



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

# Status of the Regional IW R2R Project

Samasoni Sauni – Regional Program Coordinator

Session 4 – Stocktake of the work so far, with Covid-19  
Virtual Meeting, October 14, 2020, 1030H-1330H



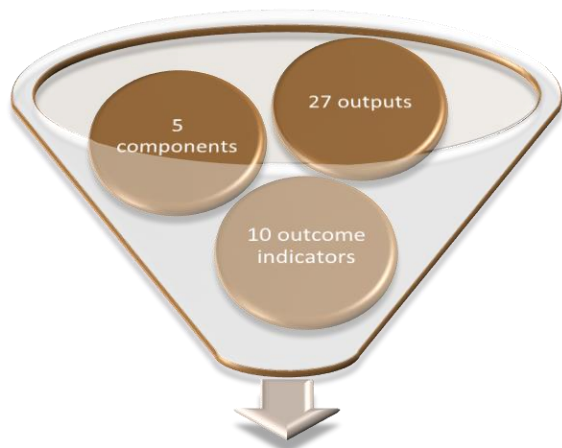


- Regional IW R2R project profile
- Overall performance of the development objectives and implementation progress
- Detailed status of implementation
- Strategic issues and adaptive measures
- Financial status and forecast

## **This presentation aims:**

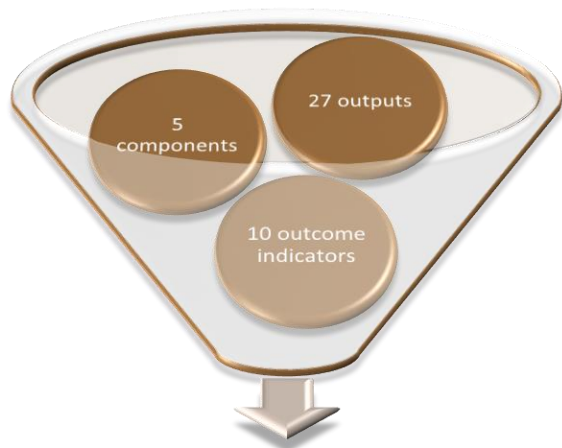
- ✓ to inform the members of the RSC on the progress of implementation of the Regional International Waters Ridge to Reef Project; and
- ✓ for RSC to review and note the progress of implementation as basis for providing strategic guidance and focus, and advice in the remaining project duration.





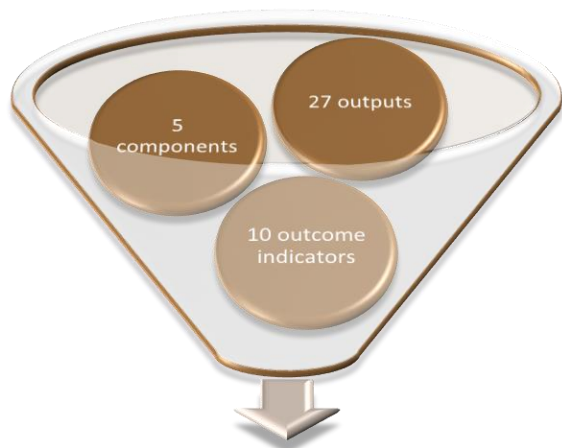
Project Title

**Ridge to Reef:** Testing the integration of water, land, forest and coastal management to preserve ecosystem services, store carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries



Project facts

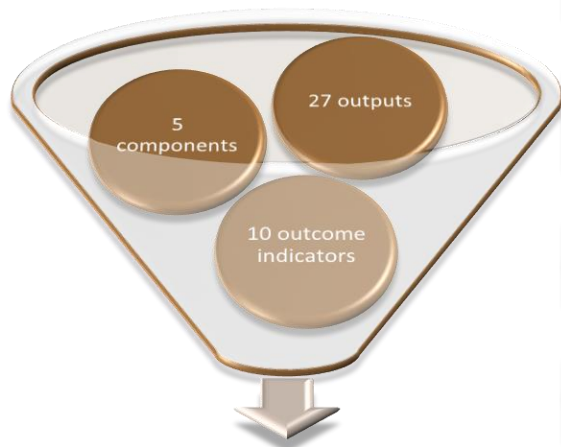
- ❑ **GEF ID:** 5404
- ❑ **PIMS ID:** 5221
- ❑ **Fund source:** Global Environmental Facility
- ❑ **Lead GEF IA:** United Nations Development Program
- ❑ **Executing Agency:** Pacific Community (SPC)
- ❑ **Partners:** 14 Pacific Island Countries
- ❑ **Total budget:** USD 10.3 million
- ❑ **Duration:** August 2015 to September 2021



