



Vanuatu International Waters Ridge to Reef Project

By: Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation,
Ministry of Climate Change and Adaptation



Final Report 2018 to 2021

Prepared by: Ericksen Packett
Project Manager



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November 2022

Preface

Vanuatu IW R2R Project is implemented by the division of Biodiversity and Conservation under the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation as the hosting agency within the Ministry of Climate Change, Meteorology, Natural Disaster, Environment and Energy. The Tagabe River Catchment Area (TRCA) is known as the national IW R2R project demonstration site. The project works in close collaboration with the Department of Water Resources as the agency responsible for the management of TRCA through the Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC) as the body responsible for the coordination and responding to any situation or activities that happen with the national demonstration site. Being the authority responsible for overseeing issues occurring in the area, TRMC is also recognised as the project’s supporting committee as well as playing the role of the national steering committee. The committee largely contribute to planning, implementation and thus the overall coordination of the project. The national PM provides secretarial services to the committee. Having such an advantage in coordination lead, project activities are aligned with the TRMC activities ensuring complementary achievement of both project and national priorities.

The Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan was developed as one of the milestones of the project which is covered in component 1 of the project log frame. It was officially endorsed and launched on the 20th of March 2018, World Water Day. The management plan is a national document which the project is obliged to implement its actions during the remaining project time frame. Vanuatu IW R2R is the major implementer of this management plan as it is also incorporated and reflected in the Multi Year-Costed Workplan. Major achievements for the project are the development and implementation of the Tagabe Management Plan, the trialling of the Rapid Assessment of Priority Coastal Area (RAPCA), The Tagabe Clean Up Campaigns, and R2R habitat restoration projects, site Diagnostic Assessment and the development of MYCWP. While implementing the said major achievements some key R2R issues were learned as lessons for the project and thus new approaches were used to address them.

The project has faced certain challenges during the planning and implementation of the project activities. Key ridge-to-reef issues include relevant R2R policy and regulation awareness to the targeted communities. For example, the declaration of MWPZ and the Water Resource Management Act, Environmental Protection and Conservation (EPC) Act, etc. The communities and general public should be aware of the regulations guiding natural resource management and catchment protection. Since the project site is regarded as a peri-urban area and so vulnerable to increase rates of various infrastructures, commercial and industrial developments. The need for ongoing R2R policy and resource management awareness to targeted island communities within the project demo site is important in order to change the communities’ mindset. The project largely involved local communities in the implementation of the project activities as they are the main players in the project, so to ensure the long-term sustainability of the catchment area.

The report indicates important lessons learned and key R2R issues that have been encountered by the project. As such, the R2R project should re-introduce an integrative approach to address these key R2R issues at local and national scales. The R2R project has achieved more than 80% of the project’s expected outcome from 30th December 2017 to 30th September 2021.

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Ms. Donna Kalfatak

Director

Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation

Acronyms

CBO	Community-Based Organisation
DEPC	Department of Environment Protection and Conservation
DoWR	Department of Water Resources
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IA	Implementing Agency
IW	International Waters
MYCW	Multi-Year Costed Workplan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NWRAC	National Water Resource Advisory Committee
PICs	Pacific Island Counties
PM	Project Manager
R2R	Ridge to Reef
RAPCA	Rapid Assessment Priority Coastal Area
RPCU	Regional Project Coordination Unit
SPC	Secretariat for Pacific Community
TRCA	Tagabe River Catchment Area
TRMC	Tagabe River Management Committee
UNELCO	Union Electrique Du Vanuatu
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VIPA	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
WFP	Work and Financial Plan

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Basic Data

Provide the basic information of the Project. Such as:

Project Title	Vanuatu International Waters Ridge to Reef Project
Project Site/ Location	Tagabe River Catchment Area, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Project Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the coordination in support of the development and implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan. 2. Strengthen the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan to strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management. 3. Establish partnership for sustainable coastal area development.

Contract Information	Contract number	MoA 16/298.
	Original Project Duration	2018 to 2021
	Contract Extension (if applicable)	<p>Actual Project Duration from June 2016- December 2019.</p> <p>1st No cost-extension from 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2021.</p> <p>2nd No cost-extension from 1st of July to 30th September (2021).</p> <p>3rd No cost-extension from 1st October to 30th December (2021).</p>
	Contracting Party	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC)
	Contracting Party Signatory	<p>Trinison Tari (former Acting Director)</p> <p>Donna Kalfatak (Current Director - DEPC)</p>
	Contract Amount (SPC-R2R)	USD 200,000
	Counterpart (Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation)	USD 1,158.12
	Counterpart of other partners (e.g. development partners, NGOs, CSO, Academe, etc.)	<p>USD 3,569.74</p> <p>In Kind Contribution can be charged as time</p>



Executive Summary

The Vanuatu International Waters Ridge-to-Reef (IW R2R) Project is part of the Regional IW R2R child project of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme. The UNDP is GEF's implementing agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Secretariat (SPC), is the executing agency. The Vanuatu IW R2R demonstration project is hosted by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. Whilst the focus is delivering on the Regional IW R2R project goals and outcomes, as well, environmental priorities of Vanuatu, it was agreed that the National IW R2R demonstration concentrated on achieving its environmental stress reduction targets under three major components:

- i. Strengthening the coordination in support of the development and implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan;
- ii. Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan to strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management; and
- iii. Establish a partnership for sustainable coastal area development.

The project unit prepared a logframe outlining key components, outcomes, outputs and activities, along with specific timelines and risks or assumptions. The project initially aimed to achieve its targets over three years, along with several no-cost extensions to complete implementation. The three components have links with the Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan 2017-2030. The management plan has eight objectives, and the IW R2R Vanuatu Project assisted in its implementation. The objectives and related activities of the management plan are relevant to component 1 of the national project framework and MYCWP. The TRMC is the implementing committee for the Management plan.

According to the national project logframe and the management plan, the restoration of the Tagabe River Catchment Area (TRCA) is a priority. These restoration initiatives are part of the overall GEF reduction/benefits which the project recognised to implement as 'Habitat Restoration'. The national project components are linked to the overall component 1 of the Pacific R2R Program and seek to contribute to satisfying the regional components 2, 3, 4, and 5.

As previously reported throughout project implementation, the TRMC and external stakeholders participated and delivered on certain outputs and outcomes of both the national demonstration, which ultimately contributed to the Regional IW R2R project's targets. These activities are:

- i. Development of Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan;
- ii. Implementation of Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan;
- iii. Rehabilitation of Tagabe River Buffer Areas;
- iv. Rehabilitation of Blacksand Coastal Area;
- v. Rehabilitation of Tagabe Catchment- MWPZ1;
- vi. Endorsement of revised Declaration of Matnakara Water Protection Zones;
- vii. Knowledge Awareness and Communication Program;
- viii. Conduction of the RAPCA;
- ix. Conduct Vanuatu R2R Spatial Prioritization Model; and
- x. Conduct Site Diagnostic Assessment.

Accordingly, and as presented in this report, the project successfully achieved its outcomes, outputs and targets. However, during implementation, challenges and limitations emerged causing significant delays due to limited country experts as well as the financial constraints. This includes the COVID-19 pandemic, capacity limitation and commitment and support from oversight. The details are explained in this report. The total project fund used for such project activities, including financial support to TRMC and project administration related commitments was around US\$160,000, and with a balance of US\$40,000 un-utilized.

Despite project allocated funds not fully utilized, the IW R2R Project Vanuatu achieved its major outcomes and targets. There were several project activities and outputs not delivered. Generally, the project assisted in improving the governance system for TRMC through the development and implementation of the Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan 2016-2030. Major highlight also includes the rehabilitation of MWPZs, Tagabe River and Blacks and Coast by core leading in the development of restoration projects. In pursuit of sustainable and effective catchment management, the project has significantly contributed to the improvement of water quality through consistent monitoring and compliance of TRCA regarding existing MWPs regulations and the national legislative framework for development.

In conclusion, the overall project performance can be assessed as "satisfactory" against the overall objectives. For any ecosystem-based adaption such as this, project success is evaluated against its sustainability and therefore requires dedicated engagement from all levels and across the board covering the private sectors, NGOs, CBOs and FBOs.

Introduction

The Vanuatu IW R2R demonstration is part of the Regional IW R2R 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”*. The Regional IW R2R is one of the fifteen (15) child projects of the GEF Pacific Ridge-to-Reef Program implemented fourteen (14) PICs. The Regional IW R2R project emphasizes the context of the close interconnectedness between terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems identifying water as a vector that connects all.

The purpose of the Regional IW R2R child project is to test the mainstreaming of the *“ridge-to-reef”*, climate resilient approaches to integrated land, water, forest, and coastal management in the PICs through strategic planning, capacity building and piloted local actions to sustain livelihoods and preserve ecosystem services. The Regional IW R2R project comprises five (5) components from which component 1 is the result of IW R2R demonstrated at the national level in 14 PICs.

Vanuatu IW R2R demonstration Project forms part of the Regional IW R2R child project and with UNDP as the implementing agency and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) as the executing agency. In Vanuatu, the IW R2R project is hosted by the Ministry of Climate Change, Meteorology, Natural Disaster, Environment and Energy, through the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC). The project is also assisted by partners in other government institutions dealing with natural resources such as the Department of Forest, Department of Water Resources and Department of Lands in which the project closely worked to implement its activities.

Moreover, the Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC) is a supportive committee of the project and provides an oversight role. It is the only committee that is established by the National Water Resources Management Act of 2002, and its main function is to manage situations or activities happening in the project demonstration site i.e., the Tagabe River Catchment Area. The committee represents members from all government and non-government organizations that are natural resources sectors but most significantly water resources, forest management, and agriculture as the national implementing agency for the project.

TRMC represents key stakeholders for the Vanuatu IW R2R Project in the planning, implementation, as well as coordination phases of the project. In 2018 the national Project Manager, developed a Multi-Year Costed Work Plan (MYCWP) as requested by the RPCU setting timely project activities as responses to project components. This way it helps the national project team and relevant stakeholders to be able to achieve intended outputs and outcomes for IW R2R Vanuatu. On a similar note, the MYCWP incorporates objectives and activities outlined in the Tagabe River Catchment R2R Management Plan. The MYCWP included the project stakeholders, the finance resource allocations, and the timeframes of each planned activity.

