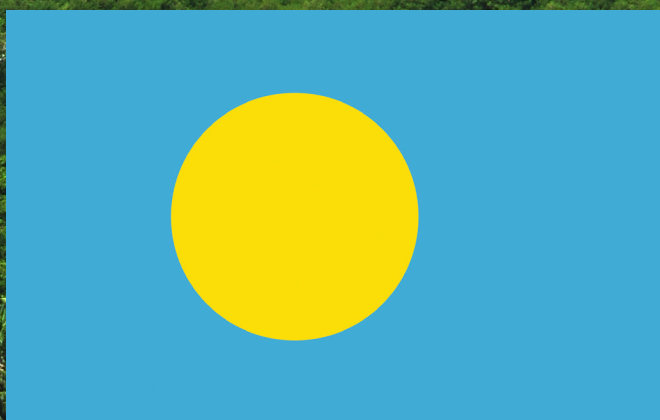


GEF PACIFIC
RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME

PALAU



NATIONAL R2R PROGRAMME
DOCUMENT



GEF Pacific RIDGE TO REEF Programme

Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries

FOREWORD

The Heads of States of 13 Pacific SIDS developed and in 1997 endorsed a GEF International Waters Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for Pacific Island Countries. That document identified priority areas for action in the international waters focal area as improved management of ocean and coastal fisheries, integrated watershed and coastal management, and water supply protection. On the basis of the Pacific SAP, the GEF International Waters focal area has subsequently invested in a series of regional initiatives. The first was the UNDP implemented project entitled “Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the International Waters of the Pacific Small Island Developing States” initiated in 2000 and operated over almost 7 years to 2006.

In light of the critical water resource and sanitation issues facing Pacific SIDS, GEF support in the years following the conclusion of the IWP project has been targeted at improved coordination and planning of water resource and wastewater management to balance overuse and conflicting uses of scarce freshwater resources through the GEF Pacific IWRM Project. The latter was financed by the GEF, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, and executed regionally by the Geoscience Division of the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with 14 Pacific Island Countries.

The GEF Pacific IWRM Project built on achievements of previous investments via a focus on national IWRM demonstration projects aimed at providing an opportunity for participating countries to implement, and experiment with, new management models and methods. The practical on-the-ground solutions to water and sanitation issues demonstrated by the national IWRM projects acted to stimulate support at both community and national government levels for policy reform and the mainstreaming of integrated approaches as part of national sustainable development planning.

The experience and local capacity in integrated environmental and natural resource management generated through the GEF Pacific IWRM project has been recognized both regionally and within the 14 participating Pacific Island Countries as an appropriate entry point for the testing of innovative approaches and measures to integrate land, forest, water and coastal management, including climate change adaptation in Pacific SIDS. In this connection, the GEF multi-focal area, multi-GEF agency programme entitled “Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods” (or the GEF Pacific R2R Programme) was developed to provide an opportunity for Pacific SIDS to develop and implement truly integrated approaches for the sustainable development of island economies and communities. Programme activities are organised under the following programme components:

- ✓ National Multi-Focal Area Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries
- ✓ Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate Resilient Land, Water, Forest and Coastal Management
- ✓ Regional and National/Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management
- ✓ Regional Programme Coordination

This National Programme Document summarizes the development of integrated approaches to water resource and coastal management in Palau to date, including examples of specific results and lessons learned achieved through integrated approaches to environmental and natural resource management. Importantly, this document presents information about the interlinked GEF R2R STAR and GEF International Waters R2R Projects, including programme support activities which focus on science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing.

Marc Wilson

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INTRODUCTION

Given the close inter-connections between land, water and coastal systems in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the integration of freshwater watershed management with coastal area management is considered essential to foster effective cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of land, water and coastal uses. In Pacific SIDS, such integrated approaches to freshwater and coastal area management have been termed 'Ridge to Reef' to emphasise the inter-connections between the natural and social systems from the mountain 'ridges' of volcanic islands, through coastal watersheds and habitats, and across coastal lagoons to the fringing 'reef' environments associated with most Pacific SIDS. Inherent in the approach is the philosophy of cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of freshwater use, sanitation, wastewater treatment and pollution control, sustainable land use and forestry practices, balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, hazard risk reduction, and climate variability and change.

Similarly, the integration of communities, stakeholders, and national governments within such a cross-sectoral planning framework is described by Pacific SIDS as a 'Community to Cabinet' approach. The following sections summarize achievements to date in the development of 'Ridge to Reef' and 'Community to Cabinet' approaches to integrated natural resource and environmental management in Palau. An overview of the purpose of the Ridge to Reef Programme, its GEF R2R STAR Projects and GEF International Waters Projects is also provided.



1. RIDGE TO REEF CONTEXT

This section provides a brief background of the geography and environmental threats in Palau. This information has been used as the basis for the identification of priority activities for the testing of 'Ridge to Reef' approaches to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in Palau.



2. COMMUNITY TO CABINET APPROACH

Community to Cabinet is a multi-stakeholder approach adopted in the Pacific Small Island Developing States to foster strengthened coordination and stakeholder involvement in the planning of investments in integrated natural resource and environmental management. This section outlines existing mechanisms for 'Community to Cabinet' coordination in Palau.



3. RIDGE TO REEF RESULTS

Pacific leaders have called for a strengthened emphasis in results-oriented sustainable development planning. This section benchmarks the main results of efforts to develop integrated management approaches in Palau to date.



