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GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme

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

REPORT

First meeting of the Regional Steering Committee and Inception Workshop

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

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND FIJI SPECIAL

1.1. The meeting opened with a prayer after which the participants were welcomed to the Fiji Islands with a traditional welcome. Mr. Marc Wilson, as Regional Programme Coordinator for the GEF Pacific R2R Programme SPC, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Regional Programme Coordinating Unit and officiated as the MC. Mr Kevin Petrini, as Team Leader for the Resilience and Sustainable Development UNDP welcomed the meeting on behalf of the GEF Implementing Agencies for the Pacific R2R Programme. Dr Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director General SPC welcomed the participants on behalf of the Pacific Community. Mr Christian Severin as Lead for the International Waters Focal Area of the GEF Secretariat delivered a keynote address covering issues including interalia: the global significance of the GEF Pacific R2R Programme, its importance to the Sustainable Development of Pacific Island Nations, and potential for its scaling-up globally as a model for multi-focal area, integrated approaches in the GEF. Mr Joshua Wycliffe as PS for the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment officially opened the meeting on behalf of the Republic of Fiji. The opening speeches are attached at Annex 1. Participants were then invited for a group photograph and media interviews.

1.2. Because the meeting opened Fiji Day, an official holiday, a Fiji Day special convened consisting of a video of Olympic highlights from the Fiji Sevens Team and a toast of the Fijian local kava.

2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1. Introduction of Participants

2.1.1. The participants introduced themselves to the meeting during a 'tour de table' and highlighted their roles in natural resource and environmental management in their respective countries.

2.2. Election of Officers

2.2.1. Mr Wilson as the Interim Chair sought and obtained the PSC's approval to move this item to 4.6.

2.3. Documentation available to the meeting

2.3.1. Ms. Emma Newland, Science Officer of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme, lead the meeting through the documentation available to the meeting and encouraged participants to read through the TOR for the RSC and RSTC before elections proceed.

2.4. Programme of work and arrangements for the conduct of the meeting

2.4.1. Ms. Newland guided the meeting through the programme of work, arrangements for the conduct of the meeting, and described a series of learning and team building exercises that will be conducted during the course of the meeting.

2.4.2. Cynthia Ehmes, on behalf of the Cook Islands delegation suggested that Agenda Items 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 planned for Thursday morning, to be moved to Friday afternoon and that the session on Regional Work Plan and Budget under Agenda Item 14, be moved forward to Thursday morning so that it is addressed earlier so that delegates returning on Thursday evening and Friday morning could participate in this important PSC governance role.

2.4.3. Jose Padilla (UNDP) supported the move by Cynthia above reiterating that one of the key outputs of the workshop is the approval of the Annual Work plan and Budget.

2.4.4. Motion agreed by the Interim Chair Mr. Marc Wilson that the Regional Work Plan and Budget under Agenda Item 14 is moved forward to Thursday morning.

2.5. Launching the Pacific R2R Network

2.5.1. Dr Fononga Mangisi-Mafileo from the Regional Project Coordinating Unit introduced the session with an exercise where participants were asked to identify what is important in achieving project success. The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate that web users and users of knowledge repository come from different contexts and experiences while at the same it highlights the importance of sharing knowledge and information that could be replicated and adopted in different country settings.

2.5.2. Dr Mangisi-Mafileo elaborated that the Pacific R2R network is about connecting people with environmental information and knowledge which can be used and enhanced further. The network is an online community of practitioners maintained by the Pacific Community's (SPC) R2R Programme to foster and facilitate information and knowledge sharing and to strengthen the capacity of members of the network and strengthen multi-country role and multi-level project.

2.5.3. In demonstrating the front-end view and country pages of the website, the following were highlighted:

- The network serves as an overarching program website which contains 14 country web pages.
- It contains an online forum for communities of practice that will allow information and knowledge sharing.
- The website is a central repository of all country information, data sets and maps that is gathered.
- Users need to register to enable full access to all knowledge products on the website.
- Users are encouraged to use the 'Kava Bowl' forum on the network and to provide feedback on how the R2R programme can improve knowledge and information sharing services.
- Users log-in data and information assists in tracking the kind of information that people look for and the frequency of web access. This ensures that relevant information is made available.
- The website establishes a network of people who can share contact details and is currently available only to R2R practitioners while a more comprehensive network registration is established and monitored.
- It is compatible for viewing on mobile phones and tablets.

2.5.4. Mr Christian Severin, GEF, acknowledged the presentation by Dr Mangisi-Mafileo and suggested for key word categories to be included on the website. There are times when people also tend to forget pass codes.

2.5.5. Discussions carried out through the Kava Bowl forum can only be viewed by logging in on the website. There was discussion about the relative merits of forcing a login for access and it was agreed the matter would be further considered by the PCU. Rahul Chand of the Fiji Department of Environment (DOE) suggested that users are given the option to decide if they prefer forum postings and discussions to be automatically sent to their emails which is also convenient for countries with very low internet bandwidth.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

3.1. The meeting participants officially adopted and agreed to the meeting Agenda.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME

4.1. Presentation of the expected outcomes and outputs of the programme

4.1.1. Mr. Marc Wilson (SPC) directed the meeting's attention to discussion document SPC/GEF R2R/RSC.1/4 'Expected Outcomes and Outputs of the Pacific R2R Programme' and outlined the expected outcomes and outputs of the programme highlighting:

- The Programmatic Approach of which the purpose is to contribute to sustainable development.
- The origins of the Ridge to Reef programme and the need to rapidly programme funds on a "use it or lose" it basis.
- The Programme Framework Document (PFD) which is the umbrella for the R2R National and Regional projects. It is also important to understand the GEF focal area objectives, how to report against it and why the national projects are being carried out.
- PACSIDS GEF Multi-Focal Area Program Framework i.e "Pacific Islands Ridge to Reef National Priorities - Integrated Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods" (GEFPACIFICR2R). The framework sets a strategic basis for project focal areas.

4.1.2. Mr Wilson went on to remind countries that GEF 6 was over in 18 months and that it was paramount that countries programme their funds prior to the last council meeting in the GEF 6 replenishment or they would lose the funds.

4.1.3. A fundamental lesson learnt from the GEF Pacific IWRM project was that demonstrations provide a reason for policy to take place and not vice versa. Policy does not result in the Pacific developing action on the ground. If countries are developing a number of actions, it has to be demonstrated on the ground that there is a need for a change or modification in public policy.

4.2. GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme Structure

4.2.1. Mr. Marc Wilson presented to the meeting an overview of the R2R programme structure, including the interlinked GEF Pacific R2R STAR Projects and the GEF Pacific R2R International Waters (IW).

4.2.2. The structure of the programme was further clarified with an infographic poster shared with participants, aimed at demonstrating the clear linkage between the STAR projects and the SDGs. Wilson explained that the overall Ridge to Reef Programme contributes to a large number of the SDGs. Therefore

it is important to note that country STAR projects is significantly contributing towards regional SDG targets and supports the Monitoring and Evaluation processes. Countries are to focus on how it will deliver to GEF against the strategic focal areas.

4.2.3. The meeting was also guided through the R2R Program Coordination and Management highlighting the following:

- The R2R program as a whole will be guided by an R2R Program Steering Committee (PSC) which will meet annually to review progress, provide strategic guidance and advice, and facilitate program level coordination and communication.
- The R2R PSC will include representatives from each PIC, the GEF agencies (UNDP, UNEP, FAO) and SPC.
- THE GEF PACIFIC R2R PROGRAM COORDINATING GROUP (R2RPCG) will include the GEF agencies (UNDP, UNEP, FAO), GEF with Regional Coordinator as the Secretariat role to oversight the *program's* achievement of outcomes and ensure the program's scope aligns with GEF Focal Area objectives

4.2.4. Jose Padilla (UNDP) shared with the meeting that the Project Framework Document (PFD) was first drafted 3 years ago and was accepted at the Sydney workshop. At the initial stages there was not enough information available from child projects however it was prepared so that the Council could allocate resources according to the programme. It was suggested by Padilla that the PFD could be updated to take into account the project documents that have been approved by the GEF including the Grant amount.

4.2.5. On another note, Padilla pointed out that there is confusion about the links between the National R2R projects and the IW projects in all the 14 countries. In responding to this, Marc Wilson clarified that it is referred to as the National STAR projects and the National IW projects.

4.2.6. Christian Severin (GEF) responded to the point raised by Padilla on updating the PFD stating that the PFD has already been approved by the GEF and cannot be changed. But the results framework of the project document can be modified.

4.2.7. Sauni Tongatule (Niue) sought clarification in terms of the SDG outcomes i.e considering that SDGs outcomes have not been finalised at the time of the preparation of the STAR ProDocs, are countries still expected to align their activities now according to the SDGs? Is there an opportunity for SPREP and FAO to be included as part of the coordination group?

4.2.8. Marc Wilson (SPC) responded to Niue's questions stating that the project coordinating team are the Implementing Agencies that developed the national and STAR projects in which GEF is the Donor and the SPC R2R programme as the Secretariat. The coordination team is between the three agencies and GEF and therefore it was not appropriate for SPREP to be represented but SPREP would be invited to participation at the PSCs.

4.2.9. The SDGs had not been finalised during the preparation of the PFD and the regional projects but countries are undertaking a lot of activities under STAR funded national projects. GEF's view is that countries would be designing indicators, reportable and baselines as close to the indicators of the SDGs as possible in a sense that information is regularly gathered and making it relevant to SDGs which would in turn increase the relevance of the R2R National projects to the country reportables.

4.2.10. Christian Severin (GEF) supported the comment shared by Wilson confirming that it had been realised at the GEF secretariat. GEF 2/GEF 3 projects had developed indicators that were very close to the SDG indicators.

4.2.11. Aminiasi Qiriqiri (Fiji) questioned the sustainability of the programme and the umbrella concept of the PFD posing a question to the meeting i.e how can we think of an exit strategy so that similar programmes across the pacific can work hand in hand to sustain projects in the region.

4.3. Presentation of the purpose, goals and objectives of the GEF R2R International Waters Project

4.3.1. Mr. Christopher Paterson (SPC), directed the meeting to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/5 'Purpose, Goals and Objectives of the GEF R2R International Waters Project' and facilitated a working session on the purpose, goals and objectives of the GEF R2R International Waters Project.

4.3.2. Following the overview presentation, participants were asked to discuss in groups of countries and to identify three cost effective priority areas in which support is needed to ensure that countries can deliver in 5years time at the national level and to achieve the overarching goal of the programme document.

4.3.3. Dr Milika Sobey consolidated all priority areas discussed by the countries and presented to the meeting according to the top 11 needs of the countries. They are listed as follows:

- Communications support.
- Technical support for assessments etc.
- Support on governance processes .e.g. Reviews of legislation, institutional capacity reviews and enforcement.
- Capacity building for monitoring and evaluation.
- Capacity building for recruitment of national project staff.
- Support towards academic programme that would strengthen GEF project intervention.
- Support for cooperation between projects, national governments and regional level agencies.
- Stakeholder participation and engagement.
- Science-based planning.
- Recruitment of technical expertise e.g. consultants to aid in the implementation of respective country activities.
- Knowledge management support.
- Financial/progress reporting support.

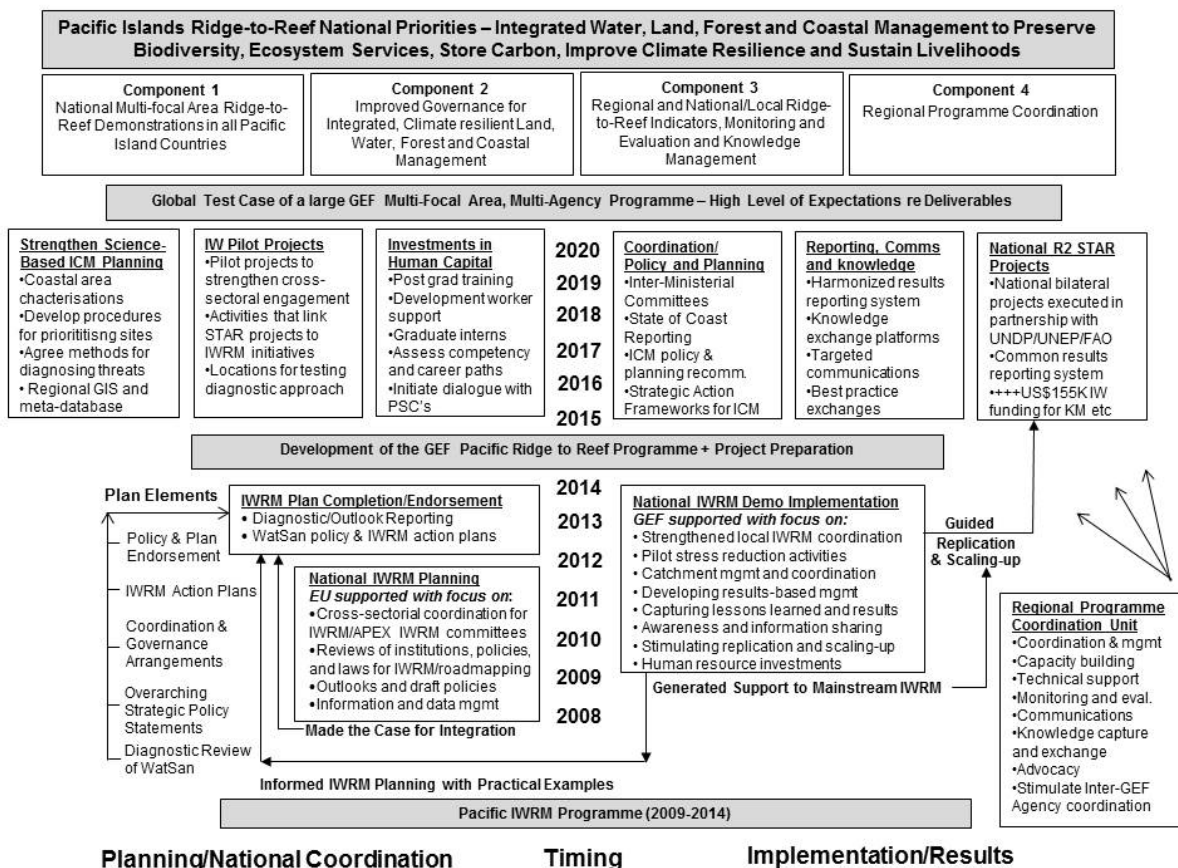
4.4. Presentation of the purpose and intent of the International Waters funding increment made available to national GEF R2R STAR projects.

4.4.1. Chris Patterson (SPC) presented the purpose and intent of the International Waters funding increment (~US\$155K) to each national GEF R2R STAR projects and they were to support knowledge management, post-graduate training programme, support communication outcomes and so forth. He further reiterated that this funding is to be utilised to enable countries to effectively and strategically communicate their success stories nationally, regionally, globally and most importantly to the regional programme who will then communicate this forth to investors in an effort to maintain sustainable funding.

4.4.2. **Barbara M** (TNC PNG): Is there a definition for the national STAR programme?

4.4.3. Chris Paterson (SPC): STAR is the GEF System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources and every country across the different focal areas (e.g. biodiversity, land degradation or climate change) has a different allocation but with a base minimum of IS\$4,000,000.

4.4.4. Chris Paterson (SPC) then led a working session on identifying the contribution of each participating country's package of activities under the GEF R2R Programme to GEF Focal area Strategic Objectives. The countries were then asked to present their results when conducting their respective country presentations in Agenda Item 5.



4.4.5. Jose Padilla (UNDP): Just a clarification on the common reporting framework across the national STAR projects. The focal areas of these national STAR projects, frameworks and so forth vary across countries. My understanding is that the regional R2R project will compile all this and present the STAR project as a whole, is this correct?

4.4.6. Christian Severin (GEF) and Chris Paterson (SPC): But the reason for the programmatic approach is to ensure that national results are reported to the regional programme. We need to work with each country to really make sure it is clear at national level about which focal area strategic objective their package of activities are contributing to. It is a move towards developing a harmonised results reporting system.