Project objectives

To **test** the mainstreaming of **Ridge to Reef, climate resilient approaches** to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in the **Pacific Island Countries** through strategic planning, capacity building and piloted local actions to **sustain livelihoods** and preserve **ecosystem services**





Project components

**Component 1**

National Demonstrations to support R2R ICM/IWRM approaches for island resilience & sustainability

**Component 2**

Island-based investments in human capital & knowledge to strengthen national & local capacities for R2R ICM/IWRM approaches, incorporating CCA

**Component 3**

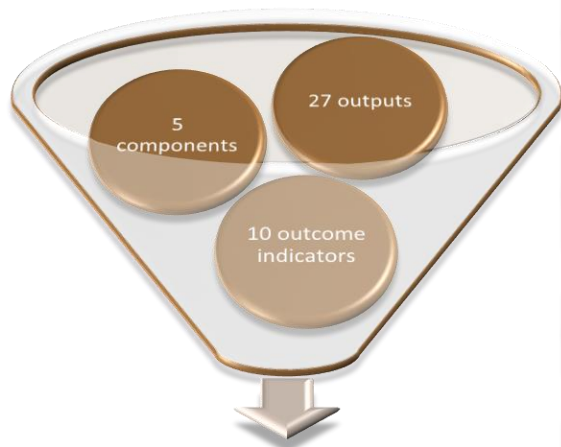
Mainstreaming of R2R ICM/IWRM approaches into national development planning

**Component 4**

Regional & national R2R indicators for reporting, monitoring & adaptive management & knowledge management

**Component 5**

Ridge to Reef regional & national coordination



### Component 1

National Demonstrations to support R2R ICM/IWRM approaches for island resilience & sustainability

### Outcome 1.1

Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM & CCA (linked to STAR via larger Pacific R2R network)

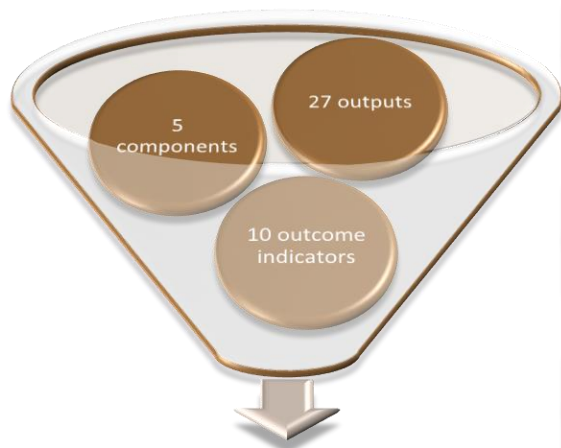
### Outcome 1.2

National diagnostic analysis for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments

### Outcome 1.3

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





Project outcomes

### Component 2

Island-based investments in human capital & knowledge to strengthen national & local capacities for R2R ICM/IWRM approaches, incorporating CCA

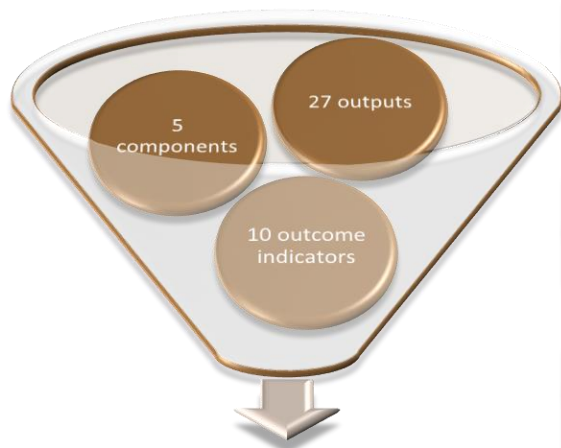
### Outcome 2.1

National & local capacity for ICM & IWRM implementation build to enable best practice in integrated land, water, forests & coastal management & CCA

### Outcome 2.2

Incentive structures for retention of local R2R expertise & inter-governmental dialogue on HR needs for ICM/IWRM initiated





