



GEF IW R2R/ RSTC-TC.2 WP.21

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## **Second Series Technical Consultation of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme**

Radisson Blu Resort, Denarau, Fiji, February 15-17, 2021

### ***Session 6 – Looking Ahead Post-Ridge to Reef***

#### **Indicative Listing of various studies carried out by the Participants of the Second RSTC Technical Consultation**

##### **Summary:**

The paper provides brief background on the intent and purpose for documenting the various studies conducted/carried out by the participants of the Second RSTC technical consultation organized by the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program and the Regional IW R2R project. The paper also documents the nature of these studies as building blocks for future Ridge to Reef projects.

##### **Recommendations:**

The R2R Technical Consultation is invited to: -

- (i) Note the intent and purpose of the consolidating the various studies carried out by experts and practitioners of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program;
- (ii) Discuss and evaluate the methodological aspects and the processes undertaken in the application of such studies, reflect, discuss, and draw lessons from the experience, and identify important features that ensure effectiveness and efficiency;
- (iii) Where appropriate, discuss and identify opportunities for documenting, packaging the features identified in (ii) as knowledge products, that can be used as building blocks in crafting knowledge products such as but not limited to manuals, process guides, etc.;
- (iv) Discuss and recommend clear directions in the utility and useful application of this knowledge products in the Pacific region into the future.

## Introduction:

1. The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program is a program comprising of 15 child projects (STAR and IW) implemented across the 14 Pacific Island Countries.
2. All 14 child projects – System for Transparent Allocation of Resources or STAR are nationally implemented following a multi-bilateral agreement with GEF implementing agencies, namely: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Regional IW R2R project -as one of the child projects- is executed by the Pacific Community with UNDP as the GEF implementing agency.
3. The Regional Program Coordinating Unit (RPCU) implements the Regional IW R2R project and at the same time provides the coordinating role for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program.
4. Fulfilling the coordinating role, the RPCU (as indicated in the Program Framework Document (PFD) also is tasked to document lessons learned in the application of R2R sensitive approaches by the child projects of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program experts and practitioners that is fit for purpose and tested in the Pacific Region, for replication and ultimately mainstreaming.
5. Pursuant to this coordination role, RPCU developed the [Pacific Regional R2R Programmatic Framework for lessons learned](#). This document was approved by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in 2019.

## Testing of various interventions and studies

6. STAR and IW child projects are testing various approaches that ensures effective governance of natural resources and allows sustainable provision of ecosystem goods and services.
7. Of relevance, the approaches being tested ranges from (i) assessing<sup>1</sup> available natural resources and understanding its natural and anthropogenic drivers, (ii)<sup>2</sup> R2R sensitive planning and establishment of decision support system<sup>3</sup>, (iii) innovative technological and socio-economic package<sup>4</sup>, and (iv) options for enhancing national<sup>5</sup> and regional policies.
8. The application and testing of these approaches generates results. These results directly or indirectly contribute to technological, socio-economic, planning and policy, etc.
9. Most importantly, testing enhances the capacities of stakeholders, building blocks for improving or enhancing established processes, methodological, and maybe scientific protocols, etc.
10. The caveat for this must be that testing is done considering the Ridge to Reef approach. This is the common and unifying aspect that the documentation is anchored into.

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<sup>1</sup> RapCA, BioRAP, IDA, and other resource assessment methodologies and tools

<sup>2</sup> Resource management specific planning processes such as but not limited to catchment or watershed management planning, integrated coastal management planning, land use planning, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Spatial prioritization modelling, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Dry litter piggery, compost toilet, forest restoration, etc.

<sup>5</sup> State of the Coast and the Strategic Action Plan, and other policy issuances.

## **Consolidation and documentation**

11. The Regional Scientific and Technical Committee technical consultation is an opportunity to gather information on the testing conducted under the R2R program.
12. A simple consolidated matrix (see Annex 1) is prepared to capture the information at this consultation and into the future and the remaining period of each of the 15 child projects (IW & STAR R2R). Progress of documenting the studies set out in the matrix would be revisited in future RSTC consultations.
13. Each participant to the Second RSTC Technical Consultation meeting will be requested to accomplish a questionnaire (see Annex 2). The information that will be provided will be consolidated by the RPCU.
14. The consolidated matrix will then be presented at plenary and would then be used as basis for ensuing discussions.

## **Conclusion/ Recommendations**

15. The GEF Pacific R2R Programme is expected to produce a whole range of knowledge products that correspond to various approaches being tested and pursued, which in turn, ensures effective governance of natural resources and allows sustainable provision of ecosystem goods and services.
16. The R2R Technical Consultation is invited to: -
  - (i) Note the intent and purpose of the consolidating the various studies carried out experts and practitioners of Ridge to Reef Program;
  - (ii) Noting the methodological aspects and the processes undertaken in the application of such studies, reflect, discuss, and draw lessons from the experience, and identify important features that ensure effectiveness and efficiency;
  - (iii) In relation to point (ii), and where appropriate, discuss and identify opportunities for documenting, packaging these features as knowledge products, that can be used as building blocks in crafting knowledge products such as but not limited to manuals, process guides, etc.;
  - (iv) Discuss and recommend clear directions in the utility and useful application of this knowledge products in the Pacific region into the future.

