 13 – Climate action, SDG 14 – Life below water, SDG 15 – Life on land, SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals.

SDG	Project contributions
SDG 1 – No poverty	
SDG 2 – Zero hunger	
SDG 3 – Good health and well-being	
SDG 4 – Quality education	
SDG 5 – Gender equality	
SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation	6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials.
SDG 12 – Responsible production and consumption	12.5: Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.
SDG 13 – Climate change	
SDG 14 – Life below water	14.1: Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
SDG 15 – Life on land	
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Special Themes

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is one of the main aspects of the IW R2R in the demonstration site. Solomon Islands demonstration project was fortunate to include gender in its activities. There are equal representatives from men and women of certain age groups, thus, promoting social inclusion. With the increased participation of women and men in the programme activities, it draws on a diversity of skills and knowledge for the project.

Other markers – none

Lessons Learned (Innovations and Catalytic Impacts)

Innovative aspects

Centralising oversight and coordination lead to positive implementation progress

The implementation of the National IW R2R project has benefited the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM). Having the project housed at MECDM enhances coordination and communications, as well as makes it easy for collaborating with other environmental projects administered through the same host agency. MECDM also chairs the Project Steering Committee making it strategically better to centralise oversight and ensure smooth implementation progress.

Support for partnerships to assist in implementing technical aspects of the project – e.g., water quality testing

One of the major interventions was that people become aware of the importance of water quality. On the other hand, training of officers to handle water quality tool kits must be done before deployment to carry out water quality sampling at the demonstration site. On the other hand, the CLiP project of the UK also assists and helps the PMU in handling the flow meter which was very useful in measuring currents that also help in collecting data for the Honiara Coastal Assessment and the Water quality monitoring for the project and the implementing agency. A monitoring manual was developed and that also help the project team to guide them with the guidelines that help them to carry out water quality monitoring effectively.

Programmatic Steering Committee as Project Oversight is an Acceptable Best Practice Promoting Transparency

With the mechanism framework in place, the national project steering committee (NPSC) has been effective after it has been established till the closing of the project on September 30th, 2021. The NPSC has been instrumental in providing feedback, screening applicants for IW R2R consultancy services, reviewing and vetting reports and making important decisions and ensuring the implementation was on time. Collaboration and understanding of the vision for Mataniko River Catchment rehabilitation are important. This requires coordinated efforts of the HCC, MECDM and other development stakeholders within or outside the NPSC. This is important in enforcement, monitoring/inspection, and compliance. Collaboration at all levels is important, highlighting the need for human rights, gender, and social inclusion approaches at the community discussions according to the catchment context and existing systems. The work of the NPSC needs to be guided by government policies, and strategic discussion may be needed on certain practices such as payment of committee members representing both government and private sectors during meetings.

Effective Participation of Stakeholders throughout Project Implementation Prompts Broad-Uptake and Support of Communities and therefore Lead to Successful Outcomes – an important consideration relative to matters of traditions and land-use planning

The national stakeholder's participation in the project was one that enable the national IW R2R project a success. Sharing of knowledge and experiences by national stakeholders including the communities within the Mataniko River Catchment is one important aspect of the ridge to reef approach. This is because the information will be used to better understand the state of ecosystem goods and services in the catchment area, which inform cross-sectoral planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the integration of freshwater and the coastal management from ridge to reef.

In terms of the land use planning process, management issues need to be identified and included, and the issues are stormwater management, sewage management, flood plain management, stream buffer, illicit discharges, infrastructure, public utilities, and detailed hydrology geo-tech assessment and mapping. Regarding land use planning, engaging stakeholders from all sectors and enforcement will become clear with the process of developing or strengthening policies and ordinances to manage expectations for Mataniko River Catchment.

Support for Community Outreach and Awareness Programmes is Central to Broad-Uptake of the Ridge to Reef and Community to Cabinet Approaches – e.g., Municipal Waste Pollution

As mentioned in the IW R2R log frame, Component 3: institutional and civil society awareness and capacity

for action established, most of the public awareness programmes have been done in communities located next to the Mataniko River. It was highlighted that a similar awareness program must be carried out in the upper catchment of Mataniko River since most people who live at the upper catchment have access to limited infrastructure, they are the biggest contributor to unregulated waste disposals into streams that channel to the main Mataniko River. Solid wastes and liquid wastes are eminent and cause pollution to the river and public nuisance. Most wastes in Honiara are mainly commercial wastes, industrial wastes, construction wastes and household wastes in two mediums that are liquid and solid. Sewage systems and liquid wastes from residential and villages along the riverside are not treated and are openly disposed of on the riverbank, shoreline, or waterways. It is time that state Authorities work with supporting agencies to look at facilities to harness clean-up and management of waste in the Mataniko River Catchment. Awareness and discussions on sewage wastes to include all sectors, stakeholders, individuals, and members of the community (including leaders, men, women, youths, and other vulnerable members of communities) to ensure collaborative work on addressing waste management and river clean-ups.

Population Mobility and Growth in Sub-Urban Areas Increase Pressure on Limited Ecosystem Goods and Services of Watershed Catchments like the Mataniko River

Most communities that live in the catchment were aware of the impacts that high flanks of population and migration of people into the Honiara that settle along the catchment has severely impacted the natural environment. The increasing population and its activities have put pressure on the natural environment. It is high time that the national government dialogue with landowning groups and the Guadalcanal Province to impose strict regulations on illegal settlements within the catchment. To plan and address issues associated with rapid increases in subsistence farming, all members of the community should participate in a dialogue.