Project outcomes

### Component 3

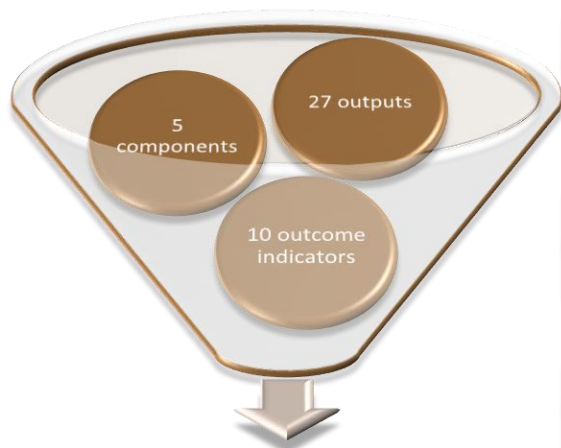
Mainstreaming of R2R ICM/IWRM approaches into national development planning

### Outcome 3.1

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

### Outcome 3.2

Coordinated approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forests & coastal mgt. & CCA achieved in 14 Pacific Island Countries



Project outcomes

#### Component 4

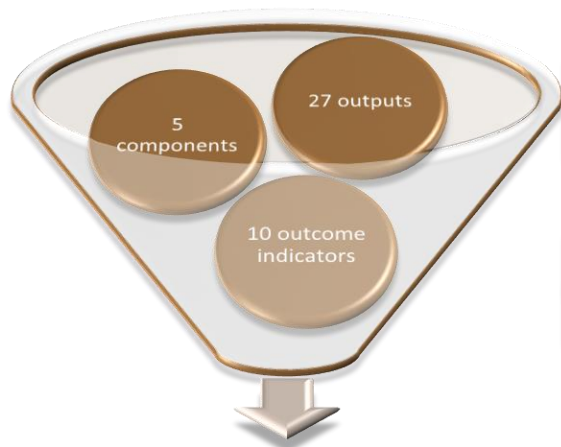
Regional & national R2R indicators for reporting, monitoring & adaptive management & knowledge management

#### Outcome 4.1

National & regional formulation & adoption of integrated & simplified results frameworks for integrating multi-focal projects

#### Outcome 4.2

National & regional platforms for managing information & sharing of best practices & lessons learned in R2R established