4. DOING IS SEEING THE NEED

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef programme embraces the 'Doing is Seeing the Need' philosophy adopted by the GEF Pacific R2R Programme. A story board of images is presented to provide examples of best practices in integrated natural resource and environmental management.



5. LESSONS FROM INTEGRATION

Human resources are central to the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS. This section presents experiences and lessons learned in integrated management by practitioners and stakeholders. The focus of these lessons is on the capacity built for integrated management and the related results.



6. GEF PACIFIC R2R PROGRAMME

An overview of the "Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods" (or GEF Pacific R2R Programme) is provided in this section. Information about the interlinked GEF R2R STAR and GEF International Waters R2R Projects, and Programme Coordination Unit, is also presented.



7. PALAU'S R2R STAR PROJECT

A summary of Palau's national project to be financed through the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) is provided in this section. The planned contribution of this STAR project to the achievement of the targets for the regional Ridge to Reef program is outlined. The management arrangements for this project are also provided.



8. INTERNATIONAL WATERS R2R PROJECT

Priority actions identified for testing the integration of water, land, forest and coastal management to preserve ecosystem services, store carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods in Palau are outlined. A brief strategy for Palau IW R2R national pilot project is provided along with the logical framework matrix. Key assumptions and risks are summarized to guide planning during the project's inception period.

1. RIDGE TO REEF CONTEXT



Country:	Palau
Size:	458km ²
Population:	20,754
Population growth:	0.7%
Density:	44.5/km ²
GDP:	USD 228 million
Growth Rate:	1.8%
Gross National Income:	USD 9,790

Palau is fortunate in having an abundant water supply 24 hours a day throughout the year for a majority of the population.

The KAWTP produces and delivers to homes approximately 1.4 billion gallons of potable water per year.

The Republic of Palau consists of elevated volcanic islands, flat karsts islands and atolls covering 458 square kilometers. The mean annual rainfall is 3.7m/yr generating an abundant supply of surface water from the streams and rivers on the main island of Babeldaob, where the largest water supply is the Ngerikiil Watershed.

However during disasters such as the 1996 collapse of the KB Bridge and periods of drought such as the 1998 ENSO, there is a critical shortage of water. Babeldaob Island has 5 major watersheds and 11 minor watersheds.

Freshwater for drinking is primarily produced from surface water and treated through chlorination in the outer parts of Palau.

The Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) is the regulating agency supporting the Drinking Water Safety Plan and monitoring the quality of water supplied by the KAWTP. The Bureau of Public Works manages the water supply and the distribution network on a daily basis.

A lack of comprehensive water policy has resulted in Palau managing water resources on a sectorized basis. Protection of the source is done at the state level, water delivery being the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry and Commerce, and the cost being collected by the Ministry of Finance.

To coordinate efforts and decrease duplication of work the drafting and enacting of a comprehensive water policy was one of the country's priority actions. With the completion the Compact Road around Babeldaob, increased development is expected in some parts and already starting in others.

The increase in development will if left unchecked, result in increased deforestation and pesticide use in farms, and inadequate wastewater management due to lack of appropriate facilities or poor designs.

With increasing population and higher tourist numbers every year water resources and wastewater management are becoming priority issues due to antiquated systems currently operating with a lack of proper annual maintenance.

The above issues have begun to be addressed through the cross-sectoral planning and management initiatives of the GEF Pacific IWRM Project. Needs still exist and have been identified within a Ridge to Reef context.

These include strengthening coordination in support of the implementation and national replication of the Ngerikiil Management Plan and strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Ngerikiil Management Plan.

Palau's population was estimated at 19,907 in 2005 of which 77% live in urban areas and 23% live in rural areas. An increase in water demand of 2% per year is expected with the assumption that water demand management is implemented effectively resulting in improved Water Treatment Plant capacity and efficiency.

As with most small island states, water sources, alongside water and sanitation systems are under pressure from urbanization, development and climate change.

Challenges facing water range from watershed degradation which is affecting water quality at the source and coastal waters, groundwater contamination due to leachate from nearby landfills and poorly maintained wastewater systems, as well as saltwater intrusion into fresh water lenses for the platform islands and atolls.

Added pressures come from climate variability in terms of extreme weather events; both droughts, and increased rainfall.

Major increases in population and tourism are currently centered on the states of Koror and Airai with 75% of the population residing in both states.

These two states obtain their piped water from the Koror Airai Water Treatment Plant (KAWTP) with the government subsidizing a majority of the cost of water delivery to the households.

The Ngerikiil River and the Ngerimel Dam are the main water sources for this public water supply system.

2. COMMUNITY TO CABINET APPROACH

There is a growing recognition in the Pacific region of the need for partnerships, alignment of donor support with national priorities, and country ownership in the development of results-oriented programs and projects. The Pacific leaders recently emphasized these needs noting the well-known challenges Pacific Island communities face in fashioning sustainable futures. These include geographical isolation, high levels of dependence on natural resources for nutritional security and livelihoods, and a highly variable environment characterized by numerous coastal hazards.

The above combined with considerable variation in island geomorphology, socio-economics and politics make locally-driven solutions to key issues influencing island sustainability and resilience a necessity. Of particular note are the complex land and marine tenure systems and institutional relationships between national and community-based governance structures.