Since the GEF Stress reduction initiative for Vanuatu IW R2R Project is ‘Habitat Restoration’, the project predominantly focused on restoration activities. For instance, the outcomes listed in components 1 and 2 of the log frame are:

- i. To rehabilitate buffer/riparian areas of Tagabe River; and
- ii. To establish a National Botanical Garden for Tourism, conservation of Environmental resources and educational purposes.

Component 1 of the project ‘Strengthening the coordination in support of the development and implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan’. This national document resembles strategic planning and response toward the coordination of activities and developments arising within the catchment area. TRMC is the main implementer from which the R2R national project manager is the secretariat to this committee.

In conclusion, the project is formally implemented and guided by a signed MoA between SPC and DEPC. The initial project duration ends on December 31st, 2019, but it extended three (3) times to allow proper completion of project activities. The last no-cost extension ended on the 30th of November 2021. During the implementation phase, the project executed all its activities in accordance with its MYCP approved by the TRMC.

Situational Analysis, project issues, needs

The Vanuatu IW R2R Project started implementation following a signed Memorandum of Agreement between SPC and the Vanuatu government through DEPC, which was signed on 14th April 2016. A national inception workshop did not happen until 8th of December 2016, which follows the regional project inception workshop that took place in October 2016. The national project recruited its Project Manager on the 16th of December 2016 and full project implementation began in 2017.

In 2017, the Honourable Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr Ralph Regenvanu requested the development of the TRCMP to guide the implementation of the TRCA activities. Subsequently, the project implementation started off with the development and completion of the TRCMP 2016-2030 and the re-gazetting of the Declaration of the Matnakara Water Protection Zones CAP 119 of 2017. The project also assisted with maintaining compliance and monitoring of the designated WPZs.

The focus of the TRCMP was reflected within component 1 of the R2R Project. With much effort and contributions from partners and stakeholders, the project was able to launch the management plan on 20th March 2018. The IWR2R project maintains its major contribution both technically and financially.

TRMC's functions were enhanced to be formally designated as the National Steering Board for the IW R2R Project. The committee was not functioning well from 2017 to 2019 due to certain circumstances. However, following certain institutional changes and reforms, which include secretarial support from IWR2R Project, the Committee was able to perform its functions properly. Systematically such institutional arrangements allow collaboration and partnership in the planning, coordination and implementation of project activities wherefore seeing a gradual increase in progress.

In pursuant to regional activity, the RAPCA was conducted in July 2018 while the spatial prioritization for TRCA and Vanuatu assessment convened in early November 2019. These undertakings correspond to the requirement of the R2R regional science to the policy framework, which was approved at the 4th RSTC convene in Nadi, Fiji. A brief diagnostic analysis was also conducted at the Tagabe demonstration site, with the aim to use the results to progress national diagnostic analysis work.

The project encountered several challenges and issues during implementation, which covers coordination and administrative matters. Details are highlighted below.

i. Financial challenges/concerns

The usual dilemma faced by the project every quarter of a year relates to handling and processing cash advance requests. The rule is such that an advance is only possible when 80% of the funds from the previous cash request have been used. Whilst this rule may serve its purpose, the problem remains in the timely transfer of funds to national level agencies to support project implementation and avoid instances of frequent interruptions to operations due to the unavailability of funds.

Accordingly, once a request is submitted to RPCU in Suva, SPC then considers and if satisfied with the criteria, approves (or rejects) the request, and processes its transfer. Often the process is lengthy in both regional and national transfer logistics. The project experienced complications and lengthy processes to work on advance requests, which in most cases, delayed implementation. Sometimes, advance requests are declined several times if certain criteria are not met.

At the national level, the process of acquiring and transmitting funds often takes more than two (2) weeks, ensuring due process is followed on the criteria and steps allowed under domestic and SPC procurement protocols. If approved, the funds are deposited to the project account within DOFT before payment vouchers can be committed. Funds are accessible from local purchase orders (LPO) and Accountable Impress in meeting expenditures required for project activities will take at least another week. On some occasions, delays in cash advances may be caused by the late submission of acquittals and other financial documents. Therefore, the issues highlighted here are the major concerns encountered that consequently delayed project implementation.

ii. Recruitment of New Project Manager

As per MoA between DEPC and SPC, the project manager was recruited eight months post-commencement of the project. The late recruitment of the manager influences the delay in project implementation, thereby slowing down all activities. Nonetheless, a new project manager was recruited in early March of 2018. There was no clear vision from the annual workplan for 2018 to work against apart from the national log frame. SPC then recruited the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor in 2018 that helped with the creation of the Multi-Year Costed Work plan (MYCWP) for the project, which helped the new national project manager prepare and submitted an MYCWP for review and finalisation. This process took a while to complete. The MYCWP clearly outlines the major project activities in line with the sub-activities. It is an essential planning tool for the project implementation itself. The MYCWP was later approved by consent of RPCU on the 24th of September 2018 and implemented in 2019.

iii. Lack of Human Resources/Expertise in Countries

Vanuatu lacks the technical capacity to support IW R2R project implementation. There is a need for national human expertise in the country from both stakeholders and those who needed to be contracted to perform a particular aspect of major activities. Vanuatu IW R2R focuses more on habitat restoration and therefore expected technical experts in this area to support implementation. Often such experts especially in forestry and botany are limited in the time allocated to perform a specific task for the project. Even if time is set right the delays in the financial transactions will shift the allocated time of such activities and thus the project activities implementation delays due to unavailability of expertise.

iv. 'Community to Cabinet' Engagement

The IWR2R project has established inter-agency partnerships and members of the Technical Committee gathering interest and priorities from a wider technical audience. For example, the IWR2R is part of the Tagabe River Restoration Project (TRRP) with both government departments, regional project partners and local CBOs and NGOs as members in restoring riparian areas of the Tagabe River. Participation and engagement levels are generally inconsistent whether in stages of planning or implementation. A similar scenario is illustrated at the community level whereby engagement is defined as weak. While the IW R2R project provides coordinated progress and success through capacity strengthening and training, its impact on sustainably engaging broader communities remains an issue.

Project Scope, components and anticipated results

Linking this with the situational analysis section of this report, provide a summary of the decisions leading to the identification of the various measures – key components, expected outputs – that plausibly contribute to the anticipated outcomes. The log frame would be an important basis for this chapter which needs to be attached as an annex to this report. The multi-year work and financial plan is an important annex to illustrate how the measures identified in the log frame are transformed into operational terms.

Using the table below, enumerate the key components and anticipated outcomes.

Key Components	Expected Outputs	Anticipated Outcomes
1. Strengthening the coordination in the development and implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan.	1.1.1 Management committee capacity is built, and the state of water quality is improved	1.1 Enhanced performance and accountability of the Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC)
	1.2.1 Riparian vegetation restored to sustain Tagabe River and Water Source, and thus water quality of Tagabe River is improved.	1.2 Replication of Best Practices & Lessons Learned from IWRM Sarakata Catchment Demo Project
	1.3.1 Identify and analyze stakeholder as well as engaged and maintain stakeholder partnership for sustainable catchment management.	1.3 Improved inter-agency partnership in sustainable catchment management.
2. Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Tagabe River Catchment R2R management plan to strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management	2.1.1 PM & E developed ensuring monitoring and evaluation of the Tagabe River Catchment R2R Management Plan.	2.1 Improved data collection for the implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan.
	2.2.1 Participatory engagement with Local community, private business and government agency in sustainable practices and monitoring of Tagabe Lower Catchment and Upper Catchment	2.2 Increasing local community, business and government agency capacity for environmental monitoring of Tagabe River Catchment Area.
	2.3.1 PM&E plan and Tagabe Catchment plan endorsed and launched.	2.3 Endorsed PM&E Plan for catchment management for replication to other STAR R2R coastal areas.
3. Establishing partnerships for sustainable coastal area development	3.1.1 Botanical Garden Revived to suit original design in Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan.	3.1 A multi-sectoral partnership that should revive the Existing Botanical Garden providing environmental and educational benefits to the Tagabe River Catchment
	3.2.1 Tagabe River/surface water meets national standards to sustain the livelihood purposes of Tagabe communities.	3.2 Community to local government partnerships for sustainable land and surface water use preserving livelihood.
	3.3.1 Coastal ecosystems are preserved and effectively managed.	3.3 Public-private partnerships for coastal area use preserving ecosystem services and community resilience.

Project Organization and Management

The Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation hereby known as the leading national agency for the IW R2R project in Vanuatu and thus oversees the decision making for all project activities that is incorporated with the MYCWP and even as far as to addressing natural resource management complexities. As such, the consent of DEPC by approval of Director and the national Nation Project Manager to perform works related to the management of Tagabe River Catchment Area, responding strategically and providing inputs in planning and executing of project activities. As the leading agency, DEPC at its very best ensure the MYCWP is in consistent with the DEPC's annual business plans. Thus, the MYCWP reflects project activities which are relevantly dispersed to all divisions of the department. Each division is hereby known as the responsible implementing agency. In short, the DEPC business plan incorporates the MOCCA corporate plan which is then aligned toward achieving the objectives and targets of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2017-2030 (Peoples Plan).

Apart from the Tagabe River Management Committee (TRMC) as NPSC, a coordinating board is responsible for continuous support on the significant basis of technical expertise and advisory assistance to the Vanuatu IW R2R Project. The TRMC is a committee set by the DOWR to fulfil the provision of Water the Resource Management Affords the Management of Tagabe Water Catchment Area which is known as the national project demonstration site. Through joint initiatives and working collaboration with the project, an example to demonstrate is the establishment and revised Declaration of the Matnakara Water Protection Zones. The revised declaration has been gazetted fostering the development of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan. TRMC solely is the sole developer of the management plan which is portrayed in component 1 of the national log frame.

The project is also a member of the TRRP a technical group core-established by the SPREP PIPACC Project and the IWR2R project chaired by the Department of Forestry (DOF) with the PEPBACC project performing the secretarial role. Such a working group is established with the purpose to restore the Tagabe River riparian areas with livelihood trees, providing not only provisional services to riverside residents but also improving water quality. R2R project contributes significantly to financial resources and technical support. This governance structure holistically attracts and maintained a coordinated partnership for a particular purpose. A major contribution to the habitat restoration projects defines as a stress reduction target for the R2R project.

