



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

2nd Board Meeting

12 February, 2016

Davina Restaurant, Vuna Road

12:00 – 2:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Refer to Annex 1

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer – Kalio Moala (District Officer of Lapaha)
- b) Welcoming Remarks: Chairperson – Siaso Sovaleni (Hon. Minister MEIDECC)

Chairman welcomes members and acknowledges presence of Ms. Osnat Lubrani the UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in the Multi-Country Office in Fiji and Ms. Shoko Takemoto the Regional Technical Specialist for the Pacific Ridge to Reef Program.

Institutional capacity of the project was recognized now engaging 93 government staff, 31 community leaders and close to 3000 members of the communities. He emphasizes the need for communities to have a sense of ownership as it is crucial for the sustainability of the project & with confidence states the unity and collaboration between UNDP, Technical Committees and communities can achieve the 75% target of the project.

2. Introduction

- a) Attendance and Apology
- b) Adoption of the Agenda

Decision 1: Agenda Adopted

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Board Meeting: Minutes No.1 – 27 January, 2015
- b) Technical Working Committees Meetings No.1-10, 2015 with recommendations
- c) Community Management Committee Meetings No.1-3, 2015 with recommendations

Recommendations put forth for Approval:

1. *Establishment of Sub-Committee (Executive Committee) of the Project Steering Board*

Discussions:

- Lubrani comment issues sometimes faced with project implementation is not enough delegation of authorities for people to take decisions and to be accountable. Having this sub-committee can be accountable to the high level committee & be empowered to do more work and get decisions done in a timely basis.



- S. Tuiano supports the establishment of sub-committee & proposes to be held quarterly.

Decision 2: Members endorse establishment of Sub-Committee & meetings to be held quarterly unless urgent matters arise & meeting to be called.

2. Sourcing Fund to build community foreshore to address issues of sea-level rising

Discussions

- Hokafonu explained there is no funding for hardware technology in the project in this case as this refers to millions & millions of dollars hence the request from CMC to be brought up to PSC for final decision. P. Tuiano shared available funding with CRSP (Climate Resilience Sector Project) for the foreshore with options yet to be confirmed.
- Lubrani suggested recording the request from communities as project move forward there can be more thinking or analysis done as there are other sources of funding like the Green Climate Fund & possible consideration of developing a proposal to address this which can fit with Green Climate Fund of multimillion dollars and a lot of assessment shall be required.
- Ma'u propose Sub-Committee to gather information from existing projects within the Ministry on foreshore and available funds table for information and committee can revise & make a decision.
- S. Tuiano raised prioritized activities he thinks most critical for the lagoon now is dredging as water circulation can be seen in only 1/3 of the lagoon if there are available fund for dredging or government to allow communities to implement this activity.
- Takemoto advised assessments already conducted by the project like Socio-Economic as well as on-going assessments are valuable input to the feasibility studies table information.
- Moeaki asked in terms of sequence should foreshore be addressed first & is the foreshore defunding a solution for Fanga'uta in which Ma'u respond with the existing CRSP project there's priority for villages to have foreshores with funding available. Suggestion put forth by Moeaki to absorb due diligence if project is supporting inshore foreshore and it was clear there's no resources to do a full comprehensive due diligence or the complete process as Chairman clarified. P. Tuiano asserts attention of members on need to do an EIA as data will point out structure option for coastal. Chairman advised it can be flagged there is a request, Cabinet take note of it to get political support & direction for CEOs so they can look at appropriate project & different partners on how to go about with the request of the community.
- Moeaki directed to main objectives of the project to conserve ecosystem in the lagoon and need to be more cautious whether foreshore for the inner lagoon is appropriate. Chairmen agreed and re-emphasize the need to get that direction to find out whether to still go ahead with the foreshore or not.

Decision 3: An update report to Cabinet flagging request from communities highlighting need to have a project that address building a foreshore to initiate feasibility studies & use it to strengthen GCF (Global Climate Fund) proposal.

3b. Proposal to carry out holistic feasibility study of FL to guide/advise direction for future development

- Hokafonu elaborate further, Focal Point of Natural Resources is networking with SOPAC to assist in feasibility study with costing for Fanga'uta around US\$150,000 in which they can assist half of the cost & project to consider the remaining 50% where contributing 75,000 from the project causing reduction of fund already targeted for existing activities.



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- Clarification required on the objective of feasibility & Hokafonu explained it will be a holistic feasibility study to advise future developments to the lagoon. Chairman remarks the study will be helpful also to the future plan looking to construct the bridge as evacuation purposes to minimize congestions of roads to the eastern side of Tongatapu.
- Concern from communities raised by S. Tuiano on result of surveys in the lagoon where population increases, lagoon grows dead hence resilience is needed therefore supports taking up issues with Cabinet for their awareness on community needs. Accusation on District & Town Officers not doing any work is due to no government plan to allow communities to conduct work themselves using demolished soil as foreshore is a technical issue requiring alignment with construction code of Infrastructure. He urges need to focus on strengthening contribution of sectors in the PSC rather than focus on producing law & point out significant dredging of water springs as good contribution to the lagoon as reported from survey results.
- Dredging the mouth of Fanga'uta directed the discussion with Ma'u advising members dredging takes place after 5 years in which in turn appropriate to take place. Lubrani raised concern whether it'll have environmental impact & Chairman advised lagoon was naturally open before but now sediment is building up suffocating the lagoon so dredging is basically removing that & allow circulation of water.
- Matoto explained dredging was always on the pipeline to have it done every 5 years but due to budget constraints it hasn't been done. The lagoon is acting as sediment storage from all storm water drainage building up all sort of waste from inland & dredging is required.
- Takemoto advised on intention of the design & how GEF mechanisms work this sub-activity aligns with Environment Management Plan & if it is a priority based on the assessment then it will align with the project together with justification on results of water quality testing gathered. Monitoring will still continue ensuring way forward will comply with government regulations in terms of EIA.

Decision 4: Update to Cabinet on progress of work conducted including proposed dredging activity of the project requesting their direction for relevant government ministries & agencies to work together to make it happen. (to be submitted to Cabinet next Friday)

3a. Addressing weak enforcement of legislation & policies across line ministries to strengthen consistency in implementation of legislation across line ministries

- Moeaki recognizes this as common problem in government & reckoned as unacceptable stating the project may embark it through strengthening the enforcement of legislations and policies. The lagoon use to be main livelihood of communities 10 – 20 years ago & it is no more. Chairman agreed there are potential developments in the lagoon & having good discussion on the feasibility study would help with other potential development project that might come to the lagoon.
- Chairman suggests Technical Team to avoid providing general issues & focus more on specific issues to narrow down to main issues i. e which legislations we are talking about. Secretariat to take note of it bringing in more concrete ideas or legislations that need to be enforced. He encourages more media outreach program on these issues involving key stakeholder's involvement.

Decision5: Approve recommendation with amendments made & submit it to Cabinet as initially directed for the other recommendations.



4. Annual Work Plan for 2016

- a) Presentation of the multi-year work plan and budget (2015-2017) and annual work plan and budget for 2016
 - b) Approval of the multi-year work plan and annual work plan for 2016
- Correction to CEO Fisheries to be amended as they are still under CEO of MAFFF
 - Paula Ma'u to be Deputy Chair when chairman is not here

Hokafonu guided members on the 2016 Targets of the project to be achieved for end of the year.