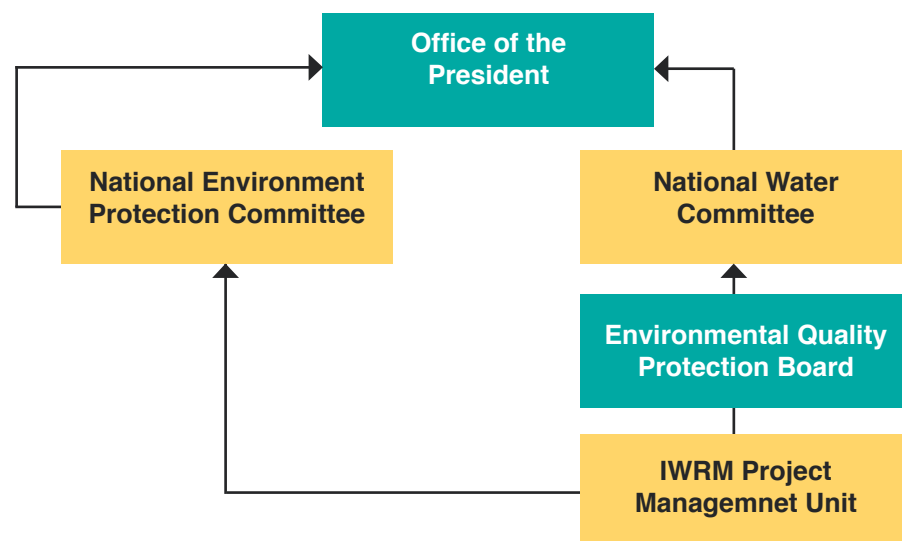
While the Pacific SIDS have largely adopted western-style constitutions and legal systems, such community-based governance and leadership arrangements remain highly influential at all levels. Accordingly, the participation of civil society organizations and community leaders in development planning is essential to increase the local relevance of management actions and their results in SIDS. The following outlines existing cross sectoral coordination arrangements and efforts to engage stakeholders in sustainable development planning.

Strengthening Cross-sectoral Coordination and Planning

With the establishment of a steering committee for the GEF Pacific IWRM Project there was an increase in cross-sectoral engagement and understanding across water related issues. The structure of the committee had a majority of the members also representatives of their respective agencies on other project or planning committees in the Republic of Palau. This helped contribute to the exposure of the project in those other committees as well as the access to information that would otherwise not be available to people outside of the project or planning committees.

This increased multi-sectoral engagement highlighted the need for the establishment of a National Apex Water Body. Sector representatives initially planned a stand alone committee however instead of duplicating work a subcommittee under the National Environmental Planning Council was suggested that would coordinate future water projects. These partnerships with government agencies such as the Water and Wastewater Operations Division of the Palau Public Utilities Company helped clarify national priorities and contributed to regional efforts to update the Regional Action Plan for Water and Sanitation during the Pacific Water and Sanitation Consultations held in Nadi, Fiji in 2013.

Through the support of the GEF Pacific IWRM Project National Water Summits were held for the drafting and finalisation of the National Water Policy. This was endorsed by President Toribiong in 2012 and is the guiding policy for the Palau water sector.



National governance arrangements are shown for the water sector. National committees are highlighted in yellow

Linking Local and National Coordination

During the Project Inception phase of the GEF Pacific IWRM in 2009 a Palau National Integrated Water Resource Management Demonstration Project Committee was established. The original members were made up of the Palau Water Safety Plan (WSP) Committee. In addition to the WSP Committee members, members representing the stakeholders such as a representative of Airai State Government, representatives from community groups and representatives of the Palau Legislature were invited to join the Palau IWRM Committee.

Stakeholder Engagement

Palau's national pilot project of the regional R2R IW project will work to: generate local and national support for integrated R2R approaches; establish linkages, synergies and mechanisms for learning exchange, particularly between and among community leaders and project stakeholders of the national GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) projects planned under the broader Ridge to Reef programme; develop local experience in linking IWRM to coastal area management; and stimulate cross-sectoral participation in the planning of coordinated investments in land, forest, water and coastal management in the participating countries. Given the range of stakeholders identified above, the preparation phase of the regional R2R IW project in Palau has been based on a consultative process involving national government agencies, community representatives, and civil society organizations. Stakeholder inputs elicited during the preparation phase have been incorporated in the results framework for the pilot project included in the final section of this document.

Ridge to Reef stakeholders

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| • Airai State Government | • Board | • Office of Environment Response & Coordination (OERC) |
| • Airai State Public Land Authority | • Palau Automated Lands and Resources Information Systems (PALARIS) | • SPC/SOPAC |
| • Airai Zoning Commission | • Palau Conservation Society | • Palau Community Action Agency |
| • Ministry of Natural Resource, Environment & Tourism | • Public Health (Division of Environmental Health, DEH) | • Grants Office |
| • Belau National Museum | • Palau Community College-Cooperative Research Extension | • PPUC-Water and Wastewater Operations |
| • Bureau of Agriculture | | |
| • Bureau of Public Works | | |
| • Environmental Quality Protection | | |

3. RIDGE TO REEF RESULTS

The need for results-based approaches to the management of development assistance programmes and projects has received recent high-level recognition. In adopting the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005, national government Ministers responsible for development from both developed and developing countries joined with Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions in committing to “work together in a participatory approach to strengthen country capacities and demand for results-based management”.

This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action which called for accelerated progress on aid effectiveness by better demonstrating the results of development efforts and openly accounting for them.

