Regional Coordinator’s Status Report

GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

Samasoni Sauni, Regional Program Coordinator

RPCG – Meeting
Virtual Meeting, October 20, 2020, 1400H-1600H
Development progress
Regional IW R2R Project
Activity monitoring – Regional IW R2R project
Outputs monitoring - Regional IW R2R project

Overall Output Status

Output Status Per Component

Components: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Legend:
- Pending
- In Progress
- Complete
Activity monitoring – MYCWP of 14 PICs

Overall Activity Status

Activity Status Per Project
Outputs monitoring – MYCWP of 14 PICs
## Development progress – Regional IW R2R Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>As of Jun 2019</th>
<th>As of June 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 – Pilot testing of innovative solutions</td>
<td>Off track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 – National diagnostic analysis</td>
<td>Off track</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 – Multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks</td>
<td>Off track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 – National and local capacity on ICM and IWRM</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 – Incentive structures for retention of local expertise/ human resource needs for ICM/IWRM</td>
<td>Off track</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 – National and regional strategic action framework for ICM/IWRM</td>
<td>Off track</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 – Coordinated approaches for R2R</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 – National and regional integrated and simplified frameworks for integrated multi-focal projects</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 – National and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practice &amp; LL</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10 – Effective program coordination of national and regional R2R projects</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Overall rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development objective (DO)</th>
<th>July 2018-June 2019</th>
<th>July 2019-June 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development objective (DO)</td>
<td>Moderately Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Moderately Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation progress (IP)</td>
<td>Moderately Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Moderately Satisfactory</td>
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**Highlights – Regional IW R2R**

Overall performance of development objectives
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
### Strategic issues and adaptive measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic issues</th>
<th>Adaptive measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges in ensuring <strong>technical robustness</strong> as basis for decisions in sustainable resource governance</td>
<td>Modification of science to policy theory of change enforced in combination with adaptive management measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited local capacity, disparity in technical skills and management experience among managers, and turnover of staff</td>
<td>Augmentation of technical support through national and regional technical service providers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Covid-19</strong> Pandemic travel restrictions</td>
<td>Non-conventional approach for providing support to national implementation</td>
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</table>
Specific adaptive management actions during Covid-19 Pandemic

- **(Intensified)** non-conventional approach for providing advisory support (technical, management, administrative) to national implementation – provision of written guidelines and conduct of virtual meetings

- **Change in modality of contracting** consultants – i.e. engaging national consultants versus international consultants

- **Application of national procurement process** versus SPC procurement for regionally driven activities to facilitate decisions in contracting of works and services (e.g. studies and surveys)

- **Direct access to funds** allocated for regionally driven activities by national projects

- **Reallocation of travel budget** (except for RSC, RSTC & JCU face to face meetings)

- **Granting additional request for no-cost extension** to national projects to mitigate implementation delays (e.g. Cook Islands and Palau)
RPCU update on its role in GEF Pacific R2R Programme
1. Compilation of lessons learned and knowledge products
   - RSC approved guidance document on the documentation of lessons learned, Standard ToR, etc.
   - Virtual meetings held on the following: LL, CMS of the Pacific Website, etc.

2. GEF Focal Areas reporting, experience in Programmatic Approach (Pre-RSC Session 2)

3. Support of STAR project to achieving MTR Recommendation number 2, 3, 4, 11 & 15

4. Special topics – (Pre-RSC Session 5): Session outcome document focusing on the programmatic issues and opportunities raised

5. Strategic and operational issues for RPCG Action

6. ...
1. Compilation of lessons learned & knowledge products

- Regional framework for the compilation and development of lessons learned for Pacific R2R Programme drafted and endorsed by the RSC4 (August 2019).
- TOR for report writers provided to IW/STAR project coordinators and managers (December 2020).
- Country briefings on lessons learned have been conducted for the regional programme (September 2020); with separate country briefings for Tuvalu, Palau, Samoa, Cook Islands and PNG (Q2 – Q3 2020).
- Countries have requested extensions from June 30 for submissions on titles and summaries to July 29.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Thematic areas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>Capacity Building and sustainability, Conflict Resolution (land ownership) (STAR) and Project design (IW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>Participatory planning and policy process (community to cabinet) 1.2.2 Functional catchment management committees in Tuva, Votua in Ba and Labasa; 3.2.4.2 Knowledge management - Biophysical/demographic/Socioeconomic data collected and analysed; 1.3, 1.5 ICM Plans developed for 4 catchments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>* STAR</td>
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<td>Kiribati</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>1.3, 1.5 Participatory Planning and policy - Development and approval of the Coastal Fisheries &amp; Aquaculture Act 2020. Draft LMMA plans to be later included in regulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>1.2.6 Capacity building (water quality monitoring program), 1.2.3, 1.5, 1.2.6 mainstreaming to sectoral policy (Greenboots), 1.2.2, 1.4 MNRET creating new institutional structures</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RMI</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>1.2.2, 3.2.4.2, 3.2.3 Participatory planning and policy - REIMAANLAK 8 Step Process as the operational guideline – knowledge management (incl. traditional knowledge) MIS, participatory planning and institutional structures – PAN Office and Action Plan (Output 1.1-1.3 and 3.1-3.3) , 1.2.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.2.6 Outputs 2.1 – 2.4,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>IW</td>
<td>1.1.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.5 Community to Cabinet stakeholder engagement, media and policy advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>STAR</td>
<td>1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.3, , 1.2.7, 1.3, 1.5 8 ISPs have R2R principles integrated that incorporates ICM, MSP and IWRM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>IW</td>
<td>1.1.3, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.7 Improved inter-agency partnership in sustainable catchment management and 2) Community to local government partnerships for sustainable land and surface water use preserving livelihood</td>
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</table>
2. GEF focal areas reporting & experience in Programmatic approach (Pre-RSC Session 2)