Discussions

- S. Tuiano observed SMA as complications if established on individual villages of Fanga'uta as it requires whole area to be protected & later work together to divide among Districts. Hokafonu advised it is part of the 2nd phase after setting up their Management Plan consultations with neighbouring communities will take place to confirm their support and commitment.
- Lubrani asked how to build up that consensus seeing several communities already agreed in which Chairman inquire Secretariat about benchmark on status of lagoon fisheries. Hokafonu shared results from Fish Pilot Creel Survey conducted last year identifying main fishing grounds on the mouth of Fanga'uta with evidence of still productive marine species contradicting assumption that lagoon is dead. Secretariat was advised to be careful with statement made on productivity of the lagoon with justification that 3 sites does not represent whole of the lagoon. He advised importance of having very accurate data from a complete survey to be used as a benchmark for the status of fisheries in the lagoon.
- Results of the water quality testing done in the marine and terrestrial areas presented by Matoto directed attention of members to critical conditions of the lagoon & its impact on people's health and livelihood. Moeaki proposed holding a public notification about conditions of water quality in those critical communities to banned using the underground water resources. Hokafonu shared joint collaboration of the project with Sanitation Project under the Waste Authority towards improving sanitation facilities around critical areas of Fanga'uta Lagoon. Chairman recommend provision of number of septic tanks for critical sites for Committee's reference on how many projects is looking to establish and obtaining results of sanitation survey that is to be conducted to identify the main causes.

Decision 6: Adopt recommendation with suggestions and amendments made from the discussion for the Annual Workplan.

5. Project Reporting – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Project Achievements and Progress as to date for 2015
- b) Annual Technical Report of Fanga'uta Status Year 2015
- c) Approval of reports with given recommendations

Discussions:

- Lubrani & Takemoto remarks on progress and achievements of the project thus far & taking the lead among other Pacific Island countries who is executing the same project.



- Moeaki acknowledge good progress of the report and work of Project Management Unit. He advised the Financial Report is not in the system of the Ministry of Finance reflecting numerous times the project request government to fund activities & later reimburse & now being ceased to encourage project to improve their planning for disbursement. Project is to submit their Financial Report to Ministry of Finance in a monthly basis to enable monitoring of cash flow issues.
- Correct spelling of 'Ministry of Labour & Commerce'

Decision 7: Approved Report with suggestions and amendments made

6. Other Matters

- S. Tuiano suggest involvement of Red Cross in the Steering Committee based on their efforts with emergency cases of disease outbreak which can assist in severe cases project is looking to implement.

Decision 8: Committee takes suggestions into consideration

7. Propose Date for Next Meeting



- Quarter 3 (date to be confirmed)

8. Closing Remark – Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, *Fiji Multi-Country Office*

Lubrani echoes congratulation given by Chairman acknowledging participation of members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) from Government, NGOs, and Private Sectors to Communities & having sense of ownership of the project by all level as significant. She shared her experience on site visits she attended last week to project sites & admired joint collaboration of the project with youth & women’s groups in the communities. Interested discussion & ideas has been shared in the meeting to what this project can do to make the lagoon well managed ecosystem to continue providing livelihood for the people.

Closing Prayer – Sio Tuiano (T/O of Kolomotu’a)

Meeting adjourn at 2:30pm

Secretary’s endorsement:	  <hr/> <p>Mr. Paula Ma’u CEO for MEIDECC</p>
Date Minutes Approved:	5 May, 2016

TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Sub-Committee Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

May 5, 2016

MEIDECC Conference Room, Level 1, Taufa'ahau Road

10:00 – 11:30am

Meeting Minutes No.1

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 10:27am

Attendance:

Refer to Appendix 1

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer – Saane Lolo (Procurement)
- b) Welcoming Remarks: Chairperson – Hon. Minister MEIDECC

2. Introduction

- a) Apology: Solicitor General – Sione Sisifa
- b) Adoption of the Agenda

Decision1: Agenda Adopted

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Board Meeting: Minutes No.2 – Feb 12th January, 2015

Ma'u clarify to members the purpose of establishing Sub-committee from the PSC meeting held on the 12th of February 2016, for TWG & FLCMC to report directly to them & for any urgent decisions needed. Board Meeting Minutes is for members to take note of but will need to be approved from next PSC meeting.

Decision2: Members taking note of Minutes

- b) Technical Working Committees Meetings No.11-12, 2015 with 6 recommendations

Recommendation 1: Intervention Package for Vaini & Nukunukumotu

Discussions:

- Chair inquired about development at Vaini Water Spring whether an EIA was done & Hokafonu respond it may have bypass EIA procedure. Issue of unequal budget allocation per community in the intervention package was also raised & Moala advised it is due to the size of each communities as some are big and some are small.
- Members point out community contribution & support to the implementation of activities should be their co-finance to the project. Discussion followed suite on how funding goes directly to communities in terms of labour, Moala advised in a lot of cases, funding is not always managed properly if given directly to community committees therefore suggest given directly per individual who does the work.
- 'Otunuku questioned the land issue matters in Nukuhetulu & decision to postpone it, Hokafonu explained it involves unclear ownership of project site between Folaha & Nukuhetulu which delays intervention package for Nukuhetulu until land issue matters are cleared.
- Mangrove intervention was questionable from members whether there is need

to conduct it as Fanga'uta Lagoon area is already covered with mangroves. Hokafonu explained from result of survey conducted last year, planting activities will focus on low-lying communities expose & vulnerable to climate change impact such as Popua as well as Nukuhetulu where massive clearance of mangrove area due to human impact & road construction.

- Budget allocation for 'small fales' under Vaini intervention is seen as expensive by members questioning why cost proposed is high as there are cheaper materials/design that can be used. Co-finance of Tourism as well was raised & Hokafonu respond the signage & staff time is their co-finance for the project. 'Otunuku suggest further consultation with Tourism as there is a NZ fixed budget project which may assist implementation of activities so other communities can be included in the intervention package.
- 'Otunuku point out need to rethink over intervention package ensuring it contributes to achieving project target to improve conditions of Fanga'uta & requires careful planning to avoid re-implementing same project in years to come. Chair questioned the excessive cost proposed for equipment & materials on the ecotourism intervention & to consider using government's available resources e.g. the dredging machineries of Geology Department.
- Marine species introduction into the spring & its contribution to the improvement of the lagoon was raised & an informative sharing by Hokafonu to members on contribution of clean water from Vaini water springs into the lagoon thus justifying propose to clean & improve water springs in Vaini.
- Issue of chemical & hazardous wastes being washed to the lagoon was discussed & recommend by Chair as such serious issue needs to be addressed & take into consideration by project when reviewing proposals from communities. Ma'u clarifies to member's intervention proposals vary across communities depending on their environmental conditions & ecological services. Hokafonu shared recommendation & advice of I/C regarding nutrients in the lagoon & need to have a sewage system for Fanga'uta.

Decision3: Design an MOU between project and communities with conditions to the long-term maintenance and monitoring of project. It must indicate roles and responsibilities that each must play. Furthermore, clear procedure between project and communities in how payment is to be made should be clearly stipulated in the MOU, and when shared with Procurement.

Recommendation 2: Final Draft for Fanga'uta Status Report now available for endorsement [Refer to attachment of report]

Preamble: The report is part of the package to be shared with the Cabinet and also with relevant stakeholders.

Decision4: The report is noted and approved.