The Pacific Islands region and its development partners have responded accordingly. For example, in 2012 the Pacific Leaders considered a review of the effectiveness of development efforts in the Pacific and called for strengthened emphasis on results in planning and financing development. The following benchmarks the main results of efforts to develop integrated management approaches in Palau to date.

PROCESS

Best approaches to IWRM and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) mainstreamed into national planning frameworks

Palau had not agreed upon best approaches to IWRM and WUE and the target of the project was to have these defined and incorporated into a National Strategy. During the IWRM project national coordination was strengthened to reduce stress on vulnerable water resources.

This was done through intensive consultative processes which involved cross sectoral and community participation which enabled the definition of best approaches for water to get incorporated into the National Water Policy.

Partnerships with government agencies such as the Water and Wastewater Operations Division of the Palau Public Utilities Company helped clarify national priorities which then contributed to the regional efforts to update the Regional Action Plan for Water and Sanitation during the Pacific Water and Sanitation Consultations held in Nadi, Fiji in 2013.

Sectors actively engaged in multilateral communications on water issues

The IWRM project increased the collaboration between sectors actively engaged in water issues. This led to two National Water Summits that involved the drafting and finalization of a National Water Policy for the Republic of Palau.

In addition, this increased multi-sectoral engagement stimulated the need for the establishment of a National Apex Water Body. Sector representatives were actively engaged with the formulation of this body including drafting Terms of Reference and list of members.

It was this collaborative effort between agencies that allowed the National Water Policy to get endorsed by the His Excellency President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

National budgets allocated to IWRM and WUE

Prior to project inception a majority of the budget allocated for water in National Budgets was mainly for the treatment and delivery of the water. The target was to increase the budget for IWRM and WUE by 20%.

During the project budget lines for not only the previously mentioned water services but also the allocation of \$200,000 to Airai State for the management of the watershed were created. At Airai State an increase to the state budget to enable more monitoring and enforcement in the Watershed was suggested. The Delegate utilised the recently completed Airai State Watershed Management plan to try and leverage future funding for the management of the Ngerikiil Watershed.

Increased proportion of community engaged in water related issues

Community engagement in water related issues focused primarily on quantity of water and whether or not the water was safe for consumption. As a result of the IWRM Project there was an increase in awareness and willingness to protect watersheds through consultations for the drafting and finalization of the Water and Wastewater policy as well as regular community outreach focused on the importance of water and how best to manage and conserve it.

The Palau IWRM team held a yearly Blue Ribbon Water Awareness Month with activities occurring between World Water Day (March 22) and Earth Day (April 22). Effort is made every year to introduce new ways to engage the public. In 2012 a drawing contest was held and in 2013 the first Blue Ribbon Water Awareness Month Environmental Challenge Bowl was conducted.

Lessons learned incorporated into other projects

Prior to commencement of the IWRM project Palau had few

practical examples of IWRM in action. The project was focused on demonstrating various process and stress reduction activities for replication and scaling-up.

The Palau IWRM Project initiated efforts to incorporate lessons learnt into current and planned regulations and new water projects. The project in collaboration with the Palau Conservation Society (PCS) completed the 5-year Airai State Watershed Management which incorporated lessons learned from the Palau IWRM demonstration project.

National Water Safety Plan

During IWRM Project inception a National Water Safety Plan was in draft form for Palau. The goal of the project was to ensure that the National Water Safety Plan was implemented. During the project the National Water Safety plan was implemented in Palau.

The project contributed to the implementation of the plan by ensuring that the sanitary surveys for the Koror Airai Water Treatment Plant were carried out and completed. Increasing community awareness was also a component of the plan that the project contributed to.

National staff across institutions with IWRM experience and knowledge

IWRM knowledge was limited to people that were directly involved with specific projects or who have been involved in the meetings. The project allowed for staff from different agencies to increase their knowledge about how their individual work contributes to the project and to IWRM in Palau. In addition, the project allowed for formalized training of 2 Palauan staff through the International Water Center (IWC) resulting in a graduate certificate in Integrated Water Management.

It allowed for continued improvement of knowledge among IWRM stakeholders through their participation in the annual IWRM Rugby Tipping Competition as well as in Conferences in and outside of Palau.

STRESS REDUCTION

Increase in land protected and rehabilitated over the catchment

There was no land protected and the Airai State Government were hesitant to declare new areas as protected.

Through the joint efforts of the IWRM partners which includes Airai State Government increased awareness of the importance of this particular watershed has led to \$200,000 being given to Airai State Government as financial support for the management of this important catchment area, including replication and scaling-up of re-vegetation efforts and invasive species removal pilot activities initiated by the demonstration project in Ngerikiil Watershed.

The Airai Watershed Management Plan was completed and handed over to Airai State for its implementation. There were plans on using this management plan to leverage funding annually for the protection and management of the

watershed. The plan was made possible through collaborative effort between the Airai State Government, the Palau IWRM Project and the Palau Conservation Society and the Palau IWRM Project Partner Agencies.

Reduction in pollution sources discharging into the Ngerikiil watershed

Pollution discharge into the Ngerikiil watershed was causing significant river water degradation and sedimentation of Ngerikiil Bay and adjacent reefs.

During the IWRM project inception phase a baseline survey on existing and possible pollutant sources was conducted. In addition, the project's goal was to mitigate the impacts of runoffs and sedimentation from the compact road.

Regular monitoring of different land uses in Ngerikiil enabled identification of pollutant sources which were remediated to reduce overall pollutant load entering the Ngerikiil Watershed and near shore waters and reefs. A monitoring protocol for water testing was completed for the water quality monitoring in the watershed.

