



RSTC5 WP.5
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**Fifth Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee
for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme**

Nadi, Fiji 28th July 2019

**Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme framework and recommendations
for coordination and compilation of R2R lessons learned.**

This document presents the Pacific Regional Ridge to Reef programmatic framework and recommendations for coordination and compilation of R2R lessons learned. It further outlines the draft framework, and proposal, for capturing and documenting lessons learned across the R2R Programme, based on Mid-Term Review Recommendation 11 – Lessons Learned.

The **RSTC** is invited to:

- i. **Review and provide substantive technical inputs** to the proposed regional programmatic framework and template for Pacific R2R lessons learned;
- ii. **Endorse** the revised draft framework subject to the incorporation of the RSTC inputs for recommendation to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for their consideration and approval.

The RSC is invited to:

- i. Review and approve the draft framework, including the RSTC inputs in Annex 1 and 2.
- ii. Agree on the proposed implementation schedule.

Overview

The GEF Pacific R2R Programme is a global test case aimed at achieving the sustainable development of Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS) within a truly integrated environmental and natural resource management framework. The goal of the 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.”

The programme supports and addresses national priorities and development needs of 14 Pacific Island Countries while delivering global environmental benefits by focusing on a more crosscutting approach to water, land and coastal management.

The programme is also a GEF multi-focal area, multi-GEF agency and multi-country initiative that guides the coordinated investment of GEF grant funding across its focal areas of biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land, sustainable forest management, and international waters in Pacific SIDS.

The programme also guides the mainstreaming of gender and cultural issues, and the effective engagement of young people, in environmental and natural resource management. It is also supported in areas of science-based planning, human capital development, policy and strategic planning, results-based management, and knowledge sharing through a regional GEF International Waters project, which is executed regionally by the Pacific Community.

The programme has a Regional Programme Coordination Unit (RPCU), hosted by the Pacific Community’s Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division in the Fiji Islands, which is tasked with the provision of technical, operational, reporting and monitoring support as requested by the participating Pacific Island Countries.

Mid-Term Review Recommendation

1. MTR Recommendation 11 is that that the RPCU should play a lead coordinating role in developing or compiling lessons learned on R2R, including from the previous IWRM/ ICM/ R2R investments, and providing guidance to current R2R projects (STAR and IW R2R Projects) in order for them to begin now to maximise extraction of lessons learned from investments.
2. A key purpose of project terminal evaluations is to derive lessons learned. Lessons learned can be variable in detail and sometimes have a tendency to over-focus on project management issues, whereas the more important information relates to overcoming challenges to actual project implementation.
3. It is noted that although the IW R2R Project focuses currently on national demonstration sites, the major lessons learned are from the overall programme and particularly the STAR projects. These, collectively, represent a total investment approaching USD 450 million (including co-financing). In most cases, it is likely that the most valuable programme outcome (in addition to capacity building) will be lessons learned.
4. There is a clear need and opportunity for the RPCU to become actively involved in promoting lessons learned across the programme and deriving (or compiling) lessons learned from previous IWRM/ ICM/ R2R investments. This would include providing guidance to current projects (STAR and IW) regarding which lessons should be derived, and how to do it.
5. This would also be a useful function of the RPCU’s R2R coordination role under component 5 and as discussed further in section 4.3. It would also be a major contribution to the regional R2R platform on lessons learned from R2R (4.2.3).
6. The MTR report also noted, for example, that some of the key lessons to be learned from R2R approaches include conflict resolution, trade-off analysis, incentive measures, and the impacts of land tenure and land ownership rights. Interestingly, these challenges appear to have been reported on by only a few current national IW R2R projects.

7. Consistent with its overall R2R Programme coordinating role and MTR Recommendation 11 , the RPCU is willing to lead this effort, but requires the full cooperation and commitment of STAR projects to do so.

Programme Coordination Unit response to MTR Recommendation

Lessons learned for the Regional IW R2R Project have been captured systematically, including:

Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports;
Experience Notes;
Coaching and Mentoring Workshops; and
National demonstration project activity reports.

