



GEF IW R2R/RSC TC2/ WP.16
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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

Radisson Blu Resort, Denarau, Fiji 15th to 17th February 2021

Session 5 – Modified R2R Science-Policy Framework

Suggested Draft Indicative Workplan

Summary:

The paper presents a working draft of the revised science to policy work-plan for the Regional IW R2R Project and the Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The suggested workplan stems from the MYCWP which was considered and approved last year at the RSC-5 formal session, which assists in the planning and implementation of remaining priority activities of the project. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the closure of borders meant that workplan must be re-adjusted taking into consideration shorter timeframe of 6-months no cost extension and the realistic expectation to mobilise resources to allow, without delay, implement priority tasks that deliver quality results and targets. The paper further aims to inform discussion on what should be considered relevant and priority to reflect in the revised work plan and making decisions dropping the less priority tasks.

Recommendations

Participants are invited to:

1. Review and assess the changes in the modified science to policy work-plan and if appropriate; and
2. Provide clear advice on the work-plan, suggesting improvements if any, on the activities that can

Purpose:

1. The proposed Science to Policy work-plan provides a general guidance and platform which Participants can use as basis to discuss, review, and prioritise relevant project activities that can be realistically completed and accomplished within the allocated timeframe.
2. The suggested science workplan is based on the RSC approved MYCWP which initially designed to cover the full scope of implementing and delivering on project outputs and outcomes over the course of the remaining life of the project, taking into consideration the 12-months no-cost extension.

Rationale:

3. The Regional IW R2R Project document specifies the outcomes required to effect mainstreaming of the R2R concept, as follows: -
 - i. Outcomes 1.1 Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM and climate change adaptation
 - ii. Outcome 1.2 National diagnostic analyses for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments
 - iii. Outcome 3.1 National and regional strategic action frameworks for ICM/IWRM endorsed nationally and regionally
4. The approved science-policy theory of change provides clear details on specific steps to take and preparations needed prior and during implementation. The guidelines and templates are also useful references to use and guide the roll out of work and achieve the above outcomes.
5. The Science Workplan is expected to produce the following science deliverables in at least six (6) priority participating countries, namely, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, FSM, Tonga, and Samoa (and RMI and PNG as reserves): -
 - i. Rapid Assessment of Priority Coastal Areas (RapCA)
 - ii. Island Diagnostic Analysis (IDA)
 - iii. State of the Coast Report (SoC Report)
 - iv. Strategic Action Framework (SAF)
6. The remaining countries may wish to use the regional guidelines for implementing the science to policy framework and prepare their diagnostic, SoC and SAF reports in the current project, or may choose to defer to future R2R investments. The workplan also requires development of one Regional Strategic Action Plan possibly following the completion of national science deliverables.

Challenges

7. Due to the COVID-19 travel restriction, countries now having to engage local consultants to carry out the work. This is an issue because some of the countries don't have the capacity to conduct the work, and where there is capacity, demands high fees.

8. Staff turnover at the RPCU is quite high and three (3) staffs resigned last year which slows down the work especially in areas of technical support. Communications with project managers and consultants can be sometimes difficult as some countries does not have a good internet connection. Some project managers still have trouble understanding the concept of R2R. This can often lead to the slow progress in the work carried out.

Conclusion

9. Participants are invited to note the current state of implementation and the challenges experienced and use that to discuss the proposed workplan and make appropriate changes to ensure the plan produce results and deliver on science outcomes.