Sustainable forest and land management practices established and trialed with landowners

The majority of land use in the watershed consisted of housing developments and farms. The aim of the project was to trial best management practices with landowners and disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.

The project mapped all the different land uses in the Watershed. A trial farm employing best management practices was completed in collaboration with the Palau PACC project, the Palau Community College Cooperative Research Extension Office and the Palau Community Action Agency.

Increased population with access to safe drinking water supply

At the time of project start-up there was little if any work that concentrated on keeping the quality of water high even before it arrived at the water treatment plant.

The target of the project was to increase access to safe drinking water by 90 percent of the population in Koror which is ~ 14,000 people.

The IWRM project conducted baseline sanitation and pollutant surveys at the Ngerikiil River covering ridge to the Airai Bay. All pollutant sources and land uses along these river banks were mapped and those that could potentially become problems were helped with best management practices as a preemptive measure.

Routine monitoring of river water quality was strengthened through the project to ensure safety baselines were met and to inform efforts to remediate pollutant source sites.

In addition, increased outreach to areas that were more reliant on rainwater allowed the team to increase awareness of how to maintain rainwater catchment systems thereby providing a safe drinking water supply.

4. DOING IS SEEING THE NEED

The GEF Pacific IWRM project acted as a valuable entry point for strengthening integrated approaches to natural resource management in Pacific SIDS. Existing national coordination mechanisms involving operation of inter-linked national APEX bodies for IWRM and local coordinating committees for IWRM demonstration projects have been effective in guiding stress reduction in the water and sanitation sector and driving reform of national IWRM policy and planning.

That project also acted as a valuable entry point for capacity development, helping to foster application of interdisciplinary skills and local knowledge and integrating this into monitoring and evaluation to ensure that causes of environmental stresses and the results of interventions are understood by stakeholders.

A need exists, however, to scale up the GEF Pacific IWRM approach to strengthen the integration of land, water and coastal management to better accommodate issues associated with biodiversity conservation, to build on synergies between investments in IWRM and sustainable forestry practices, and to strengthen the sustainable management of coastal 'blue forests' from the perspectives of hazard risk reduction, ICM application, and livelihoods.

The Pacific Ridge to Reef programme embraces the 'doing is seeing the need' philosophy adopted by the IWRM project via the promotion of pilot activities aimed at generating local and national support for integrated Ridge to Reef and Community to Cabinet approaches and to establish linkages, synergies and mechanisms for learning exchange, particularly between and among community leaders and project stakeholders.

Pilot activities will also develop local experience in linking IWRM to coastal area management and will stimulate cross-sectoral participation in the planning of coordinated investments in land, forest, water and coastal management in the participating countries.

The related and linked national STAR projects will deliver the targets of the overall programme relating to strategic objectives of the GEF biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, and sustainable forestry management focal areas.

5. LESSONS FROM INTEGRATION

“Through participating in the plans development the capacity of our staff increased by teaming them with people who could guide them through that process.”

Collaborative development of a Watershed Management Plan in Airai State

By Victoria Kanai, Governor of Airai State

Before the IWRM project there was no water project that considered helping Airai State manage their watersheds. Projects carried out in Airai were usually on assessments of the watershed or water quality.

These projects made recommendations at the end on what Airai State could do but they didn't fully carry out management planning with the community's input.

Airai State was asked at the IWRM Project inception phase to become members of the steering committee as the project is taking place in the Ngerikiil Watershed located in Airai State and through this involvement I

The project was going to be able to help us understand Ngerikiil Watershed fully and we were finally going to get someone to help us with the monitoring of the state of the watershed. From the beginning I was optimistic that the project was going to achieve progress on the environmental goals through trialling best management practices.

Lynna Thomas, the IWRM Project manager had been keeping me informed about what the project was doing and Umai Basilius and Palau Conservation Society were partners in the IWRM project. I asked them to use their expertise and what they had learned from the project to draft a watershed management plan so that we can use this plan to access funding for the management of Airai State Watersheds. I was happy because Lynna and Umai were able to guide my State Watershed Taskforce in the management planning process,

They kept me involved the entire time so I knew what was needed in order to get the job done. In my capacity as governor, I was happy to be able to bring in community members to the community consultations so that we could draft a plan that was truly for Airai State instead of coming from someone outside. I was also happy because they were able to help my staff increase their capacity for management planning so that if the IWRM Team members are not around later we could still carry on the work.

I have learned a lot and gained a deeper understanding about water and how our actions in the watershed affect the quality of water and eventually our near shore fisheries and communities.

Through participating in the plans development the capacity of our staff increased by teaming them with people who could guide them through that process.

I have learned the importance of proper practices in the watershed as it not only affects the quality of the water that we drink but also the environment and the oceans where the river drains. Water issues are now something that I am involved in and as a result of this engagement have been an active participant at all Water Summits, providing input to policies and taking these back to the Governors Association.

My team and I now understand more deeply that it is important for the communities that host sources of water in Palau to take care of them and that our actions affect the sources of water and eventually the oceans where we get our food.

Only by working together with the community members as well as partner agencies can we overcome our lack of capacity at the State level so that we can accomplish such things as formulation of an Airai State Watershed Management Plan.

