

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**R2R Regional**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5221 |
| GEF ID | 5404 |
| Title | 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 |
| Country(ies) | Fiji, Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Water and Oceans |
| Project Implementing Partner | The Pacific Community |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| GEF Operational Focal Point | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Andrew Jones (andrewj@spc.int) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

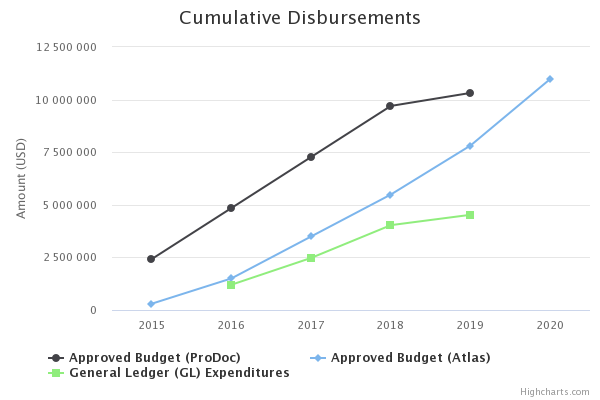
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To test the mainstreaming of ‘ridge-to-reef’ (R2R), climate resilient approaches to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in the PICs through strategic planning, capacity building and piloted local actions to sustain livelihoods and preserve ecosystem services** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM and climate change adaptation [linked to national STAR projects via larger Pacific R2R network]** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.1.1 Number and quality of baseline environmental state and socio-cultural information incorporated in project area diagnostics | 1.1.1 Baseline environmental and social data is unconsolidated | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.1.1 14 national pilot project area diagnostics based on R2R approach including: baseline environmental state and social data incorporating CC vulnerabilities; and local governance of water, land, forests and coasts reviewed | Off track  As an initial step, environmental monitoring plans were developed in accordance with the approved monitoring guidelines. Additional to RapCA, environmental stress reduction baseline data will be collected in four countries by end 2018.    RAPCA planning and conduct in Vanuatu, and planning for Samoa underway. Four more countries are targeted before the end of the year (Samoa, Tonga, PNG, Solomon). Delay is due to the resignation of project manager in CI, uncovered maternity leave of project manager in Tonga. The RapCA for both countries was supposed to have been done in March and April 2018, respectively. | Off track    Rapid Assessment of Priority Coastal Areas (RapCA) reports generate data that is used for assessing the state of the pilot sites and key conclusions and messages on policy options. Best practice set out in the RapCA reports informs policy discussions and decision-making processes among communities in demonstration sites and introduce or raise awareness of the R2R concept.    RapCA reports have been prepared for Samoa, Solomon Islands, PNG and Vanuatu. Planning for further RapCA work has been completed in this reporting period and will commence in quarter 4 of 2019 and early 2020 for Kiribati, Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Cook islands.    Results of the Vanuatu assessment have been presented to the Vanuatu stakeholders for feedback. Next steps are as may be agreed by these four countries, planning and coordinating activities for the preparation of the diagnostic report, SoC and SAP. As anticipated under Outcome 1, national STAR project information is needed to proceed with production of IDAs, SoCs and SAPs.    A major activity currently underway is development of spatial prioritisation procedures and modelling. Along with baselines collected and RapCA reports, this modelling tool adds value towards identifying and prioritising areas for future R2R upscaling investments.    Refining survey sampling design and process for remaining countries is underway to streamline activities and harness appropriate levels of data for related outputs (prioritisation models, Diagnostic Reports and SoC Reports) and collaborative planning is underway for RapCA baseline collection and diagnostic analyses for Kiribati, Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Cook Islands.    As recommended by the Mid-Term Review (MTR), SPC is re-assessing and revising the IDA/ SoC strategy (theory of change) for the consideration of the RPSTC and RPSC in their upcoming meetings.    The application of the full cycle technical/ methodological continuum by country will consider the capacity and willingness of the national projects to support the effort, their sub-regional representation and their geophysical characteristics. |
| 1.1.2 Stress reduction and water, environmental and socioeconomic status indicators  • Municipal waste pollution reduction (N kg/yr)  • Pollution reduction to aquifers (kg/ha/yr)  • Area of restored habitat (ha)  • Area of conserved/protected wetland  • Area of catchment under improved management (ha)  • Number of people engaged in alternative livelihoods  • Status of mechanisms for PM&E  • Number and quality of demonstration projects that have incorporated gender analysis as part of the community engagement plans | 1.1.2 Limited community and cross-sectoral participation in the planning of coordinated investments and stress reduction efforts in land, forest, water and coastal management in PICs.    (Baseline for water, environmental and social economic status indicators for municipal waste pollution, pollution to aquifers, areas of restored habitat, area of conserved/protected wetland, area of catchment under improved management, and number of people engaged in alternative livelihoods, will be obtained at project start.) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.1.2 14 national pilot projects test methods for catalyzing local community action, utilizing and providing best practice examples, and building institutional linkages for integrated land, forest, water and coastal management, and resulting in:  • Municipal waste pollution reduction of 5,775 kg N/yr (6 sites)  • Pollution reduction to aquifer of 23 kg N/ha/yr (2 sites)  • 6,838 ha of restored habitat (4 sites)  • 290 ha of conserved/protected wetland (2 sites)  • 25,860 ha of catchment under improved management (7 sites)  • 30 charcoal producers (40 % of total) engaged in alternative charcoal production activities  • Participatory monitoring and evaluation of environmental and socioeconomic status of coastal areas (9 sites)  • 14 national pilot projects demonstrate gender responsive implementation and results  • Direct national pilot project beneficiaries equitably shared | Off track  12 PICs are implementing their respective projects (except Fiji and Kiribati). Fiji will be implementing by end of quarter 3 with the appointment of their project manager.  Target stress reduction indicators are incrementally achieved in all of the active participating countries.  Training on Gender mainstreaming was carried out in 6 PICs (FSM, RMI, Palau, Solomon, Tuvalu, & Vanuatu)  The facts and figures for this indicator will be fully reported at the end of the project. | Off track  14 national projects are in various stages of testing methodologies that contributes to their respective stress reduction targets.    Refined survey sampling design and processes that encourage community participation and hands-on activities are underway to streamline the activities and harness appropriate level of data for the related outputs (Prioritisation Models, Diagnostic Reports and State of Coast Reports).    Review and updating of national logframes, indicators and corresponding end of project targets have been undertaken as an adaptive management measure to ensure relevance, and alignment with current national priorities and opportunities. The initial results of this review and updating exercise necessitates refinement of the end of project targets which were reported in the GEF tracking tool attached to the MTR.    The national projects will present their updated logframes and the corresponding multi-year costed workplans (MYCWP) at the Pre-RPSC workshop in July 2019 . These will guide finalization of the Regional IW R2R project workplan and budget.    An IW: LEARN twinning technology exchange has been in development during Q1-2 2019 with co-financing from GEF IW: LEARN. The exchange focuses on increasing the knowledge of governance arrangements for and operations of pig waste management. FSM, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Nauru and Cook Islands will "twin" with American Samoa's EPA to make site visits to piggery farmers using the dry litter waste management method. This is scheduled for Quarter 4 of 2019.    Baseline water quality assessment for Tuvalu was carried out and reported in Q3-4 of 2018. Subsequent training for water quality monitoring was carried out in Tuvalu with R2R program stakeholders in Q1 2019, in line with national IW and STAR project objectives.    Procurement of water quality monitoring equipment for Kiribati (and possibly Solomon Islands if requested) to meet project objectives is ongoing from Q2 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **National diagnostic analyses for ICM conducted for prioritizing and scaling-up key ICM/IWRM reforms and investments** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.2.1 By end of the project, number of diagnostic analyses conducted for priority coastal areas | 1.2.1 Choice of sites for GEF and other donor investment in natural resource and environmental management does not adequately represent the range of biological, environmental and socio-economic conditions in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.2.1 14 diagnostic analysis for ICM/IWRM and CCA investments conducted to inform priority areas for scaling-up in each of 14 participating PICs | On track.  IDA Draft Report written for Cook Islands, PNG and Palau.  Preliminary IDA workshops held in Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM. The remaining countries will be completed in mid-2019 | Off track  Some countries, particularly the low-lying atoll countries, have identified specific areas for replication and/ or upscaling using future investments. These countries require little diagnostic work to determine priority areas for replication. The diagnostic analyses towards priority areas stems from stakeholder consultations and local knowledge, RapCA results, past studies, and priority areas already identified by communities and government, following their long-term strategic development plans and policy frameworks.    Island Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) draft reports for Palau, Cook Islands and PNG are available. IDA workshops were carried out in FSM, Palau, Cook Islands, Samoa and Solomon Islands.    As mentioned in 1.1.1 the data generated and information gathered from both the IDA and RapCA will contribute to State of the Coasts reports, which are the basis for ICM/ IWRM and CCA investments.    SPC intends to implement the revised IDA/ SoC strategy (theory of change) to capture new opportunities for mainstreaming R2R in planning process and policies. If approved by the RPSTC and RPSC this work will commence with RPCU working with national project managers and national teams and consultants to undertake IDA workshops and prepare SoCs and SAPs in accordance to countries’ demands. Several countries have already indicated they prefer to work through existing processes such State of the Environment and other strategic planning reforms and policies, rather than undertaking IDAs/ SoCs.    The MTR recommends “up to 14 countries” and the RPCU plans to produce 6 (or more depending on country demand) in the remaining life of the project. |