Project outcomes

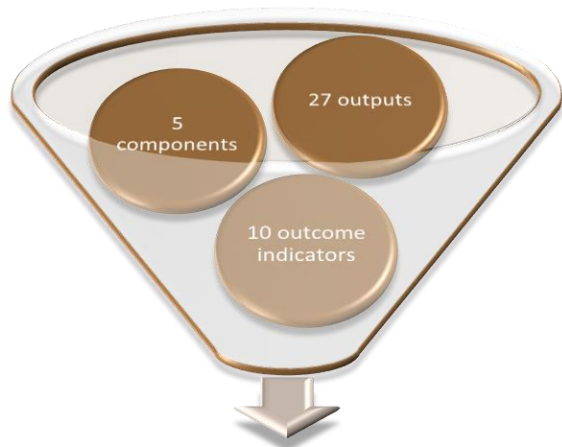
**Component 5**

Ridge to Reef regional & national coordination

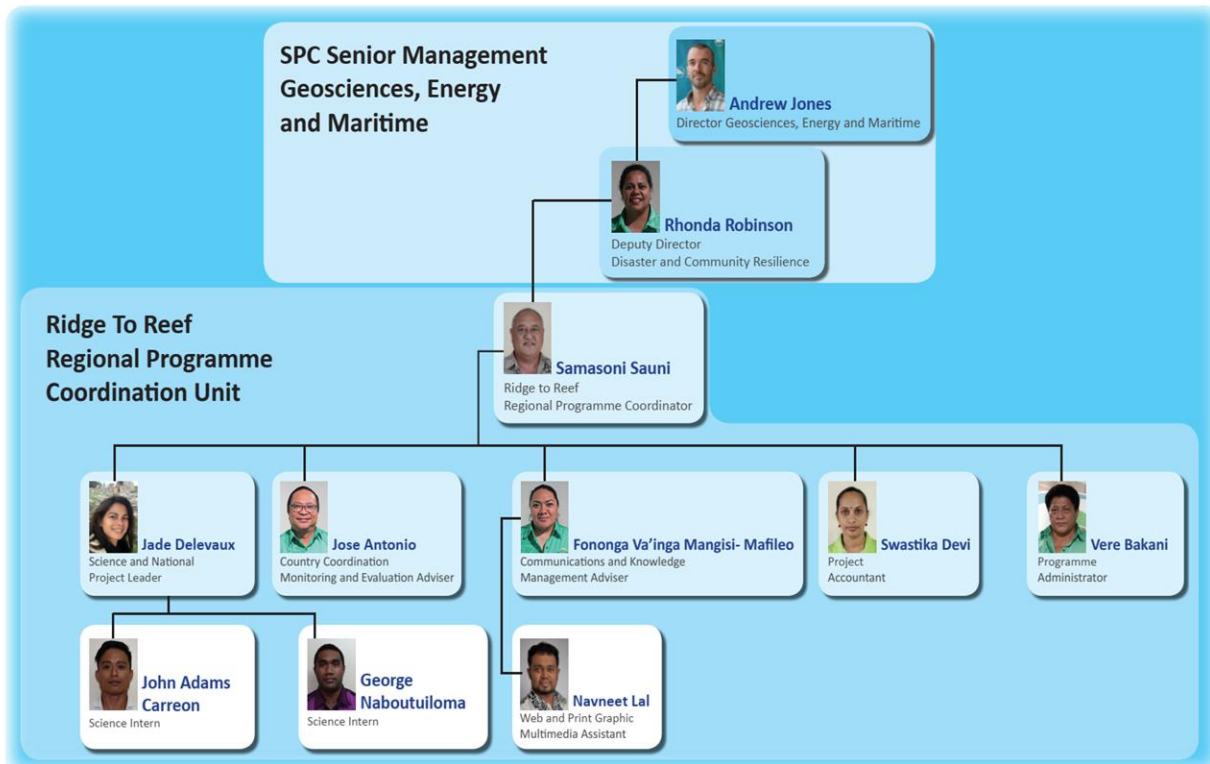
**Outcome 5.1**

Effective program coordination of national & regional Ridge to Reef projects





Organigram



## Overall rating

Development objective (DO)	July 2018-June 2019	July 2019-June 2020
Development objective (DO)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Implementation progress (IP)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory



## Highlights for the period July 2019 to June 2020

- Reviewed the national logframes of 14 IW R2R projects
- Developed the corresponding MYCWP based on the revised logframe and national development priorities
- Assessed and approved the no-cost extension of the 14 national IW R2R projects
- Successfully completed preparation of the R2R spatial prioritization procedures and modelling and conducted the testing and trialling in Vanuatu.
- Provided technical and administrative support to all 14 national projects
- Assessed and approved all progress and financial reports

## Highlights for the period July 2019 to June 2020

- Successfully provided support in the conduct of the external audit
- Commissioned consultancies for carrying out the RapCA for Tonga and Cook Islands
- Commissioned consultancy for Fiji RapCA, site diagnostic and ecosystem goods and services (EGS) valuation soon to go out to tender
- Commissioned consultancy for the redevelopment of the Pacific R2R Website and the corresponding Project Management Information System (PMIS)
- Launched phase-1 of the Pacific R2R website development

### Outcome 1.1

Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM & CCA (linked to STAR via larger Pacific R2R network)

#### Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests



PacificR2R #Vanuatu Rapid Coastal Assessment Team complete trial forest biodiversity and cover assessment of #Tagabe Upper Catchment, including information on endemic and invasive species. The Team included staff of the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, local experts and community volunteers (July, 2018).



Forests reduce the impacts of climate change through carbon storage.

#PacificR2R  
#intlForestDay



- ❑ Purposive advocacy for the implementation of the RSC approved Science to Policy (S2P) Theory of Change.
- ❑ Establishment of the Pacific State of the Coast Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Pacific R2R Programme
- ❑ National demonstration projects are in various stages of implementation



**Outcome 1.2**

National diagnostic analysis for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments

**Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests**




**Forests contribute to food security and livelihoods.**

PacificR2R Samoa Rapid Coastal Assessment  
Team complete trial forest biodiversity and cover assessment of Fagalii Catchment with information on endemic and invasive species. Team incl. Ministry of Natural Resources and #Environment, local experts and community volunteers. (December, 2018)

#PacificR2R  
#intlForestDay



- Conducted Island Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) to the priority countries (coinciding with the RapCA).
- Enhanced procedures for characterizing island coastal areas for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in collaboration with national stakeholders.
- Successfully trialed the refined methodology for the procedure and required indicator sets driving the linked land-sea model.