4.5. Consideration of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Regional Project Steering Committee (RSC) and Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC)

4.5.1. The meeting was invited to review discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/6 'Provisional Terms of Reference for the Regional Programme Steering Committee (RSC) and the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC)' and to make amendments and approve the Terms of Reference for the Regional Project Steering Committee and the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee as it considers appropriate. The meeting deliberated through every paragraph of both the RSC and RSTC ToR, these are presented below in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Suggested changes to the provisional terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee

ToR RSC Item No.	Suggested changes	Who suggested the changes	Accepted/Not accepted and Why	Final Outcome
1.1	To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the UNDP/SPC project entitled <i>"Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries"</i> , a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will be established as the primary policy-making/decision-making body for the project.	FJ (Rahul)	MW (SPC): Not accepted because the RSC decides on policy, but does not make the final decision. That final decision rests with the Implementing Agencies that have to ensure that the decisions are in compliance with the IAs own procedures and their agreement with the donors.	To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the UNDP/SPC project entitled <i>"Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries"</i> , a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will be established as the primary <u>policy-making</u> body for the project.
1.2	Role of the RSC to also expand into fulfilling PSC roles but will still carry out activities as a RSC	JP (UNDP)	Countries accepted.	The roles of the RSC will expand into carrying out the roles of PSC; but will still continue to carry out its RSC responsibilities.
	Do we call it the PSC or the RSC?	MW (SPC) and changes to Lupe (To)	Consequently, all RSC will be substituted to PSC. However, Tonga raised the issue that nationally their projects are also called PSC, which could create confusion. MW (SPC) suggested that RSC and PSC be changed to RPSC.	All PSC/RSC will be substituted to RPSC.
2.1	Provide direction and strategic guidance to the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and to National Executing Agencies regarding project implementation and execution of agreed activities over the entire period of the project;	AM (Tonga)	Accepted, as yes, it should be consistent with other national project documents.	Provide direction and strategic guidance to the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and to National <u>Executing</u> Agencies regarding project implementation and execution of agreed activities over the

				entire period of the project;
	Provide direction and strategic guidance to the Regional Management Unit (PCU) and to National Lead Agencies regarding project implementation and execution of agreed activities over the entire period of the project;	AM (Tonga)	MW (SPC): Not accepted because the role of the RCU is more hands-on activities delivered on the ground, hence a coordinating unit.	Provide direction and strategic guidance to the Regional <u>Coordinating</u> Unit (PCU) and to National Lead Agencies regarding project implementation and execution of agreed activities over the entire period of the project.
2.4	Guide the Regional Coordination Unit in ensuring co-ordination among national site-based activities and other national level activities to further enhance national capacity to develop integrated approaches to environmental and natural resource management for sustainable development;	JP (UNDP)	MW (SPC): Agreed as "Guide" is more appropriate because the RSC is a policy-making body. Countries accepted.	<u>Guide</u> the Regional Coordination Unit in ensuring co-ordination among national site-based activities and other national level activities to further enhance national capacity to develop integrated approaches to environmental and natural resource management for sustainable development;
2.7	Approve annual workplans and budgets; and review progress and results reports for the regional R2R Project for transmission to the Implementing Agency UNDP and the GEF Secretariat;	JP (UNDP)		Approve annual <u>workplans and budgets for the regional IW projects.</u>
2.8	Guide the RCU in realising required project co-financing and additional funds that may be required from time to time;	JP (UNDP)	MW (SPC): Agreed as "Guide" is more appropriate because the RSC is a policy-making body.	<u>Guide</u> the RCU in realising required project co-financing and additional funds that may be required from time to time;
Additi onal item 2.11	To include an item that involves approval of changes and outcomes which is part of the RSC responsibilities not documented in the current ToR	JP (UNDP)	Agreed by countries	To document accordingly
3.1	Suggestion that the three implementing agencies naming UNDP, FAO and UNEP will also be members of the PSC	JP (UNDP)	Agreed by countries.	To document accordingly
3.2	To delete this item			
3.3	Now with the inclusion of the IAs, to limit the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the PSC to member countries only	JP (UNDP)	Agreed by countries	To document accordingly
5.1	Offer a bit of flexibility with this timing to coincide with the ECW.		Agreed by countries	To document accordingly
Additi onal item 5.3	To incorporate virtual meetings, discussions or emails for decisions that cannot wait for the annual meet etc.	JP (UNDP) & SM UNEP	Agreed by countries	To document accordingly

Changes to be made and circulated amongst the group the next day

Table 2: Suggested changes to the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee

ToR RSTC Item No.	Suggested changes	Who suggested the changes	Accepted/Not accepted and Why	Final Outcome
3.1.4	Provide the Project Steering Committee with technical guidance and advice to improve project activities where necessary, including reforms of national and regional policy and planning frameworks for integrated approaches to environmental and natural resource management;	AQ (Fiji)	Accepted by countries	Provide the Project Steering Committee with technical guidance and advice to improve project activities where necessary, including reforms of national and regional policy and planning frameworks for integrated approaches to environmental and natural resource management;

4.6. Election of Officers (Chairperson; Vice-Chairperson; and Rapporteur)

4.6.1. Following discussion of the Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee, participants will be requested to nominate and elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Rapporteurs for the meeting

4.6.2. Mr. Sauni Tongatule from Niue nominated the current GEF council member Mr Moannata lentaake from Kiribati as Chair of the Committee. This nomination was seconded by Mr. Chanel Iroi of the Solomon Islands and supported by Mr. Suluimalo Penaia of Samoa. Mr lentaake accepted the role.

4.6.3. Mr. Suluimalo Penaia of Samoa suggested that the Vice-Chair should be the alternate member to the GEF council. Ms Moriana Phillip, General Manager of RMI-EPA nominated Ms Cynthia Ehmes, Assistant Director at Office of Environment and Emergency, FSM for Vice-Chair. This nomination was seconded by the Cook Islands Representative.

4.6.4. The Rapporteurs for the RSC would be Ms Maria Helen Tuoro of the Cook Islands, Ms Moriana Phillip of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Mr Malaki Iakopo of Samoa.

Guided Visioning Activity

Ms Emma Newland guided the meeting on the Vision Tree exercise in which participants answered the following four questions on a leaf template which was then hung on the 'vision tree' outside the meeting room.

1. My environment is...
2. My country's economy is...

3. My people are....
4. I play a part in this by....

The script for the visioning exercise is available in Annex x. Some of the comments on the 'leaves' included,

1. My environment is...
 - a. Clean and healthy with a diversity of wildlife
 - b. Thriving, growing and sustainable, back to my childhood
 - c. Filled with abundant natural life, green landscape and clean rivers
 - d. Clean, green bustling with business at the waterfront and sustainable resources
2. My country's economy is...
 - a. Green economy, tourism is great, local business is booming
 - b. Stable and sustaining
 - c. Developing but environmentally conscious
 - d. Stable and growing steadily but with little environmental impact as investors are aware of what the land needs
3. My people are....
 - a. Well educated and regulated environmentally, keeping our forest clean
 - b. Happy and living in harmony with their environment
 - c. Self-reliant and enjoy the environment
 - d. Less selfish
4. I play a part in this by....
 - a. Caring, communicating, networking, planning
 - b. Developing relevant policies
 - c. Providing good advice to my government and my people to look after their environment
 - d. Doing my small part in leading a healthy lifestyle and ensure that my is environmentally friendly

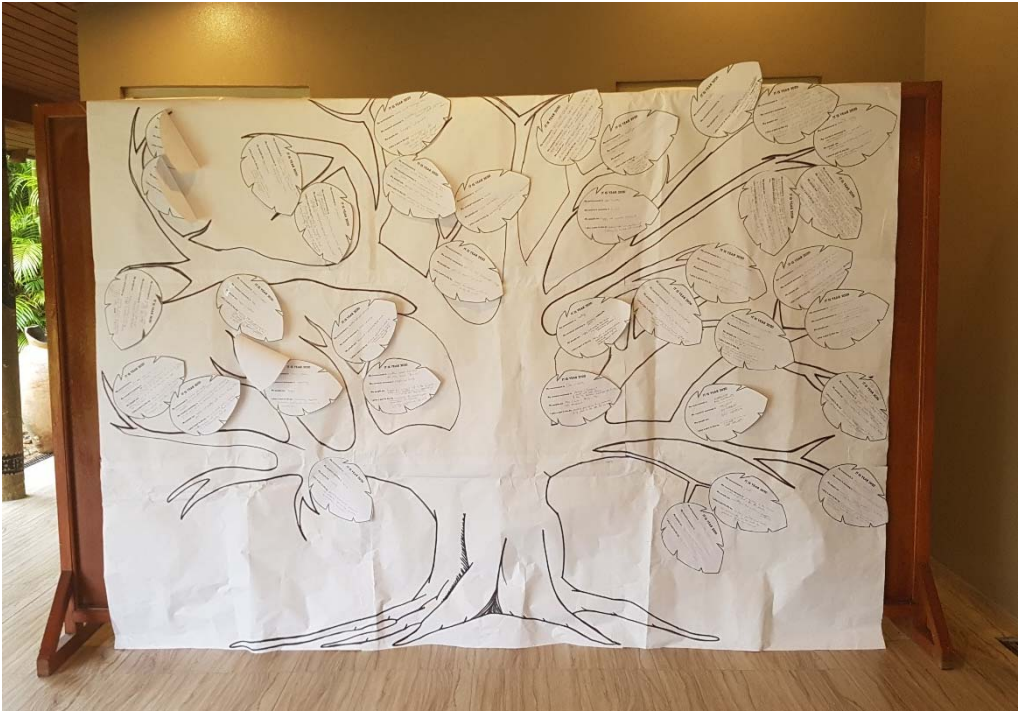


Figure 1: The R2R Vision tree



Figure 2: The chair and co-chair inspecting the vision tree

5. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS ON NATIONAL-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME: TARGETS, ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES, AND PROPOSED COORDINATION MECHANISMS

5.1. GEF Pacific R2R Programme – Current Status of R2R Implementation

Mr Marc Wilson updated the meeting with matrix status of project implementation in countries highlighting that the formal stages of a project has been completed while a number of countries still await the signing of project documents and confirmation of contractual arrangements. The meeting was also updated on the GEF Pacific R2R Program Start/Finish dates.

Pacific R2R Implementation Status @ end Sept 2016												
	Country Visits	IW R2R						STAR R2R				
		ProdDoc Sign	MOA			AFTF	PM	STAR ProDoc				
		PIC	SPC	CAR				Draft of ProDoc	GEF OK	IA	PCA Status	PM
Palau	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Lena Muller	Have Copy	OK	UNEP	PCA drafting	Gwen Sisior
FSM	Completed	Awaiting Congress Approval	Awaiting Congress Approval	Signed				Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Rosalinda Yatilman
Marshalls	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Julius Lucky	@ PPG	In Design	UNDP		
Kiribati	Completed	To be signed at	To be signed at					Have Copy	Resub Required	FAO		
Tuvalu	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Pesega Lifuka	Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Mataio Tekinene
Nauru	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Berrick Dowiyogo	Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Advertised
Samoa	Completed	Sign at R2R PSC 1 Mt	Sign at R2R PSC 1 Mt					Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Yes
Tonga	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Advertised?	UNDP FAO Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Ta'hirih
Niue	Completed	Signed	Awaiting Signature					Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Under Offer
Cooks	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Mac Makarao	Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	Maria Tuoro
Fiji	Completed	Yet to be signed	Signed					Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	
Vanuatu	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Alick Berry	Have Copy	OK	FAO		
Solomons	Completed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Advertised?	NP				
PNG	Completed	Signed	Awaiting Signature					Have Copy	OK	UNDP	Signed	????

	GEF Pacific R2R Program Project Start/Finish																STAR	UNEP	UNDP	FAO	IW											
	2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Palau																																
FSM																																
Marshalls																																
Kiribati																																
Tuvalu																																
Nauru																																
Samoa																																
Tonga																																
Niue																																
Cooks																																
Fiji																																
Vanuatu																																
Solomons																																
PNG																																
Regional																																

5.2. Country Presentations

5.2.1. The country teams delivered country presentations on national-level implementation of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme, including a description of targets, anticipated outcomes, and proposed coordination mechanisms. These presentations also identified the GEF Implementing Agency involved, National Lead Agency, and project cost (both GEF grant and co-financing) and will explain the alignment of anticipated results with relevant GEF focal areas. Specific project sites were also identified as well as the priority environmental stress reduction measures to be applied at each of these sites. Furthermore, the status of inception activities, including recruitment of project staff and inception workshops were highlighted, including the status of inception activities for the National R2R International Waters project, the signing of the MoA between SPC and lead national agency, and the status of staff recruitment. Proposed national coordination arrangements were also presented.

5.2.2. The countries presented in according to this order: Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, and Papua New Guinea. Respective country presentations are attached in [Annex xxx](#). A summary of each country presentation follows.

Tuvalu

The Tuvalu National R2R Project is implemented by UNDP with the national lead agency MFATTEL (DoE) with the assistance of partners in: Ministry of Natural Resources (Fisheries, Agric, L&S), Ministry of Home Affairs (DRD) and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Finance (Budget and Planning Dep't). The objective is *to preserve ecosystem services, sustain livelihoods and improve resilience in Tuvalu using a 'ridge-to-reef' approach*. The project will run for 5 years with a GEF grant of USD3.7million and co-financing of USD15million. It was launched in July of 2016 and has recruited all staff; 9 Island Officers and 6 Project Implementation Unit members.



Figure 3: Tuvalu R2R Team at the Regional Inception Meeting

The four components are:

1. Conservation of Island and Marine Biodiversity. Biodiversity surveys (biorap), GIS-based mgt . system, expanded LMMAs, marine mgt addressing climate change.
2. Integrate Land and Water Management. Soils characterization, degraded areas re-vegetation (Ffuti, Nmea, Nfetau), water resources mgt, algal bloom assessment.
3. Governance and Institutions. CA/LMMA mgt plans, capacity integration approaches, training packages manuals-guides-modules,
4. Knowledge Management. GIS-based mgt system installed, e-library, knowledge products (videos, photo stories, flyers, brochures), systematic monitoring system with R2R IW

The IW R2R Project has a focus on waste management and is housed within the Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu. A project manager, Mr Pesega Lifuka, was recruited in early July 2016 and preliminary consultations are underway. The two R2R Projects will share the same steering committee which is the active National Advisory Committee on Climate Change. This Committee oversees all national projects relating to climate change and environment.

Vanuatu

The Vanuatu National R2R Project, Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management (ISCLM) Project, is implemented by the FAO with the national lead agency Department on Environmental Protection and Conservation. The GEF grant is USD 4.6million with 600,000 in co-financing. There are 3 target sites on Efate Island including Moso island. The prodoc has been signed up the GEF CEO and are awaiting updates from the FAO. The three project components are:

1. Improving the enabling environment for integrated sustainable land and coastal management.
2. Improving the enabling environment for integrated sustainable land and coastal management. ie land and coastal management.
3. Knowledge management

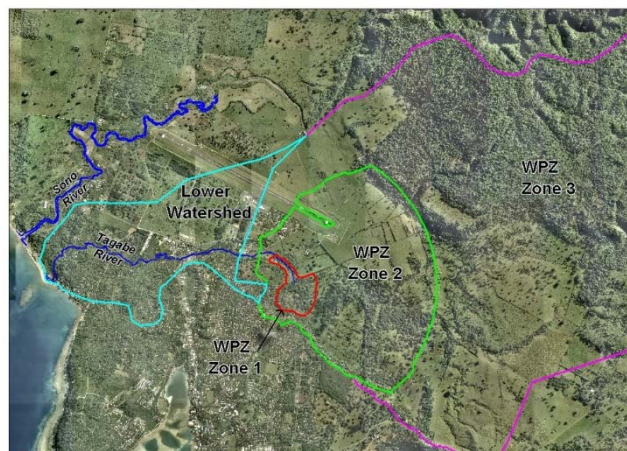


Figure 4: Tagabe water catchment - IW Project site

The IW R2R Project National Lead Agency is the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. They will work in close collaboration with Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources especially the Water Resource Section and the Tagabe River Management Committee. The focus area is the Tagabe Catchment on Efate. Inception activities started in March 2016 and the MOA was signed in April. A project manager has been recruited and is expected to start in mid December 2016. The IW R2R Project will use the the National Water Resource Advisory Committee established in 2002 as its coordinating body.

Tonga

There are two National R2R Projects in Tonga. The first is implemented by the UNDP through the MEIDECC, the second is implemented by FAO through MAFF. The current IEMP-FLC R2R Project is focussing on the Fanga’uta Lagoon and runs from 2014-2017 with a GEF grant of \$1.7million and co-financing of \$6.6million. IEMP-FLC recruited from Project Staff in 2014 and had the first inception meeting in February 2015. Community consultations and baseline setting activities occurred throughout the rest of 2015. Intervention activities occurred through Jan-October 2016.



Figure 5: National R2R engagement activities in Tonga

The IEMP-FLC focusses on 3 targets:

1. Appropriate governance of Fanga’uta Lagoon catchment areas and integrated management of lagoon ecosystems
2. Implementation of the Integrated Environmental Management Plan for FLC
3. Knowledge Management

The ILAMS R2R Project also targets Fanga’uta Lagoon and has a GEF grant of \$2.3 million and co-financing of \$7.1million, this runs from 2016-2020. The main targets are:

1. Improving the enabling environment for integrated land and agro-ecosystem management.
2. Site-based capacities for evidence-based negotiation of land use planning, management and tenure rights
3. Strengthening of capacities for the formulation and implementation of sustainable land management practices with an integrated R2R approach
4. Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned, monitoring and evaluation

The IW R2R MoA was signed in September of 2016 and the Project Manager position advertised in October. Since 1998 the Sub-Cabinet Committee and the Sub-Parliament Committee was established to oversee environmental projects. In 2001 the National Environment and Climate Change Coordinating Committee. The three projects will share the same coordinating committee.

Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands National R2R is implemented by the FAO, the national lead agency is Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; Ministry of Forestry and Research; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. It will run from 2016-2020 and has a GEF grant of USD5.6million and co-financing of USD30million. The project is addressing the GEF Focal Areas BD, LD, SFM and CC. Project target sites are Kolombangara, Mount Maetambe, Tina – Popomanaseu, Are'are & Maramasike and Bauro Highlands. The FAO are currently setting up the Project Management Unit.

Expected project outcomes are:

- 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas*
- 1.2 Increased revenue for protected areas systems to meet total expenditures required for management*
- 3.1 Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management*
- 3.2 Integrated Landscape Management practices adopted by local communities*
- 5.1 Good Management practices in LULUCF adopted both within the forest, land and in the wider landscape*
- 5.2 Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland*
- 5.3 GHG emissions avoided and carbon sequestered*
- 1.2 Good management practices applied in existing forests*

The IW R2R MOA signed in September 2016 between SPC and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. The inception workshop is proposed for early 2017 with the recruitment of Project Manager underway. The IW R2R Project will use the existing inter-sectoral National Coordinating Committee of the Mataniko River Clean Up and Rehabilitation National Project.

Samoa

The Samoa National R2R Project goal is Economy-wide integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management to reduce climate vulnerability of Communities in Samoa. It is implemented by UNDP with the national lead agency Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. It has a GEF grant of USD12million and co-financing of \$183million. Project Coordinator and team have been recruited and inception workshop activities have begun. The project is addressing GEF Focal Area Climate Change and will focus on the greater Apia Catchment.

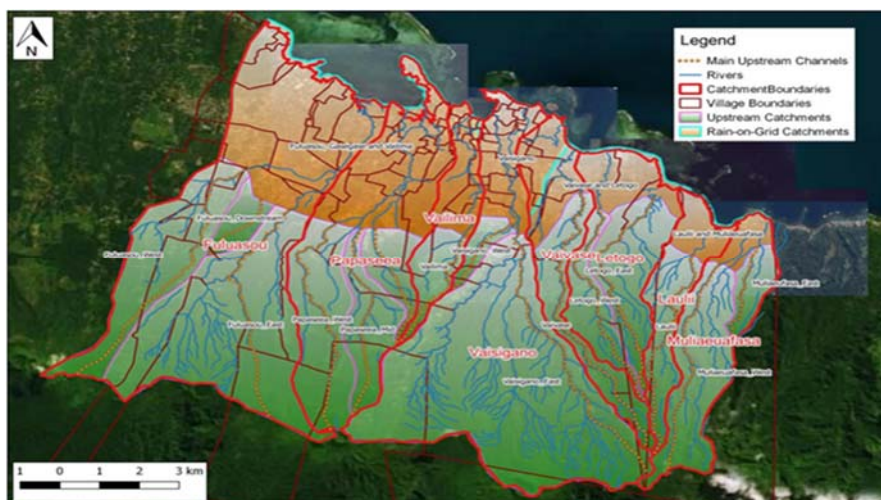


Figure 6: Greater Apia Catchment - R2R Project site

Component 1: Strategic integration of CCA and DRM in national policy frameworks and development planning through an economy-wide approach

- *Policy Strategies/ Institutional Strengthening:*
- *CCA and DRM mainstreamed in relevant policies, sectoral strategies, sub-national strategies and budgeting processes through enhanced coordination of government institutions.*

Component 2: Enhance resilience of communities as first responders of climate change-induced hazards

- *Protection of communities physical assets and livelihoods:*
- *Increased resilience and decreased exposure and susceptibility of communities to climate change and natural disasters by protection of household and community assets and promoting resilient livelihoods.*
- *Climate change adaptation/ disaster risk management plans and implementation:*
- *Increased adaptive capacity of communities for implementation of effective risk management and protection of household and community assets.*

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management

- *Knowledge about climate change adaptation and disaster risk management is captured and shared at the regional and global level.*

The IW R2R Project MoU was signed at the end of this inception meeting on October 14th, 2016. Recruitment for project staff will be internal and expected to be completed by end of 2016. The National Environment Sector Steering Committee will coordinate both projects.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

The RMI National R2R Project objective is to sustain atoll biodiversity and livelihoods by building community and ecosystem resilience to threats and degrading influences through integrated management of terrestrial and coastal resources. It was initially to be implemented through UNEP but was transferred to UNDP in 2015. The lead agency is yet to be decided. The GEF grant is \$3.7million with co-financing of \$3.5 million.

The project is addressing the GEF Focal Areas LD, CC, BD, IW. The project target sites are Aur Atoll, Ebon Atoll, Likiep Atoll, Mejit Island and Wotho Atoll.

Component 1: Expanding and Sustaining RMI Protected Area Network

- *Marine and terrestrial biodiversity and socioeconomic surveys conducted;*
- *Over-arching resource management framework that addresses fisheries, conservation and coastal zone management formulated and tested;*
- *Integrated management plans developed and implemented*
- *Pollution of coastal waters contained in up to 2 atolls to minimize negative impacts on adjacent marine conservation areas*
- *Sustainable financing mechanisms from internal and external sources put in place to further build up the RMI sub-account in the Micronesia Challenge Trust*

Component 2: Improved Governance

- *Updated review of legislative framework conducted to identify policy gaps;*
- *Delineated responsibilities of various government agencies, NGOs and communities to facilitate implementation of Reimaanlok;*
- *Strengthened atoll-level management structures recognizing traditional ownership of resources (land, coastal, etc.) and local-national arrangements;*
- *Capacity building on integrated approaches for conservation and livelihoods benefitting key national government agencies and community leaders;*

Component 3: Knowledge Management

- *GIS-based management information system (MIS) developed under the Reimaanlok project improved and maintained;*
- *Local and traditional knowledge documented and compiled in the MIS (BD);*
- *Support for expansion / continuation of education and awareness programs at the local and national levels;*
- *Coordination established with the Pacific R2R program*

The IW R2R Project MoA was signed in June 2016 and recruitment of Mr Julius Luck as Project Manager in has been completed. Projects will seek to share the same steering committee, this has yet to be finalised.

Palau

The Palau National R2R Project titled, Advancing Sustainable Resource Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity, is implemented nationally through the UNEP and national lead agency is the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism. The project has a GEF grant of \$3.8million and co-financing of \$15million. The Palau R2R is addressing the GEF Focal Areas BD, LD, SFM, IW. The Project has

recruited a project manager, Ms Gwen Sisor, Senior Projects Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism and is currently validating project activities and developing workplans.

The objective of the national R2R project is to effectively and sustainably use biodiversity and maintain ecosystem goods and services in Palau by building institutional capacity to integrate Protected Areas Network with the Sustainable Land Management Initiative and fostering a ridge to reef approach across and within these initiatives. The outcomes are as follows:

1. Improving Palau's Protected Areas Network
2. Effective Implementation of Palau's Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Policy
3. Integrated Coordination, Mainstreaming & Project Management

The target project sites are:

- Koror State
- Melekeok State
- Ngarchelong State
- Ngaremlengui State

The IW R2R Project MoA was signed on June 13th 2016 and will be run through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism. The Project Manager, Ms Leena Muller has been recruited.

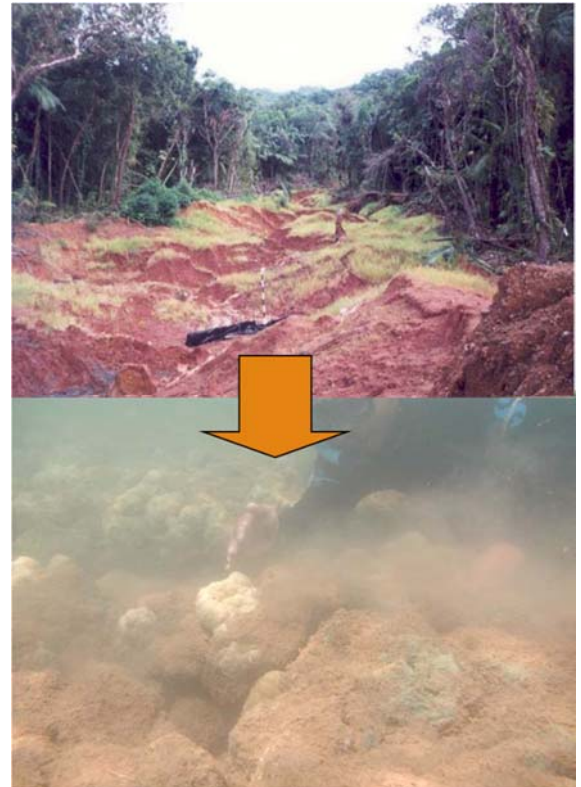


Figure 7: Damage to reefs from catchment activities in Palau

Federated States of Micronesia

The FSM national R2R Project is implemented through the UNDP with the national lead agency Office of Emergency and Environment - Department of R&D. The GEF grant is USD 4,689,815 with co-financing of 11,386,398. The project is addressing the GEF Focal areas LD, BD and IW. A project coordinator and financial administrator have been recruited and inception workshop held in October of 2016. Components of the project are:



Figure 8: Beach erosion in FSM

Component One - Integrated ecosystems management and rehabilitation on the High Islands:

- *Development of four ILMPs, covering at least 62,133 ha*
- *Strengthened capacity for coordinated action on SLM (institutions with responsibilities on development & conservation of HIs)*

- *Government and Donor Funding allocated to SLM (including PA management costs) increased*
- *Landscape level uptake of SLM measures avoids and reduces land degradation*

Component Two - Management Effectiveness Enhanced within new and existing PAs, as part of the R2R approach

- *Establishment of National & State Level legal institutional frameworks (PA framework)*
- *Expansion of protected areas totaling 24,986ha (marine & terrestrial) in all four states*
- *Management authorities are equipped and capacitated in managing PAs*
- *Increased management effectiveness for at least 40 existing and new protected areas*
- *PA enforcement strengthened*

The IW R2R Project is awaiting congressional endorsement and signing of the MoA. Both projects will share a coordinating committee.

Fiji

The Fiji national R2R Project objective is to preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, sequester carbon and improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods through a ridge-to-reef management of priority water catchments on the two main islands of Fiji. The project is implemented through the UNDP with the national lead agency Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment. The project will run for four years (2016-20) with GEF budget of USD 7.4 million and substantial co-financing from Fiji government, UNDP and conservation NGO's. The project will focus on 7 catchment sites, Tuva, Ba, Waidina, Rewa, Labasa, Vunivia and Tunuloa. The project is addressing the GEF Focal Areas, BD, LD, CC, SFM and IW. The national R2R Project team is to be recruited through Oct-Dec 2016 with inception workshops scheduled for early 2017.



Figure 9: Riparian erosion in Fiji

Project outcomes include:

1. Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas
2. Improved financial sustainability for terrestrial and marine protected area systems
3. Carbon stocks restored and enhanced in priority catchments
4. Strengthened governance for integrated natural resources (land, water, biodiversity, forests) management
5. Improved data and information systems on biodiversity; land, forests, coastal and marine management; climate change and best practices

The IW R2R Project will be working WAF to support development of catchment plans. Recruitment and inception are in planning.

Niue

The Niue national R2R Project is implemented through the UNDP with the national lead agency Ministry of Natural Resources. The project will run for 5 years with a GEF grant of USD10.1million and co-financing of USD4.8million. The project is addressing the GEF Focal Area BD. The Administration Officer has been recruited with positions for remaining team members being advertised. The launch was held during the SPREP meeting in Niue and the inception workshop has been held.

The targets of the project are to increase CBPA by 2,500ha and CBMPA by 4,612ha, (Beveridge Reef 4,500h and Community 112ha). Project outcomes include:

- Improved managed and effectiveness of new Protected areas
- Increased in sustainably managed landscape and seascape that integrate biodiversity conservation



Figure 10: Coastal habitats in Niue

The IW R2R project MoU has yet to be signed but recruitment for the Project Manager role has begun. The national coordinating mechanism for both projects has yet to be defined and approved by government.

Kiribati

The Kiribati National R2R Project is implemented through the FAO with national lead agency Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development through the Environment and Conservation Division. The project will run for 5 years with a GEF grant of USD4million and co-financing of USD12million. The project is addressing the GEF Focal Areas BD, CC, LD and IW. The projects target sites are Tarawa atoll, Butaritari and Tabiteuea. The outcomes of the project are:

1. National protected areas network operational
2. National management system for ecosystem-based sustainable use and conservation of island resources established
3. Lessons learning and sharing

The IW R2R Project MoA and staff recruitment are expected to be completed before end of 2016. The two project will share the same steering committee.

Nauru

The Nauru National R2R Project objective is to preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods in Nauru using a ridge to reef approach and is implemented through the UNDP with the national lead agency Department Commerce, Industry and Environment. The project will run from 2015-2019 with a GEF grant of USD2.6million and co-



Figure 11: Coastal degradation in Nauru

financing USD8million. Project components are:

1. Conservation of marine biodiversity
2. Sustainable land and water management
3. Governance and institutions
4. Knowledge management

Targets of the project include:

- 33% of coastline of Nauru incorporated into LMMA with implementation of management plans in 4 Districts
- 5 Management Plans developed and implemented for each selected Districts
- 43 additional water harvesting/ storage facilities established
- 80% of households adopting biodiversity conservation and SLM actions
- People (45 staff and 15 community leaders / 50% women) trained in R2R approaches

The IW R2R Project MoA was signed in February 2016 and the Project Manager, Mr Berrick Dowiyogo has been recruited. The former IWRM steering committee will be re-established to continue on with IW activities.

Papua New Guinea

The PNG National R2R Project objective is to strengthen national and local capacities to effectively manage the national system of protected areas, and address threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functions in these areas. It is implemented by UNDP with the national lead agency Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA). The project has a GEF grant of USD26million with co-financing USD38million. The project is addressing the GEF Focal Areas BD and LD. The target project sites are Torricelli Mountain Range, Yus Conservation Area and Varirata National Park.



Figure 12: Community engagement in wildlife conservation in PNG

Component 1: Management capabilities of the PNG state entity (CEPA) to support and oversee PA Management

- *Strengthen Policies relating to PA Management and Biodiversity Conservation;*
- *Capacity of CEPA in place for effective management of the National PA System;*
- *Training Programs targeting PA managers institutionalized;*
- *Effective management of Varirata National Park and its integration into the broader Sogeri Plains Landscape*

Component 2: Strengthening the Capacity of the state and local communities to cooperatively manage PA sites

- *Expansion to the landscape level and effective management of the YUS Conservation Area*
- *Community livelihood assistance in the YUS landscape*
- *Formal gazetted and effective management of the Torricelli Mountain Range*

- *Community livelihood assistance in the TMR landscape proposed CA*

There is an interim Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Adviser for the National R2R Project and inception activities were held in May 2016. The IW R2R Project MoA has yet to be signed and recruitment has not yet begun.

Cook Islands

The Cook Islands National R2R Project is implemented by the UNDP with the national lead agency the National Environment Service. It will run for 4 years and has a GEF grant of USD4.2million and co-financing of USD19million. Project staff have been recruited and inception activities have started. Target project sites are Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Atiu and Mitiaro. There are two national R2R components:

1. Strengthening Protected Areas Management
2. Mainstreaming biodiversity into productive landscapes : Agriculture and Tourism

The IW R2R Project is executed through Infrastructure Cook Islands and has begun the recruitment process.

6. BASELINE SETTING AND THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

6.1. Presentation of recommendations for baseline setting and ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of programme activities

6.1.1. Ms Emma Newland (SPC) directed the meeting to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/7 titled 'Baseline Setting and the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Programme Activities' which outlines protocols and mobile sampling kits for use by the programme.

6.1.2. The GEF Pacific R2R Programme is addressing a wide range of environmental stress reduction measures, all of which require robust understanding of the current environmental condition and routine monitoring to begin to understand the changes in condition that are attributable to the project interventions. The committee was familiarised with the GEF International Waters Environmental Stress Reduction indicators, their usefulness, potential surrogate indicators where indicators may be too difficult to measure. The committee was introduced to various methodologies for assessing baseline conditions and conducting routine monitoring, including adopting a standard approach to planning and reporting on assessments.

6.1.3. Moriana Phillip, (RMI) - How can we incorporate more innovative method include youth and communities to capture the qualitative aspects of progress in the communities. There could be a table which shows a clear trend that water quality has improved over time or it could show pictures of happy healthy people carrying clean water. Phillip further suggested that the meeting look at ways in which these could be captured at the community level. The development of such tool should be done in consultation with respective countries.