| 1.2.2 Number and quality of ICM-IWRM investments incorporating baseline environmental state and socio-cultural information for the prioritization of investment sites | 1.2.2 Lack of a scientifically sound and objective procedure for the selection of locations for investment in integrated natural resource and environmental management in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.2.2 Up to 14 ICM-IWRM investments utilizing methodology and procedures for characterizing island coastal areas for ICM investment developed by the project | Off track.  No new progress since last report. | On track  Scoping discussion were held in Q4 2018 and Q1 2019 with SPC geospatial experts to finalise prioritisation procedure and a contract signed with a consultant in late Q2 2019 for completion of the work.    The consultant will present the conceptual model framework to RPSTC 4 in its upcoming meeting for review and approval for trialing.    Datasets for trialing the procedure in Vanuatu have been compiled, and enhanced survey sampling design for the Rapid Assessment of Priority Coastal Areas is underway to validate the prioritisation models. Development and trial of the procedure is scheduled for Q 3 2019 in Vanuatu, and possibly one other country as data becomes available. Engagement of a Geoinformatics Officer by IW R2R is suspended.    The means of verification for this indicator (output) refers to preparation of “Regional guidelines for characterising and prioritising coastal areas for ICM investment”. It is on this basis that SPC proposes to hold one regional ICM/ IWRM investment forum to present the above-mentioned regional guidelines, and demonstrate and train relevant practitioners and stakeholders in the use of the guidelines and application of the spatial prioritisation model in future R2R upscaling investments.    On request and agreement, it is expected that 6 countries will utilise the spatial prioritisation model for characterising island coastal areas for ICM investment.    The alternative is that countries use other conventional methodologies and procedures, making use of available data and information, local knowledge of specific areas of interest etc., and consultations to discuss and agree on priority areas. This method is appropriate for atoll countries where knowledge of hot-spots and biodiversity is well known and sometimes documented. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks established for strengthened ‘community to cabinet’ ICM/IWRM** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.3.1 Number of local leaders and local governments engagement/ participating in multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks | 1.3.1 Limited engagement of community-based governance mechanisms in national policy and planning | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.3.1 Institutional relationships between national and community-based governance structures strengthened and formalized through national “Ridge to Reef” Inter-Ministry Committees in 14 Pacific SIDS | Off track.  Rounding up the series of inception workshops are the ones in Tonga, FSM, Kiribati & RMI held during the first half of 2018. All inception workshops have now been completed. Representatives from the various sectors attended the workshops led by the PICs’ implementing agency.  The IMCs discuss R2R topics serving as an interim multi-stakeholder leader roundtable network. | Off track    Representatives of various stakeholders who participated in national inception meeting/ workshops have also been engaged in project implementation.    Communities and representatives from local governments have joined project steering committees (PSC), or Project Boards, or inter-ministry committees (IMCs in UNDP nomenclature). The intention has been to build on previous steering mechanisms under the IWRM project through revitalising (or establishing) of multi-stakeholder leader roundtable networks comprised of local leaders and local governments, aligning with the community to cabinet approach promoted by the project.    In some countries, such as RMI, traditional and elected leaders from atolls where project sites are located, are members of the joint R2R Board. In Kiribati, there are plans to use existing governance structures for R2R IW and STAR projects.    The MTR recommended refining this indicator to give emphasis to sustainable engagement. |
| 1.3.2 Number of forums held to discuss opportunities for agreements on private sector and donor participation in PIC sustainable development | 1.3.2 Low level mobilization of the private sector in environmental investment and planning in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.3.2 Up to 14 new national private-sector and donor partnership forums for investment planning in priority community-based ICM/IWRM actions | Off track/delay.  No new progress since last report.  Muri Lagoon Action Group engaged with Cook Islands, membership includes Tourism operators of Muri  There is a plan to hold a PPP forum by mid-2019. | To date, no private sector and donor partnership forums have been held.    In view of the very limited opportunity for convening 14 effective national investment forums, the project intends to convene a single regional investment forum for R2R investment opportunities and planning.    This approach is in line with the MTR recommendation for stimulating private sector investments. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **National and local capacity for ICM and IWRM implementation built to enable best practice in integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and CC adaptation** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.1.1 Number of PIC-based personnel with post-graduate training in R2R management. \*Data will be gender disaggregated | 2.1.1 Zero R2R post-graduate training courses available specific to the Pacific Region. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.1.1 At least 10 people with post-graduate training in R2R management. \*At least 5 people will be women  At least 3 innovative post-graduate training programs for the Pacific Region in ICM/IWRM and related CC adaptation delivered for project managers and participating stakeholders through partnership of internationally recognized educational institutes and technical support and mentoring program with results documented | On track.  Ongoing implementation of the Post Graduate Certificate in R2R Sustainable Development with James Cook University (JCU), with 44 enrollees (EV5960 – Project Management) out of the 51 in previous course (EV5961-Ecosystem Dynamics).  20 out of 44 are women. | On track    Thirty-one 31 students are expected to complete the Post Graduate Certificate (PGC) with James Cook University. Certificate of attendance will be awarded during the RPSC 4 week, while graduation certificates will be issued at the University’s usual graduation in May 2020, which graduates may also attend.    In addition, the project provided inputs into the curriculum for unit EV5963 R2R Tools, to align with national project environmental monitoring deliverables. |
| 2.1.2 Number of community stakeholders (i.e. catchment management committees, CSOs, etc) engaged in R2R planning and CC adaptation activities | 2.1.2 Limited national and local capacity for ICM and IWRM implementation constrains achievement of best practice in integrated management in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.1.2 At least 14 community stakeholder groups (ie. Catchment management committees, CSOs, etc) engaged in R2R planning and CC adaptation activities.  \*Number of trainings (including training on integrating gender into community level R2R and CC planning and implementation) conducted to build capacity for civil society and community organization participating in ICM/IWRM and CC adaptation strengthened through direct involvement in implementation of demo activities with results documented | On track.  No new update on this indicator. | On track    Pursuing community to cabinet approach, the 14 national projects have established and/ or revitalised multi-stakeholder roundtable networks comprising local leaders, local governments and representatives from various sectors and organisations. These networks meet at least once annually, to discuss the status of the national project milestone, outputs and activities including the results of testing various stress reduction measures. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 5**  **Incentive structures for retention of local ‘Ridge to Reef’ expertise and inter-governmental dialogue on human resource needs for ICM/IWRM initiated** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.2.1 Number of R2R personnel for which functional competencies are benchmarked, tracked and analyzed  Number of studies completed identifying the national human capacity needs for R2R (ICM/IWRM) implementation and benchmarking/ tracking competencies of national and local government units for R2R implementation  Number of capacity building support secured with results documented | 2.2.1 Required functional competencies of national and local personnel for environment and natural resource management in PIC contexts undefined and untracked | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.2.1 Up to 14 R2R personnel identified, with functional competencies are benchmarked, tracked and analysed.  At least one study completed identifying national human capacity needs for R2R (ICM/IWRM) implementation and benchmarking/ tracking competencies of national and local government units for R2R implementation. Based on the study, at least 14 capacity building support provided with results documented. | Off track/delay.  Of the 44 currently enrolled in the JCU PGC, 15 are R2R project personnel, while 29 number are employees of the government agency with the tasks of managing and implementing programs and projects. | Off track    The MTR recommended refining this indicator as it was found to be ambiguous and its intention unclear. Hence, the project proposes that this indicator focus on the conduct of a study that identify national human capacity needs for R2R. SPC may engage a capacity-building consultant for this task.    The results of the study will be made available to national agencies as basis for capacity building support.    The project is cognizant that fulfilling output 2.2.1 will not fully achieve outcome 5. This observation is shared by the MTR and SPC, acknowledging the requirement/s for achieving outcome 5 is beyond the project’s capacity and scope. See also proposed action for output 2.2.2. |