Recommendation 4: Request for an efficient mechanism to quickly approves activity proposal where expense is more than \$50,000. Presently all proposals are submitted to PMU for review, and then Submit to the Technical Committee for its approval. Proposals that are more expensive is requested for the immediate attention of the Project Steering Committee of which now has a Sub-Committee that can be on call for urgent meeting to address immediate issues.

Decision5: Approve to use the Sub-Committee to provide ongoing holistic review and screening of bigger budget mini-projects under the Intervention activities, whilst the Technical Committee focus on the design of these activities. Approach for clearance, is the Sub-Committee can be called to approve via its

quarterly meeting or as it deems appropriate.

Recommendation 6: Additional staff to the Project Management Unit (2 staff)

Preamble: Due to the various lines of interventions running in parallel and attending to the various needs implementing by the intervention and monitoring activities, it is requested that additional two casual staff can be utilized to assist the project. This is not to be permanent post but to be treated as a daily or casual workers dedicated to the project alone.

Decision6: Chair advised to leave matter to discuss more within the Ministry and a decision can be finalized within.

c) Community Management Committee Meetings No.4, 2016

Decision7: Members to take note

4. Project Reporting – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

a) Project Progress Report for Quarter 1, 2016

Discussions:

- 'Otunuku inquired about 'negative' balance of 'equipment' under Outcome 5 & Hokafonu explained UNDP initially advised to insert equipment under 'Project Management Unit' budget breakdown thus explains PMU not using any fund from Outcome 5 as this is absorbed in other outcomes.

Decision8: Members to take note of progress report of the project

b) Annual Technical Report of Fanga'uta Status Year 2015

Decision9: Members to take note

c) Approval of report with given recommendations

Decision10: Members to take note

d) Implementation Package for Quarter 2

Decision11: Members to take note

5. Other Matters

➤ Mid-term review of the project (Auditing matters)

Hokafonu brought forward the issue of project component with regard to auditing as recommended by UNDP to be done in Quarter 4 with advice to follow government auditing procedures. Committee was requested to make a decision whether project pursue auditing for mid-term review in quarter 4 .

Discussions:

- Lolo inquired about the financing agreement in the project document & Hokafonu advised the scope would be an independent auditor to avoid bias. Government auditing procedure is done at the end of the project whereas Hokafonu shared the suggestion made by UNDP for project to follow government procedure or a mid-term auditing. Lolo & 'Otunuku advice to send request to government whether it's possible and if not then inquire an independent auditor.

- Vice Chair clarified that the Ministry is looking into establishing systematic structure within the ministry to audit all projects, and this is a capacity that is currently pursued by the Ministry. The current practise is that each project brings their own independent auditor sponsored by the donor which is done when the project is complete.

Decision12: Recommend the project to look into contracting the Government Auditor by contacting their Office and inquire for possibility of this

- Makeover Intervention Package

Discussions:

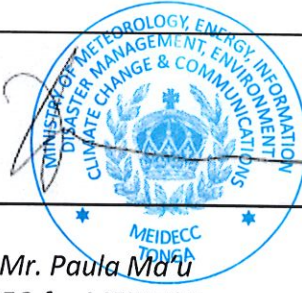
- Moala inquired about the confirmed communities selected for the makeover approach after Vaini & Nukunukumotu & Hokafonu advice approximately 14 communities looking to complete interventions this year with complete makeover approach in 6 communities.
- Lolo questioned whether mini-project proposals are included in the community plan & Hokafonu answered the project is working in collaboration with PRRP project incorporating R2R activities into the community development plans & plan of Fanga'uta communities will be shared with the project. Also networking with other similar minded projects such as the project for Waste, the assistance of JICA for a synergy of resources to address needs of communities.
- Concern was raised on Vaini Intervention whether there is enough space for all interventions & Hokafonu advise careful study of the area will be made prior implementation of activities.

Decision13: Members to take note of recommendations & take up to PSC committee. Requesting for PMU to meet with 'Otunuku (Procurement) on how to proceed forward with implementing the intervention package.

6. Propose Date for Next Meeting
July or August (dates to be confirmed)
7. Closing Prayer – Kalio Moala (D/O of Lapaha)

Meeting adjourn at 11:34am

Secretary's endorsement:


Mr. Paula Ma'u
CEO for MEIDECC

Date Minutes Approved:

13 September, 2016



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
3rd Board Meeting: Joint Meeting between R2R Steering Committee & Technical Committee
26 September, 2016
Davina Restaurant, Vuna Road
12:00 – 2:00pm

SUMMARY OF MEETING RECORD

Committee Members Present:

Refer to Annex 1

1. **Opening:** The meeting opened with prayer from Mr. Anietelu Toe'api (CSFT)
2. **Welcoming remarks:** The Hon. Minister, Siaosi Sovaleni welcomed the members of the Steering Committee as well as its Technical Committee together with the the consultant for the R2R Program, the policy specialist Ms. Sophie van der Meeren.
3. **Introduction**
 - 3.1 **Attendance:** No apologies received for attendance.
 - 3.2 **Adoption of the agenda:** Decision 1 - Approve to adopt the agenda of the joint meeting
4. **Presentation of Draft Framework for Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan - Ms. Sophie van der Meeren (Consultant - Policy Specialist) & Rosamond Bing (National Policy Specialist)**

Recommendations for discussions:

 - i. The structure and processes for management and decision making within the plan. [Flow diagrams are attached which outline the proposed structures]
 - ii. The legal status of the Plan and the legislative base supporting implementation of the Plan
 - iii. The Core focus and purpose of the Plan, including Values, Goal, Objectives and Targets.
 - iv. The Action Plan which will support implementation of initiatives to support achievement of Targets, Objectives and ultimately the Goal.
 - v. Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the management measures, to support adaptive management.
 - vi. Alignment of the Plan with national and regional Plans and Policies; and potential avenues for accessing funding and support to resource implementation of the Plan.

The Following is a summary of the discussion that follows with regards to the presentation of findings recorded as questions and answer discussion:

Part 1 Discussion: Presentation of Draft framework for Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan

- What is legal status of land & how it affects Special Management Plan? There are already legislatives related to management of special conservation areas such as Parks & Reserves Act, Fish and Preservation Act.



- The Institutional Structure proposed in the plan (Overall FLC Management Structure) responsibilities of each committee is not clear according to the diagram whether it is a top down or bottoms up structure. There is need to focus more on legal issues rather than the structure and see how SMA Community Management Plan fits into the Fanga'uta Management Plan. Fanga'uta Management Plan is a holistic way of approach for the whole lagoon where SMA plans and other plan fits into because the idea of the plan is to be complementary.
- Plan should be drawn to align with the system of the government and it is complex which explains why it does not work so utilize the existing government structure if plan needs to be implemented. For instance, numbers of committees are too much & need to revisit this as there are too many committees which do not function at all. There are already exiting committees which can be used to take up the role with this plan instead of establishing new ones. It is not another Act or Regulation; it is just reviewing the existing Plan, building on the existing plan.
- Why is the 'Management' term changed to 'Stewardship'? Terminology of 'stewardship' can be interpreted differently by people both in Tongan and English. Based on lessons learnt from various initiatives in Tonga indicates that it may be more appropriate to use the word 'stewardship' than 'management' because word 'management' when translated into Tongan may not directly understood by communities.
- Why does the plan need to be gazetted? That is the legal procedure where the plan is officially published by the government to the public informing them that is already passed by the government.
- There is always a question who will implement the Plan and how communities are involved in its implementation whether this is considered in the plan? The plan consists of empowering communities to take up the work and enforce them, and the idea is to reflect it in the plan and other existing legislations that are already in place in the government.
- It is important that this plan should be gazetted because there are lots of illegal actions where people are not aware of the law or the existing law to control and manage the environment and also the lack of enforcement of these laws. If line ministries work together the plan can easily be implemented and enforced as each organization has their own mandates and authorities to implement what is key relevant in the plan for them to implement.