6.1.4. Emma Newland, SPC - responded to Phillip mentioning that the R2R Programme is in the process of developing a community monitoring approach which will involve youths and the larger groups of the

community with the Monitoring team that carries out the monitoring work. This includes learning how to use the equipment's and understanding the impacts of human activities on the water system.

6.1.5. Jose Padilla, UNDP – In referring to the benefits presented by Emma, Padilla referred to it as Project Targets. Currently the countries are not familiar with the tracking tools which contain what the project promises and understanding that it provides the rationale for the GEF investment. In light of this, Padilla suggested that the baselines and end of targets are reviewed to ensure that the end of project targets are reasonable. We could be over promising or under promising. It also leads to the midterm review of the project because countries have to report on progress. It also contributes to the Terminal Evaluation process. It is therefore important to realise baselines and the end of project targets for each of the national demonstration activities.

6.1.6. Mr. Sessay Mohamed (UNEP) – The meeting also need to consider climate change mitigation which countries can also benefit from in the long term because there will always be a market of forests, mangroves etc which will also address the issue of sustainable financing which has the potential for deriving benefits in the long term. In the baseline assessment there is a need to quantify the country's existing carbon levels. Most projects today with a CCA component carry out this step in project. The methodologies are available to use along with the UNEP carbon benefit system and if established, there is a possibility to connect with the carbon market in three to four years' time.

6.1.7. Christopher Paterson (SPC) – Acknowledged the valuable point raised by UNEP. The presentation by Newland touched on five Stress Reduction measures that is part of the International Waters (IW) tracking tool. The five measures relate to the pilot activities that will be undertaken as part of the R2R International Waters Project. It is timely for the meeting to also think about the baselines in the context of other focal areas including biodiversity, land degradation etc under the R2R STAR project being implemented. It is a massive undertaking when we realise the amount of work required in baseline survey for the small pilot activities taking place under IW.

6.1.8. Jose (UNDP) – Acknowledges the comments raised by Paterson. Part of the support of the regional R2R project at the programme level is in the context of Indicators. Jose suggested to the meeting that someone from the project is invited to the Steering Committee meetings to ensure that they are able to provide valid inputs and technical advice on baseline settings, target settings and monitoring.

6.1.9. Marc Wilson (SPC) – In responding the comments raised by UNDP, confirmed that the regional projects has some resources to assist the national projects. It is important for countries to understand that the regional project has no responsibility to the collection of national projects Baseline and Indicators. The data collection responsibility sits with the National projects.

6.1.10. Milika Sobey (SPC) – Five countries currently present at the meeting already have the baseline carbon data i.e Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa. This information was recently put together by a project that was funded by Germany. These countries could retrieve the data from available archives or database.

6.1.11. Sauni Tongatule (Niue) – In terms of Tracking Tools, a difficulty faced during the project preparation stages was the need to fill in tracking tools for the national STAR project. In terms of the resources that was needed to complete the tracking tool, the Niue Office did not have the capacity and resources to collect the data that was required in the tracking tool. A suggestion is to streamline some of the tracking tools. It is

beyond the capabilities of small island countries to be able to provide the data that is required at the initial stages for the tracking tool.

6.1.12. Christopher Paterson (SPC) – responded to the intervention raised by Niue stating that the need to harmonise and streamline results reporting was identified during the formulation of the programme, which is a complexity of the whole tracking tool issue. Under the International Waters (IW) component of the programme is helping the countries to harmonise and simplify results reporting system i.e trying to harmonise a different tracking tool and simplifying it for the Pacific context. The GEF tracking tool is a global tool and needs to be translated to something that works for the Pacific in terms of reporting to the GEF.

6.1.13. Jose Padilla, (UNDP) – There is a need to abide by the existing tracking tools, the resources that is needed is provided within the national STAR projects.

6.1.14. Marc Wilson, (SPC) – Countries need to use the resources available to them for baselining and monitoring and as indicated by Jose have a responsibility for lodging their GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools.

6.1.15. Sauni Tongatule, (Niue) – There is a need to build in the tracking tool as part of the PPG development because this was not done for some of the countries.

6.2. Discussion of country plans for baseline setting and monitoring of the effectiveness of GEF Pacific R2R STAR project interventions

6.3. The meeting was engaged in group discussions on requirements for countries to conduct baseline assessments, including what resources and people are needed. Outcomes from the group discussions are presented in Table 3 and Table 4 below.

Table 3: Baseline assessment requirements in countries

Country	Activity description	What baseline data might you need to collect
Solomon Islands	Monitoring program for pollution and nutrients entering Honiara Adjacent Coastal waters – identify nutrient sources and pollutants	Water quality, Waste disposal practices, Socio-economic data, Land-use practices, Biological data
Palau	Upscaling Ngerikiil Watershed Management Plan	Soil, contour, water flow, land use, socio-economic, water quality, rainfall, census, terrestrial data, literature/desktop review
PNG	Protection of Sirinumu-Laloki Catchment area	Hydrological information, land-use activities, location of villages/garden/infrastructure etc., natural phenomenon, biodiversity information, resource ownership
Vanuatu	Water quality monitoring	Water quality, waste disposal, piggery and sanitation sites, sedimentation
Samoa	Habitat restoration – replanting	Total area, species composition, forest type, degraded area, landuse plans, land use practices, land tenure
FSM	Pollution reduction through best land use practice	Biological monitoring data, invasive species, socio-economic data, diagnostic analysis, data on undisturbed vs. disturbed area in the catchment area
Tuvalu	Identify casual links between land based contaminants and degradation of coastal waters	Sanitation data, commercial establishments, households, coastal water pollution status, international water standards
RMI	Linkage between land use and coastal health	Water quality, marine water quality, fisheries and biological survey, health, census, local knowledge
Nauru	Resotration of 10ha of coastal areas through revegetation	Vegetation status, existing ha coverage of vegetation, carbon stock of current vegetation, coastline profile, endemic species of fauna

Niue	Septic system upgrades and improved onsite treatment systems	Number of septics and status, discharge data, size of systems, household data, site description
Cook Islands	Water quality analysis – coastal	Physical, chemical, biological parameters

Table 4: Baseline and monitoring requirements and capacity in country

Country	What capacity already exist in your country for scientific assessment and monitoring?	What are your resource needs for baseline assessment?	What are your resource needs for ongoing monitoring?
Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA experts National public health laboratory – nutrients and pathogens Flora and fauna specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel Technical advice Training support for monitoring techniques Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment Personnel Budget Guidelines and templates Technical advice
Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQPB (water quality) PICRC Airai State Belau National Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying baseline gaps/needs for Ngerkiil Watershed Management Plan Personnel, equipment, funding 	
PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrological surveys Biodiversity and cultural values survey Social mapping GIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrological monitoring equipment Personnel Funding for consultants for biodiversity survey and social mapping GIS data for land use activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrological monitoring equipment Updated GIS and land use activities Satellite imagery
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality – local teams available for monitoring and assessment – laboratory testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for monitoring techniques Additional equipment for water quality Personnel for biological monitoring Time Budget 	
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QGIS specialist Local/traditional knowledge Flora/fauna expertise Surveyors, foresters Water quality monitoring Soils – USP Statisticians/census 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel Drone, GPS, Toughbook, 4WD Nurseries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediment monitoring program Photographic records Record keeping Reporting internally/externally Backup of data and information
FSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local expert for socio-economic surveys Biological monitoring of coral and fish Invasive species expert Division of Sanitation Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel Test kits for pollutants – training in kits etc. Transport Computers Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual monitoring in changes in ecological conditions
Tuvalu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacity in scientific investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and training for monitoring techniques Office space Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring plan Identify and utilise appropriate monitoring tools TA guidance and training

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance and training 	
RMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water/coastal quality monitoring • Marine fisheries • Land surveyors • Local knowledge • GIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment • Centralised database • SOP • Scientific guidelines and templates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Nauru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QGIS mapping for vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical experts and training support • Equipment for training and use • Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel • Training for equipment and techniques • GPS
Niue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water division staff • Wastewater officer • Septic discharge officer • Project staff • Community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel • Equipment start up – portable and test kits • Training in methods and equipment • Consumables • Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralised data base • Quality assurance and control
Cook Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine biologist • Fisheries • Chemist • Statistician • GIS specialist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel • Chemist/team • Multiprobes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine biologist and team • Diving gear, boat • Seagrasses, epiphytes, nutrients, e.coli etc.

6.4. Presentation of Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for UNDP-GEF Projects

6.4.1. Floyd Robinson of UNDP was invited to present UNDP's guidelines for monitoring and evaluation in GEF projects. Mr Robinson presented UNDP's guidelines for monitoring and evaluation in GEF projects. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the detailed presentation.** The UNDP-GEF reporting requirements in the project cycle can be summarised into 9 stages:

- Inception Workshop
- Quarterly Monitoring
- Regional Steering Committee Annual
- Periodic Site visits
- Audit
- Project Review (APR)/Project Implementation Review (PIR)
- M & E (pro-doc)
- Midterm Review
- Terminal Evaluation

6.4.2. Sauni Tongatule (Niue): On the issue of the 80% to account before you quickly advance to the next quarter, does that still applies as a UNDP requirement?

6.4.3. Floyd Robinson (UNDP): When this situation arises, it is important for SPC to raise that with UNDP who will then work out some arrangements so that countries that are progressing well are not hindered by countries that are slowly progressing.

6.4.4. Jose Padilla (UNDP): This requirement is a global rule for UNDP.

6.4.5. Suluimalo Penaia (Samoa): Samoa has not signed the agreement so far and would like to make some minor changes in the document prior to this, would it need to be approved by the RSC?

6.4.6. Jose Padilla (UNDP): All changes need to be approved by the RSC. Minor changes can be approved by the RSC. But major changes need to be endorsed by RSC and UNDP will report that to the GEF Secretariat.

6.4.7. Marc Wilson (SPC): What UNDP mentioned are the activity components of the regional project. The activities for the national pilot projects can be changed without endorsement, as long as it still relates to the activities outcomes and outputs for the logframe of the regional project.

6.4.8. Cynthia Ehmes (FSM): Do these requirements also apply to the national R2R projects?

6.4.9. Floyd Robinson (UNDP): Yes it does.

7. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT NETWORKS

7.1. The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef programme has a wide range of scientific and technical support needs in areas including, inter alia, water resource management, geoscience for development, disaster management, public health, forestry, fisheries, and youth, gender and culture. The broad aim of the agenda item was to initiate efforts to increase awareness among programme stakeholders in participating countries of the scientific and technical capabilities that exist within SPC and other relevant partners. It is anticipated that such awareness building will assist in supporting the participating countries in identifying how they will best meet their scientific and technical support needs in delivering national-level work of the programme. The session served as a valuable first step in ensuring that longer-term monitoring and survey work, as well as survey and data management protocols promoted within the region, are not overlooked in the planning of national-level activities of the programme that are executed on a bilateral basis by the countries with UNDP, UNEP and FAO.

7.2. During the session, representatives of the Pacific Community's (SPC) technical programmes, cChange, Oceania Television, and Pacific Island News Association delivered presentations which outlined their areas of expertise and recommendations on how country teams of the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme could access scientific and technical services. A brief of what was covered under presentations is as follows, while the complete presentation slides will be provided in the Annexes.

7.3. Water and Sanitation Programme (SPC)

7.3.1. Dave Hebblethwaite introduced the activities of the Water and Sanitation Programme (W & S) of SPC where the services and activities of the programme is aligned towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target number 6 and referring to Clean Water and Sanitation for all by the year 2030. The programme operates under the following areas i.e:

- Water resource survey, monitoring & assessment
- Water & sanitation knowledge management
- Water governance (operationalising knowledge)
- Community WASH infrastructure & capacity
- Advocacy and awareness
- Preparedness, response & recovery

7.3.2. Recent studies by the WHO and UNICEF's Joint Monitoring Program identified that in terms of improved facilities and improved drinking water sources, the rate of progress on the ground is not consistently progressive enough to keep up with the rate of population growth in the Pacific.

7.3.3. Sauni Tongatule, (Niue) – In referring to the slow progress by the Pacific to achieve the SDG target, is there opportunities within the GEF IW allocation or GCF of resources that can support this work?

7.3.4. Mark Wilson, (SPC) – It is a valid point raised by Niue and is something that could be looked into. The International Waters (IW) programme also support approaches such as those carried out by the Water and Sanitation Programme. It is an opportunity for the Pacific to receive GF investment specifically related to the old MDG targets and to some extent with the new SDG targets, particularly where there are demonstrated vulnerabilities associated with climate change. Therefore an atoll based programmatic approach with some of the water issues would be a worthwhile approach with the GEF. It would require someone in each atoll country to champion such an approach and a resource to prepare the proposal through GEF and ensuring the county's cooperation throughout the process.

7.3.5. Dave Hebbelthwaite (SPC) – In responding to Niue's comment on GCF resource allocation. While there's been some progress in recognising sanitation as a fundamental defence system for the communities, unfortunately the issue is still not at the forefront of discussion when people talk about CCA. But the view by SPC and the increasing number of partners is that safe sanitation and hygiene is at the forefront of a community's resilience to climate change. It is not worth building other forms of defence systems in the community if children keep dying at an early age from water borne diseases, if the communities are not attending to work due to water borne disease, if there are no resilient facilities in the case of a disaster. Fundamental capacities and strengths of a community withstand those other impacts. It is encourageable that countries collaborate with their partners when trying to access other funding sources and the W \$ S programme would be happy to support countries by spreading the message across.

7.3.6. Barbara Masike, (PNG) – Compared to other pacific island countries, PNG always have very little statistics in terms of improved water and sanitation due to the large geographical area and population. How did SPC come up with the data on other pacific island countries, on improved water and sanitation against the number of households? In 2015, PNG passed a WASH policy therefore it would be timely for SPC to work more closely with the PNG government on improving water and sanitation particularly the low lying islands. Those on the mainland have sufficient supply of water but maybe it's not that safe. Is there an opportunity for SPC to work in PNG? There are currently two projects working on WASH projects in PNG i.e World Vision and Live & Learn.

7.3.7. Dave Hebbelthwaite – (PNG) will always impact on statistics because of the population size and the greater population that live under rural circumstances. PNG has all the examples of a normal pacific environment i.e large highland communities, small atolls, etc, but it is unfortunate that there has not been much of SPC's reach into PNG. The regional model for SPC is tailor made to work well with smaller island countries. But if opportunities were to change, than all partners need to make a greater effort in working with local communities in PNG. The data presented was recorded through the joint WHO and UNICEF monitoring programme.

7.4. Geoscience for Development Programme (SPC)

7.4.1. Herve Damlamian introduced the activities of the Geoscience for Development Programme (GDP). GDP is comprised of 8 technical units:

- Maritime Boundary
- Hydrography
- Geodetic
- Technical Workshop
- Marine Geophysics
- Ocean and Tide Knowledge
- Oceanography
- Geo-resources

7.4.2. Some of the technical work carried out by the programme in the Pacific islands include:

- Inundation mapping of the Bonriki Water Reserve in Kiribati
- Tsunami response planning through stakeholder and community engagement
- Modelling the lagoon water flow and dispersion on the Northern Saipan Lagoon, Northern Mariana Islands
- Inundation forecast system for Fiji and Tuvalu
- Hazard assessment through the Kiritimati Coastal Vulnerability Project

7.4.3. Asipeli Palaki, (Tonga) – you used wave and tide as parameters to determine the motion of the water, why didn't you use current as a parameter?

7.4.4. Herve Damlimian, (SPC) – In responding to Palaki's question, there are a lot of different scenarios which we can be used to determine motion in the lagoon and we could try all the different possible scenarios. All the scenarios that the Geoscience for Development Program developed use tide, wind and wave as these are the primary drivers of the current in the lagoon and are based on 30 yrs. of data through global wave models, and statistically designed those scenarios to be representatives of the different main conditions in the lagoon.

7.4.5. Leena, Palau – Are the data available online and are there models which we can use.

7.4.6. Herve Damlimian, (SPC) – Most of the scientific technical data that the program collects are mostly available on the PacGeo website.

7.5. Coastal Fisheries, Land Resources and Forestry (SPC)

7.5.1. Lyndsay Chapman presented on the core work areas of the Coastal Fisheries Program i.e.

- Aquaculture – management of seaweed, prawns, tilapia, aquaponics, biosecurity
- Nearshore Development for FADs, squid, small pelagics, sports fishing
- Science and Management through technical surveys, biological sampling, management, policy
- Information – work carried out by the program is captured through newsletters, bulletins, a digital library where information is stored and can be accessed and with the development of awareness materials.

7.5.2. Jose Padilla, (UNDP) – Reiterating on the engagement of SPC and other CROP agencies in the implementation of the National R2R projects, in the Niue R2R there is a small sub-contract by SPC to work in this area because of the expertise that already resides in the region.

