



GEF IW R2R/ RSC.6/ IP.07

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**Sixth Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual) for the GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Project entitled:**

*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*

Suva, Fiji 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

**PRE RSC-INVESTMENT FORUM & ROUNDTABLE (CASE STUDY) SESSIONS (VIRTUAL)  
- A CONCEPT**

**Purpose:**

1. The R2R Investment Forum provides an opportunity to present range of project products and publications prepared by the Regional IW R2R project as well, several products of STAR R2R projects. These products, publications, and other toolkits form basis to support priority community based IWRM/IWR2R/CCAM<sup>1</sup> integrated actions and promote mainstreaming of R2R for sustainable development in PICs.

**Funding:**

2. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funds the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme covering GEF six (6) focal areas and sixteen (16) child projects, and implemented by UNDP, UNEP and UNFAO in partnership with SPC as the executing agency, to implement and deliver on project goals, outcomes, and targets with generous support of respective national governments of fourteen (14) PICs.

**Rationale:**

3. Regional IW R2R project's stakeholders, heads of host agencies or GEF (Operational) Focal Points, and development/ bilateral partners (who are also targeted audience of the investment forum) have engaged in several past <sup>2</sup>forums to explore opportunities for future

<sup>1</sup> Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), International Waters Ridge to Reef (IWR2R), Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation (CCAM)

<sup>2</sup> World Bank-sponsored, Pacific Ocean Finance Conference convened by the Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner (OPOC) in partnership with Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), and the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) Conference convened by the Office of Pacific Ocean Commissioner, the GCF Pacific Dialogue, UNICEF Webinar Series, and IUCN-World Water Day.

financing of priority community based ICM/IWRM actions and promote mainstreaming of R2R for sustainable development.

4. Consistent with the requirement of the Regional IW R2R project document, the regional 'investment forum' corresponds well towards delivering on the following project components, outcomes, and outputs: -

Component 1: Number of forums held to discuss opportunities for agreements on private sector and donor participation in PIC sustainable development

Outcome 1.3: Low level mobilization of the private sector in environmental investment and planning in PICs

Output 1.3.2: Up to 14 new national private-sector and donor partnership forums for investment planning in priority community-based ICM/IWRM actions

**Activities:**

5. Update - A Regional Investment Forum was planned and approved by RSC for 2020 at the margins of the RSC5 meeting. However, because of the COVID travel restrictions, the RPCU has re-scheduled this forum next year (i.e., 2022) if hosting a face-2-face meeting is permitted.

**Target audience:**

6. Development Partners (UNDP, UNEP, UNFAO), GEF, GCF, EU, etc.), PICs proactively engaging, demonstrably committed, and agreed to implement integration and mainstreaming R2R in domestic policy and legislative frameworks.

**R2R Investment Forum Schedule of Events**

***SESSION 1 – Introduction and Reflection on R2R Products***

7. SPC staff and consultants will introduce several R2R products and invite the forum to deliberate on the significant contribution and impacts where these products can assist integrating and mainstreaming R2R in domestic policy and legislative frameworks. Notably, 'one size does not fit all' therefore discussion and resolutions reached should take into consideration such differences in local situations.

8. The RPCU will prepare and circulate a 'zero draft' declaration ahead of the investment forum. The zero draft will contain suggested high-level messages and resolutions which promote a truly integrated approach in managing biological diversity and other natural resources having focused which support the integration and mainstreaming of innovative and practical natural resource management approaches in current and future R2R investments and ICM planning.

9. The resolutions will reflect the experiences and lessons learned having the R2R project focused on innovation, testing, and catalysing implementation of cutting-edge methodologies, technology, and policy reforms with the objective of enabling replication and future investments and scaling-up of integrated R2R approaches.

10. Several of the R2R regional guidelines and policy frameworks presented at this forum are given below. These products were prepared recognising best practices and practical application of priority actions and reforms which are practical and realistic to situations at the regional, national, and subnational levels. The period and time to deliver on R2R goals and experience the impact of R2R investments vary considerably. However, based on experience the realization of impacts and benefits takes a long time mainly due to the nature and current state of the ecosystem goods and services.