Community to Cabinet at work: Palau's first National Water Summit

By Lynna Thomas, IWRM Project Manager

The IWRM Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental and Tourism (MNRET) prepared for and ran the 1st Palau National Water Summit. The Summit was organised as the first step in the development of a National Water Policy and was an opportunity to bring together various stakeholders from community to government, providing the space to openly discuss important water issues in Palau. Through the Summit it was anticipated that we would engage a wide section of the community and receive feedback from the community about what they saw as their vision for Palau's Water Policy.

The PCU along with the MNRET put a lot of effort into promoting and advertising the Summit to ensure that it was well attended by as wide a range of people as possible. We were able to provide an incentive for community members to attend by offering a free t-shirt to the first 100 people that registered for the summit. This proved to be an excellent way of getting a lot of the general public to come along who may otherwise not have. The PCU visited with different stakeholder groups such as the Governors Association and the Council of Chiefs and gave small presentations about the summit and what we were hoping to achieve in the form of the Water Policy.

We advertised for a month prior to the Summit to provide people with ample time to prepare their schedules. Advertising included a TV show on OTV with members of the wider IWRM team and a Radio Talk show discussing the Water Summit and the outcomes that we were looking forward to. Newspaper ads and flyers inviting all members of the community to the Summit were also distributed. We realised that achieving good attendance at a high level event would require plenty of advance advertising, briefing different stakeholder groups to spark their interest and ensuring they are involved in the process.

Because of these preparatory measures we were able to achieve a high turnout at the Summit and generate a lot of interest in what the IWRM project was doing. In his opening address, President Toribiong urged participants to work together as the creation of the Water Policy was only the first step in ensuring the conservation and protection of Palau's water resources in the years to come stating, "Only together can we ensure water forever".

In order to create this space for community engagement we understood the importance of reaching the community and getting feedback on what information they required. As a team we incorporated information that community members wanted to know into the summit proceedings, thus tailoring the meeting to the actual needs of the community, ensuring their genuine participation in its outcomes. During the meeting we facilitated a question and answers session and group discussions where people could raise opinions and concerns. Mr. Jinx Brikul a water operator said "I am happy I came to the Water Summit because, as my shirt says 'Community Choice', and the summit provided me with an opportunity to raise concerns about my needs as a water operator in Palau".

I was proud that we successfully provided Palau's first water summit. I learned the importance of planning ahead and on proper advertisements that ensure people are well informed about the event ahead of time. We were equally pleased when people continued to attend subsequent Policy meetings. Mr. Joe Aitaro, the Protected Areas Network Coordinator, said, "These are important events in a small island like Palau where the emerging impacts of climate change are even more of a reason to manage the water we have today, in order to secure our children's future." Seeing community members involved in the development of their own Water Policy showed a commitment to the future and made the policy development a truly participatory process.

Before this event I wasn't sure of people's willingness to be involved in high level meetings and policy development; however during the Summit I realised that with enough appropriate information they do. As a result of attending the National Water Summit people became more aware of the issues facing water resources in Palau, the need for a National Water Policy and how it can alleviate problems with water and sanitation, and gave them a chance to participate in its development. Because of so many people attending the summit, the Palau Water Policy can now say it is representative of the visions of the people of Palau.

The meeting was a catalyst to subsequent meetings that led to the finalization of a National Water Policy and its endorsement by His Excellency President Johnson Toribiong in April 2011. It was a great achievement for IWRM because not only did it encourage people to find out more about water resources in Palau, it allowed us to tailor the Water Policy according to the actual needs of the Palauan people.

6. THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Programme was developed to guide the strategic investment of GEF grant and national funding in actions aimed at achieving the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS within a truly integrated environmental and natural resource management framework.

A GEF Multi-Focal Area Approach

Initiatives of the R2R programme aim to deliver tangible and quantifiable global environmental benefits by focusing on a more cross-cutting approach to water, land and coastal management that captures the complementarities among the following GEF focal areas



A Multi-GEF Agency Approach

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme is a multi-agency initiative involving the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as GEF implementing agencies. Coordination support is provided by the Pacific Community (SPC), a regional intergovernmental organisation that works with Pacific Nations across a wide range of areas relevant to programme implementation, including water resource management, geoscience for development, public health, forestry, fisheries, disaster management, youth, gender and culture.

R2R Programme Goal and Components

The goal of the GEF R2R programme is “to maintain and enhance Pacific Island countries’ ecosystem goods and services (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural) through integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience”. Programme activities are organised under the following components:



GEF R2R STAR Projects

Significantly, the programme involves the execution of 13 GEF R2R STAR1 projects which address national priorities and development needs while delivering global environmental benefits in line with the abovementioned GEF focal area strategies.

These UNDP, UNEP and FAO implemented projects are executed nationally on a bilateral basis in partnership with local stakeholders. To ensure cohesion, complementarity and efficiency of GEF investments under the R2R programme, each GEF R2R STAR project has been provided US\$175,000 of International Waters (IW) funding in addition to their national STAR allocations.

The intent of this IW funding increment is to enable effective linkages with the GEF International Waters R2R project, the adoption of integrated approaches aimed at addressing critical water-related issues, and intra-regional capacity building and knowledge sharing.

GEF International Waters R2R Project

The operation of the R2R programme is supported in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing through the International Waters R2R project which is executed regionally by the Pacific Community. R2R pilot projects, to be implemented through the R2R IW project, are designed to strengthen R2R integration by establishing synergies among the work of the various sector agencies and the GEF R2R STAR Projects, between governments and communities, and civil society and the private sector.