### Outcome 1.3

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



- ❑ Continued advocacy for inclusive multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder engagement management of the project.
- ❑ National projects are supported in project steering committee meetings and consultations, awareness raising, and advocating for R2R programmatic implementation.
- ❑ Participation in regional fora and conferences to promote investment in R2R (e.g. OPOC-FFA-POA).

### Outcome 2.1

National & local capacity for ICM & IWRM implementation build to enable best practice in integrated land, water, forests & coastal mgt. and CCA



- ❑ 31 students (20 women) completed the post graduate certificate with James Cook University.
- ❑ Established and/or revitalized multi-stakeholder roundtable networks in 14 participating countries.
- ❑ National projects are supported in developing appropriate public awareness and outreach materials during World Water Day and World Oceans Day celebration.



## Outcome 2.2


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



- ❑ Procurement is underway to engage a capacity-building consultant to identify national human capacity needs for R2R and develop a simple guide for Participatory Capacity Building for R2R in the Pacific.

### Outcome 3.1

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






*“Managing our water resources is critical because it impacts our everyday lives. The IW R2R project will strengthen the capacity for watershed assessment, mapping and planning to ensure that we are sustainably managing our water resources for the future of Fiji.”*

**Leaving no one behind**

Tavemisa Luka  
IW R2R Project Manager  
FIJI

#PacificR2R  
#WWD2019  
#Water4All







*“The IW R2R project employs a community-to-cabinet approach to natural resource management. From mobilizing communities to care for Tagabe river health to regulating development activity within the catchment, we are connecting people with nature for sustainable livelihoods and development.”*

**Leaving no one behind**

Erickson Packett  
IW R2R Project Manager  
VANUATU

#PacificR2R  
#WWD2019  
#Water4All


*“To ensure access to safe water for everyone in Tonga, the IW R2R project is working with communities to develop an Integrated Water & Coastal Management Plan for the sustainable management of our scarce natural resources.”*

**Leaving no one behind**

Silia Leger  
IW R2R Project Manager  
TONGA

#PacificR2R  
#WWD2019  
#Water4All





*“To ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all, IW R2R Palau continues to empower local communities to engage in participatory water quality monitoring through the Melekeok Conservation Network (MCN) so that they may establish a long term water quality monitoring program that will be longlasting beyond the project life.”*

**Leaving no one behind**

Leena Muller  
IW R2R Project Manager  
PALAU

#PacificR2R  
#WWD2019  
#Water4All




- ❑ Commissioned consultant to determine options for mainstreaming R2R in the Pacific. A simple guide will be developed as an output of this consultancy.
- ❑ Strategic Action Plans (SAP) will proceed once the RapCA and IDAs are completed.
- ❑ Regional Strategic Framework (SAF) will also proceed once the SAP from the pilot countries are in place.
- ❑ State of Coasts reports will proceed in accordance with the S2P Theory of Change.



### Outcome 3.2

Coordinated approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forests and coastal mgt. and CCA achieved in 14 Pacific Island Countries



- ❑ All 14 national projects have established national Project Steering Committees (PSC) but in various stage of functionality and composition.
- ❑ The project continued advocating for the joint PSC for both STAR R2R and IW R2R. Joint PSC is envisaged to be the platform for joint planning for both projects, and a platform for national mainstreaming of R2R.
- ❑ During RSC 4 in July 2019, IMC/PSC members participated in the Most Significant Change (MSC).



### Outcome 4.1

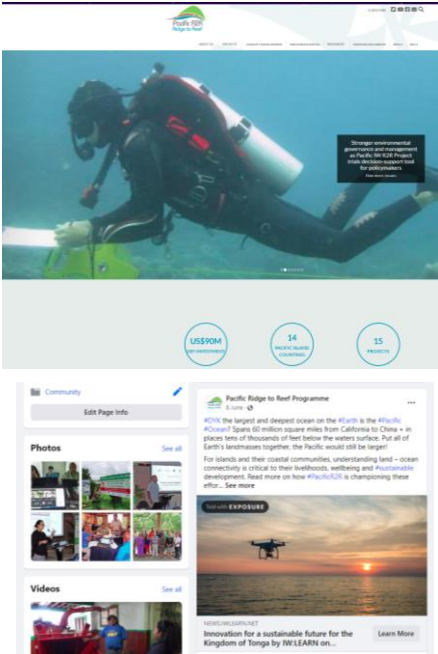
National and regional formulation and adoption of integrated and simplified results frameworks for integrating multi-focal projects



- ❑ Based on the Results-based management System, planning tools and reporting templates were promoted.
- ❑ As a feature of the PMIS:
  - the MYCWP planning tool will be available online as basis for tracking process and results of national implementation.
  - HRR provides information on the contributions of the child project to the GEF focal areas, Aichi and SDG.

