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Inception Workshop and 1st Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF/SPC/UNDP 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”*

Nadi, Fiji Islands, 10th– 14th October, 2016

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS OF THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME

This paper is tabled for information purposes, specifically to direct the attention of the committee to the programmatic multi-focal area, multi-partner approach adopted by this initiative. The anticipated results of the programme outlined above are broad, wide reaching, and cut across a number of highly urgent national priority environmental and natural resource management issues. Effective implementation of programme activities aimed at achieving these results will make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the participating Pacific Island Countries, and will also make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It is critical that the design, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of national level activities of the programme ensure adequate alignment with the overarching results framework of the programme. The committee may wish to give consideration to the actions required to ensure this.

1. Background

1.1. The Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as the financial mechanism for the following conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The GEF administers the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) which were established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC. The GEF also administers the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) that was established by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In addition, the GEF Secretariat hosts the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat. Established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the GEF has since provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects globally.

1.2. Programme Goal

The GEF financed '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' programme (referred to hereafter as the 'GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme') is a global test case of the GEF which aims to guide the coordinated investment of GEF grant funding across its focal areas of biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land management, sustainable forest management, and international waters. The goal of this US\$93 million programme ***“is to maintain and enhance Pacific Island countries’ ecosystem goods and services (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural) through integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resource management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience”***.

1.3. Programme Components

Programme activities are organised under the following areas of work: (1) on-the-ground demonstration projects addressing national priority environmental and natural resource management issues; (2) the strengthening of governance and coordination arrangements for integrated approaches to land, water and coastal management; (3) the development of results-oriented approaches to programme delivery and reporting, including harmonisation of GEF results reporting frameworks with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway; and (4) regional coordination.

1.4. A Multi-Partner Initiative

The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme is a multi-agency initiative involving the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as GEF implementing agencies. The Pacific Community (SPC) was identified by the GEF as a regional executing partner to lead programme coordination due to its success in managing regional initiatives of the GEF in the past as well as SPC's existing capacities in a wide range of areas relevant to programme implementation, including water resource management, geoscience for development, disaster management, public health, forestry, fisheries, and youth, gender and culture. The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), based within SPC's Geoscience Division and financed via a US\$10.3 million GEF grant, possesses multidisciplinary expertise to support programme implementation through to 2019 in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and communications and knowledge sharing.

2. Results Framework for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

2.1. Programme Alignment with the GEF Focal Area Objectives

The programme is squarely aligned with the strategic objectives of the following GEF focal areas, Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, International Waters, Land Degradation and multi-focal area Sustainable Forest Management initiative. The anticipated outcomes and outputs of the

programme for each of the GEF-5 focal area objectives are summarised in Table 1. Whereas Table 2 presents the anticipated outcomes and outputs by project components.

Table 1: Anticipated outcomes and outputs of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme (extracted from the GEF Council approved Programme Framework Document)

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs
BD-1	1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas. 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management	New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems Sustainable financing plans (number)
BD-2	2.2: Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks	Policies and regulatory frameworks for production sectors National and sub-national land-use plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services valuation
BD-5	Outcome 5.1 Development and sectoral planning frameworks at country level integrate measurable biodiversity conservation and sustainable use targets	Development and sectoral planning frameworks that include measurable biodiversity conservation and sustainable use targets in the following sectors: agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors
LD-1	1.1: An enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector 1.2: Improved agricultural management 1.3: Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems	National policies that guarantee small holder and community tenure security Types of innovative SL/WM practices introduced at field level Suitable LS/WM interventions to increase vegetative cover in agroecosystems
LD-2	Enhanced enabling environment within forest environments in drylands Improved forest management drylands Functionality and cover of forest ecosystems in drylands maintained	National policies that guarantee small holder and community tenure security Types of innovative SFM practices introduced at field level Suitable SFM interventions introduced
LD-3	3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities	Integrated land management plans developed and implemented INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested
CC-5	Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands	Forest and non-forest lands under good management practices
IW-1	1.1 Incorporation of national policy reforms on IWRM into national/local plans and actions	National and local policy and legal reforms adopted with functioning national inter-ministry committees