Programme Coordinating Unit

The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), hosted by the Pacific Community's Geoscience Division in the Fiji Islands, is tasked with the provision of technical, operational, reporting and monitoring support as requested by the participating Pacific Island Countries.

The PCU also facilitates the consolidation and sharing of sectoral knowledge and expertise to support the uptake of best-practice management approaches in policy-making and planning. Led by the Regional Programme Coordinator, the PCU possesses multidisciplinary expertise, including administration and financial management officers, to support programme coordination.

1 The Global Environment Facility's System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)

7. PALAU'S NATIONAL R2R STAR PROJECT

Advancing sustainable resource management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Palau	
To effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and maintain ecosystem goods and services in Palau by building institutional capacity to integrate the Palau Protected Area Network (PAN) with the Sustainable Land (SLM) initiative, and fostering a ridge-to reef approach across and within these initiatives.	
Component 1: Improving Palau's Protected Area Network	
Outcome 1.1	PAN National Strategy under implementation with all 16 States engaged in PAN (baseline is 9)
Outcome 1.2	PAN management capacity and coordination improved at all levels (site, state, national) and long-term sustainability and management effectiveness of PAN sites (new or existing) measurably improved, including adding not less than 4 protected areas to help ensure ecological representativeness
Outcome 1.3	States and local communities are measurably more aware and involved in PAN and are active in management and monitoring processes.
Outcome 1.4	PAN Sustainable Financing needs reviewed, planned and programmed and monitored in implementation.
Outcome 1.5	Palau closer to meeting Micronesia Challenge Endowment TF 2020 target goal.
Component 2: Effective implementation of Palau's Sustainable Land Management (SLM/SFM) Policy	
Outcome 2.1	Effective implementation of National SLU Policy.
Outcome 2.2	Enhanced and effective national coordination of SLM/SFM across all sectors and levels of government (state, national).
Outcome 2.3	Recognition, integration and complementarity of the National PAN Strategy with the wider National SLM Action Plan.
Outcome 2.4	Institutional infrastructure (land use plans) in place to enable reduced land-based pollution from land based activities
Component 3: Integrated Coordination, Mainstreaming & Project Management: integrated knowledge management, outreach design, coordination, lessons learned dissemination, regional and international engagement, programme management, monitoring and evaluation.	
Outcome 3.1	Effectively integrated EA role by the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) for component outcomes ensuring cross sectoral mainstreaming of investments, implementation and results.
Outcome 3.2	Two-way peer learning approach fostered through participation in regional initiatives (Micronesia Challenge, R to R, IW etc)
Outcome 3.3	Effective national and state coordination of PAN, SLM, and associated cross-sector issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harmonized IAS policy implementation resulting in improved biosecurity • streamlined forest management across sectors, government levels, and within watersheds with at least one-third (1/3) of native forest under protection and sustainable management (2100 ha in PAN sites) and an additional 6000 ha in SFM catchments). • reduced vulnerability to impacts from climate change in PAN sites and wider catchment • increased effective local capacity in Palau for SLM and PAN management

INFORMATION BOX

GEF Agency:	UNDP
National Lead Agency:	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund
GEF Focal Area:	Multi-Focal Area (BD & IW)
Indicative Grant Amount:	USD 3,747,706
Indicative Co-financing:	USD 15,729,915
Approval Date:	2013

8. GEF PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL WATERS R2R PROJECT

This regional project will support 14 Pacific Island Countries in the development of “Ridge to Reef” and “Community to Cabinet” approaches designed to guide the integration of water, land, forest and coastal management required to fashion sustainable futures for island communities.

The project also aims to address the recent high-level recognition and calls for results-based approaches to the management of development assistance programmes and projects, and will provide support in areas of coordination, capacity building, technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluation for the operation of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme. Components and outcomes of this programme are:

<p>Component 1: National Demonstrations to Support R2R ICM/IWRM Approaches for Island Resilience and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM and climate change adaptation • National diagnostic analyses for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments • Community leader roundtable networks established for strengthened ‘community to cabinet’ ICM/IWRM
<p>Component 2: Island-based Investments in Human Capital and Knowledge to Strengthen National and Local Capacities for R2R ICM/IWRM approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and local capacity for ICM and IWRM implementation built to enable best practice in integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and CC adaptation • PIC knowledge on climate variability, coastal area planning in DRM, integrating ‘blue forest’ and coastal livelihoods consolidated and shared to support evidence-based coastal and marine spatial planning • Incentive structures for retention of local ‘Ridge to Reef’ expertise and inter-governmental dialogue on human resource needs for ICM/IWRM initiated
<p>Component 3: Mainstreaming of R2R ICM/IWRM Approaches into National Development Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional strategic action frameworks for ICM/IWRM endorsed nationally and regionally • Coordinated approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and CC adaptation achieved in 14 PICs • Physical, natural, human and social capital built to strengthen island resilience to current and emerging anthropogenic threats and climate extremes
<p>Component 4: Regional and National ‘Ridge to Reef’ Indicators for Reporting, Monitoring, Adaptive Management and Knowledge Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional formulation and adoption of integrated and simplified results frameworks for integrated multi-focal area projects • National and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practices and lessons learned in R2R established
<p>Component 5 - Ridge-to-Reef Regional and National Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Effective program coordination of national and regional R2R projects

R2R pilot projects, to be implemented through the R2R IW project, are designed to strengthen R2R integration by establishing synergies among the work of the various sector agencies, between governments and communities, and civil society and the private sector. The following pages present the results framework for Palau’s IW pilot project.