7.5.3. Asipeli Palaki, (Tonga) – The Coastal Fisheries Program focused a lot on the scientific aspects, what about the social aspects. Is there any information on the social aspects of the work?

7.5.4. Lyndsay Chapman, (SPC) – The Program covers the social aspects through the Community Based Fisheries Management work. The program works closely with the Gender Advisor but there is an existing gap in that area. The program hopes to acquire some funding next year to carry out the work on the social aspects because it is a very valuable component and this will be done through Community Based activities.

7.6. Social Development Programme (SPC)

7.6.1. Bridgitte Leduc introduced the activities of the Social Development Programme (SDP). SDP works across three areas:

- Cultural Diversity i.e on Cultural Heritage, Cultural Industries, Traditional Knowledge
- Youth Development i.e Youth Engagement, Investment for Youth and Youth @ Work
- Gender Equality i.e Gender Statistics and Analysis, Gender Mainstreaming

7.6.2. The programme is about people and recognizes - Equity and Equality, Empowerment, Respect and Promotion of diversity. It ensures that whole communities are benefiting from and participating in their own development, in a way that preserves and builds on their cultural identity and strengths.

7.7. cChange - Social Marketing Approaches to Create Sustainable Change

7.7.1. Scott Radway introduced the work of cChange, a Communications NGO which aims at improving people's lives at the community level and focuses on natural resources which the communities are highly dependent on for income and livelihood.

7.7.2. In setting the stage for participants, Mr Radway explained that the organisation does not carry out awareness campaigns because it is not an effective way to create change. It is important to realise that communities really care about food and income. They have real problems and need real actions on the ground. Campaigns are one of the most effective way to breakthrough and accelerate change.

7.7.3. One of Sea Change's campaign objective was to Reduce fishing pressure of 6 key grouper species during the peak spawning months from June through to September and this was done through a pledging system where targeted audiences were asked to sign a pledge that they will not eat, buy or sell a grouper fish between June to September. The target audiences were mainly influential people and groups in societies like the fishermen, government representatives, the Fiji Sevens Team, the business sectors, radio personalities, the media, and the tourism sector who would influence the general public and generate more awareness and visibility of the campaign.

7.7.4. Chanel Iroi, (Solomon Islands) - The issue of behavioural change in waste management is always a challenge to address in Solomon Islands. Could it be an opportunity for the Sea Web NGO to support the Solomon Islands in helping address the behaviour issue towards waste management.

7.7.5. Scott Radway (cChange) – In responding to the question raised by Solomon Islands, typically with waste management there's usually two components and the costs are usually too high. Another thing to consider is the infrastructure element both for government but also for the individual in the village and looking at how difficult it is to deal with the waste management issue. There is a need to thoughtfully look at the situation because a campaign cannot address infrastructure. There is also a need to deal with the social norm aspect.

7.8. Oceania Television,

7.8.1. Mike Fox introduced Oceania Television (OTV). OTV started as a production company about 15 years ago and became a local Television Station to focus on Pacific Islands programs. The company is in the process of developing a Communications Plan which will outline: Video formats/restrictions, a centralised storage, a project management platform and will also identify broadcast partners. Countries are able to consult with the OTV station about media support at meetings and workshops. OTV is also able to provide trainings for projects on how to capture work at the initial stage of a project.

7.9. Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

7.9.1. Pita Ligaiula introduced the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA). PINA is the premier regional media organization representing the interests of media practitioners in the Pacific region and exists in all the 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Its core functions are to:

- Promote and defend freedom of expression and information
- Promote and develop professional standards through training and education
- Promote networking and partnerships for the benefit of media development
- Operate a daily subscription news agency – PACNEWS

7.9.2. PINA's work programme is driven by membership from members and subscription to the daily regional news service. Through a formal partnership, PINA offers the following;

- Promote project work programmes & activities through PACNEWS
- Provide advice on Media Outreach to enhance programme visibility
- Facilitate media awareness training programmes
- Dedicate a regional media award as an incentive for reporting on targeted issue

7.10. Remote Sensing and GIS Unit (SPC)

7.10.1. Naomi Jackson introduced the Remote Sensing and GIS Unit of SPC. This unit carries out the following work to support Pacific Island countries:

- Processes image data acquisition and pre-processing
- Carries out vegetation, land cover mapping and inventory
- Coastal Change Detection mapping
- Digital Elevation Model
- Post-Cyclone Assessment
- Landslide mapping
- Disaster response mapping
- Uses the regional data portal 'PacGEO' as regional data repository

7.10.2. Christopher Paterson, (SPC) – Thanked all scientific and technical representatives for the very inspirational work and services that has been showcased which now contributes greatly to countries awareness to the capacities available within regional agencies. The awareness of such services will ensure that scientific and technical needs of countries to carry out their projects is reflected in the planning of national level activities. Further to his comment, Paterson suggested that the Steering Committee consider recommending the agenda item on Scientific and Technical support networks become a permanent agenda

item for future Regional Programme Steering Committee meetings which can also task the regional programme in building on these technical support networks.

7.10.3. Marc Wilson, (SPC) – The regional programs and projects that were presented at this session will incur some costs on country projects if the services are required by countries. The increasing move to bilateral funding means that the services that countries are expecting out of regional organisations will need to be paid for at some level. It is not a sustainable business model if it remains to be a free service. There are a series of national projects that need some technical assistance and countries are urged to consider obtaining that technical assistance on a fee per service basis.

7.10.4. Ngametua Pokino, (Cook Islands) – The Cook Islands confirms their interest in engaging the support of CROP agencies and regional NGOs in providing technical support.

7.10.5. Jose, (UNDP) – In response to Paterson’s suggestion, Padilla proposed that there is a need to look at what is needed by the programme. The meeting recently discussed the TOR of the Regional Science and Technical Committee therefore in the course of the year, countries would have identified the scientific needs of the program. Therefore in the next PSC, the committee can align the presentations in accordance with the priorities identified by that committee, and if relevant consider the contributions from other CROP agencies e.g SPC, SPREP, FFA, FLMMA etc which the committee can choose and approve of. UNDP strongly supports the links between regional and national support networks.

7.10.6. Cynthia Ehmes, (FSM) – Referring to the presentation by the SPC GIS and Remote Sensing Unit, Ehmes enquired about the requirements that countries need to fulfil in order to be granted access to country data and images. Would this require a fee to be paid? Who is the Division’s focal point based in-country that countries could be directed to for data? In addition, can the Geoscience Division help countries to update their Digital Elevation Model (DEMs) and how much would it cost?

7.10.7. Naomi Jackson, (SPC) – Accessing existing data that is readily stored on the GIS/RS back-up server does not incur a fee and SPC staff will always assist in providing the information to countries following a formal request from the country of interest addressing it to the SPC Geoscience Division (GSD) Director and the GIS/RS Unit Team Leader. For accessing new image data, countries are required to pay a fee because new image data needs to be purchased by the Unit and made available to countries. Country requests can also be done through country focal points.

7.10.8. Suluimalo Penaia , (Samoa) – Samoa purchased LIDAR data earlier in 2016 and in doing so experienced some challenges in terms of the cost recovery process. The LIDAR data took two to three days to load in-country which poses a challenge for Samoa in particular because there is limited resources and tools available for the country to be able to use the data. In light of this Samoa raised a recommendation if there is an opportunity for SPC and CROP agencies to provide support to member countries in getting the tools that is required to obtain data and carry out the work which could save administration and operational costs on consultancies and data. The data required is usually for the sustainable use of resources.

7.10.9. Marc Wilson, (SPC) – In responding to the comments raised by Samoa, Wilson shared the experience of the use of LIDAR data for the Nadi catchment flood modelling confirming that the generation of data was a costly process. The Fiji government oversees the use of their Fiji LIDAR data and have been approached by several external consulting companies requesting for the use of their data sets. The government charges consultants for the use of their data sets to recover costs in the process. It is a process of setting up a charge model for your information under several categories with restricted access for different categories. There

is a need to consider establishing contractual arrangements that applies to consultancy companies that request for data to ensure that the data is not used in other way other than the reason it was requested for. In terms of providing support to countries to enable them to generate their own data, it is a discussion that will need to be explored further with the secretariat before a response can be provided.

7.10.10. Herve Damlamiam, (SPC) – It is great that countries are considering storing their own data etc but there's a need to consider the conditions required in ensuring that data is maintained e.g the infrastructure, the storage and the power so that the data becomes and remains useful and accessible.

7.10.11. Suluimalo Penaia, (Samoa) – It would be great to hear from member countries about practices in countries.

7.10.12. Moriana Phillip, (RMI) – Suggests that the same group that will discuss and agree on technical support group should also be tasked to identify funding resources that can go towards technical support.

7.10.13. Pesega Lifuka, (Tuvalu) – Requests SPC if countries could be presented with a reasonable charge/rate with the possibility of providing trainings to increase capacities in countries.

7.10.14. Dave Hebblethwaite, (SPC) – SPC also fulfils some key roles of support to its members e.g with SPC's Water and Sanitation Programme, it makes available a programmatic support to countries with a very small core funding which is enough for a few staff. With that provision, the programme assembles a suite of project that help support that programmatic approach. Such projects can support activities in countries in terms of providing advice in directing countries to the right place and linking up countries with available resources. Therefore another way in which countries can sort SPC support is through the development of new projects where some of the needs could be addressed within the context of the Water and Sanitation programme while there might be other activities which might require a broader approach with specific project resources.

7.10.15. Taouea Reiher, (Kiribati) – For countries that are paying their annual member contributions to the organisation, would SPC consider that as a form of cost recovery for SPC and to provide the services to countries?

7.10.16. Marc Wilson, (SPC) – Further to the points raised earlier by Hebblethwaite, there will be partial allocation of costs to SPC or SPREP etc and that countries must be aware that Regional Crop resources can be accessed while developing a project. In responding to Reiher's comment, Wilson clarified that discussion on SPC member country contributions is beyond the scope of the meeting pointing out that it was also a discussion had by all country representatives at the last CRGA meeting. Therefore at this stage, it is a matter that is currently handled at CRGA with SPC and the Council's of the other CROP Agencies.

8. PARTNERSHIP AND LINKAGES WITH OTHER REGIONAL PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

8.1. The broad aim of this agenda item was to initiate efforts to increase awareness among programme stakeholders in the participating countries of opportunities for partnerships and linkages with other regional programmes and projects. It is anticipated that such awareness building will assist in supporting the participating countries in identifying how they can best facilitate joint planning to avoid duplication and

overlap, and to promote cooperation and coordinated efforts where applicable. It is hoped that convening such a session will also be a valuable first step in ensuring that national coordination mechanisms to be established by the GEF Pacific Ridge Reef Programme adequately acknowledge and engage effectively with other initiatives. The regional programmes and projects that presented are as follows.

8.2. Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project – SPREP

8.2.1. Mr Herman Timmermans, Project Manager PEBACC, provided an overview of the PEBACC project, the synergies with the Ridge to Reef Project and potential areas of collaboration are presented in Table 5 below. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the Powerpoint presentation.**

Table 5: Synergies and potential areas of collaboration with PEBACC Project

Synergies with the Ridge to Reef Project	Potential Areas of Collaboration
Similar ridge to reef approach	Joint activities in project countries
Share a focus on building resilience	Sharing of experiences
Share an interest in promoting sustainable land use and conservation	Communications and campaigns
Working in Fiji, Vanuatu and SI	Policy and legislation advocacy
	Use of SPREP expertise in biodiversity conservation, waste management, invasives management, climate science, etc.
	Use of SPC expertise in inshore fisheries management, SLM, agriculture, forestry, GIS, sediment modelling, etc.
	Making use of existing SPREP and SPC publications

8.2.2. Sauni Tongatule of Niue asked how much funding was available for the PEBACC Project. Herman Timmermans (SPREP) replied that the project has funding of over €5 million.

8.3. Sustainable Aquaculture – SPC

8.3.1. Mr Lindsay Chapman provided a brief talk on sustainable aquaculture (freshwater) and mariculture (seawater). There was considerable aquaculture experimenting in the last 20 years. Pearls in FP and prawns in NC make up about 95% of the value of aquaculture in the Pacific.

8.3.2. A report was taken in 2010 that reviewed aquaculture and mariculture and the findings from that were that there was not enough economic focus on aquaculture production. It was mostly research based. From this, the FFA (SPC) deliberated on this and developed two new NZ funded projects. Both projects are at recruiting stages and begin fully in January 2017.

- Strengthening government structures worth NZ\$ 7.3 m over 5 years. Focus on coastal fisheries and aquaculture looking at national and sub-national legislations. Also covers coastal fisheries and aquaculture management and policy documents and also monitoring control surveillance and enforcement.
- Focused on sustainable aquaculture worth NZ\$ 4.9 m over 5 years. Focuses on aquatic biosecurity, ability to conduct risk assessments and private sector development on the strengthening production and developing locally made feed, seeds for propagation and so forth

8.3.3. If the R2R countries have any aquaculture or coastal fisheries activities that align with the project aims of the abovementioned NZ funded projects can apply for funding.

8.3.4. Maria (Cook Islands): Is the Cook Islands part of that country?

8.3.5. Lindsay Chapman (SPC): Yes, this project is open to all 14 ACP countries. NZ; however is not keen on working with territories.

8.3.6. Cynthia Ehmes (FSM): When do you expect the countries to launch their interest in participating in that project?

8.3.7. During the stakeholder analysis of goals for this project, some countries were identified for work in certain areas. We'll be introducing these projects in the heads of fisheries meeting (March 2017) which will allow other countries to request assistance in these areas. Mr Chapman strongly urged the countries to liaise with their respective fisheries department that will be attending this meeting.

8.4. El Niño Impact and Recovery Monitoring Program, Kiritimati Island, Kiribati - SPC

8.4.1. Mr Herve Damlamian provided an overview of the types of technical support his programme provided using the example of the *El Nino impacts and recovery in real time – Kiritimati Island*, cooperation with the R2R to investigate climate variability in coastal systems. **For more information on this project please refer to Annex xxx.** Need to expand this a refer to the ProDoc tool.

8.4.2. Cynthia Ehmes (FSM): It would be useful if the GEF Pacific project would provide information on the focal points handling these project activities for the country representatives to take back with them.

8.4.3. The focal point for the El Nino Impacts & Recovery in Real Time on Kiritimati Island is the KI Ministry of Fisheries.

8.5. Water Security Project – SPC

8.5.1. Mr Dave Hebblethwaite elaborated on the vulnerabilities of atoll islands with respect to water security and highlighted that while more can be done to improve the water storage capacity of island communities, this is not the major barrier to achieving water security, of more relevance is the capacity to effectively and efficiently utilise and maintain current systems in a way that ensures safe and adequate water supplies throughout all expected conditions.

8.5.2. The *Strengthening Water Security of Vulnerable States* Project's main objective is engaging and supporting local authorities and the most vulnerable island communities to build skills, systems and basic infrastructure to better anticipate, respond to, and withstand drought. This project is provided to 5 countries (RMI, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Tokelau and the Cook Islands) for 5 years with a budget of \$5 million. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the complete presentation.**

8.6. Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Changes, ISACC – SPC

8.6.1. Ms Lisa Buggy provided an overview of the ISACC project aimed at strengthening the national institutional capacity of PICs to effectively plan, coordinate and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the complete powerpoint presentation.** A summary of the ISACC project is as follows:

- Implementing agencies: SPC, SPREP and PIFS
- 8 PICs: Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Focus Areas: CC Finance, Policy Development, Capacity Building/Training, IKM, Partnerships
- Implementing national partners: Climate Change and Central Finance & Planning Agencies/Departments
- Budget: USD 5million

- Timeline: Sept 2015-Sept 2020 (5 years)

8.6.2. Taouea Reiher asked if there will be a flexibility in the funding to support other areas?

8.6.3. Lisa Buggy: yes, we are keeping our workplans broad to accommodate other plans relating to country priorities.

8.6.4. Sauni Tongafule of Niue suggested if all the presentations/information could be compiled and distributed to countries to take back to read and familiarise with. While the presentations were good, there were far too much for countries to keep track of.

9. AN OVERVIEW OF INITIATIVES TO TEST THE APPLICATION OF RIDGE TO REEF APPROACHES IN PACIFIC SIDS

9.1. Developing a science-based approach for the prioritization of coastal areas for Integrated Coastal Management.

9.1.1. Chris Patterson (SPC) introduced the participants to the GEF Pacific R2R International Waters project to develop a science-based approach for the prioritization of coastal areas for Integrated Coastal Management. This presentation was in relation to Component 1 of the Pacific-Islands Ridge to Reef National Priorities. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the complete presentation.** Some of the highlights of these presentations are as follows.