	1.3: Innovative solutions implemented for reduced pollution, improved water use efficiency, sustainable fisheries with rights-based management, IWRM, water supply protection in SIDS, and aquifer and catchment protection	Types of technologies and measures implemented in local demonstrations and investments (number) Enhanced capacity for issues of climatic variability and change and groundwater management
IW-3	3.1 Political commitment and capacity demonstrated for ICM integrating with existing IWRM commitments 3.2 On ground actions implemented for coastal habitat conservation of “blue forests” 3.3: IW portfolio capacity and performance enhanced from active learning/KM/experience sharing	National ICM-IWRM commitment in place, including coastal diagnostic analysis (number) and national inter-ministry committee oversight documented Local ICM plans adopted (number) Demonstration scale local actions piloted for ICM integrating with IWRM Active experience / sharing / learning practiced in the IW portfolio, including through GEF IW:LEARN
SFM-1	1.1: Enhanced enabling environment within the forest sector and across sectors	Forest area under sustainable management, separated by forest type
	1.2: Good management practices applied in existing forests	Payment for ecosystem services (PES) systems established
SFM-2	2.1: Enhanced institutional capacity to account for GHG emissions reduction and increase in carbon stocks	National forest carbon accounting system designed and peer reviewed ready for implementation
	2.2: New revenue for SFM created through engaging in the carbon market	Innovative national financing mechanisms designed using established models and customized
CCA-1	1.1: Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development sectors frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable coastal areas	Adaptation measures and necessary budget allocations included in relevant frameworks Resilient infrastructure measures introduced to prevent economic losses
	1.2: Reduced vulnerability in development sectors	Vulnerable physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability
CCA-2	2.1: Increased knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas	Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted and updated Systems in place to disseminate timely risk information
CCA-3	3.1 Successful demonstration, deployment and transfer of relevant adaptation technology in targeted areas	Relevant adaptation technology transferred to targeted groups

2.2. Anticipated outcomes and outputs by project component

Table 2: Anticipated outcomes and outputs of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme by component (extracted from the GEF Council approved Programme Framework Document)

Program Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs
National Multi-focal Area Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries	<p>Ridge-to-Reef approach achieved in demonstration sites through the scaling up of IWRM and introduction of ICM towards integrated management of natural resources and to reduce watershed and coastal pollution in priority catchments</p> <p>Improved terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation in priority catchments and linked coastal areas</p> <p>Carbon stocks restored and enhanced in priority catchments and coastal areas</p> <p>Sustainable forest management (SFM) achieved through institutional strengthening, demonstration pilots and innovative schemes in priority catchments</p> <p>Sustainable financing schemes developed to support biodiversity conservation and integrated approaches, including REDD+ in priority catchments</p> <p>Improved resilience to climate change of island ecosystems and communities in priority catchments</p>	<p>Catchment level and coastal area integrated approaches (ICM/IWRM) introduced and/or scaled up in priority sites for 14 PICs</p> <p>Measurable pollution reduction, enhanced water use efficiency, other measurable IWRM impacts, and SLM implemented in Ridge-to-Reef national pilot demonstration sites in 14 PICs</p> <p>New terrestrial protected areas declared and protected in at least 6 PICs</p> <p>Coastal 'blue forest' conserved in critical sites in around 7 PICs.</p> <p>Reforestation and restoration of degraded forests in 7 watersheds in at least two PICs (Fiji and Tonga) resulting in the sequestration of CO₂</p> <p>Support for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness through country dialogues and other schemes in around 4 PICs</p> <p>Innovative system-level sustainable financing plans and schemes (e.g., PES, trust funds) supported by valuation studies for protected areas and landscapes developed in around 5 PICs</p> <p>Climate change risk and vulnerability assessments conducted / updated / refined in priority sites in around 10 PICs and integrated into ICM-IWRM and land and forest management plans as well as diagnostic analyses.</p> <p>Integrated (including ecosystem-based) and community-based approaches implemented in sites in 10 PICs as noted in local plans</p>