INFORMATION BOX	
GEF Agency:	UNDP
Regional Executing Agency:	SPC - GSD
National Lead Agency:	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund
GEF Focal Area	International Waters

R2R IW RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Components	Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
1. Strengthening coordination in support of the implementation and national replication of the Ngerikil Management Plan	1.1 Sustained local coordination and participation in implementation activities for the Ngerikil Management Plan	Number of Participants compared annually	Established through IWRM Project	Proactive local level participation in the implementation and maintenance of the Ngerikil Management Plan	Reports and Annual Report of Ngerikil Management Plan	Sufficient resources to maintain implementation of the plan and local level participation
	1.2 Strengthened national replication of catchment management planning model and community participation in Ngerikil Management Plan implementation	Number of GEF Small Grants Programme, USAID and AusAID projects implemented to support the replication of the Ngerikil Management Planning model and implementation of management activities	Limited access to donor funds for developing catchment management plans and implementing catchment management activities	Partnerships with GEF Small Grants Programme and USAID to strengthen capacity for replication of the Ngerikil Management Planning model nationally and implementation of management activities locally	GEF Small Grants Programme, USAID and AusAID project proposals and implementation reports	Suitable community based organisations to assist communities with donor project requirements
	1.3 Improved inter-agency partnership in sustainable coastal area monitoring	Extent and continuity of data generated through inter-agency partnership	Limited coordination between agencies for monitoring coastal ecosystem health	Partnership between the Palau EQPB and the Coral Reef Centre established, functional and generating effective data for evaluating the impacts of environmental interventions	MoA, consultative meeting documents, joint monitoring programme plan, documents of assessments and monitoring results	Willingness of agencies to engage in joint monitoring and data collection

Components	Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
2. Strengthening the capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Ngerikiil Management Plan to strengthen the enabling environment for catchment management in Palau	2.1 Improved data collection for the development of national catchment plans via PM&E of the Ngerikiil Management Plan	Extent and continuity of the data collected through PM&E Plan Uptake of scientific and technical recommendations	Limited operation of sustainable PM&E for the Ngerikiil Management Plan	PM&E plan developed and operational for the Ngerikiil Management Plan featuring measures for monitoring inter alia sediment load and water quality, status of invasive species, impacts on near coastal and riparian biodiversity and ecosystem health, and site-level social impacts	Published PM&E plan, monitoring results, analysis and research reports, comparative studies, annual implementation reports	Available resources to undertake monitoring of intervention impacts
	2.2 Increased local community and agency capacity for terrestrial environment monitoring in the Ngerikiil catchment	Percent increase of target population actively involved in terrestrial environmental monitoring Extent and continuity of the data collected	Low levels of community and agency involvement in terrestrial environmental monitoring	Proportion of target population monitoring terrestrial impacts increased to 50% through established agency and community awareness and outreach program; including activities to monitor terrestrial habitats, riparian health, land use, and biodiversity indicators	Training materials published and available; reports of awareness and outreach program including demographic data Monitoring results, analysis and research reports	Target population are willing and have capacity to partake in sustainable terrestrial monitoring Awareness and capacity building materials are sufficiently well designed to engage community members and resource users
	2.3 Nationally endorsed PM&E Plan for catchment management to revitalise the Protected Areas Network and sustainable land management in Palau	Status of endorsement of PM&E Plan and incorporation into STAR Project	Low levels of assurance in natural resource management strategies due to limited or ineffective PM&E	Ngerikiil Management PM&E Plan agreed to and endorsed by heads of relevant national government departments responsible for environment, and incorporated into National STAR Project	Endorsed PM&E Plan for catchment management, revised STAR Project PM&E document	PM&E sufficiently well designed for incorporation into national STAR Project Heads of national government departments agree on PM&E Plan details

Components	Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Targets End of Project	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
3. Establishing public-private tourism sector investment in IWLCM in Palau	3.1 Cross-sectoral coordination established to explore the feasibility of public-private partnerships for tourism sector investment in IWLCM in Palau	Continuity of member participation in the National Environmental Investment Board and extent of findings for feasibility of tourism sector investment	No cross-sectoral mechanism for assessing tourism sector investment options for IWLCM	National Environmental Investment Board established with interstate community and government department representation; functional and assessing feasibility of tourism sector investment in IWLCM across Palau including the potential of PAN for controlled recreational use	NEIB Terms of Reference and membership lists, meeting reports, feasibility studies, desk-top reviews,	Willingness of cross-sectoral members to engage in committee and joint planning through NEIB
	3.2 Nationally endorsed guidelines for public-private partnerships for the tourism sector in IWLCM	Status of endorsed national guidelines	No national guidelines for the development of public-private partnerships for tourism sector investment in IWLCM	National guidelines on establishing public-private partnerships for integrating protection of natural resources and tourism ventures developed by the National Environmental Investment Board	Published national guidelines on establishing public-private partnerships for tourism sector investment in IWLCM	Willingness of the government sector to agree on guidelines
	3.3 Public-private partnerships for tourism sector investment in IWLCM established for enhanced environmental protection in Palau	Number of identified opportunities for tourism sector investment in IWLCM and partnerships established	Lack of tourism sector investment in IWLCM in Palau	Public-private partnerships opportunities identified for increasing tourism sector investment in IWLCM in Palau	Tourism sector and community consultation documents, PPP agreements and plans	Existence of plausible potential tourism sector opportunities



The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

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