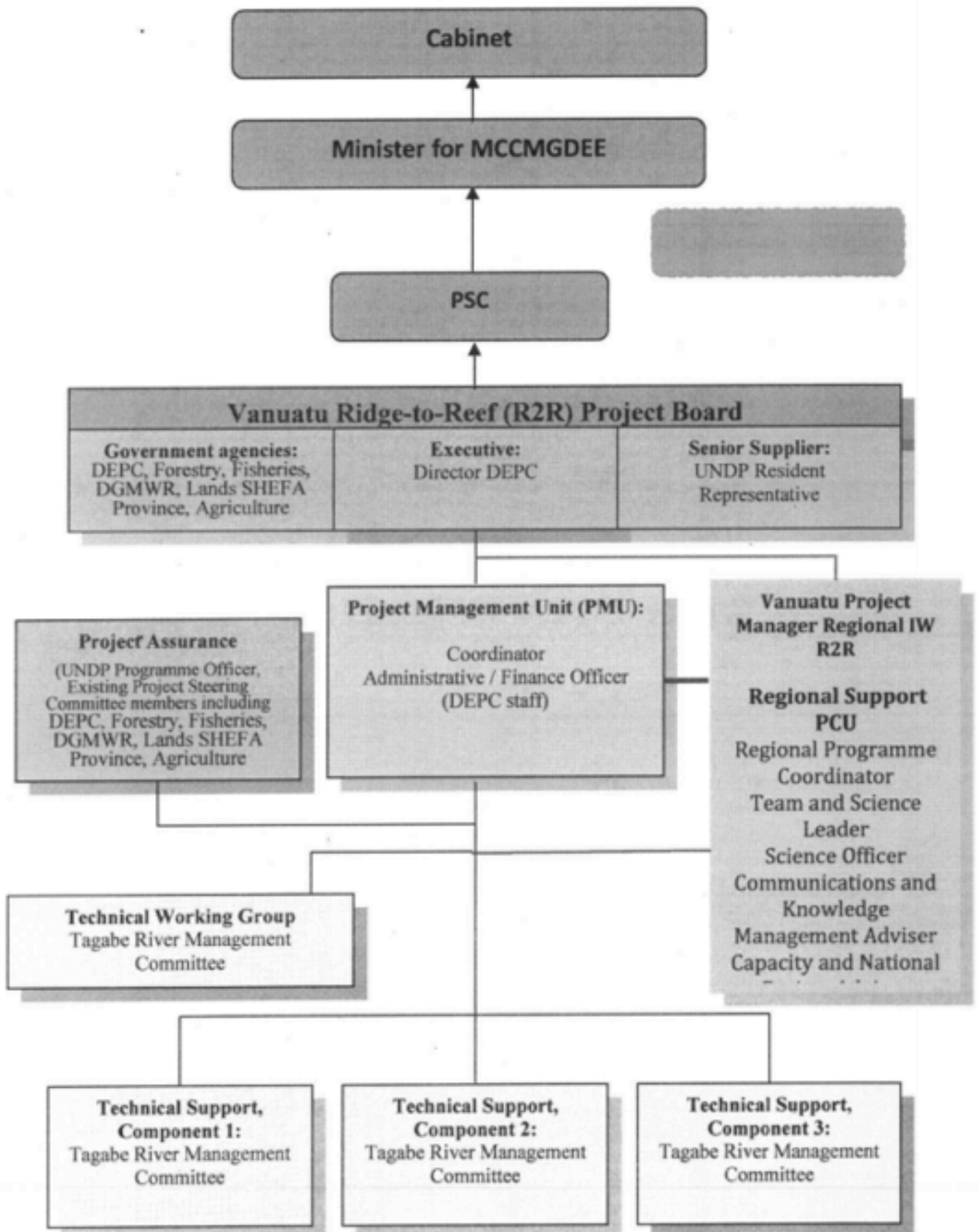


Figure 1. Governance structure of the IW R2R project

Project Stakeholders and Engagement

Stakeholders	Analysis	Process of 'Identification'	Importance of their participation	Strategies of Engagement
Department of Geology, Mines Water Resources	The project demonstration site is the Tagabe River Catchment Area which is the only source of portable water supply for the entire Port Vila town and nearby resident. DoWR is the leading government agency responsible for the welfare of the catchment as well as to any activities projecting within demo site.	As government legal authorities over the Tagabe River Catchment Area, it is crucial enough to include them as one of the main key stakeholders.	DoWR has much influence over the catchment, therefore the importance are as follows; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Setting up the TRMC, under Water Resource Management Act of which DoWR is the chairman of the committee. A supporting committee to the project. 2. Responds to whatever situation is regarded to depict the health of the Catchment and the existing Tagabe River by management measures and the influence legislations, monitoring, and penalizing offenders not consistent with relevant legislation 3. DATA/Information sharing in terms of water quality test results of both ground and surface water. 4. DoWR also chairs the NWRAC from which R2R PM represents TRMC to update on the works of the project and TRMC. Issues/ concerns raised. 5. Its Inputs should be essential to the MYCWP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings 4. Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationship, re parties and kava sessions.
Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	The DEPC as the leading national implementing agencies for Vanuatu IW R2R Project.	Since DEPC is the leading national agency for IW R2R, it is in fare likeliness to at first identify DEPC as a major stakeholder.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Influences and inputs to the MYCWP. 2. Takes into consideration project MYCWP, re incorporated into DEPC Business Plan. 3. Oversees the project works and implementation at national level. 4. All divisions under DEPC are key implementers of the activity's relatedness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings 4. Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationships, re parties and kava sessions.

Stakeholders	Analysis	Process of 'Identification'	Importance of their participation	Strategies of Engagement
Department of Forestry	Vanuatu IW R2R Project is specified on GEF Stress Reduction Initiative/benefits on 'Habitat Restoration'. Wherefore DOF should be regarded as a stakeholder.	DOF has the relevant government dept. that been engaging in rehabilitation practices not only at the demo site but elsewhere. Thus, have encountered lessons on and challenges overseeing the successful restoration effort.	The project largely focuses on the habitat restoration and the implementation of the Tagabe Management Plan, DOF as a stakeholder is important in various ways of technical advisors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forestry Expertise 2. Establishing a functional nursery house for the wildlings/seedlings 3. Establishing the Botanical Garden and the restoration of Tagabe River riparian areas. 4. Collection of native, endemic and threatened species in the wild. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings 4. Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationships, re parties and kava sessions.
Department of Tourism	The establishment of the botanical garden should meet the tourism sector for the purpose of generating income. The Tourism Dept. should be a key stakeholder during the implementation of such activity ensuring that the botanical garden meets the criteria and attributes for a successful outcome.	An alternative purpose of the purposes of the botanical garden is to generate income through tourism purposes. Thus, identifying tourism dept. at this point to involve them in the design and processing of the botanical garden.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategies in the design of the botanical garden 2. Options to generate money as means of sustainable financing from such tourism initiatives that should meet the standards of the tourism sector in Port Vila. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings
Shefa Provincial Municipal Council	The provincial government is a stakeholder from which Tagabe has an area under its governance. Their involvement fosters knowledge and awareness among the island communities and chiefs at a grass-root level.	Tagabe Area, which is also the project demonstration, is under the Shefa Province Jurisdiction, re an Area Council. Thus, they have been involved in all projects and work actively at the ground level.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abide by the existing communication mechanism in place for the follow of the knowledge from a cabinet level to the communities re the area council and the area secretary. 2. Ensure work at the community level is of the consent of representative groups in the community. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings

Stakeholders	Analysis	Process of 'Identification'	Importance of their participation	Strategies of Engagement
Vanuatu Services Engie	Towards the monitoring of surface water quality of Tagabe River apart from DoWR, Vanuatu services Engie, a contracted company by the UNELCO to do water quality testing. It has been consistent with monitoring and data collection. Thus, such data is useful to the project in terms of PM &E to be developed.	Due to the consistent in data collection of both ground and surface water of Tagabe Catchment and the access to relatively baseline information of the river. It is significant from the beginning in the inception workshop to identify them as stakeholders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessing water quality results/ data. 2. Advice on ways/actions that will contribute to the improvement of water in meeting national standards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings
Wan Smol Bag	An NGO located within the boundaries of the demo site and has been proactively engaging the community in environmental, social and educational programs with the island communities. Wherefore, with their experiences and the fate of the communities, they are highly recommended as one the project stakeholders.	Through their WASH Project and many of the community engagement programs with the residing river communities but also located within the project demo site. This NGO has gained experience in dealing with communities, therefore, identifying them as other project stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their advice on the project especially on ground activities at the community level. 2. Since they are located at the actual demo site, monitoring and reporting of unfriendly environmental activities can be communicated to the authorities concerned. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings. 4. Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationships, re parties and kava sessions.
Pacific Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Climate Change Project (PEBACC Vanuatu)	The PEBACC Vanuatu through SPREP will be engaging communities of the Black sand area in Tagabe Reforestation under this initiative. And will restore riparian areas along Tagabe Rive. To avoid duplication of work, PEBACC is regarded as a major stakeholder in this specific restoration activity.	Tagabe Re-vegetation Initiative by PEBACC Vanuatu has been communicated to the DEPC. The PM considers such projects to be collaborative implementers of such restoration activities. Thus, PEBACC Vanuatu is noticed as a key implementing agency with R2R, and TRMC for such works.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restore Tagabe River riparian areas. 2. Technical expertise/advice on ecosystem dynamics and complexities which is beneficial. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings.