## Outcome 4.2

# National & regional platforms for managing information & sharing of best practices & lessons learned in R2R established



- Phase 1 of the Pacific R2R Programme Website redevelopment completed and launched on World Water Day March 22.
- 3,304 users (target 100). Exceeded target
- 25,584 page views,
- 2279 downloads; 167 countries visited
- Most visited page (in order of frequency of visits): Resource library, News, Project pages, Capacity development, Science portal
- Pacific R2R Programme Newsletter inaugural launch in August.
- 6 Experience Notes were prepared and published on the website. 2 drafts in publications process. Almost 80% complete.
- Phase 2 of the Pacific R2R website development is underway including the Roster of Expert and Practitioners and Project Management Information System (PMIS) with planning and results reporting tools for national IW and STAR projects.
- CMS training and Programme and national project briefings on lessons learned were conducted in accordance with the RSC4-approved framework.

**Outcome 5.1**

Effective program coordination of national and regional Ridge to Reef projects



- ❑ Key RPCU staff resignation (e.g. RPC and Science Officer) but swift SPC action for their immediate replacements
- ❑ Country visits to support national implementation intensified (July 2019 to February 2020)
- ❑ Conducted reflection & planning workshop in February 2020.
- ❑ Conducted the first ever Technical consultation meeting of the RSTC in February 2020.





## Strategic issues and adaptive measures

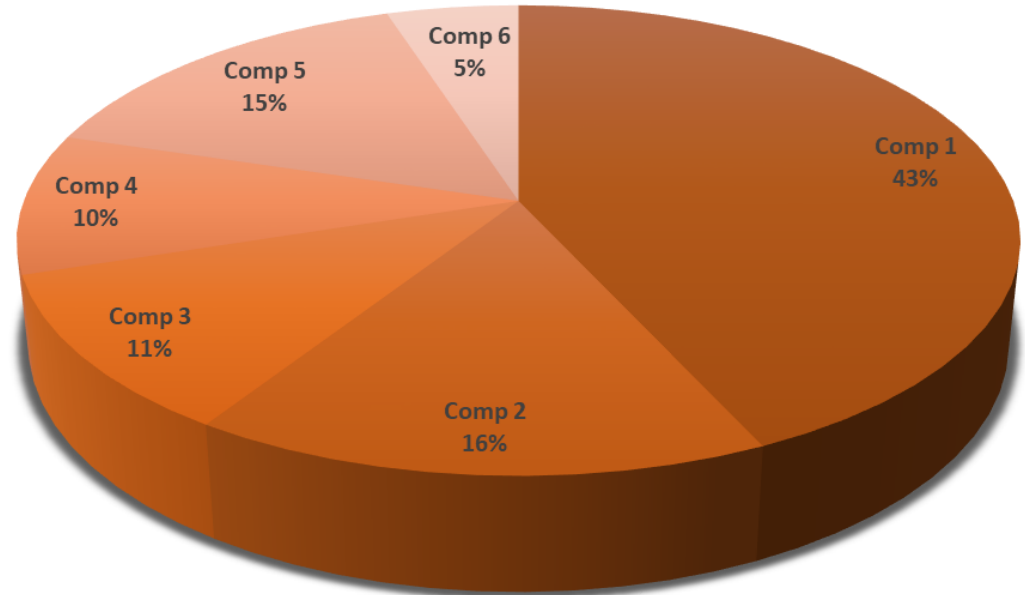
Strategic issues	Adaptive measures
Challenges in ensuring technical robustness as basis for decisions in sustainable resource governance	Modification of science to policy theory of change enforced in combination with adaptive management measures
Limited local capacity, disparity in technical skills and management experience among managers, and turnover of staff	Augmentation of technical support through national and regional technical service providers
Covid-19 Pandemic travel restrictions	Non-conventional approach for providing support to national implementation
GEF Pacific R2R programmatic implementation remains a challenge	Continued advocacy for joint planning, data sharing, lessons learned documentation, & results reporting