Part 2 Discussion:

- Does the plan have budget to implement it? Yes, there is going to be a budget to implement the plan.
- It is important to point out the rights of communities or empower them to act as Environmental Officer around the Fanga'uta area. Under the Environmental Management Act, the Minister has the authority to appoint a non-Environmental Officer to act as an Officer to foresee and report on illegal environmental acts.
- There is concern about communities whether formulating of this plan will affect them; maybe a MOU needs to be established with linkages to implementing the Management Plan. The plan is trying to have strong focus on communities and strengthen their capacity across different range of areas where they are involved directly with their environment.
- It is important to include Monitoring & Evaluation process working with monitoring teams to link that to the National Plans and other plans that line Ministries have. M&E Framework will be in the



plan that is formulated. Following Monitoring & Evaluation processes in line with the propose structure to ensure who is monitoring what etc.

- Partnership among key stakeholders is significant to be maintained in order for the plan to implement effectively, include involvement of communities.
- The monitoring responsibility should be linked closely to other Ministry's plan so when M&E is taken up at least there is some legal entity link to it. There could be overlap for sure but this can ease some of the worries that some of the Agencies might have.

Decision 2: Request that all input provided with regards to the framework be considered in the draft copy of the Plan.


5. Proposed Work Plan for Quarter 4

Decision 3: Adopted in principle and any further amendment to the activities to advise the PMU from line Ministries.

6. Closing remark: The Chair extended gratitude to Ms Sophie and Ms Rosamond for the various clarification provided in the findings from the policy review as well as the proposed direction with regards for the design of the revised Management Plans.

7. Closing Prayer – CEO of MLNR Mr 'Asipeli Palaki

Meeting adjourn at 1:30pm

Secretary's endorsement:	 <hr/> <p>Mr. Paula Ma'u CEO for MEIDECC</p>
Date Minutes Approved:	26 January, 2017



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TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

4th Board Meeting

26 January, 2017

Tano'a Hotel, Vuna Road

3:00 – 4:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Refer to Annex 1

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer – Siö Tu'iano (A/District Officer of Kolofo'ou)
- b) Welcoming Remarks: Chairperson – Siaosi Sovaleni (Hon. Minister MEIDECC)

Chairman welcomes the members and acknowledges presence of Mr Kevin Petrini the UN RSD Team Leader to the meeting as well as all the CEOs/Directors presence.

He acknowledged the progress of the Ridge to Reef program as to date and the achievements it has achieved in its second year of implementation.

2. Introduction

- a) Attendance and Apology – All members present
- b) Adoption of the Agenda

Decision 1: Agenda Adopted

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

Secretariat shared the following updates:

- a) Board Meeting: Minutes No.2 – 12 February, 2016

Decision 2: Minutes adopted.

- b) Noting of Joint Meeting of Steering Committee & Technical Committee (meeting no.3): 29 Sept 2016

The meeting was mainly on the joint meeting between the Committees to discuss the draft presented on the revised plan for Fanga'uta Management Plan.

The final report will be available later for the endorsement of the Steering Committee. There are no new recommendations at this stage as most have been dealt with by the Sub-Steering Committee in its past two formal meetings.

Decision 3: Minutes noted

Brief update on the meetings carried out for the year is as follows: The Technical Committee have met 12 times as to date, Sub-Steering Committee met 3 times and the Community Management Committee have met now in total of 5 times from last year. A detail records of these various minutes can be found in your package for your ease of reference.

Decision 4: Minutes update is duly noted.

4. Approval of Annual Work Plan for 2017 & Revised IEMP-FLC (*Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan*)

a) Approval of annual work plan for 2017

The summary of the annual work plan for 2017 was presented with reference to attached copy of the detail Work Plan. Allocation for the year is of a Total budget of \$456,901.64

Hon Chair queried if AWP addresses issues on unclear reclamation noted occurring at Fanga'uta Lagoon catchment as this is an urgent area for attention, as well as the need to address drainage problems contributing to the lagoon's pollution.

Clarification provided that the project will follow closely the outcome and outputs clearly provided by the project document.

Decision 5: Approve the AWP for 2017, and for the project to consider these issues in the development of a second phase to address these issues more specifically.

b) Presentation of the budget for 2017 & Budget update

Secretariat provided update on the budget proposed for 2017 as follows:

Outcome 1 - \$93,824.00

Outcome 2 - \$35,688.00

Outcome 3 - \$282,512.00

Outcome 4 - \$23,777.49

Outcome 5 - \$21,100.15

The current financial tracker for the project is hitting presently at 74% of delivery out of its Multi-Year Annual Work Plan.

Decision 6: Budget proposal and update is noted.

c) Summary of Calendar 2017

Secretariat highlighted that the provided calendar of activities shared is a working document, and also provided dates is provided for Quarter 1 but these dates may change.

Chair acknowledged the update on calendar of activities advised.

d) Approval of the Revised Integrated Environmental Management Plan of Fanga'uta Lagoon: *Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan* & Five Year Action Plan

Ms Rosamond shared about the content of the FSP that this resulted from close participatory approach including all stakeholders of the program including the communities as well in inputting to the draft of this report at the end of last year to produce this close to final draft. Areas of for the Steering Committee to review are: FSP general objectives and targets, its Management and decision-making framework and processes, with given M&E framework advised attached with its proposed Action Plan.

Discussion: The following matters was called to attention by the meeting:

- ✓ Title of the revised plan is reflective of the intention to properly manage Fanga'uta – this was the title requested by most of the stakeholders
- ✓ With regards to the diagram of the management framework for implementation of FSP to clearly separate the diagram for District Officer and Town Officers role in the process
- ✓ Ensure that the decision-making process is consistent with existing policy and regulations with regards to EIA processes

Decision 7: To approve the final draft in principle with request that Section 7 (FSP Management & Decision Making Process) be amended to be consistent with existing policies and regulations, as well as the amendment to the diagrams in page 23 of the draft. Once revision is completed to resubmit final revision to Sub-Steering Committee for endorsement.

5. Project Reporting – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC) & Technical Working Group

- a) Project Achievements and Progress as to date for 2016 (Challengers and Opportunities)
Secretariat provided update snap shot of the project current progress against its outcomes and objectives. In brief the following summary was provided against objective progress:
Tracking Tool BD 1 – delivery is at 75%, Tracking Tool BD 2 – delivery is at 75%, Tracking Tool LD3: delivery is at 90%, Tracking Tool LD1 – delivery is at 75% and with Tracking Tool IWs – delivery is at 60%. Refer to the page 19-25 of the meeting package for the detail

UNDP representative, Mr Kevin Petrini commented that the rate of performance of the program is quite satisfactory and acknowledged the good leadership and direction provided by the chair and its members to guide the performance of the program in the country. Of all the project in the Pacific, Tonga Ridge to Reef Project is one of the project with regular visibility of reports noted in various communication forums in which he closely follows.