However, these do not capture lessons learned from STAR R2R projects. The MTR emphasises that although the IW R2R Project focuses currently on national demonstration sites, the major lessons learned are from the overall programme and particularly the STAR projects. It also states that the most valuable outcome (in addition to capacity building) will be lessons learned.

To achieve a meaningful programmatic approach to developing lessons learned, the RPCU has developed:

1. Pacific regional R2R programmatic framework for lessons learned for the consideration, review and input of the Committee.
2. A template adapted from the IWLEARN experience notes to guide project documentation and development of lessons learned.

These are made available, marked Annex 1 and 2.

8. Proposed implementation schedule

The RPCU proposes that to ensure the compilation and development of lessons learned is achievable within the life of the regional IW R2R project, the following agreements should be reached:

- 8.1 Confirmation by the RSC for a date for all projects (STAR/IW) provide the title and short summary of their specific lessons learned contribution to the RPCU, aligned to the regional framework;
- 8.2 Based on the agreements indicated in 8.1 RPCU will consolidate and update the regional R2R lessons learned framework;
- 8.3 All summaries and/ or draft lessons learned reports to be submitted to the RPCU by June 2020 for reporting at RSC5.
- 8.4 A final date for the submission of completed lessons learned, and publication will be determined at RSC5.

Recommendations

The RSTC is invited to:

- i. Review and provide substantive technical inputs to enhance the proposed draft regional programmatic framework and template for Pacific R2R lessons learned;
- ii. The Committee is invited to endorse the revised draft framework, subject to the incorporation of the RSTC inputs.

The RSC is invited to:

- i. Review and approve the draft framework, including the RSTC inputs in Annex 1 and 2.
- ii. Agree on the proposed implementation schedule.

Annex 1: Pacific regional R2R programmatic framework for lessons learned

Mainstreaming R2R into development in the Pacific

PART 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 R2R Mainstreaming: definitions, concepts and principles
- 1.2 An approach to R2R mainstreaming

PART 2. GUIDELINE ON MAINSTREAMING R2R INTO DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC

- 1.1 Situational analysis of the policy and legislative framework
 - 1.1.1 Institutional analysis
 - 1.1.2 Review of national development plans and processes to identify areas for coordination
 - 1.1.3 Stakeholder identification and analysis
 - 1.1.4 Capacity needs assessment
- 1.2 Creating an enabling environment to mainstream R2R
 - 1.2.1 Understanding mainstreaming R2R as an integrated policy approach
 - 1.2.2 Establishment of transparent and effective governing structures
 - 1.2.3 Promotion of multi-sectoral dialogue and coordination
 - 1.2.4 Building on existing practices, tools and systems
 - 1.2.5 Integration within development budgets
 - 1.2.6 Capacity building
 - 1.2.7 Raising public awareness on R2R
- 1.3 Planning and Policy Structures
- 1.4 Develop institutional structures
- 1.5 Mainstreaming R2R in to sectoral policies, plans and programs

PART 3. R2R TESTING AND MAINSTREAMING CASE STUDIES

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Case studies (Best Practices/Lessons Learned)

- 3.2.1 Institutional strengthening
- 3.2.2 Capacity building
- 3.2.3 National planning and processes
- 3.2.4 Cross-cutting issues
 - 3.2.4.1 Results-Based Management
 - 3.2.4.2 Knowledge management
 - 3.2.4.3 Gender
- 3.2.5 Stress reduction measures
 - 3.2.5.1 Biological Diversity
 - ✓ Biodiversity baseline surveys of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna
 - ✓ Establish indicator species monitoring program
 - ✓ Rapid Ecosystem Services Assessment
 - ✓ Assessment and prioritization of keystone species
 - ✓ Species recovery plans and species management plans

3.2.5.2 Sustainable Forest Management

- ✓ Priority conservation value forest identified and protected
- ✓ Reforestation and enrichment planting
- ✓ Restoration of damaged forests and farmlands

