

KEY OUTCOMES

4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the

Pacific Regional International Waters Ridge to Reef Project, Nadi, Fiji, 30th – 31st July 2019

Agenda Item 2. Appointment of Officers - Chair, Vice-Chair, and Rapporteurs

The Committee appointed Ms. Gwendalyn Sisor, of Palau as Vice-Chair. The Republic of Marshall Islands and Cook Islands were appointed as Rapporteurs.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Report of the 3rd RSC Meeting (Townsville 2018)

The Committee endorsed the Report of the 3rd Regional R2R Steering Committee Meeting, noting the recommendations by Cook Islands, Niue and PNG that future RSC reports should (a) reflect substantive discussions and issues raised by countries and, (b) include key outcomes and agreements made by the Committee. The Committee tasked SPC with ensuring that future meeting reports reflect the points raised.

Agenda Item 4. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The Committee adopted the Meeting Agenda, with minor revisions to scheduling of Agenda items.

Agenda Items 6 & 13 Country status reports

The Committee acknowledged the jointly implemented activities described, as well as the constraints and opportunities to programming R2R. A recurring issue was the limited interaction between STAR and IW projects at the national level. The Committee noted that ensuring national mainstreaming of R2R requires that both STAR and IW projects complement and closely collaborate. Suggestions were made for effective collaboration at national level, including establishment of joint project boards or steering committees, and collaborative planning, implementation and reporting of results.

Agenda Item 7. Mid-Term Review – including Items 7.1 and 7.2

The Committee acknowledge the results of the independent mid-term review (MTR) of the Regional IW R2R Project, noting the overall rating of moderately unsatisfactory. SPC presented the agreed UNDP/ SPC management response to the MTR recommendations, highlighting the implications and underlying assumptions and conditions for achieving the project's development outcomes that will guide ongoing Project implementation. The MTR management response matrix is appended.

Agenda Item 7.3. Revised strategy for island diagnostic analyses and State of the Coast Reports

The Committee discussed and approved the revised strategy for island diagnostic analyses and State of the Coast Reports (Theory of Change).

Agenda Item 7.4. Programmatic framework for coordination and compilation of R2R lessons learned

The Committee endorsed the Pacific R2R Programmatic framework for coordination and compilation of R2R lessons learned, subject to the Committee's decision on an extension for the Regional IW R2R project and national IW R2R demonstration projects.

Action Point: The Committee agreed that national projects will submit all summaries and/ or draft lessons learned reports to SPC by June 2020, for reporting at RSC5.

Agenda Item 9. Report to the Committee by the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee

The Committee noted the 5th Regional Science and Technical Committee (RSTC) Meeting Report noting the following:

The Committee further noted concerns that RSTC meetings are closed to the participation of country delegates. The Committee agreed that future meeting of this group should be open to country delegates who may wish to participate and contribute to RSTC discussions and decisions.

Action Point: SPC to engage with the RSTC to consider ways and means for wider participation of interested persons in the work of the Committee.

Agenda Item 11. Report of the Regional Program Coordination Committee

The Committee acknowledged the 4th Regional Programme Coordination Group (RPCG) Meeting report and noted:

- The need for all child projects of the GEF Pacific R2R Program to cooperate and accede to the programmatic approach to enable and facilitate SPC reporting against the Project Framework Document through the M&E Harmonised Results Reporting process; and
- That STAR national projects should report to the SPC RPCU when reporting to the UNDP and other GEF Implementing Agencies

Agenda item 12: James Cook University postgraduate course update

The Committee noted the update on the R2R postgraduate certificate course, including the following highlights:

- 36 students successfully completed all four subjects
- More than 28% of students received grades of Distinction or High Distinction in each of the subjects, aligning with quality university standards

Agenda Item 16: Multi-year costed workplan, including no-cost extension

The Committee discussed and approved the IW R2R Multi-Year Costed Workplan, including a no-cost extension of the Project for 15 months from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2021.

UNDP noted that approval by the Committee is the first step in a process that will require SPC to submit appropriate documentation to UNDP, which will be considered by the GEF Board.

Action point: SPC to implement the MTR management response on the basis and assumptions outlined in the meeting paper GEF IW R2R/RSC.4/Info 5, Annex 2 and reflected in the Regional approved IW R2R MYCWP.

Action point: SPC to seek UNDP guidance on the requirements and process for submitting no-cost extension proposal.

Action point: SPC to initiate the process for extending national MOA's with IW R2R participating countries once the no-cost extension of the Regional IW R2R project is approved by UNDP.

Agenda Item 17. Next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

The Committee welcomed Palau's offer to host the next Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee scheduled for around mid-August 2020.

A summary of IW R2R Mid-term Review management responses and related RSC4 decisions is appended.