- b) Snap shot from Technical survey – Dr. Viliami Manu (apology due to duty travel) report presentation is pending.

6. Other Matters

6.1 Update on recommendation for dredging of Fanga'uta Lagoon: To remove issue of increased sedimentation as a suggested solution to address poor water quality of the lagoon

Siö Tu'iano shared the need for the various stakeholders to look into the means of addressing poor water quality if consideration be provided for dredging of the lagoon.

Secretariat advised Steering Committee that a Cabinet decision was received in May advising that their approval of project recommendations and their response requesting Ministry of Finance to look into matters of sourcing fund for a feasibility study. This should informed any future development or dredging proposal to be carried out at the lagoon. The approach of the program is more a soft approach to improving ecological services and therefore does not have any funds for requested activities.

7. Propose Date for Next Meeting: October, 2017

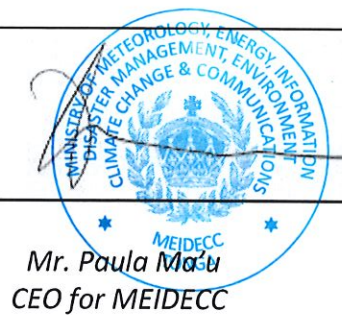
Decision 8: Date of next meeting is noted and for Secretariat to confirm meeting announcement.

8. Closing remark: Chair extended his gratitude to the Steering Committee members for their close assistance and support in ensuring that the implementation of the program transit smoothly from their line ministries, and looking forward for their ongoing assistance to ensure its third year implementation unfolds successfully as well.

Closing Prayer – Siö Tu'iano (T/O of Kolomotu'a)

Meeting adjourn at 5:00pm

Secretary's endorsement:



Mr. Paula Ma'u
CEO for MEI DECC

Date Minutes Approved:

30 November, 2017



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

4th Sub-Committee Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

March 30th, 2017

Tano'a Hotel, Vuna Road

10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer: The meeting opened with a prayer from District Officer of Lapaha at 10:11am
- b) Welcoming Remarks: The Chair, Hon. DPM & Minister MEIDECC extended his gratitude to the members for availing to attend the meeting.

2. Introduction

- a) Attendance and Apology: Dr. Siola'a Malimali (Fisheries), Mr Sione Sisifa (Solicitor General), Mr Kelekolio Nivaleti Melekiola (D/O Lapaha), Mr Fetu'u (MLNR) Paula Ma'u (CEO of MEIDECC), Ms Pisila Otunuku (Finance-apology late), Ta'hirih Hokafonu (R2R PMU), Lupe Matoto (Director of Environment), Oto'ota To'oa (R2R Technical Officer)
- b) Adoption of the Agenda: **Decision 1** - Approve

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Approval Sub-Steering Committee Meeting No. 3: – September, 2016
Decision 2: Defer to the next Board meeting as minutes is not yet ready from Secretariat

4. Presentation of the final copy of Fanga'uta Management Plan – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Endorsement of the revised Plan namely *Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan*

The following is a summary of the suggestion for change page by page on the revised plan:

- Pictures provided in the report need to affirm if all pictures are taken from in country
- Ensure that the picture of eutrophication provided in the one part of the lagoon is factual
- The general content of the plan seems sound just need to ensure that the structure of decision making is clear to reflect voice of the communities in the decision making process
- To ensure phrasing of content under the section on decision-making process that we are not contradicting the existing EIA Act, and the various management bodies are to feed information to the existing approved structure of EIA, but they are not the ones that approve request for development, but act only as feeder of input from the communities.
- For any future development concerning Fanga'uta it is important to consult the established platforms (CMC) and relevant Mananagement Committees to gain input from them on proposed plans.

Decision 3: The followings are approved:

- a) To approve the revised Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan in principle with the suggested amendment (refer to above suggestion)
- b) Secretariat to circulate the final version to the members for further input or amendment.
- c) To present the plan to Cabinet, and request Solicitor General assistance & CEO MEIDECC to assist with drafting of Cabinet submission as well as to clear the paragraph under the decision making.



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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA**

TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

4th Sub-Committee Meeting of the Project Steering Committee

March 30th, 2017

Tano'a Hotel, Vuna Road

10:00 am

5. Knowledge Management Materials

The Information/Technical Officer Mr Iliesa presented calendars of 2017, videos, quarterly newsletter and other KM products to the members as well as the community strategies done thus far by the project to raise awareness about the management of Fanga'uta lagoon. Furthermore, the project website is now up and running under the Department.

The chair and members acknowledged PMU and its officers for the good work done thus far on the establishments of the various KM resources published.

Decision 4: Noted resources provided with suggestion 4 that TV spots can have translated text if they are in English.

6. News Development from the Project – Project Coordinator

The Project provided the updated quarterly report on progress with activities as well as financial status of the program. There isn't a huge change from the last report provided in January to the Board's meeting, but just a quick update with the Board on main achievement done thus far:

- a. Establishment of project website is now online: environment.gov.to
- b. Various Management Meetings/forum continue to consult on the draft revised FSP
- c. Implementation of the various line activities currently underway – Ecotourism, Sanitation, tree planting, etc

Decision 5: Acknowledged current progress received.

6. Closing Remark: The meeting closed with remarks from the Chair and also a praye from DO of Lapaha

7. Lunch

List of Attachments

1. Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan



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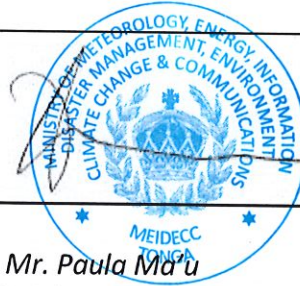




**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA**

TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
4th Sub-Committee Meeting of the Project Steering Committee
March 30th, 2017
Tano'a Hotel, Vuna Road
10:00 am

Secretary's endorsement:



Mr. Paula Ma'u
CEO for MEIDECC

Date Minutes Approved:

29 November, 2017



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TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

5th Board Meeting

30 November, 2017

Davina Restaurant, Vuna Road

3:00 – 4:30pm

Minutes No.5

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer:-Siö Tu'iano
- b) Welcoming Remarks: Chairperson – CEO of MEIDECC:- Paula Ma'u

2. Introduction

- a) Attendance and Apology:- Suliana Pahulu, Sio Tu'iano, Sitiveni Fe'ao, Lola.L.Tonga, Tukua Tonga, Vilamo Fakalolo, Lupe Matoto, Teisina Fuko, 'Alotaisi Takau, Samuela Pohiva, Paula Ma'u, Ilesa Tora, Tahirih Hokafonu, Vivieni Sika, Petelo To'oa
Apology from Chair – Minister of MEIDECC was with another meeting appointment at the same time. CEO of MEIDECC was the Acting Chair.
Apology – from Fisheries, Forestry, Tourism, Agriculture, Lands all with other meetings at the same time and were limited with additional staff to send to the meeting.

- b) Adoption of the Agenda

Decision1: Approve to include new matters at appropriate area of the agenda.

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Approval of previous Minutes Board Meeting: Minutes No.4 – 26 January, 2017

Decision2: Approve the minutes as the true record of the previous meeting.