Stakeholders	Analysis	Process of 'Identification'	Importance of their participation	Strategies of Engagement
Ifira Marine Management (IMM)	<p>This Community Based Organization is a branching body from the Ifira Area Council that seeks to protect the marine/reef resources along coastal water of Port Vila and Mele Bay. This includes coastal waters of Black sand re Demo site. Therefore, they also play a crucial role as native landowners.</p>			
SPREP- Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience (PACRES) Project	<p>SPREP PACRES Project is ecosystem-based adaptation project planned to pilot at the exact demonstration site along IWR2R Project Vanuatu. The PACRES Project began active in late 2020 by revising the current Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan (TRMP)</p>	<p>SPC IWR2R Vanuatu Project and the SPREP PACRES Project share a project site and therefore PACRES Project prefers to resume R2R activities eventually when the project lapse. Therefore, essential to include them as key stakeholders in the project.</p>	<p>The project plans to proceed with R2R activities: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resume R2R rehabilitation efforts and expand into MWPZ 1 and 2. 2. Revised the existing TRCMP developed by IWR2R into the Integrated Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan (ITRCMP) 3. Partake and take lead on the ongoing knowledge advocacy program and awareness. 4. Provide knowledge and human capacity on climate change and disaster risk resilience at the community level. 5. Supports the implementation of TRCMP- (Gazette of Buffer Areas of Tagabe Area) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one consultation/meetings 4. Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationships, re parties and kava sessions.

Stakeholders	Analysis	Process of 'Identification'	Importance of their participation	Strategies of Engagement
Unelco (Private Utility Regulator)	Functions under the concession agreement to extract and distribute water supply from TRCA to its users.	Has been the major stakeholder for the TRMC/NPSC providing technical and financial support.	<p>Since the appropriation of MWPZs in 2016, Unelco has played major infrastructural role in securing Port Vila's only source of portable water supply.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct Fences around MWPZ1. 2. Maintain Water Quality Monitoring. 3. Ensure compliance around water protection zones. 4. Effective representation in TRMC meeting. 5. Providing technical support to TRMC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal Committee Meetings 2. Field works 3. One-to-one 4. consultation/meetings <p>Informal sessions to strengthen stakeholder relationship, re parties and kava sessions.</p>

The strategies of stakeholder engagement outlay on the table above resembles the ways in which stakeholders have been analysed, engaged, and approaches of engagement and their specific roles of project implementation. Communication between stakeholders predominantly takes places before any activities are initiated, at this point planning and execution of specified work. Strategies outline as per table is usual to planning phases for any activities from which either all stakeholders are involved or just several of them. As such, not only beneficial for planning purposes of project activities but also for its implementation and the overall coordination of the project. Therefore, as follows,

Formal Committee Meeting

With TRMC, the committee member represents many of the stakeholders identified above. It is beneficial in such a way that the stakeholders could stress their interests and values towards the specified tasks and identify challenges that may arise during its implementation. Points of interest addressed may not only come from relevant stakeholders who are the key implementing agencies but also from other parties that broaden the influence in terms of decision-making time, external partnership, resources and others. Such an engagement strategy has greater significance in the sustainability of the project works not only during the project duration but also after the project expires. This is again achievable when all project stakeholders speak “similar language” and implement the activities at their best to gain their values and interests.

Field Works

The fieldwork participation with stakeholders strengthens bonds between stakeholders and also outside parties such as CBOs and the community at large who may become handy in such tasks or other future works. For example, the Maro Landscaping Botanical Garden kindly assisted by supporting the TRRP with coastal tree species to restore the Tagabe River Estuary.

In the field, formalities become less expressive in such a setting, thus communication and knowledge sharing are expressed freely. This has enhanced our management/ engagement approach as we better visualise and rethink strategic responses. This was seen to be beneficial by adding more practical sense to what was discussed formally indoors through meetings and related forums.

In order to support the effective enhancement of knowledge in communities, it's crucially important in displaying close collaboration between partners with the target audience. Group discussion and training provide a good starting point to educate and train stakeholders in technical methods and gears used in the field.

Engagement Methods

This method of engaging is essential and more appropriately easier where only one stakeholder is consulted. In this case, the Project Manager leads project coordination and implementation in-country. Therefore, with the host agency oversight and that of the Steering Committee, all project matters are expected to be channelled through the PMU. This method proved less time consuming and reduced time tracking along of project activities considering minor project activities which should be represented by few relevant stakeholders, other government institutions, civil societies or consulting entities.

The lesson learned relates to the importance and responsibility of the Project Manager to make an accurate and independent decision that ensures all stakeholders' values of the proposed work are addressed. Therefore, such strategies are recommended to capture in depth concerns of stakeholders ensuring no future conflict disturbances but also allow the project manager to take decisive decisions to ensure all parties have a common saying in all tasked related activities. This is however applicable for stakeholders and partner meetings.

Informal engagement methods are also powerful tools to use to engage stakeholders. For instance, basic dialogue and *taloa* around kava bowl and similar traditional gatherings often prompted opportunities to engage a wider audience and generate good outcomes. Shyness and unable to speak publicly in community meetings are usual features in PICs, and therefore informal settings or outdoor activities are often conducive to sharing ideas informally. A Project Manager is expected to lead by example initiating and facilitating these informal interactions encouraging fair contributions from everyone on certain issues that assist the project achieves its targets.

The TRM or NPSC meets regularly in accordance with dates and agendas prepared by the PMU. The discussion is often technical with a specific focus on going through outcomes of implementation and making decisions on challenges encountered, plus considering and approving costed work plans. Sometimes the Committee provides high-level advocacy relative to the project's outreach programmes and contributions to national days like water days.

Gender mainstreaming

Mainstreaming gender is another important aspect of the project apart from stakeholder engagement strategies. At the community and cabinet level, project stakeholders portray equal based representation and participation in achieving social inclusion while also promising a sustainable implementation, outputs and outcomes of project activities. Inspired by theory and practices piloted in multiple sites in the PICs and which are contextualized to Vanuatu, there are still challenges left especially in different vulnerable age groups of females and males in the community.

In the planning state of any specific tasks, stakeholders' representation of different organisations are usually adult men, and the minority are ladies and youths. As a common practice that is part of the Melanesian culture having men dominate the discussion, putting maximum priority on their contribution to be recognised. Ladies usually remain silent and do not voice their concerns to observe such traditional boundaries. Similarly, the youths still retain the idealism of such cultural barriers restricting their courage and confidence to allegedly place their point of view into discussion. These are similar issues that not only involve planning at project board/steering committees but also at the high cost of practices at the level of the communities.

Vanuatu IW R2R project has executed activities alongside youth girls and adult women who are the proactive mover of such works, for example, the Tagabe Clean-Up Campaign. In the official intuitions and boundaries of government and non-government organisations where cultural barriers are breached, the women took on a specific role of leading in coordination and implementation. At the community level, ground/ field works promote the participation of women which is yet to be recognised due to strong customs and cultural movements. Therefore, in this way, it will affect the overall project implementation.

Engaging targeted communities' participation in project initiatives reflects the participation of women, men, children, and young girls. Youth boys often are unwilling to participate in community activities otherwise a promising reward is priced for their engagement. The impacts of gender mainstreaming will again lead to the notion of 'Sustainability'. Project activities must be implemented with and extended in capturing viewpoints of every impacted gender grouping are incorporated. That should be the compass to not only long-term sustainability but also to the criteria of the works that have been utilised directly in the project implementing phases. Therefore, Vanuatu IW R2R focuses on the equitable participation of all age groups in both gender groups.

Project Results and Achievements

The results can best be presented following the results logic.

Component/ Outputs/ Activities	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed - Not Completed
Component 1	Strengthening the coordination in support of the development and implementation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan	
Output 1	Management committee capacity is built and state of water quality is improved	
Activity 1.1.1	Develop the Tagabe River Management Plan	Completed
Activity 1.1.2	TRMC Site Visitation	Completed
Activity 1.1.2.1	Site Inspection	Completed
Activity 1.1.4	Incorporation and awareness of Matnakara Water Protection Zones (MWPZs) and Tagabe River Catchment Area (TRCA) into Dept. of Land, Land Management Committee, Port Vila Municipal Council and Shefa Province, Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries, Industries, Tourism and VIPA	Completed
Activity 1.1.3	Major Printing of Tagabe River Management Plan	Completed
Activity 1.1.4	Awareness of Matnakara Water Protection Zones	Completed
Activity 1.1.5	Developing and Implementation of Tagabe River Buffer Zones. (Also consider 1.1.5.2-1.1.5.5)	Not Complete- Due to stakeholders' collaboration and underlying issues with land titles around Tagabe River.
Activity 1.1.6	Billboards for TRMC, DEPC and MWPZ for national upscaling of IW R2R	Not completed- Due to the lack of response from DEPC and discussion made forth by TRMC as not an effective way for the public to be aware. Which may lead only to the vandalism of these billboards by vulnerable communities.
Activity 1.1.7	Implement activities in the Tagabe River Management Plan, holding regular TRMC meetings and stakeholder workshops.	Completed as per timely project activity contributions
Output 2.1	Riparian vegetation was restored to sustain the Tagabe River and Water Source (water protection zone 1 and 2), and thus water quality of Tagabe River is improved. 2570 hectares restored	Completed- However, a proper mapping was not made.
Activity 1.1	Identify and Map out degraded areas within the catchment and riparian area for rehabilitation. Replant seedlings (for zone 1)	Completed

Component/ Outputs/ Activities	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed - Not Completed
Activity .1.2	Purchasing for materials, equipment's necessary for seedlings/wildlings collection, nursery building and maintenance (also consider 1.2.1 & 1.2.2)	Completed
Activity .1.3	Vanuatu Forest Association (VFA) contracted for seedling/wildlings collection.	Completed
Activity .1.4	Tagabe youth group contracted for potting in poly bags	Completed
Activity .1.5	Maintenance of seedlings in the Nursery	Completed- As per project duration lapses.
Activity 1.6	Purchasing of plants and trees for rehabilitation	Completed
Activity 1.7	Transplanting of seedlings/wildings into the prioritized target area	Completed- As per project duration lapses.
Activity 1.8	Maintenance of transplanted seedlings/ wildings	Completed- As per project duration lapses.
Output 3.1	Identify stakeholders as well as engage and maintain stakeholder partnerships.	Completed
Activity 1.1	Regular meetings (individual/group) with probable onsite projects and stakeholders to identify priority areas to address, as well as planning and execution of joint activities	Complete
Activity 1.2	Reef Survey at Black sand i.e., Masipe Reef. (Substrate, Invertebrates and Fish Diversity Assessment) by Dept. of Fisheries	Complete
Component 2	Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Tagabe Catchment R2R strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management	
Output 1	PM & E Planned developed ensuring monitoring and evaluation of the Tagabe River Catchment R2R Management Plan	Not Completed
Activity 1.1	Developing and implementing PM&E for Tagabe Catchment R2R Management Plan	Not Completed
Activity 1.1.1	Hiring local consultant in drafting a PM&E	Not Completed
Activity 1.1.2	Reviewing of the Tagabe Catchment R2R PM&E by national steering committee (TRMC)	Not Completed
Activity 1.1.3	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of Tagabe Management Plan	Not Completed
Activity 1.2	Quarterly monitoring indicators within R2R Management Plan for demo site	Completed
Activity 1.2.1	Ground and surface water quality monitoring by DoWR and Unelco	Completed
Activity 1.2.2	Coastal Water Quality Test and Monitoring at Black sand Coastal Area	Completed
Activity 1.2.3	Invasive Species assessment	Completed
Activity 1.3	Conduct freshwater flora and fauna assessment in Tagabe River	In complete-