9.1.2. Coastal area site characterisations

- Compile nationally and regionally comparable information and data for coastal areas of 14 PICs in agreed format, including sex-disaggregated data for socio-cultural characterizations.
- Prepare final site characterizations for identified coastal areas of 14 PICS for compilation into national and regional data sets.
- Using agreed procedures, conduct analyses of available information and data to identify priority locations, including implications for coastal and marine spatial planning, for R2R investment in 14 PICs.

9.1.3. Identifying Priority Areas for ICM

- Identify essential elements of a diagnostic approach to the identification of required R2R reforms and interventions at priority locations for 14 PICs.
- Conduct analyses for the identified priority locations in 14 PICs.
- Prepare diagnostic reports for priority coastal areas and facilitate approval by national Inter-Ministry Committees in 14 PICs.

9.1.4. The meeting participants then moved outside to watch a demonstration from OTV of the remote controlled drone for taking aerial video and stills imagery.

9.2. Investments in human capital for integrated environmental and natural resource management

9.2.1. Marc Wilson (SPC) introduced participants to the capacity building component of the project. This presentation was in relation to Component 2 of the Pacific-Islands Ridge to Reef National Priorities. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the complete presentation.**

9.2.2. Chris Severin (GEF): The TVET programme is a unique and great initiative. We've been trying to get this done through our national projects, regional projects and our transponder investors etc and it has been quite difficult. So this is a good move. Once done, we should take this initiative and replicate it to other projects. I would like to suggest that you get certifications for the 4 stages.

9.2.3. Marc Wilson (SPC): The acquisition and quality assurance and assessment is needed for initiatives like this to be transferrable internationally. It will need to be conducted at every stage. The actual worthiness of the experience itself → the acquisition of the confidence to the satisfaction of the provider → and the quality assurance that the provider will have to undertake.

9.2.4. Jose Padilla (UNDP): Good idea but what relevant initiatives have been done in the Pacific that leads to the identification of this kind of need. Was there a gap found from the analysis? I'm sure there are similar initiatives in this region, so would this initiative alleviate?

9.2.5. Marc Wilson (SPC): As I presented, 9 of the Pacific countries have undertaken GEF funded National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA) which was a capacity gap analysis. The European Union's Pacific Technical Vocational Education and Training in Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Adaptation Project (EU PacTVET) has also undertaken national gap analysis around the resilience sectors. The need for certified vocational training programmes has been clearly shown. Many of the mechanisms required to progress this have been set in place by the EUPacTVET and a unique opportunity is presented for R2R to develop its VET level programme alongside and within those structures. The proposed entry level Certificate 1 is a relatively low resource demand entry and by its nature this course will survive itself as we've got those course providers who can go forward with this course independently. We will also have in place, as a result of the partnership with EUPacTVET, a regional accreditation and quality assurance mechanism. Anyone who is an accredited trainer can provide this course. The project will not provide this course. The steps will need to be able to take to accomplish the confidence assessment. The programme will put into place those things that are sustainable to development on a ridge to reef basis such as climate change, disaster risk management and maintenance of ecosystem services.

9.2.6. Jose Padilla (UNDP): For the longer term, this project can be used to link up with other CROP agencies that can carry this forward, so when the project ends, the partner organisations can carry this forward.

9.2.7. Marc Wilson (SPC): We are currently working with a CROP agency, SPC who has an educational quality assurance unit.

9.2.8. Cynthia Ehmes(FSM): This is a great initiative which I support but due to the numerous presentations, we need an opportunity, if needed, to provide feedback over the next few days deliberate on this and provide feedback.

9.2.9. Mac Mokoroa (Cook Islands) and Berick Dowiyogo (Nauru) agree with the other representatives that this was a great initiative which they supported.

9.2.10. Aminiasi Qareqare (Fiji): The amount of students that can be supported by the regional R2R and the STAR projects?

9.2.11. Marc Wilson (SPC): 3 for the regional, 2 for the STAR and no number for the community vocational programme.

9.2.12. Sessay Mohamed (UNEP): This initiative will also need a good assessment of the level of confidence within countries. Also made a suggestion for the GEF R2R to also consult with the ministry of education in the design process. Otherwise this is a great initiative as it encourages the movement of knowledge across the region.

10. PLANNING EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

10.1. Ms Brigitte LeDuc led the committee through an activity to fill a matrix and rate how they utilise and value their natural resources from 0 (not important) to 5 (important). This involved every aspect of use of the natural resources from subsistence use, integrated use (subsistence and for income) or solely for income usage. Also taken into consideration in this activity were the private sectors involved in R2R. A few representatives formed a private sector group to identify the private sector's use of the natural resources in terms of its importance.

10.2. The lessons learned from this exercise was realising the value of ecosystem goods and services to people. Ridge to Reef countries need to understand the various values, different peoples hold to natural resources and how to utilise this information.

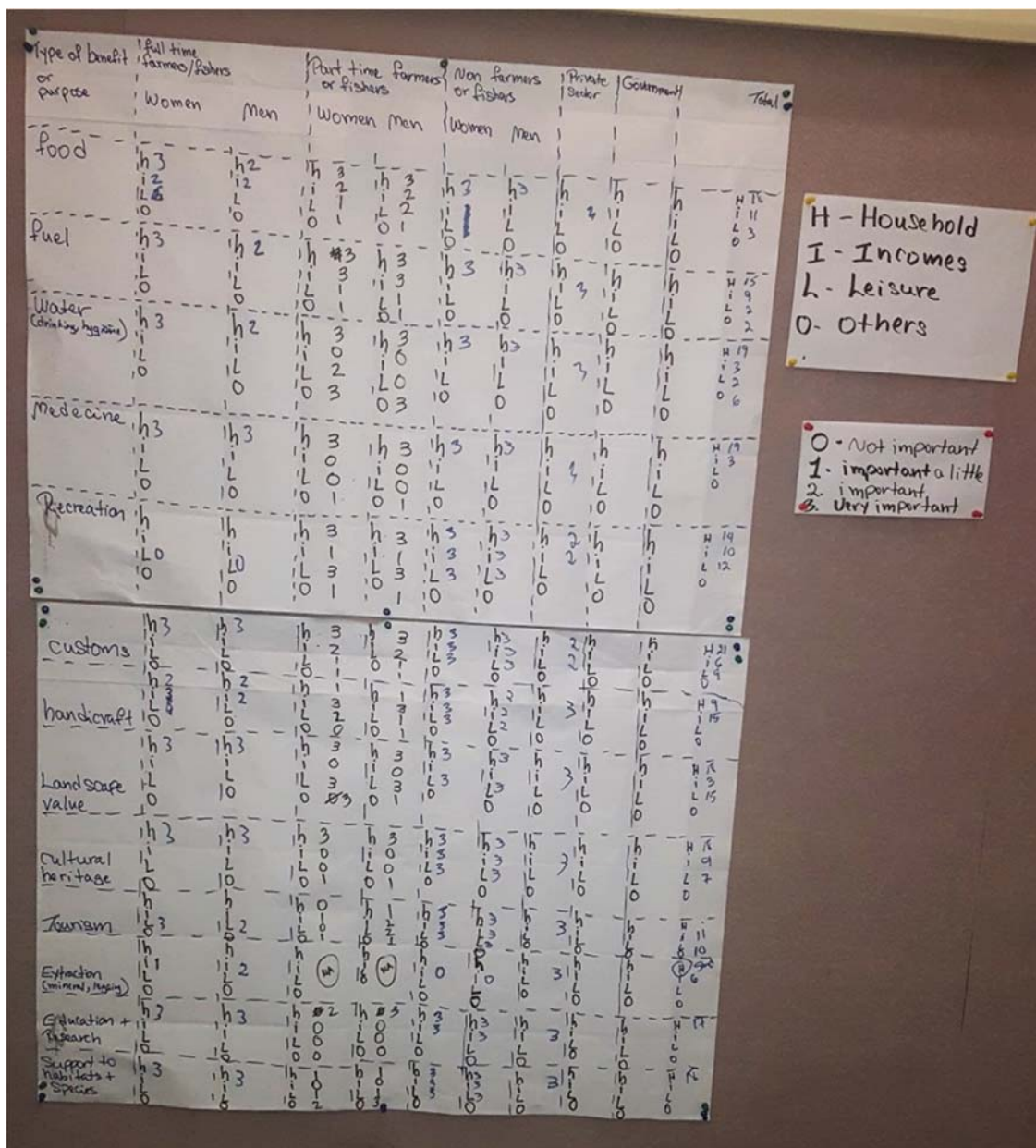


Figure 13: Outcomes of the social analysis activity in Agenda 10

10.3. Conducting stakeholder analysis and engagement planning

10.3.1. Emma Newland directed the committee to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/12 ‘Conducting Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Planning’. Ms. Newland led the committee through the overarching Programme Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. The principles of the strategy are:

- ‘Community to Cabinet’ approach
- Build trust through transparency and responsiveness
- Encourage collaboration
- Encourage openness and learning
- Set clear expectations

- Be inclusive and reflect diversity
- Plan and prepare carefully

10.3.2. The strategy is based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) model of increasing engagement from inform to empower. This approach allows for flexible and tailored engagement techniques to best suit the needs of stakeholders and project outcomes. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the complete presentation.**

10.3.3. The committee was then involved in a stakeholder mapping and analysis activity to initiate some thinking around stakeholder engagement planning. Each country team had to identify their stakeholders who could impact or be impacted from the project. These identified stakeholders were then ranked for interest (0 not interested – 10 interested) and influence (0 no influence – 10 very influential). These were then plotted on an interest/influence plot to determine what level of engagement each stakeholder requires to gain or keep their interest and support for the project (Figure 14). The products of this activity were kept by the participants to help inform their stakeholder planning training in the following week.

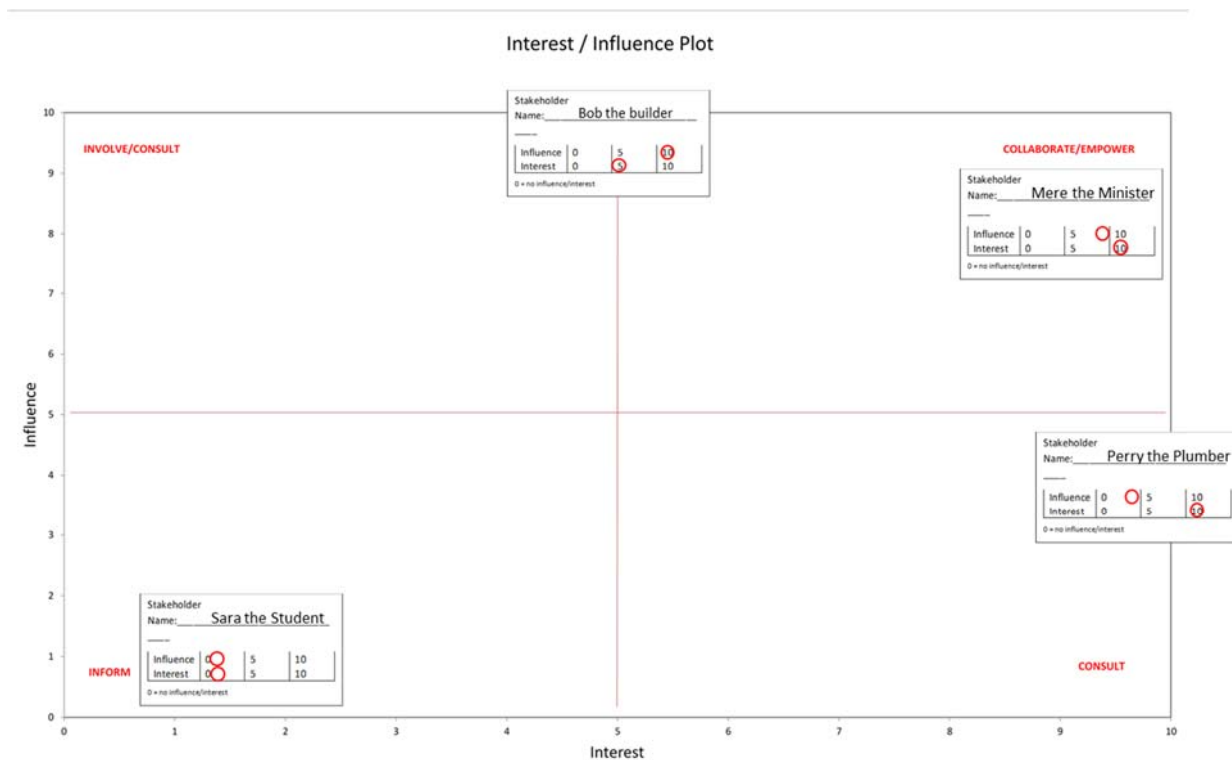


Figure 14: Example of the stakeholder analysis interest/influence plot

10.4. Gender mainstreaming in project execution

10.4.1. The committee’s attention was directed to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/13 ‘Gender Mainstreaming in Project Execution’. Ms Brigitte Le Duc presented this document to the committee to consider endorsing the gender mainstreaming strategy for the programme. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the full presentation.**

10.4.2. Asipeli Palaki of Tonga enquired of where in the strategy were the culture and religion aspects as these were two of most influential aspects in the Pacific. Ms Le Duc replied that the structure of the strategy is not prescriptive on the how. The decision lies on the countries on how they would like to proceed with their strategies.

10.4.3. Barbara Masike (PNG): Experience in PNG. We have runway shops where we have system tools such as maps or ecosystem services valuation systems. And we have a group where we put all the women together, that way women feel free and share information freely.

10.5. Pacific Youth Development Framework by Mereia Carling

10.5.1. Mereia Carling, SPC presented on the Pacific Youth Development Framework and facilitated discussions on the possible mechanisms for fostering youth-centered development through the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme. The committee was directed to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/13 'Pacific Youth Development Framework'.

10.5.2. The Pacific Region with 22 developing countries and territories having a population of 10 million people, 50%+ of the population is under 25 yrs. At this rate youth populations is expected to double in 30-40 years in some countries. The Youth-Centered Development approach hopes to address significant population growth where there is high youth unemployment creating increasing burden on services in urban and peri-urban areas.

10.5.3. There is a need to integrate youth in our programs due to the sheer scale of youth issues that exists in the region. The following highlights the benefits of integrating youth in work programmes:

- Proactively works to avoid marginalisation of young people, and instead adopt inclusive strategies that are meaningful for them, empower and build their capacity and provide greater opportunities for them.
- Move away from the notion that young people are problems, and consider them as resources for development.
- We promote inter-generational transfer of knowledge and positive cultural values.
- We respect young people's rights to participate in decision-making and in development.
- We benefit from young people's knowledge, skills, ideas and practical contributions.

10.5.4. How can we do it?

1. There is a number of ways it can be done i.e from very comprehensive to a more organic (possibly less strategic) approach.
2. But generally, the same principles as a *rights-based* programming cycle:
 - Understand the problem/relevance
 - Engaging beneficiaries as development participants
 - Ensuring commitment from duty-bearers
 - Planning
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring and reporting

10.5.5. Planning Potential Entry points

Participants discussed amongst country groups and identified potential entry points of youths under Employment and Training, Health, Governance and Participation, and Environment. The exercise also aimed at targeting specific youth categories and enabled countries to identify the support that is needed to pursue the work.

10.5.6. Ms Carling introduced the meeting to the term NEET, which is a global indicator. It basically refers to young people that drop out of the school system earlier, with incomplete education, unemployed and not likely to be employed because they don't have the skills. It is a big issue in some countries.

10.5.7. Maria Tuoro (Cook Islands) – There is a huge gap under Employment & Training. The group identified that the government treated the youths as general population and not targeting the program specifically towards them. Another observation in the Cook Islands is staff turnover of young people in the workplace.

10.5.8. Berrick Dowiyogo (Nauru) – In most cases the youth does not get involved in community consultations. It is a new area that has just been introduced to Nauru, through the Women and Youth's department. Nauru would be seeking a lot of assistance in terms of engaging the youth. Even at the community level, there is a youth committee and a community committee. It was noticed that during stakeholder workshops, the leaders of the community or the elders are always invited, e.g. old people, while there has never been much consideration given to youth council representatives. The government is also looking at developing women's council at the community level. The approach is to ensure that the country's future plans is inclusive of youth and women's groups.

10.5.9. Mereia Carling, (SPC) – In responding to Nauru's comments, Carling ensures that SPC can support Nauru on the inclusion and recognition of youths and women at the community level. There is a need to identify where the gaps are and who is missing out because organisations/projects tend to keep investing in those that have already had an opportunity to progress work on the inclusion of youths.

The Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014-2013 consists of 8 principles which refers to the Pacific's cultural assets that is to be protected since young people are concerned about their cultural identity.

10.5.10. Referring to their outcomes within country plans, the meeting further discussed on how the outcomes could be enhanced if youth were involved/engaged in the following way?