- b) Review of Sub-Board previous meetings in 2017, Technical Committee meeting and Community Management Committee meetings

The Secretariat provided the following update: There were 9 meetings of the Technical Committees, 1 Steering Committee meeting with 2 sub-steering committee meetings and 4 quarterly meeting carried out by the Community Management Committees in addition to 1 special meeting of the District Officers. The main agenda issues raised in this meeting were:

- i) Addressing matters regarding future development work at Fanga'uta catchment.
- ii) Issue of enforcing the legislation with regards to free ranging pigs and the need for this process to be revisited by the responsible Ministry, as well as the establishment of the Special Management Areas, to monitor land reclamation occurring at the lagoon. The need of closer support to be provided from the Police Department with regards to enforcement of legislation.
- iii) Request of further eco-tourism work and protection of the coastal environment for some villages.

4. Approval of Annual Work Plan & Budget for 2018

- a) Approval of annual work plan for 2018

Preamble: The AWP for 2018 covered for Quarter 1 only with proposed budget of USD\$41,930.20 which is the remaining budget for implementation as reflected in page 10. With regards to component 2 in this activity is already completed and there is no further plans or budget in this area. With regards to the remaining activities in component 3 with implementation of 2.1 activities remaining were some of the replanting activities for the coastal environment, as well as one Special Management Area pending and remaining eco-tourism activities of about US21k plus the project management expense for that quarter.

Decision 3: To approve the proposed annual work plan for 2018.



4. a.1 Reflection on past activities

With regards to the status of waste at Fanga'uta Lagoon, has all of the solid waste clean-up campaign completed already for the program and were the main learning observed?

- In the past efforts of the project in this venture, it has carried out a few clean up campaigns to collect all solid waste; the final clean-up campaign amounted to 350tonnes of waste. The learning from this campaign is that a lot of time, effort and resources were put into this intervention, but it didn't change the mind-set of people with regards to discarding of waste and management. Areas where these clean up were done right immediately the next day where new illegal dumping of waste was found at the place recently cleaned. This was flagged by Waste Authority and Environment department monitoring this effort. To see lasting changing (transformative change) in this area further awareness program needs to continue every year, until people's mind-set is change especially when the catchment area is comprised of the area with the highest turnover of demography with rural-urban migration drift.
- The project continued to provide outreach to schools, as well as on SMS text on phone for the past two years, as well as training on waste categorization to inform best practises on waste management. This outreach to schools covered 27 schools; of more than 6000 students/teachers were informed of the process.
- Additional challenge before the project during the waste clean-up campaign was limited capacity of the only recycling company to absorb all large solid waste picked up from the coastal environment, due to limited space available due to delay in receiving their hired crusher to assist in this aspect. Therefore on the last clean-up campaign one district clean-up of these large solid waste had to be cancel due to unavailability of space at the recycling company.

With regards to mangroves activities one of the learning observed is the issue of conflict between a few private land owner and the agreed community commitment of mangrove site in which fencing was carried out to protect mangroves vegetation sites, one of the homes in this coastal area removed the fencing and therefore pigs got into the sites and damaged some of these young saplings already planted, further is the unpredictability of that private land owner with regards to further land reclamation on government property which needed closer monitoring requested from Ministry of Lands to follow closely.

Way Forward proposed to consider in approach:

1. Build higher fence of project sites with communities to avoid people from illegally dumping waste as well as damage done from pigs, as well as ensuring that communities do not trespass to Special Management Areas already established.
2. To ensure that monitoring of the project sites will continue even if the project ends, to ensure that the resources and money invested in these areas are now ownership of the local communities and the line ministries to follow through with.
3. Request the close assistance of the Ministry of Fisheries in closely monitoring the Special Management Areas so that communities do not trespass or damaged the demarcated areas already gazetted. In one community it is observed that it has now been four times warning provided to the neighbouring communities, and policy support is weak on enforcing the Fisheries Act related to the establishment of the SMA. It is discouraging to the communities enforcing the SMA in their locality that they do not have the full support of the Police Department with regards to enforcement of these Acts.

b) Request for project implementation to extend to June 2018

Preamble: Seeing that the project started late in 2014 and the need to ensure the proper exit strategy is in place such as ensuring handover of various project activities and resources and completion of some of the remaining activities of the project, it is proposed that end date of the project be extended to June 2018 instead of the original completion time to March 2018.



Decision4: It is approved to extend end date of project to June 2018, in order to complete all suggested activities and for the project to ensure all hand over of existing activities to communities and responsible line ministry do carry out smoothly.

It is advised from Project Manager with the project extension this may require letter of request from Implementing Partner (Ministry of Environment) to be send to UNDP to consider if suggested duration is beyond project duration.

4. Project Reporting – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC) & Technical Working Group

a) *Project Achievements and Progress as to date for 2017 (Highlight of learning)*

Discussion on the current achievement of the project focused on page 14-17 of the attached document in comparison to the objectives and outcome level of the project framework. The project coordinator was requested to assist in the sharing of achievement in which reference is being made to the document: Summary of Project Achievement as of September 2017.

The main learning observed from the current implementation is noted:

- In the mangroves replanting activities it is noted that as long as private land owners are happy with the arrangement through the Town Officer and the project then they are able to commit full time or take ownership in this area. Currently activity implementation is at 90%.
- The need for changing mind-set of the communities with regards to waste management will be an area that requires further awareness of more years to come, as it encompasses 55% of the total population for Tongatapu covering 5 districts of all 6 districts areas.
- Although many seedlings has been distributed and planted there is still the issue to nurture and ensure all seedlings to grow over time, and time and effort is required from schools and private land owners to care for these plants. It requires closer attention from responsible Department to monitor closely progress.
- The project only intervention covers only 2% of the total catchment area and to see its impact needs another two to three years before another survey is carried out to see its success and results to improving ecosystem services and goods in improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and enhancing resilience of communities.
- Many awareness programs has been systematically carried out in the past year so people are familiar with relevant legislation regarding the conservation of natural resources and many other topics. What was most effective was carrying out this outreach to school matching the educational curriculum particularly addressing the main issue of was in Tonga where outreach covered many schools in the catchment.

b) *Snap shot from Technical survey of 2017 – Technical Working Group*

- The issue of growing bacteria found in the water is still a problem although the chemistry level of the water remains stable, the increased in nutrients and bacteria found in the water is still escalating particularly in the area of Pea, Fanga'uta and Fangakakau area of the lagoon. This advice there sanitation leakage from poor septic system to the lagoon is still an ongoing issue and not yet fully addressed as well as from waste from free ranging pig in the area

Recommendation:

1. Tonga would need another project on developing a national sewage system that addresses this critical need.
2. Request closer collaboration between Ministry of Health, Environment and Lands in establishing sign post in these parts of the lagoon to advise the communities accordingly.



5. Other Matters

There will be the upcoming Terminal Evaluation of the project in the following year that would require the advice from the Steering Committee.

6. Propose Date for Next Meeting:

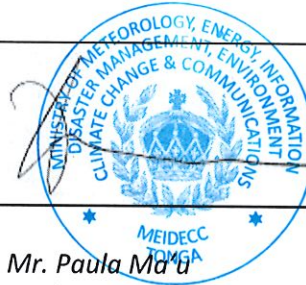
Decision 5: Project Management Unit to confirm with Secretary a time feasible for March, 2018

7. Closing Remark – The acting chair extended his gratitude to the members for their time in the time and all the hard work done during the year 2017.