3.2.5.3 Land Degradation

- ✓ Baseline studies on agriculture related impacts on aquatic and inshore marine ecosystems (Cook Islands)
- ✓ Sustainable land use practices for sediment and pollutant control
- ✓ Revegetation with suitable hardwood, fruit tree species and local crop species (Tuvalu, Fiji)

3.2.5.4 International Waters

IW.1 Incorporation of national policy reforms on IWRM in to national/local plans and actions

- ✓ Incorporation of national policy reforms on IWRM in to national/local plans and actions
- ✓ Implementation of innovative solutions for reduced pollution, improved water use efficiency, sustainable fisheries with rights-based management, IWRM, water supply protection in SIDS and aquifer and catchment protection
 - Municipal Waste Pollution Reduction (Tuvalu)
 - Catchment Management (Palau, Solomon Islands, Fiji)
 - Habitat Protection (Vanuatu)
 - Protected Wetlands (Solomon Islands)

IW.3 Political commitment and capacity demonstrated for ICM integrating with existing IWRM commitments

- ✓ Political commitment and capacity demonstrated for ICM integrating with existing IWRM commitments
- ✓ Enhancement of IW portfolio capacity and performance from active learning/KM/experience sharing

CASE STUDY 5 – CCM/CCA

- ✓ Reduction of vulnerabilities in communities/development sectors
- ✓ Increased knowledge and understanding in climate variability and changed/induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas

3.2.6 Testing IDA/RAPCA/SOC/SAF mainstreaming process

Annex 2: Proposed template for documenting lessons learned

DATE RECEIVED:

EXPERIENCE NOTE ID #:

Pacific R2R Lessons Learned Template

(Please submit to fonongam@spc.int)

The Pacific R2R Lessons Learned Format has been adapted from the GEF's International Waters Experience Notes template. The lessons learned template is a tool to facilitate the R2R community sharing practical experiences and lessons learned to promote sustainable natural resource management. Lessons learned include key challenges and/or successful practices, approaches, strategies, lessons, methodologies, etc., that emerge in the context of R2R. Completed forms may be 6-10 pages long (without diagrams, illustrations, photos etc.), and serve as the basis for Pacific R2R Lessons Learned disseminated via GEF IW:LEARN and other R2R channels. For guidance and/or further information, please contact RPCU Communications and Knowledge Management Advisor fonongam@spc.int

Contributor's Name:

E-mail:

- 1. TITLE** - *In the Lessons Learned title, please identify the key thematic issue(s) addressed by the lesson described in this brief. Please use the lessons learned framework for guidance.*
- 2. PROJECT TITLE** – *Insert project title.*
- 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION** - *Briefly summarize the project's objectives, expected outcomes and timeframe (from Project Document or elsewhere). If lessons pertain to a specific project output, please describe that output and list of activities as well.*
- 4. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LESSONS LEARNED** – *Describe what you are trying to achieve by sharing this specific lessons learned and describe why it is significant.*
- 5. BACKGROUND TO THE LESSONS LEARNED** - *Provide a description of (i) the initial problem (ii) the concept or approach to solving the problems/ or proposed interventions(s) – this should include: a hypothesis, or research framework/inquiries; description of the technologies used – methodologies, infrastructure employed to resolve the problem; and the 'expected' results.*
- 6. RESULTS AND LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE** - *Summarize the 'actual' results of the intervention on the project and key stakeholders. Were there any deviations from expected results? And why? What were the inhibiting factors? What were the facilitating factors? What conclusions can you draw from the implementation experiences?*
- 7. REPLICATION** - *What implementation challenges should others expect to encounter when trying to replicate this? Highlight specific factors or conditions needed for others to replicate or benefit from this lesson.*
- 8. REFERENCES** - *How can someone interested in using or adapting this lesson get more information? Please provide relevant website(s), documentation and contact information.*