Component/ Outputs/ Activities	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed - Not Completed
Component 2	Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) of the Tagabe Catchment R2R strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management	
Output 2		
Activity 1.1	Workshop/training on biological freshwater flora and fauna indicators of water quality in Tagabe River.	Not complete
Activity 1.2	Monitoring and Compliance of Tagabe River Area Catchment i.e. both lower catchment and upper catchment (MWPZ).	Complete
Component 2	Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) of the Tagabe Catchment R2R strengthen the enabling environment for coastal area management	
Output 3	Tagabe Catchment R2R PM&E agreed to and endorsed by local and national government heads and incorporated into National STAR Project.	Not Complete
Activity 1.1	Reviewing of the Tagabe Catchment R2R PM&E by national steering committee (TRMC)	Not Complete
Activity 1.2	Approval by the TRMC	Not Complete
Activity 1.3	Incorporated into National STAR Project	Not Complete
Component 3	Establishing partnerships for sustainable coastal area development	
Output 1	To Revive the existing botanical in preserving Vanuatu's floral biodiversity and operation as a seed source for endemic, native and endangered species for environmental and education purposes. 30 hectares establishing the national botanical garden	Completed
Activity 1.1	Assessment of current botanical site within MWPZ 2	Not Complete
Activity 1.2	Liaise with Director of Forestry Dept. to revive the existing Botanical Garden	Not Complete
Activity 1.2.1	Extract information/inventory of the existing flora species in the area	Not Complete
Activity 1.2.2	National Steering Committee to liaise with DEPC and Forestry for the domestic collection of plants.	Not Complete
Activity 1.3	Building and maintenance of nursery house to accommodate at least a combination of 5000 seedlings and wildlings	Completed
Activity 1.4	Collection of wildlings and seedlings from community conservation areas (CCA) around the country	Completed
Activity 1.5	Contract community youth groups for potting	Completed

Component/ Outputs/ Activities	Indicate the appropriate name of the component, the desired outputs and activities	Indicate the Status of implementation (choose from the following: - Completed - Not Completed
Activity 1.6	Rearing of seedlings/wildings in nursery	Completed
Activity 1.7	Purchasing of Plants	Completed
Activity 1.8	Transplanting of seedlings/wildings on selected sites	Completed
Activity 1.9	Maintenance of transplanted seedlings	Completed
Component 3	Establishing partnerships for sustainable coastal area development	
Output 2	Tagabe River/surface water meets national standards to sustain livelihood purposes of Tagabe communities	
Activity 1.1.1	Conduct community quarterly cleaning up campaigns along Tagabe Rive	Completed
Activity 1.1.2	Establish recycle cage and other community initiative programs	Completed
Activity 1.2	Eradication of Invasive Species (Water Lily) along Tagabe River	Completed
Activity 1.3	Eradication of Invasive Species in Tagabe River and Zone 1	Completed
Component 3	Establishing partnerships for sustainable coastal area development	
Output 3	Coastal ecosystems are preserved and effectively managed	
Activity 1.1	Strengthening the monitoring station at Black sand with close collaboration with Ifira Marine Management (IMM) for Monitoring, Surveillance and Compliance (MSC)	Completed
Activity 1.2	Removal of Invasive Species in coastal and marine e.g., crown of thorns	Completed

Financial Summary

SPC-R2R Financial Contribution

Total Amount Planned	Total Amount Spent	Utilization Rate ¹ (in Percentage)
2017 USD 40,554.56	USD 27,154.36	67%
2018 USD 47,156.46	USD 214,817.61	45%
2019 USD 47,156.46	USD 41,403.46	93%
2020 USD 47,156.46	USD 26,131.18	59%
2021 USD 47,156.46	USD 32,883.84	79%

Materialized Co-financing

Status of the contributions of the Partner Organization/s (e.g., Agency, department, etc.), and other stakeholders. Both cash and monetized in-kind contributions should be reported.

Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²	Amount ³ (USD)
Department of Environmental Protection and Conversation (DEPC)	In-kind (Time)	1,158.116
Department of Water Resources	In-kind (Time)	404.26
Department of Forest	In-kind (Time)	404.26
Vanuatu Fisheries Department	In-kind (Time)	320.66
Ministry of Lands	In-kind (Time)	404.26
Department of Lands and Survey	In-kind (Time)	404.26
UNELCO	In-kind (Time)	404.26
Vanuatu Services Engies	In-kind (Time)	404.26
Ifira Marine Management (IMM)	In-kind (Time)	301.81
Wan Smol Bag	In-kind (Time)	56.57
SPREP_ Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Climate Change, Vanuatu.	Cash	471.56

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

² Grant or In-kind

³ Total cash and monetized in-kind contributions.

Implementation Progress Ratings

- 1. Inputs:** To what extent have the planned inputs been supplied? Based on your financial plan, provide an assessment of whether the planned inputs (such as technical and/or policy advice, and financial contributions) as indicated in the approved project document have/have been timely and sufficiently delivered. Provide 2-3 sentences describing the input delivery.

Many of the project activities and inputs have been well recognised and supported by relevant stakeholders overlooking the necessary planning, coordination, and implementation. For much was achieved in terms of technical, policy and financial over the project lifetime. Yet with regards to timeframe, the collaborative inputs comprehensively captured within the MYCWP are supplied inconsistently. Note that apart from the original MOA signed between the DEPC and SPC has recently been enhanced to grant at least 3 no-cost extensions. Within such period, the project sets out strategic inputs, while also conducting reviews whereby serve as amendments while allowing the project towards fulfilling its outputs and objectives.

Further on that note, new activities are formulated and amended upon a review conducted by the project management to deliver specific objectives for the project. Funding allocation and technical support remain consistent despite ad-hoc changes to the implementation time-frame in the rightful consent of stakeholders, project board endorsement and the RPCU for approval.

- 2. Outputs:** To what extent have the planned outputs been produced? An assessment of the degree to which the envisaged outputs have been produced and whether the quality and timing were satisfactory. Provide 2-3 sentences describing the status of planned outputs.

Overall, in complementary to inputs, the project outputs are precisely infringed upon the notion of inter-agency collaboration, efficiency, and effectivity in its execution. Since 2018, the output has received a high peak in its delivery until the final year (2021) of its implementation which entirely can be rated as "Satisfactory" with an overall 80% rating. Though the project has anonymously quality output, the timing however is inconsistent in accord with the MYCWP even because of multiple no-cost extensions and parallel impacts of COVI-19 within the region.

Objectives: To what extent have the outputs contributed to the achievements of the project objectives? If not achieved, what is/are the reason/s for non-achievements and how this can be remedied? Provide 2-3 sentences describing the status of whether the objectives will be achieved or not. If not, what do you recommend as remedial measures?

For the activities that have been achieved, the outputs have not fully satisfied the project objectives. For component, objectives 1.1, 1.2. And 1.3 are satisfactorily achieved, even so for component 3, objectives 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. Unfortunately, objectives of component 2; objectives 2.1, 2.2. And 2.3 are not achieved. Compared to components 1 and 3, delivering component 2 objectives requires additional and precise technical expertise which the project lacks in-country to support the technical science lead team at RPCU in developing and implementing the R2R science-policy framework and deliver on outcomes and stress reduction targets.

- 3. Sustainability** of the project results: To what extent will the intended results of the activity be sustainable? What are the sustainability elements (such as technical, policy, financial, etc.) that have been considered? Provide 2-3 sentences describing your efforts of securing and sustaining the project results.

Sustainability in project activities is required and it is a major attribute in all projected activities. The recognition of sustainability in enlisted activities should be regarded as moderate. Though the project through the TRMC and NPSC is actively involved in and has influence decisions making process, the key to achieving maximum sustainability should be through continuous stakeholder engagement from both cabinet and community levels.

- 4. Risks/Assumptions/Conditions:** To what extent were the previously identified conditions, assumptions and accompanying risks been addressed? Indicate whether the original risks and assumptions are still valid and whether the conditions are compiled and/or dealt with?

Context	Specify the identified Conditions, Assumptions and Risks	Provide your assessment in this column
Conditions	Financial Transaction	80% of the funds has to be utilized then a next cash advance request is requested. The delays is usually experienced nationally, whereby domestic procedures are lengthy and caused significantly delay. Few occasion we encountered lengthy delay has funds need to travel lengthy route before settling down in-country.
Assumptions	Delay of the Transmitted funds	Usually the delay of requested funds can extend to 2-3 weeks. This is not only because of the lengthy route of transaction but also the different institution consulted with in order for the funds to be retrievable and be utilized. Due to such cost the changes of delay will increase.
Risks	Delays Implementation	Such delay of funds transaction also delays time-frame and schedules of activities. With this, stakeholders will readjust their availability of which sometimes it is not always possible to find available time to undertake their scheduled tasks. Thus, results in shifting project activities and delaying project activities implementation.
Conditions	In-country expertise	The need of in-country expertise to perform specified project activities that delineates to their areas of expertise. Vanuatu has limited expertise especially in forestry re Botanist that is very needed for the major habitat restoration activities of the project.
Assumptions	Limited expertise in areas of forestry re Botanist	Department of forestry is a major stakeholder for the project. Yet we lack expertise within the areas of botanist to be able to greatly assist the project in its habitat restoration initiatives. In times of busy schedule such officer may not be available especially if activity schedules are shift now and then.
Risks	Delay major habitat restoration initiatives	Unavailability of forestry experts has been seen to delay major restoration initiatives. Such risk is still as is and can be remediated if there is concise planning and regular communications with PMU and the experts.