The meeting closed with a prayer followed with dinner to mark the achievements achieved thus far of 2017

Closing Prayer – Siö Tu’iano (T/O of Kolomotu’a)

Secretary’s endorsement:



Mr. Paula Ma'u
CEO for MEIDECC

Date Minutes Approved:

29 May, 2018





TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

6th Board Meeting

29 May, 2018

Little India Restaurant, Vuna Road

3:00 – 4:30pm

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a) Opening Prayer:-Siö Tu'iano (D/O Kolomotu'a) at 3:30pm.
- b) Welcoming Remarks: Chairperson – Hon.Minister of MEIDECC:- Mr Poasi Tei

2. Introduction

- a) Attendance and Apology:- 'Emeline Tuita (CEO Tourism), Meleoni Vakpuna (Tourism), Mana'ia Halafihi (MAFFF), 'Onetoto 'Anisi (CEO MIA), Sitiveni Fe'ao (D/O Lapaha), Latu 'Aisea (Fisheries), 'Asopesio Lakalaka (MOFNP), Viliami.T. Manu (CEO MAFFF), Malakai.L.Sika (CEO WAL), Sio Tu'iano (D/O Kolomotu'a), Tevita. L.Fotu (PUMA), 'Alotaisi Takau (D/O Kolofo'ou), 'Alifaleti Fonua (MET), Viliami Kato (Forestry), Loraini Sivo (UNDP), Merana Kitione (UNDP), Nunia Latu (Ministry of Health) , Rosamond Bing (CEO MLNRs), Taniela Kula (Geology), Siasini Petelo (MEIDECC), Hon. Poasi Tei (Minister of MEIDECC), Paula Ma'u (CEO MEIDECC), Mafile'o Masi (DoE), Iliesa Tora (DoE), 'Oto'ota To'oa (DoE), Tahirih Hokafonu (DoE).

- b) Adoption of the Agenda

Decision1: Approve the agenda and insert new items at appropriate areas.

3. Previous Minutes – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC)

- a) Approval of previous Minutes Board Meeting: Minutes No.6 – 29 May, 2018.

Decision 2: Approve the previous minutes as the true record of the meeting.

4. Introduction of the TE Consultant & preliminary findings

Ms Hokafonu introduced Dr. Arun Rijal from Nepal and his mission in Tonga for the Terminal Evaluation of the project.

Dr. Arun provided the following findings on the first three days of this mission in Tonga on the following account:

I'm very glad to be in Tonga, I'd like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to share the experiences I have had. Today, I would like to share some of my findings and observations. From the relevancy point of view, the project is very relevant. Tonga commitment in the regional and international avenues, as well as environment situation this project is very relevant.

Regarding ownership, the project involves the Government, with the communities and similarly the project design follows the standards and knowledge used in most countries. There are still opportunities to build on this.

Regarding Monitoring and Evaluation, design wise is good. Adaptive management is also good. Effectiveness is good however we note, there are some delays in the project, but these can be easily resolved. I need to further analyse into this.

Efficiency there were some delays, however this can be managed and to be given some guidance.



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

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Most of the activities are done, some issues were around training, but these are minor. As compared to Papua there is some good information available to continue with this. Sedimentation is a good example however, time is what will determine how successful the activities were, so these are what I believe is needed.

Awareness is great; however there is some need for putting this into action. I found that when I spoke to some people they were aware, but some help is needed for their actions to follow the information from the awareness programme.

Sustainability aspect needs to be highlighted more, with purchase of materials. Financial and institutional sustainability is also great and that line agencies will continue their support in their five year plan. Environmental sustainability needs more input and be able to be put forward.

Recommendations:

1. Resolve the Nukunukumotu SMA project, and to follow through to get endorsement from Parliament and as well as more awareness programmes on SMAs to change attitude so that people can continue to sustain the project. E.g. developing a plastic bottle policy maybe pay some money back to the consumer to return the bottles to the shop on addressing waste management area.
2. Cost benefit analysis of recycling or alternative use of this waste
3. More mangrove plantations, there should be economic benefits for specific species
4. Sea animals/marine species – the diversity of the species is studied. There needs to be density studies conducted, population trends and where they are going.
5. More than 50% of the signposts were destroyed in the cyclones. These need to be restored
6. I found that there a Sanitation implementation of 2 toilets (Nukunukumotu) were set as a pilot, however I feel these can be replicated in a large area to address the sanitation issue
7. Resolve issue in Vaini so that the women's group could benefit from this project – conflict between Town Officer and the Women's Group

I think in the future, an MOU with landowners and council or government is needed. So that all roles and responsibilities to minimize conflicts among stakeholders. If people understand, there should be harmony in these agreements

Training for the community is important. There are water testing kits that can be given out for the school and communities. They can use these for the project.

These are my observations, and I will continue to go through the other sites and provide the information back to you all for your input.

Ms Hokafonu: Just to make known to the Board, the first draft of his report will be distributed to the board members for their input. As seen in the Fangauta stewardship plan, the Board will still be able to meet during the year. This will fall under the Environment Department as an expense in implementing the programme. I would have to consult with the chair and the secretary if there is a need for a sub steering committee to review the first draft or input via email. But these are the preliminary findings he has shared



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

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he hasn't finished reviewing documentations of the project yet. There may be further information and recommendations coming in second phase for the committee to take on board for sustainability.

Question: Have you had other countries take on a second phase of a similar project?

Consultant: For example, the plantation – you choose the high value foods in the market. If you choose that the community will benefit. It will be good for coastal and private land owners to do. Need to see which species is high value and also look into deep rooting species. With this, you could link other cottage industries as another level of benefit to this, a chain of benefits if you will. This is then an incentive for the communities to be involved.

UNDP: Arun has been brought in as a Terminal Evaluation Consultant, his approach is independent. As part of the process for the TE, most of the recommendations he has identified we would like to take that on board to be able to seek further funding. This project was actually supported through the GEF STAR funding, every year there's an allocation for countries and we have had discussions with key stakeholders and it has been identified GEF 7 cycle may be able to get funding from going forward. But this is from the recommendations and if there is a Tonga Phase II for Ridge to Reef then UNDP are willing to support this through this programming cycle. Depending on the priorities, we need to revisit this also.

Consultant: it is like a pilot project now, so lessons from this could be used for another big project to address the problems identified while implementing this.

Tourism rep: You have six more days? – So we have a lot more stories to tell. We have just come through Cyclone Gita, so that gave us a chance to look at our priorities going forward. At the same time, Government priority agenda for 2018 to 2021 where they identified their top priorities are and right in there is the sustainability and the emphasis on resilience. From tourism perspective, with a mandate to become the primary economic driver, it can't be carried by tourism industry alone. We need to include preserving our cultural heritage and we are required to protect the environment at the same time and increase wealth for all Tongans. So part of the challenge is coordinating the effort so that everyone is looking at the same goal and being able to working together. Further development of eco-tourism and tourism, we have coordinated in the coming financial year, which is the Tonga Destination Plan where we put everything that is relevant to sustainable development. We have to work together with our line ministries and communities in particular. We have other supporting programmes that are coming from directions where we normally do not think would support. We have training partners from the Australian government as a development partner under the Tonga skills programme, so this maybe an opportunity to coordinate the communities. There are 7 new national qualifications into the system and courses have something or other addressing sustainability. I look forward to meeting with you, and how we can with our partners move forward on these issues. I would like to thank the Chair, because with his hat as the sustainability champion, is very important. Ridge to Reef is a programme that allows us to have a look at our vulnerable communities. Not to change them, but something that can be absorbed in their everyday life. Thank you for all your effort.