• Each child projects were requested to report on the status of *project* contributions to the overall GEF Pacific R2R program, and *strategic issues and remedial measures* from the Programmatic implementation.

• Draw lessons learned from national programmatic implementation in mainstreaming R2R in planning and/or policy.

• Identify possible thematic area/s that could be further explored as regional strategic *regional strategic lessons for upscaling future R2R investments.*
• 34 participants attended this session
• 6 child projects presented (Fiji, Nauru, Palau, RMI, Regional IW, Tuvalu)
• 1 child project not able to present but submitted the PPT material (Kiribati)
• On success rate: Implementation progress are varied among the child projects
  ✓ All are in various stages in delivering outputs and achieving outcomes. None has fully achieved the expected outputs as indicated in the ProDoc
  ✓ Level of delivery influenced and/or hampered by either strategic issues and/or operational limitations
  ✓ Poor project design, ambitious targets, change in political atmosphere resulting in change priorities, ineffective governance, turfing and competing interest among stakeholders, and difficulty in enforcing processes among implementing partners – UNDP and government requirements, were regarded as strategic issues that hampered achievement of the outcomes
  ✓ Operationally, projects were also affected by the limited local technical expertise, different technical capacities among implementors, disparity in technical skills and management experience, delays in fund transfer, slow spending by implementing partners, and staff turnover.
  ✓ Covid-19 pandemic limits the mobility of staffs and consultants and thus affected timely production of outputs.
• On lessons learned from programmatic implementation
  ✓ R2R is acknowledged as an effective approach for sustainable resource governance
  ✓ Mainstreaming R2R requires strong political will from highest governance level
  ✓ Joint STAR and IW Project Steering Committee enhances the change of success
  ✓ At the GEF Pacific R2R Programme level, Programme Steering structure remained unclear.
  ✓ Cooperation and buy-in of and among R2R stakeholders needs improvement
  ✓ Processes, rules and procedures should be directed towards achieving the Programme objectives.

• On thematic area/s for upscaling
  ✓ R2R Programme must demonstrate inclusive steering, cooperation and meaningful participation and responsive processes
  ✓ Upscaling of a well-designed R2R Program requires:
    ✓ A well-defined strategy based on agreed science to policy continuum (i.e. common and enforceable implementation framework) and clear processes
    ✓ Effective, meaningful participation, ownership and commitment by stakeholders
    ✓ Demonstrable political support, community acceptance and active involvement
    ✓ Realistic timelines and adequate resources
• RPCU commissioned consultants that will assist RPCU in achieving the MTR Recommendations 2 - (Review of lessons learned and best practice from previous IWRM), 3 – Re-evaluate project linkages with other national activities and processes, 4 – options for mainstreaming Ridge to Ridge, 11 – Compiling lessons learned, and 15 – Capacity building focus.

• **Consultancy 1**: Aims to develop a framework document for effectively mainstreaming R2R for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Region (responding to MTR Recommendations: 2,3,4,11)

• **Consultancy 2**: Aims to identify national human capacity needs and develop a Capacity Development Guide for Ridge to Reef in the Pacific Region (responding to MTR Recommendation: 15)

Together with the IW Project Managers, provide proactive support on the following:
- providing documents requested by the consultants
- linkage to appropriate authorities and offices/officers who may serve as information gatekeepers
• Two of the 3 papers presented in the Pre-RSC Session 5 – Special topics, namely: Pacific R2R Information Management System and the Regional guidelines for the application of R2R Prioritization and Planning Procedures

• On R2R Information Management System
  ✓ Contribute in populating the system with data and information by the STAR projects
  ✓ Ensure that data and information will be analysed and utilized to inform decisions.

• On R2R Prioritization and Planning Procedure
  ✓ Replicating the application/testing of land-sea model
  ✓ Capacity building for understanding the model and the corresponding requirements for further testing/replication
### Strategic issues

GEF Pacific R2R programmatic implementation remains a challenge despite advocacy of the RPCU on the following:

1. Establishment of **Joint STAR & IW Steering Committee**
2. Submission of the **lessons learned documents** following the RSC4 approved Programmatic Guide
3. Submission of the data and information as indicated in the **Harmonized Results Reporting** template
4. **Share data, information and reports** that are relevant to the Programmatic approach for GEF results reporting

### Action requested

RPCG/GEF implementing agencies to actively advocate/promote to the STAR project (Project Steering Committees (PSC) or Project Board, and to project managers or project coordinators) for supporting and complying with the requirements of the Programmatic approach.
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