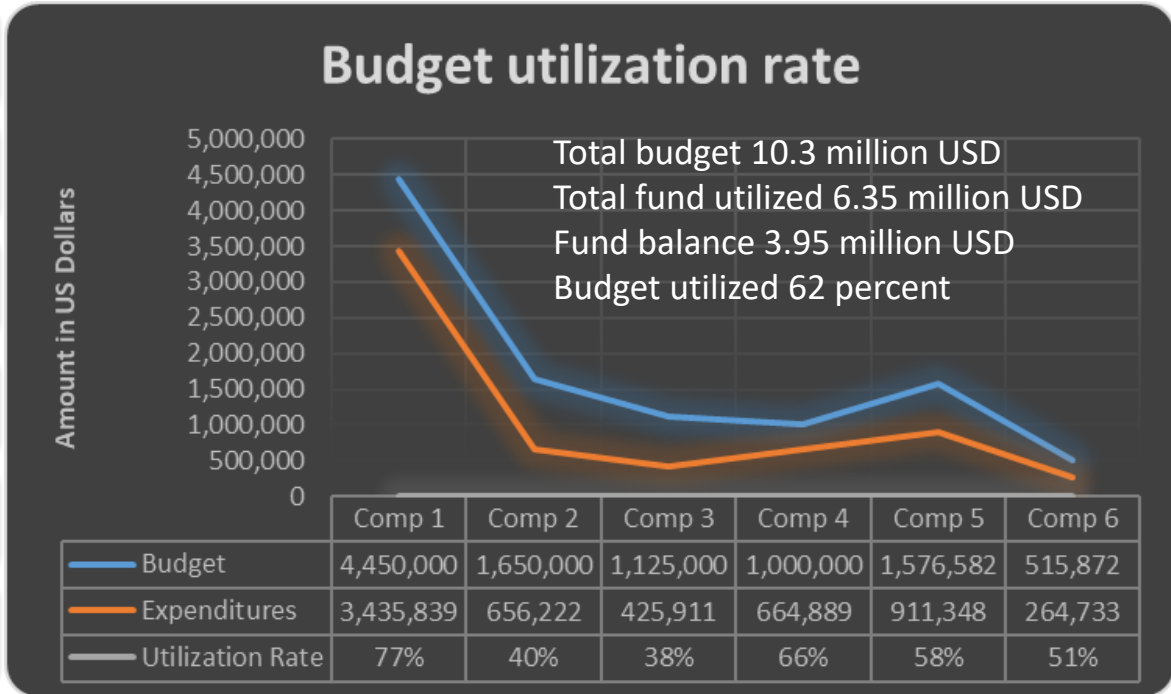
- Comp 1** National demonstrations
- Comp 2** Strengthening capacities for R2R
- Comp 3** R2R mainstreaming
- Comp 4** Adaptive management, M&E and KM
- Comp 5** R2R coordination
- Comp 6** Program management