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

6th Board Meeting

29 May, 2018

Little India Restaurant, Vuna Road

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5 Project Reporting – Secretariat (CEO, MEIDECC) & Technical Working Group

Ms Hokafonu: You have this document in front of you, 4 pager – lessons learned from the programme. Instead of talking about the context, you are all aware of the issues. Main component that the project has been covering since end of 2014, to address the issues of pollution viewed here in Fangauta, area degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity. We were working on this integrated approach in establishing an effective governance system as well as the implementation of the underlying intervention to improve critical habitats, productivity to provide social economic benefits to its communities. Lastly is supporting and strengthening the knowledge and awareness of the communities.

Moving into the approach of the Ridge to Reef programme. The one with FAO, this just started last year. ILAMS. Ridge to Reef started much earlier. The key successes so far, this framework of effective governance system is now a culture of a regular platform, as you can observe that this is the 6th platform meeting. The technical management committee meets last 3 years every monthly and community management committee meets quarterly. So stakeholders are coming together. And there is a sense of ownership through this assisted with decision making from all partners. This element of integrated approach contributed so much for the co-finance done from Tonga. It was USD\$650,000 we have tripled this amount of co-finance and this was shared in the previous meeting and it will be part of his report. This platform is now in place, re-enforced by the Fangauta Stewardship plan that was gazette. It will still continue this platform, available to be called upon to inform relevant stakeholders and communities with regards to future developments around Fangauta.

Component 3 – the implementation of the integrated management approach, some of these activities. These have been completed in the timeframe given. There were more demands for support. However due to our financial limitations. The committee agreed that at least one community was involved in the intervention. The success in this approach involved 94 staff from all partners, by being involved in the field, as well as all other line ministries and their staff being able to come on board with their sharing of information as well as their technical expertise. The support internal affairs and their staff, and the co-finance of all line ministries for providing focal points to support this project.

SMA is now gazetted addressing the sustainable fisheries needs. 4 Communities for Fangauta lodged for this and 3 were approved whilst Nukunukumotu (Siesia) is pending. There needs to be a co-joint agreement between Popua, Patangata and Siesia as it is the first of its kind to have a joint SMA established if it approved. Fangauta Stewardship Plan is already approved and gazetted, and it is now being used as a policy framework for future development at Fanga'uta thanks to all your support it is now established.

As for the awareness programme, we have a social media page and a national website. The SMS campaign that was running for two years, covered 20,000 devices informed about legislations, policies, best practices happening, waste management programmes in Tonga and documentation of this was recorded on TV and radio programmes, with knowledge and learning provided from the communities.



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

6th Board Meeting

29 May, 2018

Little India Restaurant, Vuna Road

3:00 – 4:30pm

The catchment area became a learning site for other programmes. The Regional Ridge to Reef programme also came over to observe the practices in the ground. Various members visited the site to learn also about the site.

Challenges: Political conflict with regards to development needs versus the need for conservation needs for the programme. This limited the expansion of the intervention within the urban communities particularly; however the Fangauta stewardship plan provides a system in place which gives rise to opportunities to inform the various stakeholders of considering the design of their various developments. This assist with amendment of development design gaining direct input of the stakeholders with vested interests in Fanga'uta.

Financial resources – Limited, this is the project with the smallest amount of money within the region and yet covered the biggest number of people. As we were doing interventions, the communities wanted to do more with hard approach solutions. So issues as such are needed for implementation of a Phase II for this project. But it is good that the line ministries take on some of these existing programmes. E.g. Forestry, water testing, local governance these activities are already with in the design of some of these ministries. This space will provide continuous support from within the ministries. However, we still need financial support to further this opportunity.

Procurement Capacity – procuring large goods and services, were difficult and a challenge for the project. There needed to be a specific procurement officer in the next phase. However in mitigating this, the ministry of Finance guided the process closely to the PMU as well as UNDP team supporting on procuring goods or services. If such programme is repeated in the future, then this needs to be considered.

Changing mind-set – this a national issue to move people from bad practises as to waste management to more sustainable practises. Although the awareness programmes are ongoing, this needs to be ongoing even after the project as transformative change does takes time for people to change their mind-set. The enforcement of various policies and legislation that involves the catchment area of Fanga'uta is still challenging and hopefully in the longer term, we hope to see a greater change if intervention are given time and closely monitored even after the project at local and national level.

Main Lessons observed in envisioning a Phase II for the project in the near future.

- a. Consideration that the project is bigger in terms of finance and different interventions to address the growing community needs on alternative livelihoods inclusive of sustainable and conservation activities
- b. Procurement officer be hired
- c. Effective financial mechanism established at the community level to allow them to run their own programmes thereafter.
- d. Next phase to be longer – more than 5 years, to see impact of change and to assess impacts with provided time in the program design.

Project Follow up to complete in the meantime:



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

6th Board Meeting

29 May, 2018

Little India Restaurant, Vuna Road

3:00 – 4:30pm

- a. Asset handover is currently being handled now with UNDP and the Ministry
- b. Continuation of implementation of Fangauta plan – meetings will continue and is in the budget for the ministry for its various management committees
- c. Fourth SMA for Nukunukumotu is in progress with Fisheries
- d. Exit strategy is currently working progress now

Hon. Minister of MEIDECC: The project needs to have a second phase considering Fanga'uta Catchment area covers more than 55% of the total population of Tongatapu. That is a lot, and therefore needs for UNDP to consider assisting us with establishing a second phase for the project of 5-10 years. We need at least 10 million for such implementation.

Sivo (UNDP): Whatever the Board decide and requests of UNDP we will stand ready to be of any assistance.

Decision3: The following is approved:

- a) Approve for the Ministry and with UNDP assistance to look into drafting a second phase for the program and to source funding available for the program.
- b) To circulate the draft TE report once available.

6. Other Matters:

Dredging of increased sedimentation at Fanga'uta Lagoon:

D/O Kolomotu'a: Thanks to everyone involved in the project. I request further for the consideration of a second phase on a project available to dredge the channel via Pangaimotu to let in the flow of seawater go inside to Havelu, Popua, and Pea and everywhere around the lagoon. Hopefully this will assist with improving water circulation, and hopefully addressing the issue of dengue, etc. In our community we have a plan, but we can't move because we need the fresh water and Landfill is currently being carried out. It is important to choose development that has less effects on us and the environment in the urban area. Hopefully in the next phase of this Ridge to Reef project to focus on these areas. We are looking forward to the next phase and we need to prioritise this effort so that we can access further funding to assist with community livelihoods, better health that follows it. If the people of Tonga need to be resilient, we need to review the future developments to take place in the surrounding of Fangauta lagoon as it is man-made. Please if there is some consideration for the next phase. Please look into it. Thank you.

7. Closing Remark: - The Chair extended his gratitude to the members for their time and to UNDP for financial assistance as well as the TE consultant joining the meeting.

CEO of Tourism 'Emeline Tuita offered the closing payer at 4:35pm.

8. Dinner

List of Attachments

1. Multi-year AWP (2015 – 2017) and 2018 AWP
2. Project Report of Achievements and Progress for 2018
3. Previous Minutes Compilation of Management Committees for 2017-2018



TONGA RIDGE TO REEF (R2R) PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
 6th Board Meeting
 29 May, 2018
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Secretary's endorsement:

Mr. Paula Ma'u
 CEO for MEI/DECC



Date Minutes Approved:

20 June, 2018