Also, assess the overall risk factors (internal or external) to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. 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% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5. Overall Implementation Progress Rating

Provide an overall rating of the implementation progress. Also, provide (in 1-2 sentences) the basis of your rating. For the rating, use the following rating definition:

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 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.

Based on the review analysis conducted on the MYCWP in specific to targets, activity status, outputs achieved, we have graded the national R2R project to a level satisfactory in its implementation. Yet the efforts to maintain the sustainability of the project may not guarantee a total achievement of project outcomes in the long-term.



Summary of the Project Contributions to the R2R Program Outcomes

Summary of the Project Contributions to the R2R Program Outcomes

This Chapter 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 larger Pacific R2R network).

The identified innovations should lead to a reduction of stresses and improved catchment management.

Restoring Tagabe River Catchment Area for Improved Catchment Management

Vanuatu IWR2R Project is obligated to fulfil “30 ha established and planted with rare endemic and 5,598 ha of buffer area re-vegetated along Tagabe River”. In the form of habitat restoration as its stress reduction initiative, the project developed lead-up programs to achieve these targets:

1. Jointly establishing the Tagabe River Restoration Project (TRRP).

A series of events began in early 2018 with the development of the technical working group called the TRRP Committee. Upon the tremendous efforts from partners and stakeholders, multiple rehabilitation exercises have been conducted with the residing communities from 2019 to the year 2021. The committee also provides knowledge and educational awareness to the communities regarding the significance of rehabilitation while maintaining the protection and conservation of the Tagabe River to improve livelihood standards for river residents.

2. Tagabe Catchment Restoration Project (TCRP).

TCRP is a specific programme designed to achieve the 30 ha buffer areas target. The project is solely implemented by IWR2R Project with technical assistance from DEPC and DOF. Major activity resumed in 2019 resulting in the nursery house construction and followed by inter and intra Island tree collection. Actual rehabilitation activities convene in late 2019 until presently claiming only 2570 ha.

Through TRMC the Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan was developed, and implementation commenced in 2018. The IWR2R Project position has greatly influenced the catchment management plan while also gaining recognition as the major successor implementer. Therefore, ensure the incorporation of habitat restoration and rehabilitation targets into TRMC interests.

The habitat restoration initiatives do not only rehabilitate the catchment but prolong as one of the innovative measures and approaches are taken to improve the management. To address IWRM and by promoting and achieving quality of the TRCA ground and surface water towards the meeting of the national standards. Apart from this essential approach, there are few others that the project has achieved in contribution to ICA, IWRM, and CCA

- I. Restoring Black sand Coastal Areas.
- II. Quarterly cleaning up campaigns along Tagabe River.
- III. Revised Declaration of Matnakara Water Protection Zones, regulation order No. 118 of 2017.
- IV. Monitoring and inspection of TRCA.
- V. Invasive Species Eradication Exercise along Tagabe River.

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

Indicate the status of the conduct of diagnostic analysis for priority coastal areas establishing the environmental state and socio-cultural information.

The diagnostic analysis has already started for Vanuatu, however encountering many difficulties in its progress wherefore resulted in a significant delay. There are two (2) components of the diagnostic analysis; 1) Site Diagnostic; 2) State of the Coast (SOC) Island Diagnostic Report. So far only the site diagnostic has been conducted for the national pilot demo site.

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

Provide information on how the local leaders and local government engage/participate in multi-stakeholder dialogue and roundtable networks.

Formal meetings were held every quarter of the year. This is usually done at the cabinet level for example the TRMC meetings as well as the NWRAC. Local leaders at the community level are regarded as major players and the gaining of ownership should be theirs for sustainability purposes. Communication and engagement are however termed to be weak and have no clear communication structure and decision-making mechanisms to represent communities' voices at the sectoral level.

The Shefa Provincial Government has its networking systems in area councils through the supervision of area council administrators and area secretaries. Project partners have been utilising such mechanisms to involve community participation in project activities. The existing network is weak and needs strengthening, however, the project cannot duplicate the works of any relevant authorities. Changes are effective to strengthen and ensure coordination, the transmission of information, and decisions makings from governing group of stakeholders through the provincial government right to the community level addressing the local leaders.

Further, the multi-stakeholder roundtables whereby the project is represented include the NWRAC and TRMC as well as technical working groups. Participation of local leaders is hereby represented by the local government that in many cases is the Area Ward Administrator and Ward Secretary to NWRAC and TRMC. Technical working groups for instance also directly respond while also representing the community's concerns to the two (2) governing authorities. Often, local NGOs like WSB and IMM are CSOs at the table community agenda at the proceeding of TRMC and NWRAC.

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.

Provide information about the post-graduate training course and account of how it contributes to the enhancement of R2R ICM/IWRM management capacities.

The project management course offered in the first semester Of 2018, has increased my capacity and management skills for the management of this project. This can be categorised into designing, planning, and executing as well as stakeholder analysis/engagement. Such a course is vital to drawing up a project proposal and understanding how the design will entirely contribute to the set of outputs drawn for a specific project. In terms of planning, activities should be of logical order and sequenced according to the resources available. Towards achieving success of the project, Risks and Assumptions are also considered at such stages. The course has very much revived my management skills to better manage this project.

Ridge to Ridge tools, another course which was undertaken in the last semester of 2018 has enthused my ability to utilize various tools to collect information that should be regarded as relevant to decision making. Such a course is a core subject towards the achievement of the project objectives, especially in the field of science for the purpose of data collection in such ways as: -

- Robust sampling designs
- Effective data collection
- Mapping
- Professional decision making

Therefore, this course is very much helpful specially to do fieldwork. It is relevant enough to conduct a site assessment for the Environmental Management Plan that will be conducted for the purpose of habitat restorations.

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

In relation to 2.1 and the other capacity building activities conducted by this project, provide an account of whether national human capacities in R2R have improved.

Vanuatu pilot project also promotes capacity building initiatives especially at the community level to enhance knowledge and strengthen while improving the community's capability in nature-based solutions and resilience. Highlighted international and national environmental events include World Water Day, International Day of Forest, National Forestry Week, and National Tree Planting Day provide opportunities for the project to host and commemorate such occasions with the communities. At these events, communities are presented with awareness from relevant sectors and stakeholders followed by practical tree planting activities and clean-up campaigns.

For the past 3 consecutive years, it has become accustomed for the project to celebrate these events with residing communities within the demonstration site. The project strongly believes in the "Theory

to Practical" approach with its community engagement programs to change mindset and perspective to the environment to gain ownership and promote sustainability which is awarded in the joint capacity programs.

The project is also involved in the TRMC quarterly meetings, providing support to TRMC as Secretariat promotes human resource assistance in the planning and implementation of works. In terms of financial assistance, IW R2R Project funds the development and the implementation of Tagabe River Catchment R2R Management Plan 2017-2030. This management plan is a national document that also links to other national resources priorities and strategies that should intertwine to achieve the certain target of the National Sustainable Development Plan (People's Plan). Thus, should the midst emphasis on the activities the project contributes to capacity buildings for R2R expertise.

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

Provide information about the functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, particularly the implementation of agreements and strategic action framework on land, water, forests and coastal management, including the use of the 'State of the Coasts/ Islands' reports as a basis for decision making and R2R investments.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee represented as TRMC, functions as the overall committee that coordinates and regulates all the activities within TRCA. This committee also responsible for the development of the Tagabe River Catchment Management (2017-2030) also incorporates and links to other national strategies, policies and recruits are, and thus, not limited to: -

1. Vanuatu National Water Policy (2017-20130) Priorities 1.1, "Water Safety and Security". An actionable item is to enforce water protection and buffer zones. The revised declaration of MTWPZ reflects such an actionable agenda and the development of Tagabe River Buffer zones (yet to be achieved). Additionally, Priority area 1.3 "Water Services Compliance" which the project is currently putting up a compliance team from all relevant natural resource sectors to perform quarterly monitoring and inspection of TRCA.
2. Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2008-2-18, Objective 4: Available water resources and catchment known, managed, and protected, and objectives: all water quality monitored and maintained to meet agreed standards.
3. Vanuatu Agriculture Sectors Policy, Policy No. 8 "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development" Applying environmental considerations such as buffer zones and wildlife in all agriculture practices and the consideration of endemic species in all agricultural practices. This will be entitled to the establishment of a buffer zone along the Tagabe River under the national botanical garden. The project will also ensure the promotion of sustainable practices in farming as part of its contribution to such policy.
4. Vanuatu National Forest Policy (2013-2030). Objective 1, "Sustainable Forest Management *Subsection D: Watersheds and Soil*. Objective 3, Forest Conservation and Environment *subsection H&I*. Similarly, Objectives 4, Climate Change *subsection J* as well as Objective 5, and Objective 6 deals with awareness and training.
5. Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016-2030. Such as P.O 2.3: Protect vulnerable forests, watersheds, catchments and freshwater resources, including community water sources. P.O 2.1: Promote Sustainable resource management and ensure compliance with and implementation of national policies and laws.

Even in the absence of the SOC as the basis for R2R investment and decision making, the project relies mainly on the national policies, plans and strategies to guide its implementations. Planning instruments are formulated against the national log frame and are driven by national interests while gaining overall expertise and opinions from RPCU provided technical personnel. The function of the inter-ministerial committee is to facilitate stakeholder's contributions to implement in accordance

with the provision of National Acts, for example, the Water Resource Management Act No.9 of 2000 and other relevant national instruments. Documents of specific value such as the IDA, SOC and SAP are of great significant contributions in providing tremendous support adjacent to R2R investment and policy reformation in the country.

Furthermore, the inter-ministerial committee has not yet seen to implement any regional strategic action framework on land, water, forests and coastal management. The trailing of the Rapid Assessment of Priority Coastal Areas (RAPCA) along with the Vanuatu Spatial Prioritization Model for R2R Investment are yet needed to inform the SOC for specification R2R contribution in decision-making processes

However, the NPM has developed an "implementation plan from the overall management plan furthers to detail the major activities, sub activities for the years 2019-2021 to ensure a coordinated approach, implementation and activities arising within the TRCA. As per component 1 of the log frame, the project must develop and implement the management plan. The projected activities noticed in the management plan were clearly defined to be incorporated into the MYCWP for Vanuatu IW R2R Project. Furthermore, such work plans were also incorporated into DEPC Business Plan for 2019 which will be reviewed at such a date set.