Catalytic impacts

The inception of the national IW R2R demonstration project occurred in January 2017 and the project closed on September 29th, 2021. It is fair to say that the project impacted the lives of people and the implementing agency along with its partners. The stakeholders and communities residing and benefiting from goods and services of the Mataniko catchment learned a great deal thereby influencing behavioural change and imparting new perspectives in land use management and watershed management.

Technical support and resourcing from international partners like Cefas of the United Kingdom fostered a partnership with the IW R2R project. This resulted in joint efforts to conduct water quality sampling, which also benefits the IWR2R project and the Ministry of Environment through new baseline datasets on water quality. In addition, there was support from the United Kingdom or British Government in supporting the IW R2R with an action plan for Mataniko River and as well as inputs in developing marine litter policy for the Solomon Islands.

The GEF funded IWR2R project supported several technical studies to support achieving the stress reduction targets, the Regional IWR2R project goals and outputs, GEF focal areas, and SDGs including special themes such as gender mainstreaming. These outcomes and reports are available and accessible on the links provided in the Annex section.

Generally, the Honiara Coastal Assessment was carried out by the local Pasifiki HR Consultancy Services has also helped the National Hosting Authority for the SPG 2023 to do the decision making on the report and data. Also, the local consulting entity, Ecological Solution Solomon Islands (ESSI) had helped the ministry is looking at new opportunities to manage the Mataniko River Catchment after the IW R2R project closes. Telios Corporate Consultancy Service develops the Island Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) and the Strategic Action Plan/Framework (SAP/SAF) has given a new direction to the national government through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) to put into action the recommendations and activities in both significant documents.

Annexes

Annexes	Title of the document
Annex 1	National R2R Programme Document https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/Solomon%20Islands_0.pdf
Annex 2	Project Progress Report 2017 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/Project_Progress_Solomon.pdf
Annex 3	Ecosystem Goods and Services Valuation report https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2022-03/EGS_SI_02_Ecosystem%20Goods%20Services%20Solomon%20Island%20%281%29.pdf
Annex 4	Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Island Diagnostic Analysis report https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-12/Solomon%20Islands_IDA.pdf
Annex 5	Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Strategic Action Framework 2021-2026 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-12/Solomon%20Islands%20Ridge%20to%20Reef%20Strategic%20Action%20Framework.pdf
Annex 6	Honiara Coastline Baseline Study – Bathymetry & Hydrology Assessment report https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-11/Solomon_Bathymetry%20and%20Hydrology%20Assessment%20Report.pdf
Annex 7	An assessment of Water Quality and Biodiversity of the Mataniko Catchment, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-11/Solomon_Islands_Mataniko_Water_Quality_Biodiversity_Report.pdf
Annex 8	Mataniko Catchment Integrated Watershed Management Plan https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-10/Mataniko%20Catchment%20%20Integrated%20Watershed%20Management%20Plan.pdf
Annex 9	Honiara Coastal and Marine Assessment report, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-09/Honiara%20Coastal%20and%20Marine%20Biodiversity%20Assessment%20Report_Solomon%20Islands.pdf
Annex 10	Honiara Coastal Environment Impact Assessment, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-09/Honiara%20Coastal%20Environment%20Impact%20Assessment%20Solomon%20islands.pdf
Annex 11	Honiara Coastal Environment Baseline Assessment Technical Report https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-08/Honiara%20Coastal%20Environment%20Baseline%20Assessment.pdf
Annex 12	Multi-hazards and Risk Assessment Report for Mataniko River Catchment in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-08/Solomon%20Islands_Mataniko%20River%20Catchment_Multi%20Hazards%20and%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report.pdf
Annex 13	Rapid Coastal Assessment of Mataniko River Catchment Report, Honiara, Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2021-03/Rapid%20Coastal%20Assessment%20of%20Mataniko%20River%20Catchment%20Report%20Honiara_Web.pdf
Annex 14	Changing Phase - Most Significant Change Poster, IWR2R Project, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/MSC_Poster_Layout_Solomons_IW_3.pdf
Annex 15	Self-Reliant – Most Significant Change Poster, IWR2R Project, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/MSC_Poster_Layout_Solomons_IW_2.pdf

Annex 16	Transformation – Most Significant Change Poster, IWR2R Project, Solomon Islands https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/public/2020-03/MSC_Poster_Layout_Solomons_IW.pdf
Annex 17	Assets Listing and External Transfer Form https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u6lA_ffSP1JSVevhIW2BNpo-9GJcgRIP
Annex 18	Mid-Term Report for Solomon Islands IWR2R Project https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 19	World Water Day report 2018 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 20	Renlau Community Report https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 21	Solomon Islands IWR2R NCC Meeting Record https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 22	Solomon Islands IWR2R Planning Workshop report 2017 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 23	Solomon Islands IWR2R Inception report 2017 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BK2sxTVUBP1FReYdTctG66jold6nBRur
Annex 24	Solomon Islands IWR2R project webpage https://www.pacific-r2r.org/index.php/partners/member-countries/solomon-islands