- Assessment and articulation
- Communication and advocacy
- Planning
- Action (implementation)
- Monitoring and reporting

10.5.11. Cook Islands – is involving young people in communication and advocacy work.

10.5.12. Fiji – The country is currently looking at the engagement of children in conservation work so that they understand the sustainable use of natural resources. It is a real community focus engaging programs at the community level and is more self-sustainable.

10.5.13. Federated States of Micronesia – Engaging young people's creativity in producing logo designs for the Ridge to Reef project.

10.5.14. Nauru – Under the new Secretary the new vision and mandate is to push for youth and women involvement in all projects. Therefore Nauru is committed to involving young people in communications and media. A young private production company was recently contracted where the eldest is 24yrs and the youngest is 18yrs old from which a MOB dance video was produced to support the Ridge to Reef project. The company is paid through the national R2R capacity building fund and the approach was to have the youth running the show and attracting more youth engagement.

10.5.15. Mereia Carling, (SPC) – For the case of Nauru there's a real opportunity in involving young people in communications and media. In moving forward the program can further involve different groups of young people e.g young people with disability. Once young people are engaged, they can later on be introduced to the governance and coordination aspects of the program where they could influence and shape decision making processes.

10.5.16. Papua New Guinea – Similar to other countries, youth groups have been used in various activities of conservation particularly with locally managed marine areas. They have been trained and continue to carry out community biological monitoring and conduct household surveys on how various resources like mangrove are utilised by communities. In moving forward, during stakeholder engagement exercises, youths must be used as an important component of the community.

10.5.17. Samoa – Through the National Youth Program, youths have been engaged in replanting, maintenance work and setting up nurseries. Under the National R2R program youths and women are also engaged through the cash for work program of micro enterprises (Note: Malaki please cross check, missing some points that were raised here).

10.5.18. Mereia Carling (SPC) – Samoa is looking at implementing programs and understanding that youths and employment is a big issue. They also look at where the project can support entrepreneurship and enterprises through the Ridge to Reef program.

10.5.19. Solomon Islands – One of the projects where youth was supported was under the Adaptation Fund for Agriculture where training was also provided to youths to understand the issues with climate change. Some work has been carried out through SPC's Youth Development Program. Through the IW project, it hopes to carry out assessments, communication and monitoring.

10.5.20. Mereia Carling, (SPC) – Solomon Islands is demonstrating how existing activities can link to other programs and building on it which can become a very useful partnership work program.

10.5.21. Tonga – With the increase in numbers of persons with disabilities amongst the youth in Tonga, there is a need to look at capacity building programs that can help these groups of youth to enable them to contribute to the community. There is also an increase in teenage pregnancy in Tonga because of the Taboo tradition where it is regarded as a sensitive issue to discuss. With regards to Environment, Governance & Participation, Employment & Training, there are numerous programs currently addressing the general youth population but needs to be strengthened. It would be worthwhile to look at a more specialised vocational program just for youths with disabilities. Through the STAR program youths are currently engaged in the use of art and craft to address environmental issues such as clean up campaigns and mangrove campaigns.

10.5.22. Tuvalu – The youth population is involved through community based activities. Tuvalu is focusing on implementation at the community level. Through the process the youths gain skills and strengthen their opportunities for employment later on.

10.5.23. Vanuatu – Youths are engaged in water quality monitoring through the IWRM project and in reforestation activities, communication work, and implementation and being part of the management committee.

11. GEF PACIFIC RIDGE TO REEF PROGRAMME COMMUNICATIONS

11.1. Presentation of a regional communications strategy

11.1.1. Dr. Mangisi Mafileo directed the meeting’s attention to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/9 ‘Regional Communications Strategy for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme’. The presentation focused on:

11.1.2. Rationale

The rationale behind the Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme Communications Strategy identified by the GEF Pacific IWRM Projects terminal evaluation recognised communications and the use of media as a critical element of efforts to raise awareness, to stimulate support for policy and legal reforms, and for global outreach. It also allows for best practices generated through demonstrated projects and national policy development processes to be captured, shared and effectively communicated to guide longer term sustainability, planning and scaling-up of investments.

11.1.3. Goals and objectives of the strategy

- i. To improve stakeholder access, and awareness of the GEF Pacific R2R programme;
- ii. To support regional and national coordination for R2R (ICM/IWRM) in the Pacific;
- iii. To foster a Community of Practice/Interest in coastal and water resource management for improved information and knowledge sharing.

11.1.4. The strategy was developed taking into account 8 guiding principles and contains 3 Key Messages: (1) Programme Delivery, (2) Sustainability of outcomes, (3) Ridge to Reef Principles [*refer to the Annexes for the full presentation and the SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/9 for the complete R2R Communications Strategy*].

11.2. Networking and partnerships for effective use of the media

Dr. Mangisi Mafileo directed the committee to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/10 ‘Networking and Partnerships for Effective Use of the Media’ highlighting that there are various networking modalities.

Mode of Engagement	Example	R2R
Track	News/Activity tracking	OCOP/FB/Twitter Country reports and information Attending events

Inform	e-Newsletter	Pacific R2R biennial Newsletter
Consult	Stakeholder meetings/ Focal groups/Surveys	Communications Survey
Support	Access to information Access to Networks	Website Pacific R2R Network, OCoP Kavabowl/FB/Twitter
Network	Join existing network	Pacific R2R Network

11.3. Development of national communications plans

11.3.1.

The committee’s attention was directed to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/11 ‘Development of National Communications Plans’ which highlights the importance of strategic communication and the 10 steps of communications planning.

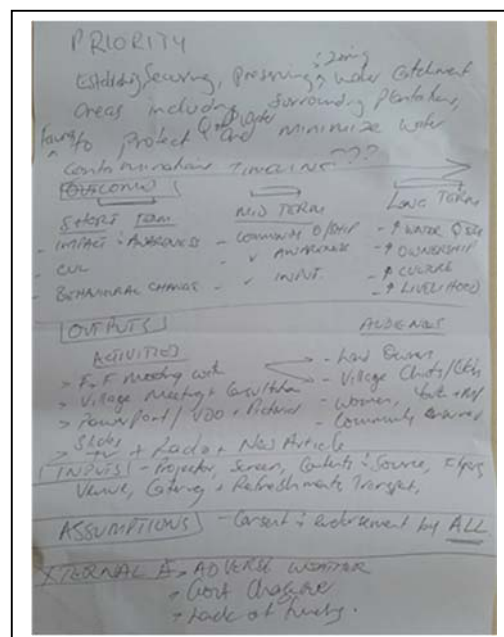
11.3.2. During the Communications Planning workshop, the meeting explored the following areas according to country team activities and discussions i.e:

- i. Explored national projects, communications, capacities and needs
- ii. Strategic communications
- iii. Communications lobbying and planning

11.4. Communications Workshop

11.4.1. Dr. Mangisi Mafileo conducted a communications workshop:

- i. Inviting participants to complete a communications and awareness survey to guide programme communications;
- ii. Introducing participants to the application of the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) to communications planning. To familiarise participants with the planning tool, participants were asked in country groups to complete a communications logic template using examples from their project results frameworks.



12. DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS FOR KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND SHARING

12.1. Pacific Ridge to Reef Knowledge Management Strategy

12.1.1. Dr. Mangisi Mafileo presented the Pacific Ridge to Reef Knowledge Management Strategy and directed the meeting to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/15.

12.1.2. Knowledge Management refers to a multi-disciplinary approach to achieving organisational objectives by capturing (and distilling), creating, storing, sharing and effectively using knowledge. The GEF Pacific R2R programme has established national and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practices and lessons learned through the R2R projects. The meeting was further familiarised with an introduction to the KM Framework, the implementation priorities, risk management and knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation.

12.1.3. Content development and management is critical in demonstrating the work that is done because the website and other online platforms are only as valuable as the information it contains and its function in connecting people with people and knowledge that is relevant, meaningful and timely. When users are not able to access specific content from information platforms, they disengage and all the work that was directed towards establishing the technical system becomes wasted efforts.

12.1.4. Christian Severin, (GEF) – Suggested that the Rugby Tipping competition was a huge success for the IWRM project bringing together around 500 people weekly, and nothing else like it exists.

12.1.5. Dr Mangisi Mafileo, (SPC) – The feedback by GEF will be considered. Competitions will be designed and implemented as an incentive to promote the programme’s online platforms, online networking and content development and sharing.

12.1.6. The Chair, Moannata Ientaake confirmed with the floor that they supported the Strategy.

12.2. Planning the development of an online Pacific Ridge to Reef Network

12.2.1. Dr. Mangisi Mafileo presented the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme website to the RSC Committee.

12.3. Presentation of sample knowledge management products and country webpages

12.4. Capture and Exchange of Lessons Learned and Good Practices

12.4.1. Ms Emma Newland introduced to discussion document SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/16’ *Capture and Exchange of Lessons Learned and Best Practices*’. The discussion document and associated presentation highlighted the general elements of the lessons learned cycle and described some benefits of it:

- Enables opportunities for improvement
- Discover strengths and weaknesses
- Collects management and community perspectives
- Allows for discussions to take place and lessons shares throughout the project
- Allows for projects to adapt as it progresses.

12.4.2. Suggestions for capturing lessons learned throughout the project lifecycle included an online collection database that enables project managers to record (either written or video) lessons and experiences as they happen, attach files/photos, add required actions, rate and/or comment on each

other's stories. A more comprehensive approach for capturing lessons and impact experiences from community and stakeholder level will be trialled in 3-4 countries. This will include using the Most Significant Change technique and the Participatory Video technique. These techniques were introduced to the committee and example videos shown.

12.4.3. The Knowledge Summit, was presented as a high impact event to showcase the products generated through the various modes of collecting lessons learned. This event would, inter alia, showcase personal verbal story-telling advocacy of R2R work amongst community and stakeholders, premiere videos and stories, hold interactive workshops with managers and stakeholders, and present community level art and crafts associated with the programme. The Knowledge Summit was suggested to be held in 2018.

12.4.4. Marc Wilson, SPC – The presentation showed a transformational approach for large projects in the Pacific. It is entirely appropriate that we tend to do something that is a little bit different and does work really hard at capturing the lessons learned and the knowledge products that we produce from the regional program. GEF has invested funds associated with lessons learned activities with a lot of co-financing and in which the work is expected to be led by the countries. The regional program is looking at providing all project coordinators with a double sim card smart phone which managers can use to capture activities on the ground. The images are to be captured and uploaded to the R2R web page which is a good way to create visibility and sending that message across.

12.4.5. Berrick Dowiyogo, (Nauru) – Agrees with the suggestion by Mark Wilson on issuing smart phones for country managers.

12.4.6. Winifereti Nainoca, (UNDP) – Supports the suggestion by Mark Wilson. IW and STAR managers need to consider the number of pixels for the phone camera to ensure that images that are taken are of high resolution and good quality. There needs to be an agreement with countries of how many tweets they do in a week and how many facebook stories they are going to generate.

12.4.7. Christian Severin, (GEF) – There is an International Waters Summit in 2018 it might be the same year that the next International Waters Conference is held so we should make sure that we align these events around the same month. The Pacific needs to coordinate towards that and it would be great to get the Pacific involved because there is so much to learn. If we're going to raise such a big plan, we must ensure that it covers other regions as well.

12.4.8. Mark Wilson, (SPC) – Referring to the next IWC meeting, it would be good if the two events are located in the Pacific because of the presence of global International Waters representatives. It would be a great inducement for all the project managers within the Pacific and for the sister projects in the Caribbean.

12.4.9. Christian Severin, (GEF) – it is a possibility but probably not the most likely thing to happen. It would not be the most cost effective thing bringing 400 people to the Pacific region.

12.4.10. Rahul Chand, (Fiji) – A suggestion was raised by Fiji that the programme could look at developing an R2R mobile phone application for the smart phone.

12.5. The Nature Conservancy - Analysis and Planning in Papua New Guinea

12.6. Babara Masike, Director of The Nature Conservancy, Papua New Guinea, shared with the meeting some lessons learnt in-country.

12.6.1. Marc Wilson, (SPC) – Acknowledged the recognition of NGOs by countries. Countries are urged to engage with stakeholders and NGOs because they bring a lot to this process. The region is challenged by problems with mainstreaming, implementation and the subsequent maintenance of programs. What are some of the issues that the project faces with the government. Some countries have national governments while others have state governments.

12.6.2. Barbara Masike, (PNG) – It's always good to have people on the ground. The office works closely with the land provincial government where the project requested for an office space within the government's provincial administration. After hearing so much about the gender mainstreaming, we will in the future invite officers from the gender office to attend to some in-country R2R workshops.

13. DEVELOPING A HARMONIZED AND SIMPLE RESULTS REPORTING SYSTEM

13.1. Mr. Christian Severin and Mr. Christopher Paterson led this agenda item on SDG and the GEF using the supporting documentation 'SPC/GEF-R2R/RSC.1/8 'Developing Harmonized and Simplified Results Reporting System'. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the detailed presentation.** This activity helped to wrap up all the activities the representatives had been working on for the entire RSC meeting.

13.2. An exercise followed whereby each country had to identify the targets that are related to the national activities, both the national STAR projects as opposed to the IWRM investment. Once the targets were identified, the group then worked to identify what SDG these targets would deliver against. The group found this activity useful which they can endeavour to conduct back in their communities.

14. PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE GEF PACIFIC R2R IW PROJECT

14.1. Mr. Marc Wilson presented the regional work plan and budget for the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef International Waters project. **Please refer to Annex xxx for the full presentation.**

Component 1

14.2. Sauni Tongatule (Niue): In terms of coordination are you putting extra responsibilities in-country to conduct the monitoring and evaluation or are you looking at a separate person?

14.3. Marc Wilson (SPC): Yes we have that position retained for oversight of national coordination but will have an extensive role of M & E nationally and regionally.

14.4. Akuila Qareqare (Fiji): This monitoring and evaluation officer that you are trying to recruit, is it going to be part of the core project unit? What about the national coordinators that are going to be recruited to look after the IW component of R2R? What difference would they have? How different is the monitoring and evaluation role that is part of the PCU, different from your role as the Project Manager?

14.5. Marc Wilson (SPC): The national IW national Project Managers do have an M & E function project managers, have a variety of regional deliverables that will be delivered nationally, particularly associated with governance and collating and bringing indicators together and monitoring against baseline indicators for both the STAR and the IW component. Trying to get a consensus in terms of national reporting because we're trying to put together a harmonised tracking tool. I don't do hands-on M&E, Chris and Emma handles mostly the M & E scientific bit..

14.6. Taouea Reiher (Kiribati): Apart from the M & E work, is the national coordinator for the R2R IW programme also responsible for providing the financial report?

14.7. Marc Wilson (SPC): The project manager is managing the national project and there are pilot scale activities so that particular project is receiving funds dispersed from the PCU, SPC and they have to do quarterly narrative reports plus financial reports, though not substantial amounts. They will also be organising when the national consultants are coming in or international consultants coming in to fulfil some of the other deliverables of the regional project. They will also be organising that and the meeting with other stakeholder.

14.8. Taouea Reiher (Kiribati): The financial reporting would be an extra burden for the national coordinator.

14.9. Marc Wilson (SPC): The national coordinator for your STAR project has responsibility for financial reporting using their normal financial teams and they will be working with the govt and just like any other project they will be required to report to the implementing agency. The project manager for the IW project will have exactly the same tasks for their IW project. He or she will not be reporting daily reports for your national STAR project. That is the role of the national coordinator for the STAR project. We are trying to ensure that we're getting some synergies into the project is actually working within and around the national STAR project.

14.10. Taouea Reiher (Kiribati): Just in case we need someone to do the financial report with the project in-country down the line.

14.11. Marc Wilson (SPC): I would strongly resist to have the regional IW project manager to have a role as the primary financial reporter for your national STAR projects. That is ultimately the responsibility of your financial department and treasury. That is not even the responsibility of the project coordinator. They are reliant on your public accounting process.

14.12. Rahul Chand (Fiji): For our better understanding, can we request that the structure be projected on the screen as we're getting confused with the information we have been presented with.

14.13. Marc Wilson (SPC): I'm sorry i am not quite sure why it's confusing. You have one project manager nationally who is employed within your national government for the International Waters project, amongst other things, delivering nationally some of those regional deliverables of national relevance. The national coordinator or the national project manager for the STAR project has entirely different role. Usually it has several staff and the projects are much larger. Unfortunately Fiji was absent from the meeting yesterday when the structure of the project was presented.

14.14.Chanel Iroi (Solomon Islands): Enquire about the regional project; the allocation is to be around \$200,000. If you are going to expand those funds within a four year period, that will be around \$50,000/year, right? If you are looking at getting somebody on board to look after the project, the amount of money is very small. If you can shorten the period and extend the funds to maybe 2-2 ½ years would be reasonable.