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

In support of the regional component No. 4, the national project has pledged support as follows: -

1. Prepare and submit to RPCU an annual costed communication plan in support of the R2R programme delivery at the national level.

The knowledge and communication plan seeks to upscale Vanuatu IW R2R to a higher profile. But also, to ensure communication and knowledge transfer dispersed to the correct audience whether to communities or formal institutions at the government level.

2. Attending the GEF 9th Biennial International Water Conferences in Morocco.
In preparation for the conference as a requirement, a GEF IW Experience Note was developed and was also submitted to RPCU. This experience note captures the lessons learned, approaches and measures taken and the achievements that the project has achieved.

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

Provide a description of the networks of national R2R inter-ministerial committees and their linkage and coordination with existing and other IWRM committees. Indicate whether the coordination has improved and whether the improvement is attributable to the national project interventions or activities.

The National R2R inter-ministerial committees have a direct link to the National Waters Resource Advisory Committee (NWRAC). The NWRAC advises the inter-ministerial committee base on the outcomes of its meetings' decisions. There is minor improvement attributed to the project since the NWRAC only advises and does not coordinate. Thus, minor changes have been considered and have impacted the project and its activities from the advice provided.

In addition, the TRMC groups all the stakeholders together to ensure well-coordinated partnership in project implementation as well as activities conducted by members or developers within TRCA. This event is more crucial in the consideration of project sustainability, whereby new projects from the government are arising. While remaining as the paramount governing institution, by membership representation project activities are streamlined into new projects and proposals.

The TRMC also has links to the TRRP committee and periodically provides support to TRMC in terms of advice and priority actions needed to be taken at the community level. This technical working group is a medium mechanism between governing authorised group and the communities. Information, decision-making process, and concerns are effectively channelled through these technical experts comprising of government, NGOs, CSO, and private stakeholders.

Summary of the project contributions to the GEF Focal Areas, SDGs including Special Themes

This Chapter provides the snapshots on the contribution of the national demonstration projects contributes 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

Describe the project contribution towards achieving collaborative management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. The aim here is to illustrate how the project contributes to eliminating or reducing threats to international waters through catalysed multi-state cooperation to address concerns of transboundary water systems with a special impact on conjunctive management of fresh and groundwater resources, rebuilding marine fish stocks and protecting coastal habitats. Based on your national demonstration projects, make an inference, and ascertain the link between the measures for reducing stress and nutrient pollution to the rivers and coastal ecosystems, improved catchment planning and management, etc.

The TRCA is the only source of potable water supply for the entire Port Vila population and nearby extended areas. Its location is now during rapid infrastructures, commercial, industrial as well as residential developments. With most likeliness of increased vulnerability and threats portrayed by such rapid scale of developments. The project through TRMC and its key stakeholders has taken collaborative management measures and approaches to ensure safe and secure water for its users.

- a. Revised Declaration of Matnakara Water Protection Zones – Adhering to the Water Resources Management Act of 2003, Section 26 that was gazetted by the State Law office through the advice from the Director of Water Resources and officially signed by the Minister of the responsible for the ministry of Lands and Water Resources declaring Matnakara Water Protection Zones. The zones were revised and clearly demarcated with coordinates. As such, this approach was lawfully enforced; the project through the TRMC had been engaged in planning, consultation and reviewing of the regulation as well as enforcement of its process. There are three (3) zones with delineated activities restricted to each zone. Zone 1; Tabo Zones, Zone 2; Recharge Zone and Zone 3; Is the Catchment Area. Activities are legally restricted in each zone to minimise contaminating effects on the TRCA. To ensure adherence to the regulation order, TRMC conducts regular compliance monitoring and surveillance with each MWPZ.
- b. The Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan. This is developed with collaborative inputs from all natural resource agencies from government and non-government organisations with consultations with targeted communities. Since the establishment of TRMC, there has not been any management plan that is regarded as a strategic response/guideline to manage issues or situations within TRCA. There are eight (8) objectives, with activities outlined under each objective that considers maintaining ecosystem services such as Habitat Restoration, the national botanical garden, buffer areas and within zones 1 and 2. Other objectives consider reducing threats to the catchment as well as monitoring and compliance. Since this is a national document that also intersects with multiple national priorities and government strategies, there are various legislative and policies subsequently indirectly relevant to the management of the TRCA. However, there are also links to other national strategies.

c. **Habitat Restoration-** As stated in the management plan as well as major activities stressed within project components. This involves restoring riparian areas and establishing a national botanical garden that will consist of native, endemic, and threatened flora species that are currently underway. Activities will ensure replenishing the primary forest ecosystem, create connectivity and overall, a functional ecosystem that will contribute to the improved quality of water. Within the management plan itself, objective 4 highlights rehabilitation exercises that include tree planting in zones 1 and 2. These habitat restoration activities will be essential to eliminate or minimise threats to Tagabe River by retaining wastewater runoffs, sedimentation and soil erosion.

d. **Biodiversity Conservation**

As part of the GEF stress reduction benefits, the project focuses on two major habitat restoration activities. First and foremost, prioritise activity, the national botanical garden which has been established on part of the state land in MWPZ 1 and will be enhanced by the project, while other restoration activities will oversee the restoration of riparian areas along Tagabe River. Apart from that, there should be other minor restoration activities as stated in the Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan which the project had implemented. Since the actual field work has not yet been implemented, preparation for such restoration initiatives is ongoing such as the preparation and establishment of the nursery house. Overall, these restoration activities will introduce native, endemic, and threatened flora species to the MWPZs and riparian areas of the Tagabe River. Most of these flora species should be functionally relevant to the intention of the project re-vegetation activities that will maintain the diversity of flora habitat and community on the preferred sites. Therefore, not only to maintain the habit but to conserve these flora species within these lawfully protected areas.

The demonstration site is located within the proximity of the Tagabe River Area Catchment (TRCA) with the existing Tagabe River that stretches inland to the coastal areas and is situated on the lower part of the catchment. Matnakara Water Protection Zones are identified as the upper part of the TRCA and it has three (3) zones with delineated activities respective to the purpose/function of each zone. The restoration activities are within the lower catchment area, inclusive of the riparian areas of Tagabe River. Greater emphasis is placed on the upper catchment, especially the MWPZ 1 and 2 for both the botanical garden and reforestation activities.

Furthermore, to consider the significance of these restoration initiatives for the conservation of selected flora species of both national and international value from their distribution sites. But also, to consider the fact and reality contextual to the TRCA which has become highly vulnerable and thus threatened by the rapid expansion of various developments which have and will have a greater impact on flora diversity within the TRCA as peri urban area of Port Vila. Therefore, to be able to adapt to these rapid changes, the need to restore flora communities is very essential to maintain a functional ecosystem. This also acts as an adaptation to changes to improve the quality of both ground and surface water.

However, to achieve such output, there is a greater need to collaboratively work with relevant stakeholders from the cabinet level right directly down to the residing island communities. Human resources should always be a major assistant to the financial mobility of these restoration activities since the processes themselves will be lengthy. Begins with a site assessment and ends with the transplanting of seedlings; however, the maintenance is also should be consistent to ensure the survival of transplanted seedlings/plants.

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 the 11 of 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. Please use the table below to briefly (2-3 sentences) indicate your project’s contribution to the relevant SDGs. Please respond only to the appropriate SDG to where your project is contributing to.

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	<p>These are some of the contributions by the project to this SDG;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat restoration activities. 2. Assist in the revised declaration of Matnakara Water Protection Zones. 3. Tagabe River Clean Up Campaigns. <p>The activities outlined are most specified to improve the quality of ground and surface water from the Tagabe Catchment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Secretariat to TRMC- Committee that coordinates activities within TRCA.
SDG 12 – Responsible production and consumption	
SDG 13 – Climate change	
SDG 14 – Life below water	
SDG 15 – Life on land	<p>Contributions including the following: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance and monitoring of development within TRCA. 2. The restoration projects will help in the near future in the improvement of both ground and water quality. 3. Awareness and advocacy programs promote best environmental practices in catchment/river management.
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	

Special Themes

1. Gender Mainstreaming

Provide a summary of the processes for ensuring equal opportunities for men, women, the elderly and children to participate in the project implementation and in decision-making, including and most especially access to benefits and incentives.

The process encountered before the actual initiation of project activities to enable equal participation of gender representation of all age groups. In doing so, in preparation and arrangement of project activities that surely involve a variety of people, usually, the process should be as follows: -

- (i) Ensure the heads of the communities is aware.
- (ii) Communicate clearly with the chief/community's highest authority on the purpose of the activity.
- (iii) Invitation to be sent out to the participant that should be involved (gender equality in selection)
- (iv) Carrying out activities
- (v) Participant attendance taken
- (vi) Facilitation- Ensuring all gender-based groups contribute
 - a. One-to-one interview/consultation, engagement
 - b. Small group discussion/work
 - c. Open and General forum/participation
- (vii) Provide feedback/update on the implementation
- (viii) Acknowledge participant

2. Other markers – this is optional

Lessons Learned (Innovations and Catalytic Impacts)

A short account of the innovative aspects and catalytic impacts of the project. This section will mainly contain the summary or highlights of the lessons learned as indicated in the lessons learned template. The detailed lessons learned template should be attached as an annex to this report.

Innovative aspects

What are the lessons and new learning is drawn from the implementation of the project? This should be in the areas of Strategy, Cooperation (internal and external cooperation), Processes (whether the project has contributed to a more streamlined process which leads to efficiency, etc.), and Steering (how the project has been steered towards achieving its objectives). For example, it could be highlighted in this section the strengthened coordination between the STAR and IW R2R projects towards achieving wider development impact – following the programmatic approach - in integrated water resources management (IWRM).