Regional Guide for mainstreaming R2R  
Capacity needs assessment  
Guidelines for implementing spatial prioritization procedures and modelling  
Guidelines for implementing R2R science to policy strategic framework  
Guidelines for R2R gender toolkits  
Next phase R2R priority areas as set out in the generic project concept, and proposals vying for GEF-8, GCF, and EU.  
Examples of several national IDA, SoC and SAF  
Online publications and presentations

#### **Open Dialogue & Discussion**

11. The participants will be invited to:

- (i) Evaluate contributions of R2R products and publications in ensuring medium to long term impacts of the current and future R2R investments make an impact and deliver on the overall conservation objectives of the GEF Pacific R2R Program taking into consideration development priorities of PICs.
- (ii) Identify opportunities for upscaling and replicating proven and tested innovative measures based on lessons learned and through implementing measures to manage catchment and coastal/marine ecosystems. Equally, encourage discussion on the utility and application of the products to support blue-green (nature-ecosystem based) initiatives to increase production of key sectors supporting vulnerable economies, livelihoods and ensuring ecosystem services in the current and post COVID-19 recovery period.
- (iii) Review priority focus areas set out in next phase project concepts and proposal and provide advice on priority and practical actions taken at the national level.

#### ***SESSION 2 - R2R Investment Forum Declaration & the Regional Framework for R2R Natural Resource Management Governance, Sustainable Use and Climate Resilience.***

12. SPC staff will introduce the 'zero draft' of the declaration seeking discussion and facilitating further drafting work to enhance and finalise the document. An update clean version will be circulated inviting further consideration and comments on the document. A final version will be presented to the RSC for approval and signing.

13. The R2R Investment Forum Declaration signals support from countries and partners desiring to adapt the ridge to reef concept as integrated approach to natural resource governance, sustainable use and management, and climate resilience cross-sectorally along the land to sea continuum.

14. A regional framework for R2R Natural Resource Management Governance can be annexed (or provided separately) to the Declaration.

### **Group Discussion**

15. The participants will be invited to:

- (i) Reflect and discuss the zero-draft declaration with a view to enhance the document and reflect priority and relevant high-level messages and resolutions which seek to support the integration and mainstreaming of R2R in domestic policies and legislations relative to natural resources management and governance.
- (ii) Recognise that the regional resolution signals an opportunity for countries to renew their commitments towards integration and mainstreaming R2R in either planning process and/or adoption and issuance of new policies. The regional guidelines and toolkits provide useful reference for that purpose.
- (iii) Reflect on the importance of integrated natural resource management approach from land to sea, and from ridge to reef and beyond. The forum is requested to approve the proposed Regional Framework for R2R Natural Resource Governance is based on such approach, and the utility of land-sea modelling as a decision support tool.
- (iv) Submit the final declaration and the regional framework for the RSC consideration and approval. It is expected that the documents will be signed representatives of participating countries, civil societies, academia, and communities, and transmit to the next meeting of the Forum Leaders in 2022.

### ***SESSION 3 - Roundtable/ Case Studies Session – Invited Panellists***

16. The target audience will be the same as that of the investment forum and CEOs or Heads of Project Host Agencies at the national level are particularly invited to attend.

17. There will be few selected case studies for the Roundtable and the aim is to provide an opportunity to proactively engage respective countries and agencies and allow nominated panellists to tell their own successful stories. These stories and lessons learned would be particularly linked to testing and demonstrating the benefits of innovative technologies including range of integrated management approaches cross-sectorally to ensure community resilience, sustain ecosystem goods and services from land to sea or ridge to reef and beyond, and in turn foster and improve livelihoods.

18. Several country or regional champions will be selected to speak and present their own stories and experiences.

- (i) Panellist 1 - can speak on the establishment of a successful large MPA and how R2R investments have contributed to the success of this initiative
- (ii) Panellist 2 - can speak on the role of communities, women, and traditional leaders in supporting demonstration R2R project work in-country.
- (iii) Panellist 3 – can share on the role of private sector and civil society to support efforts, using R2R investments and available tools or otherwise, in implementing activities directly link to improving food security and production in key sectors of agriculture and fisheries, alternative earnings to entrepreneurs and communities in the forestry and, mining and tourism sectors.
- (iv) Panellist 4 – any others

19. The SPC staff will moderate the roundtable discussion and key outcomes will help formulate policy cohesion necessary for drafting resolutions in the declarations outline above. A summary of the roundtable outcomes will be presented to the RSC.