<p>Improved Governance for Integrated, Climate resilient Land, Water, Forest and Coastal Management</p>	<p>Enhanced policies, regulations and institutions for integrated Ridge-to-Reef approaches in place in PICs</p> <p>National and local capacities for ICM, IWRM, SLM and SFM improved to enable best practice in integrated, climate resilient Ridge-to-Reef approaches in natural resource management</p>	<p>Integrated policy frameworks at the national and sub-national levels towards combined land, water, forests and coastal and biodiversity management formulated and adopted in all PICs</p> <p>Climate smart policies and approaches mainstreamed in broader policy frameworks for an expected at least 4 PICs to reduce vulnerabilities of communities and enhance the resilience of land, water, forest and coastal resources to climate fluctuations</p> <p>Inter-ministerial committees developed and functioning in at least ¾ of PICs to facilitate national coordinated action required for integrated Ridge-to-Reef approaches and incorporation into national budget planning</p> <p>Training needs assessment conducted and effective mechanisms for transfer of knowledge and skills in integrated approaches in environment and natural resources management implemented in all national R2R projects and the regional project</p> <p>Advanced training in ICM/IWRM and other integrated (SLM, SFM) approaches to natural resources and environmental management and climate change adaptation conducted to benefit government staff in all PICs in collaboration with internationally-recognized institution(s) for the conduct of the training and use of training tools</p> <p>National human capacity strategies for mainstreaming R2R (ICM, IWRM, SLM, SFM) formulated and adopted in 14 PICs to accompany innovative post-graduate training program and mentoring/leadership programs.</p> <p>Local ICM plans show integration with IWRM and land and forest management plans in around 10 PICs</p> <p>National ICM policies demonstrate integration with national IWRM, SLM and SFM policies in around 10 PICs</p>
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<p>Regional and National/Local Ridge-to-Reef Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</p>	<p>National/local indicators and M&E system(s) for simplified and integrated approaches for R2R</p> <p>National and regional platforms for sharing of best practices and lessons learned in R2R</p>	<p>National indicators and simplified M&E systems developed towards national level adoption and reporting by national inter-ministry committees and assembled annually for reporting by year 2.</p> <p>Integrated and simplified tracking tools developed for multi-focal area projects and communicated to GEF</p> <p>Informed decision makers at the national and local levels implement and mainstream integrated R2R approaches and climate adaptation</p> <p>Previous SIDS experience, best practice and lessons with ICM/IWRM demo best practices reviewed, codified and disseminated for a PIC-wide capacity building tool to be included in web portal.</p> <p>Lessons learned from soon to be completed GEF IWRM project captured and disseminated through various forms of appropriate media targeting policy makers, practitioners, the public and other audience</p> <p>One percent of IW budget supports the regional knowledge platform and contribute to IW:LEARN activities; appropriate amounts for knowledge-related platforms in other focal areas allocated to operationalize an integrated Ridge-to-Reef knowledge platform.</p>
<p>Regional Program Coordination</p>	<p>Effective coordination of overall programme, national and regional projects delivers enhanced program effectiveness, efficiency and delivery.</p>	<p>Functioning overall program coordination unit contributing to coordinated effort among STAR national projects in Yr 1</p> <p>Technical and operational support provided to national R2R projects to facilitate timely delivery of overall program goals</p> <p>National inter-ministerial committee oversight of integrated approaches and national reporting</p> <p>Pacific Ridge-to-Reef Network, on-line capacity building modules, and web portal consistent with GEF IW:LEARN guidance in place by year 2.</p>

3. Programme Operational Framework

3.1. GEF R2R STAR Projects

Significantly, the programme involves the execution of 13 GEF R2R STAR¹ projects which address national priorities and development needs while delivering global environmental benefits in line with the abovementioned GEF focal area strategies. These UNDP, UNEP and FAO implemented projects are executed nationally on a bilateral basis in partnership with local stakeholders. To ensure cohesion, complementarity and efficiency of GEF investments under the R2R programme, each GEF R2R STAR project has been provided US\$175,000 of International Waters (IW) funding in addition to their national STAR allocations. The intent of this IW funding increment is to enable effective linkages with the GEF International Waters R2R project, the adoption of integrated approaches aimed at addressing critical water-related issues, and intra-regional capacity building and knowledge sharing.

3.2. GEF International Waters R2R Project

The operation of the R2R programme is supported in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing through the International Waters R2R project which is executed regionally by the Pacific Community. R2R pilot projects, to be implemented through the R2R IW project, are designed to strengthen R2R integration by establishing synergies among the work of the various sector agencies and the GEF R2R STAR Projects, between governments and communities, and civil society and the private sector.

3.3. Programme Coordinating Unit

The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), hosted by the Pacific Community's Geoscience Division in the Fiji Islands, is tasked with the provision of technical, operational, reporting and monitoring support as requested by the participating Pacific Island Countries. The PCU also facilitates the consolidation and sharing of sectoral knowledge and expertise to support the uptake of best-practice management approaches in policy-making and planning. Led by the Regional Programme Coordinator, the PCU possesses multidisciplinary expertise, including administration and financial management officers, to support programme coordination.

4. Conclusion

This paper was tabled for information purposes, specifically to direct the attention of the committee to the programmatic multi-focal area, multi-partner approach adopted by this initiative. The anticipated results of the programme outlined above are broad, wide reaching, and cut across a number of highly urgent national priority environmental and natural resource management issues. Effective implementation of programme activities aimed at achieving these results will make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the participating Pacific Island Countries, and will also make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Aichi targets for biodiversity conservation, the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It is critical that the design, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of national level activities of the programme ensure adequate alignment with the overarching results framework of the programme. The committee may wish to give consideration to the actions required to ensure this.

¹ The Global Environment Facility's System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)