Since the project has been established and the recruitment of the national PM, there have been certain project activities that have been implemented from which lessons learned and new learning are drawn from. The project should rely on these for successful implementation during the remaining project lifetime. Areas that have been marked are as new learning has been extracted is as follows; -

Strategy

The project was known to develop an MYCWP from which all planned major and minor activities with related outputs and outcomes given the implementation time frame as well as the financial resources mobilised for each activity. Thus, it is an essential planning tool from which the project will basically be scheduled against and be enhanced/updated to capture the changing situation of the demo-site context. Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan has been developed and incorporated into MYCWP and thus overall seen to be a new angle of approach that the project will be assisting TRMC with, for a more strategically response/coordination of activities on-ground and in higher level platforms. Further, towards making this more transparent and formally recognised, the project activities are also incorporated into the DEPC business plan for 2019. The hosting agency and supporting national counterpart take full responsibilities as implementing agencies.

Cooperation

In terms of coordination, the cooperation of all stakeholders is necessarily important for their concerns and technical advice for all project activities. Over the project course, both stakeholders and partners are engaged in planning, coordination, and implementation. However, towards intended output, always necessary to conduct stakeholder reviews and identify important players both immediate and indirect for better positioning. For the project, these are some of the collaborative approaches: -

Introducing new stakeholders- To fit the enhancing situation of the demo site.

Maintaining and strengthening the relationship with stakeholders - Aligning R2R and Stakeholder's work plans/activities

Strengthen engagement with targeted island communities within TRCA.

Project stakeholders are from a range of government sectors, private sectors, NGOs, CSOs and Activity Community Youth Groups. The catchment plan has defined each institution by position as the relevant agency's specific action agenda for the TRCMP implementation.

Processes

In the processes of efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability the areas of improvement have been identified as a new aspects of the process.

- a. Clear Communication of IW R2R Project and Awareness
This should be first done internally with the stakeholders and natural resources agencies and other relevant institutions to reinstate the objectives of the project as well as to reinstate the need for collaborative activities that should be aligned with individual work. Similarly, external communication and awareness to the targeted communities for the existence of this project, the intended activities at ground level, its purpose of activities initiated by the project, the initiated benefits to them and generally the population of Port Vila. Thus not only promoting the project profile but changing the mindsets of targeted communities to be managers of the resource available (river) and its sustainability for livelihoods.
- b. Cross-Sectorial Coordinate Approach
The need to identify relevant natural resource sectors for clear communication of individual requirements and legal logistics/advisors set forth by implementing policies/Acts and regulations to ensure no duplication and future issues on what project will be implemented or has been implemented. Thus to align policies, work plans and logistics of works that should be met and consulted before any implementation, monitoring and evaluation resume. As so will ensure collaborative rolling of project implementation while minimising conflict.
- c. The Establishment of a National Project Management Unit (PMU).
It has also been observed the usefulness of a project management unit in-country for the project. The necessary reason is to assist the NPM in administrative and financial matters. Often the hosting agencies lack to human resource capability to meet mostly financial matters for all projects hosted within the DEPC. In the queue of financial commitments and the need to provide appropriate procurement guidelines, our efforts have been an oversight and thus result in a significant delay with the imposing project activities.

Steering

The IW R2R Project has TRM as its national steering committee. Such NSC has a direct influence on the project in terms of planning processes and approval, coordinated monitoring and implementation of the project. With regards to planning alignment and synergies, the committee has been promoting and establishing a potential link between the project and TRCMP to be a timelier complementary process. Further NSC exist also to provide the project with technical support as per its sector member organisations from both government and non-government towards implementing specific project activities. For example, influencing the reformation of policies and legislation by reviewing the declaration of MWPZs regulation and development of the TRCMP without using any consultants. The TRMC also looks into resolving project issues and challenges that were identified to ensure these are minimized while increasing the chances of a successful implementation.

Catalytic impacts

In not more than 500 words, provide examples of where the national demonstration project has helped catalyse change, e.g., capacity development, investment from other donors/ development partners, and stimulated need for reform of policy and planning. For example, you could provide information to highlight the contribution of the project for enhanced coordination, synergies, and harmonized implementation among agencies not only for integrated water resources management (IWRM) but also for the wider natural resource management and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCA/M) interventions.

The Vanuatu IWR2R project during its implementation has gained a lot of achievements and experiences that bring changes in the areas of capacity development, and collaborative investments with other donors/ development partners and has also been noted to stimulate the reformation in planning states informing policies/ regulations to further provide strategic management to safeguard and secure TRCA.

The efforts to encourage harmonized implementation between partners have been one of the catalysing changes for the Vanuatu pilot project. In the absence of the NPSC during its first 3 years of implementation, the project turns its focus to TRMC as the overall governing body for the TRCA. Having contributed much technical support to the project, there are no alternative options, but with the good spirit of management to acknowledge and embrace the TRMC as its NPSC in late 2019. With the newly NPM on board, formalities were underway and eventually, IWR2R Project was nominated by the Secretariat to the committee.

The anointment of TRMC as NPSC and IWR2R project as its secretariat is a rare model that has ever been reflected in Vanuatu to embrace the existing governance in place. This was a major input for the project resulting greatly in a shift in progress from 2019 to 2021 in its implementation. Improvements were made in the planning stages whereby the project objectives and activities are captured within and aligned with the catchment management plan representing national government interests infringed to the NSDP. Project implementation was well coordinated through partnerships and collaboration across sectors and at all levels. Outcomes achieved regarding constraints were satisfactory.

The project has financially supported the development of this management plan in 2017 through a series of workshops and consultations. March 22nd, 2018 marks the launching of the first ever catchment management plan for Vanuatu. Its implementation took the course from 2018 onwards whereby the project has been the major technical and financial implementer of the management plan. Strengthening the capacity of TRMC to improve the state of water for TRCA users was the main outcome of the project which has become a successful experience for co-hosting TRMC in its proceedings while also establishing milestone achievement and implementation.

In a similar manner, in areas of investments from donors and other development partners in collaboration to achieve specific tasks that are relevant to the national project objectives. The multi-stakeholder representation in TRMC has also enhanced the project capacity to increase the efficiency, and effectiveness in its implementation while also providing an opportunist gap for sustainability.

A major complementary activity such as habitat restoration i.e., rehabilitation which the project has taken the lead to executed is mainly the TRCRP and TRRP. Though it is a collaborative effort, however, the project resumes responsibilities in funding and technical implementation and coordination. Other contributing activities include Tagabe River clean-up campaigns, conducting coastal water quality tests, marine surveys and spatial prioritization models for TRCA.

Annexes

Annexes	Title of the document
	Vanuatu Ridge Reef Project Programme Document https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Vanuatu_0.pdf
Annex 1	2019 Annual KM&C Plan
Annex 2	GEF IW R2R MoA Vanuatu Signed
Annex 3	Vanuatu National R2R Log Frame
Annex 4	Vanuatu Enhanced Log Frame
Annex 5	MYCWP
Annex 6	Tagabe River Catchment Management Plan 2017-2030 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Tagabe%20River%20Management%20Plan%20%282017-2030%29.pdf
Annex 7	Vanuatu IWR2R Rehabilitation Report
Annex 8	Vanuatu IW R2R Project Results and Lessons Learned https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/LL_VU_02_lessons%20learned_Vanuatu_updated%20%282%29%20%281%29.pdf
Annex 9	Vanuatu Site Diagnostic Analysis Report (Consultant already paid for this work but no report has been submitted yet)
	Assessment of ridge-to-reef management actions in Tagabe watershed and Mele Bay, Vanuatu https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Assessment%20of%20ridge%20to%20reef%20management%20actions%20in%20Tagabe%20watershed%20and%20Mele%20Bay%20Vanuatu.pdf
	Rapid Coastal Assessment of Tagabe River Catchment Report, Port Vila, Vanuatu https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Rapid_Coastal_Assessment_of_Tagabe_River_Catchment_Report_Port%20Vila_Vanuatu_1.pdf
	IWR2R Progress Report 2018 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Project_Progress_Vanuatu.pdf
	Identification of Priority Sites for Future Upscaling of Ridge to Reef Investments in Vanuatu https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Identification%20of%20Priority%20Sites%20for%20future%20upscaling%20of%20R2R%20Investments%20in%20Vanuatu.pdf
	National Forestry Week Report on Activities Supported by R2R Project Vanuatu 24th -28th August, 2020 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/National%20Forestry%20Week.pdf
	International Water Ridge to Reef Project Vanuatu Rehabilitation Efforts A Progressive Report Update: Quarter 3, 2020 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/IW%20R2R%20Rehabilitation%20Projects%20Q3%2C%202020%20Report.pdf
	International Water Ridge to Reef Project Vanuatu Rehabilitation Efforts A Progressive Report Update: Quarter 2, 2020 https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/IW%20R2R%20Rehabilitation%20Q2%20Efforts_0.pdf https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/Annex%202-%20IW%20R2R%20Rehabilitation%20Q2%20Efforts.pdf

	<p>Tagabe River Clean Up Campaign Mini Programmatic Report</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/1%20Tagabe%20River%20Cleaning-Up%20Campaign.pdf</p>
	<p>Tagabe River 2 nd Clean-Up Campaign Mini Report</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/2%20Tagabe%20Clean-Up%20Campaign%20Report.pdf</p>
	<p>Community Clean Up Campaign & Community Awareness Mini Programmatic Report 2019</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/3%20Tagabe%20Clean-Up%20Campaign%20Report.pdf</p>
	<p>IW R2R Project Vanuatu Rehabilitation mini report 2019</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/2019%20Rehabilitation%20Report_0.pdf</p>
	<p>A Report on Invasive Species eradication within matnakara Water protection zone 1 (MWPZ 1): Water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes) 2019</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/IA%20Eradication%20Report.pdf</p>
	<p>Rehabilitation maps for the IW R2R project</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/index.php/resource-library?term_node_tid_depth=21&keys=&project_titles=All&field_tags_target_id=All&page=4</p>
	<p>IW R2R Project Most Significant Change Poster – Waste Management in Tagabe River 2019</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/MSC_Poster_Layout_Vanuatu_IW_2.pdf</p>
	<p>GEF IW:Learn – Experience Note: Vanuatu IWR2R Project</p> <p>https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Vanuatu%20IWC%202018%20Experience%20Note.pdf</p>