Budget share per component

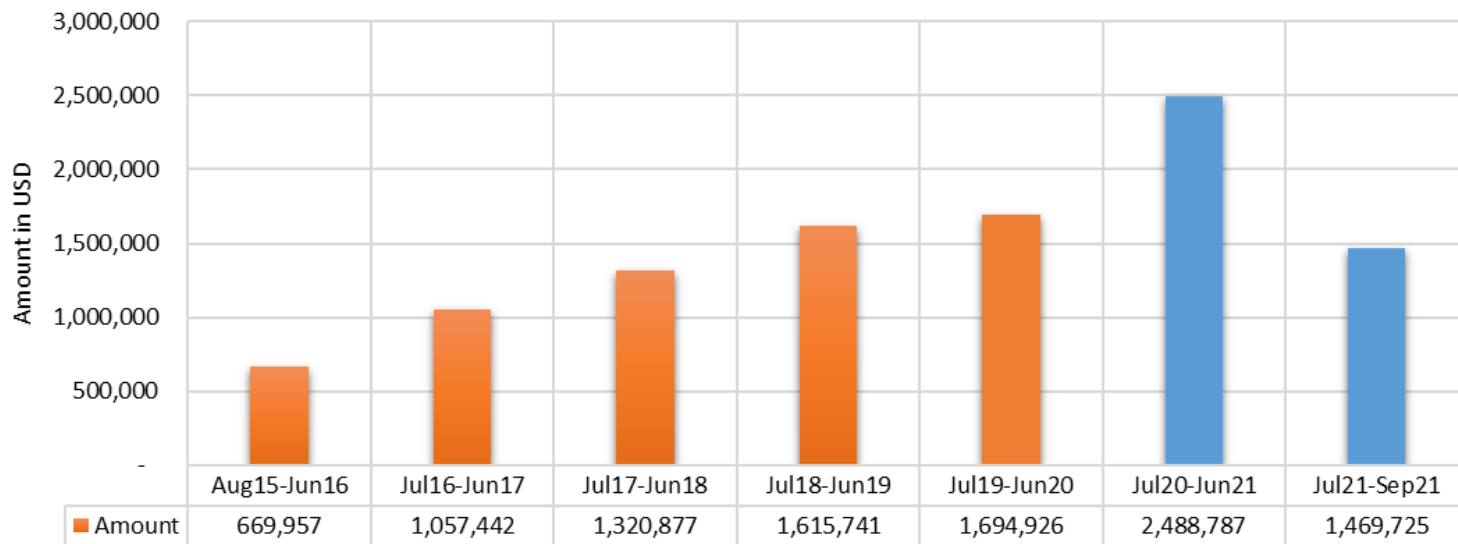




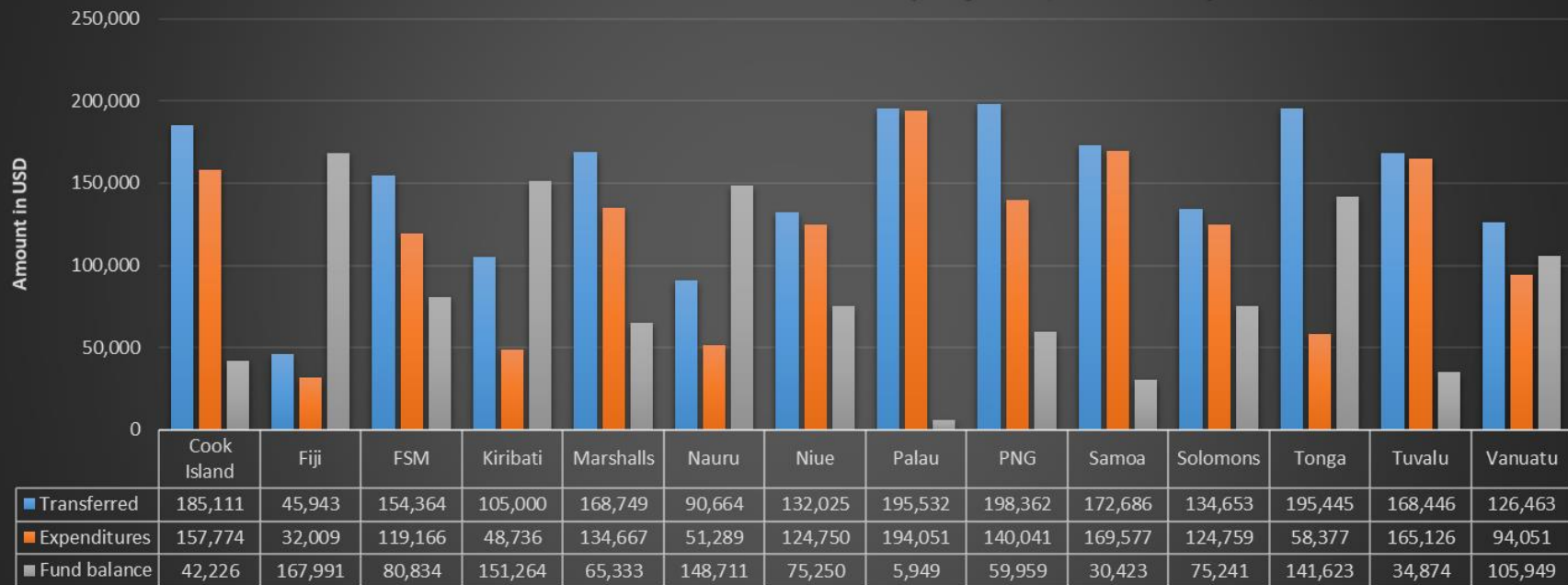
- Comp 1** National demonstrations
- Comp 2** Strengthening capacities
- Comp 3** R2R mainstreaming
- Comp 4** Adaptive mgt, M&E & KM
- Comp 5** R2R coordination
- Comp 6** Program management



## Expenditures and forecasts



### Financial status of the national IW R2R projects, as of Sept. 30, 2020





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

# VINAKA THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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**Layout**

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**References:**

Regional IW R2R Project - Project Document

Reports of the National demonstration projects

Other project reports...