14.15.Marc Wilson (SPC): Ostensibly the \$200,000 is really for the micro parts of the project plus funding for the project manager role. There are a lot of regional funds that can and will be made available at a national level to do some of the national activities. Each country will handle how those funds can be dispersed nationally. From our experiences with the IW project, some countries have budgeted well, some didn't. By retaining the funds regionally, we have some flexibility in how we disperse those funds down to the national level. If we agree on a set work plan over 3 to four years, which is specifically delivering against those regional deliveries for national delivery, then we can look at expanding the \$200,000 to accommodate that on the basis that you are hitting those deliverables. And that includes recruiting international consultants etc. And the project manager will manage that. Alternatively we can run our regional office and put those into countries and the project manager just facilitates the work nationally. We are happy to disperse those funds down nationally. But we are aware that our national system has some issues with getting money out and buying things or hiring consultants etc. Sometimes we can do it better regionally and sometimes better nationally. So it really is a conversation we need to have with individual countries. And note the quantum will vary a bit for each country.

14.16.Moriana Philip (RMI): I think it's a good idea that a new person is recruited only because this can be really cumbersome work. I just wanted to seek some clarification on how this person will be resourced presuming that this person will be travelling to member countries. Will it be coming out of country allocations?

14.17.Marc Wilson (SPC): No. The funding for the position is in the pro—doc budget. The travel for the national coordinator is budgeted in the pro-doc. I don't see any additional costs to this particular position travelling nationally concentrating much more on M & E than national coordination. To me, national coordination, if you get it right to start with, you're sort of half way there. And M & E is an ongoing process.

14.18.Aminiasi Qareqare (Fiji): Just a further suggestion, if we can have one M & E officer within the PCU. Are going to recruit 14 national coordinator for the IW project?

14.19.Marc Wilson (SPC): Yes each country recruits a national coordinator/project manager. It will be very difficult otherwise because there will be other regional activities happening in-country that will have to be overseen by the project manager. It's a lot of work. Ok, I take it that we're happy that I've just changed the job description and the project description while everything else remains the same?

The Chair, Cindy Ehmes confirmed with the floor that they supported the change.

Component 2

14.20.GEF Pacific has finally agreed with an institution to host the IW R2R related PG Dip Programme. Section 2.2.1 details the contract with the institution that is delivering the PG programme. The institution will require some upfront money before the programme begins in March. The issue is that the regional project is paying for 28 students in the region and were looking at another 42 in the STAR project funding. Issue with the money. Marc's proposal is once the 3 names and costs have been agreed to, for each country's respective project director or equivalent to write to the IAs to take funds out before dispersing

nationally and remit to GEF Pacific (hosted by SPC) to use for the PG programme, within a reasonable time. Alternatively the IAs could pay SPC by cheque.

14.21. Maria Tuoro (Cook Islands): I thought we would be paying the training institution because we are generally the ones in charge of our funds.

14.22. Marc Wilson (SPC): I understand that. The only problem I have with you paying the institution is that we're trying to manage the programme and make sure that we're managing the delivery in the sense having to control when to pay upon the basis of the training institution delivering on the results of each unit and compiling a report of the progress of each unit. We could lose some of that control when paying 95% up front to the training institution.

14.23. Mac Mokoroa (Cook Islands): Marc sometimes we can monitor the students ourselves and if we feel they are not delivering, we can terminate the agreement.

14.24. Heimata Karika (Cook Islands): I think for us at our national projects, we would be looking at managing the payments ourselves. We would anticipate paying the total amount of the whole 2 year programme at the end of the programme. And I'm not entirely sure on the different components that would come down the line such as travel etc which we can arrange ourselves. We would work closely with the institution on payments, I am sure we will get advance notifications of when they need the money. We can send that directly to the institution or we can facilitate it ourselves. And if need be we can easily liaise with UNDP. We don't see that as being a problem but in terms of controlling the payments, it is a significant amount in our project, we would want to retain some form of control. Just reiterating what Mac said, in terms of students, if something changes with the students we selected for the programme, we can deal with that. We just don't want to be losing out.

14.25. Marc Wilson (SPC): I don't have a problem with that. What you could do is ask UNDP to make the payment which is the equivalent that the money doesn't come into SPC which I am really pleased about. But I don't know if that will work with every country.

14.26. Sauni Tongatule (Niue): Can we get some response from the UNDP, particularly in terms of their yearly workplan project by respective countries. There may be a problem with that because I am not so sure in the case of Niue if that has been budgeted for in the coming quarter. But I think you would want us Marc to mobilise this funding quite quickly in the next quarter or the 1st quarter. I am not sure if that has been budgeted for. The number of selections that would be involved in the case of Niue, if Niue does not come up with 3 selections but instead 2. Would that in terms of the contribution from our base, will it be relative to 2 or the total number 3?

14.27. Marc Wilson (SPC): The way the pricing is structured is quite clear from the institution delivery. It's like producing widgets. If you produce 50 widgets it's probably going to cost you \$3/each. If you produce 10 widgets, it's going to cost you \$5/each. And the same thing applies to this PG course. Based on a band of 10 students, if a course has 5 students, then the price will go up as \$1000/student. It does make quite a difference. So when we went with the PG programme, we were working on 5/country and some countries have more than 5. That makes a leeway. When you need to get a tender from an institution, you need to have some idea of how many widgets you really want.

14.28. Sessay Mohamed (UNEP): For the UN agencies, there is a system whereby payments can be made by one agency on behalf of the other and a subsequent reimbursement is made.

14.29. Marc Wilson (SPC): That is a great idea. And I can see UNDP nodding their heads in agreement.

14.30. Tessa Taufa (UNDP): CI had mentioned direct payment from UNDP to the institutions. So these national projects have signed their agreements and those are the agreements that if they request us to make the direct payment, they write to us and we pay the institution directly and they are aware of what comes with that. There is a fee with every request. Because the workplan for 2016 was already done and the workshop has started, it would really rely on the IW workplan whether they will have this as well, you can budget that into your workplan for next year if the course starts next year.

14.31. Jose Padilla (UNDP): The situation for some of the national R2R projects in terms of inception and the first several budget work activities prior to this workshop we're having now. As more information is being made available or decided on that has impacts on your national R2R projects, we will revisit your respective workplans. That will constitute some changes and please inform your national activities agencies on things they need to adjust on. And if there's a limited budget for these activities, then it's just a change of the budget or additional activities. You just have to go through the process of minor changes in budget.

14.32. Donna Kalfatak (Vanuatu): Do you have a break-down of budgets for each country according to the log frames that you have?

14.33. Marc Wilson (SPC): The IW national project will fund 2 students for the PG course and the national STAR project will fund 3 or more students to this same programme. Which is why we are talking about the workplans for the national STAR projects. The PG programme has been discussed for a while. What we haven't been quite clear was the amount of funding which comes to around US\$15,000/student. Vanuatu your IA should've programmed those funds for that particular training.

14.34. Once we sign the contract with the institution, they will probably require some upfront fees. Now I don't have a problem with upfront fees for the 28 students I'm funding. The problem is how we will make this payment. What I will do is once we sign the contract and we agree on a schedule and timing, I should be able to tell you on the basis of 3 plus student from each country what your costs should be and the timing of those which would help you to programme it. I can't tell you that now because I haven't actually finalised the contractual arrangement.

14.35. Dr Winifred Nainoca (IUCN): Remind the STAR country projects that there is a training budget there. Please work within your training budget. And also, as a reminder that sometimes you are being asked by your superiors to ask for funding to travel for some of your ministers and PS-es for training. Please think of the training budget as a capacity building budget as well. Don't say anything yet to Marc, look at your training budget, go back to your countries, pass it to your project body.

14.36. Rahul Chand (Fiji): I was about to echo the same comments as Dr Nainoca. I was looking at the product of the Fiji STAR project. Is it a must for the countries to put whatever money is budgeted for the STAR, for the PG programme. If the answer is no, then we might not be able to decide on it right away. It's a bit difficult for us to decide. We might want to instead invest in some hands-on experience and training with communities at local level.

14.37. Marc Wilson (SPC): The regional PG programme is not only about qualifications but it's also about building a community of R2R practitioners because most people would like to be involved in this particular training course. It was a particularly successful aspect of the IWRM project. If countries start dropping off

one by one, then cost for each country will start growing immensely. When these projects were being designed, the PG programme was part of the consideration that each country will participate in this programme.

14.38. Jose Padilla (UNDP): How much is the cost per participant?

14.39. Marc Wilson (SPC): US\$13,000 (including tuition fees, two one-week face to face learning events).

14.40. Jose Padilla (UNDP): As far as the UNDP STAR projects are concerned, we are here to launch some of the projects really soon. So this would be an important Agenda item to be decided on by the project boards and taking into account what you are mentioning about planning and such. An important decision here is when. When are things going to start? Because some of the projects might not be ready, I'm not sure about the FAO projects, if they are ready to send participants, so timing is very important.

14.41. Marc Wilson (SPC): So the programme is scheduled to start in March 2017. If you miss that date, then the likelihood is that you are going to actually wait it out until 2020 to 2021 even. Projects will lose out. It is part of a programmatic approach and Fiji is opting out of the regional programme becomes quite problematic. I agree that the scheduling is a problem.

14.42. Rahul Chand (Fiji): Is there a possibility that that number (28) will go as the first lot. And by then most of the other projects that don't have STAR will have had time to find out whether they can commit to this and should also be able to locate funding for it. Then we can send another batch.

14.43. Marc Wilson (SPC): That could work, except that it would cost more signing up students at different times as opposed to signing up students all at once at which the institution could give a reasonable price. If we break up the student numbers and sign them up one by one, the price could increase hugely.

14.44. Samoa is in full support of this initiative. Just to make it easier for our national levels. If you could actually draft a concept of this R2R initiative because for member countries like Samoa, we don't really have to use our STAR funding to be part of this scheme. We also have another source of funding, from the EU, called the TCF (technical capacity fund) that can be utilised for this purpose. These are some of the national scheme that can assist with this. If Marc's team can come up with a concept giving options to national countries whether they have to use their STAR. We are only concerned about the STAR because the IW is under the PCU. To make up the other 42 numbers is the STAR allocation. If other member countries can come up with a STAR concept first to make up the numbers and actually give us some savings and reduction in cost to engage the training institution.

14.45. Marc Wilson (SPC): Once we've concluded the contractual arrangements than I will be in a position to provide the actual costs and the bandings of those costs in terms of the number of students we have. I reiterate when I say, again this is part of a programmatic approach and what was envisaged by GEF and it is particularly important that how we reasonable a reasonable approach in terms of sustainable development. It does have an impact on collective work. And I think all students that have participated on the previous programme is somewhat life changing for most of them. And I want to add, if you want to retain your project staff through what will be difficult projects to implement, you will want to retain skilled staff for your own benefit, then I reckon you give them something like this as a really great incentive.

14.46. Heimata Karika (Cook Islands): Obviously we support the programme. We have our own set aside funds under the STAR to support the participation of the Cook Islanders in that programme. So we're happy

to put that funding and commit it towards that. I would also see us looking into alternative sources of funds to support even more Cook Islanders if we could. And just exploring our different options that are available out there for it. I'm not sure but I am just hearing numbers 24, 48 and all that. Is it the intention to have perhaps all 40+ students training at the same time? Is there a suitable number of participants for the programme before it starts getting too many? So I'm just wondering if the current 40 plus number maybe too much for one programme so we could have the option of starting some students this year and signing up the rest next year. I've never been part of this course so I can't say if it was too much but it sounds a lot. But yes we do support the programme and we will be working very closely with you to send our funds over on time and to send as many Cook Islanders we can to the programme.

14.47. Marc Wilson (SPC): I guess one of the issues is that you need the PG Certificate before you do the PG Diploma. If you have two different start dates, the second entrance, you'll not get to do a Diploma. The first entrance, you'll have time to do a Diploma. It will take 4 years to do that. We've made it slow and easy so people wouldn't drop out when mixing it with work. Maybe 60 to 70 people online studying remotely. The actual face to face learning is just a matter of having enough staff on hand to ensure a good ratio between the number of trainers and students. Taking all these into consideration, I will get back to you with the costs. The estimates for the total costs are not fixed as it will vary as and where we go. Have we agreed on the method that we have talked about that you will go back to your IAs who will then make the payments directly to the institution. I imagine the institution will want some sort of assurance that they will get the money.

14.48. Aminiasi Qareqare (Fiji): Marc, I have to agree with what Jose from UNDP said, let's let the project board decide on how we will commit to allocate the resources.

Component 3

14.49. If you go down the columns named Atlas Budgetary Account code 74100 and Budget Description Professional Services, we have around \$200,000 of professionals services associated with publications, graphic design and online activities. I have at the moment being using consultants to do some of the work. What I would like to do with your indulgence is to bring a portion of that ~US\$70,000 and contracting the designer for 3 years rather than the consultancy rate. We've just come to the conclusion that so much of the work that we needed to do to get some good meeting communications out there in good products but also to be able to help our IW projects nationally with some of their graphic designs. I am going to use them anyway but this is a cheaper way of doing it.

14.50. Rahul Chand (Fiji): With regards to graphic and production of communications materials, would it be cheaper to have a full time officer for the project or to outsource to companies?

14.51. Marc Wilson (SPC): My experience is that it's cheaper to have someone full time on staff than contracting a consultant; the whole process is more costly and cheaper to have a full time officer. I think the products you get are good and the designs are more relatable.

14.52. Donna Kaifatak (Vanuatu): Vanuatu has \$200,000 national activities; does this mean that we will not budget for the printing of materials in the national budget?

14.53. Marc Wilson (SPC): If you're talking about producing national products relating to regional activities, there is a small amount of money within your national projects that by and large we will cover the costs of that printing and we will work with you on the production of that. Because we are trying to produce a number of products in all 14 countries and we are trying to harmonise all the designs.

14.54. Heimata Karika (Cook Islands): We support your proposal Marc in bringing somebody on board full time.

14.55. Asipeli Malaki (Tonga): Marc, why don't you give us the money and we will produce it at national level.

14.56. Marc Wilson (SPC): That's fine and you can produce stuff nationally, but I also have some requirements to produce regionally as well as down at national level. So I will be spending that money anyway regionally.

14.57. Rahul Chand (Fiji): When we are asking to move \$70,000 from the professional service, can we put it as a allocation for contractual service so that you have a full time officer who is doing your graphics work And then that officer can be further provided with support nationally for doing national work as well. Because we are going to do the same thing with our national projects we will spend a lot of money producing national products sub-contracted to companies. If you have an officer, we can provide some sort of support through that project from this.

14.58. Marc Wilson (SPC): Let's get very clear here. You have \$7 million for a STAR project. We are talking about some small national support IW project. I am happy to have someone like that working with you to ensure some consistency on the designs so that people recognise R2R brand. In terms of producing country by country graphic design elements, STAR products are much larger they are very significant national projects and I'm sure you have a very large communications and media budget in your Fiji project. Your budget is significant so I think it unrealistic and unreasonable to expect the Regional Projects Graphics person to assist the National STAR Projects. If you start getting 14 countries wanting production for their STAR projects, then I will need to have 5 or 6 staff, because we are talking about a lot of projects.

14.59. Marc Wilson (SPC): At some stage I will need from the steering committee some agreement that we adopt the budget standing before you.

14.60. The Chair, Cindy Ehmes confirmed with the floor that they supported the new position

14.61. Heimata Karika (Cook Islands) All your budgets lines on this workplan, is it inclusive of project auditing and evaluation? And if yes, which budget line are they under?

14.62. Marc Wilson (SPC): It's a good question, I am just trying to remember where it is now, but it is in there, part of the project document. There is provision for US\$150,000 in there otherwise it wouldn't have gone through GEF and UNDP.

14.63. Jose Padilla (UNDP): It should be under 74100 Professional Services, towards the bottom of the table.

14.64. Jose Padilla (UNDP): Wed like to thank the RSC for approving the budget. Herewith, the discussions leading to the approval. In the next budget cycle we would encourage a bottom up budgeting. By that time all the R2R demo site managers can be onboard and present their respective national budgets. Second is preparing a detailed activity for each of these outputs so we would know what would be done when. Prior to the RSC I would imagine SPC would be working with every country to prepare their respective national budgets and that will be compiled at the regional level for component 1.

14.65. Heimata Karika (Cook Islands): For the record. For the next meeting, if we could also receive the workplan and budget a bit earlier so we can have more time to go over and digest the information especially when it is attached to other meeting documents to double check things.

14.66. Mr Wilson's proposal was considered in detail. The budget was approved and adopted by the Committee. The Project budget as endorsed by the committee is included in Annex ? of this report.

15. VOTE OF THANKS

15.1. The Chair thanked SPC, the implementing agencies and all the participants for attending the week long meeting. Marc Wilson then also thanked all representatives and also his SPC team for helping to out together and successfully executing the Pacific's very first 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."*