| 2.2.2 Number of recommendations on practitioner retention internalized at national and local government levels | 2.2.2 Retention of skilled and experienced practitioners in environment and natural resource management low, particularly in project-based investments, including limited dialogue on human capacity needs for cross-sectoral | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.2.2 At least 1 regional report with recommendations for R2R practitioner retention at national and local government levels completed. The report will analyse existing Public Service Commission salary scales and required functional competencies of key R2R (ICM/IWRM) personnel; appropriate guidelines and incentive structures for retention of local R2R expertise proposed. | No new update on this indicator since last report. This planned for quarter 3 2019. | Off track  The MTR recommended deleting this indicator because achieving this is beyond the ability of the project. The MTR also notes that the project’s objective is to mainstream R2R and therefore build R2R capacity across all government levels and not to centralize such capacity in individual “R2R” practitioners. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 6**  **National and regional strategic action framework for ICM/IWRM endorsed nationally and regionally** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 3.1.1 Number of sectoral governance framework harmonised and strengthened through national and regional development frameworks | 3.1.1 Constrained and inadequate sectoral planning and investment of natural and social systems in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.1.1 National recommendations for 14 PICs for coastal policy, legal and budgetary reforms for ICM/IWRM for integration of land, water, forest, coastal management and CC adaptation compiled and documented with options for harmonization of governance frameworks | No activity.No new update on this indicator since last report. | Off track    SPC agrees with the MTR recommendation to refine the indicator, making it more explicit refer to incorporating R2R as a strategy for harmonizing and strengthening governance frameworks.    This work will be underpinned by ongoing development of a regional R2R environmental and socio-economic information database with SPC-GEM.    SPC notes that achieving actual harmonisation is beyond the project scope as this encroaches on national policymaking processes. Nonetheless, monitoring reforms and mainstreaming R2R in domestic budgets, policies and legislations can be tracked over time. Several countries are already strengthening and improving domestic planning frameworks that reflects R2R best practice, and upscaling R2R investments supported by other external funding supports is already occurring in some countries.    For instance, the EU funded bio-gas project for some islands in Tuvalu stems from the successes and gains of the IWRM/ICM R2R dry-litter technology tested in Tuvalu. |
| 3.1.2 Inter-ministerial agreements and strategic action framework for 14 PICs developed and submitted for endorsement on integration of land, water, forest and coastal management and capacity building in development of national ICM/IWRM reforms and investment plans | 3.1.2 Lack of r national and regional policy and plans to support the mainstreaming of R2R approaches in development planning | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.1.2 Agreements and strategic action frameworks for the 14 PICs endorsed by leaders | Off track.  Awaiting the results of assessments (i.e. IDA and RAPCA) | Off track    The technical document that informs the formulation of Strategic Action Frameworks (SAF) is available. A SAF is one of the elements under the R2R mainstreaming “theory of change (ToC) strategy. The ToC that underpins the national science to policy work and mainstreaming of R2R in countries was prepared in Q2 2019 and will be presented at the RSTC meeting in July 2019.    Noting the delay, the MTR recommended refining this indicator with the primary intention of integrating R2R into existing inter-ministry agreements and/ or strategic action plans. Specifically, the MTR reformulated the indicator to read “at least one relevant agreement and/ or SAF that incorporates R2R endorsed by leaders in each of the 14 countries”. |
| 3.1.3 Number of demonstrable use of national ‘State of the Coasts’ or ‘State of the Islands’ reports in national and regional action planning for R2R investment | 3.1.3 Limited application of evidence-based approaches in PICs national development planning in the areas of: freshwater use and sanitation; wastewater treatment and pollution control; land use and forestry practices; balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation; hazard risk reduction; and climate variability and change' | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.1.3 National ‘State of the Coasts’ or ‘State of the Islands’ reports for 14 PICs completed and launched to Pacific Leaders during National Coastal Summits (Yr 3) in coordination with national R2R projects and demonstrated as national development planning tool, including guidelines for diagnostic analyses of coastal areas | Off track.  No new update of this indicator. Awaiting the results of IDA and RAPCA, which are inputs for the SoC/SoI. | Off track    On-going activity and dependent on the completion of diagnostic work (IDA). See status of indicator 1.2.1. Expected to start in the third Quarter of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 7**  **Coordinated approaches for R2R integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and CC adaptation achieved in 14 PICs** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 3.2.1 Number of networks of national R2R pilot project inter-ministerial committees formed and linked to existing national IWRM committees | 3.2.1 National IWRM task forces and local coordinating committees in 12 countries and a need exists for strengthened coordination of IWRM plan implementation within broader R2R frameworks | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.2.1Up to14 national networks of R2R (ICM/IWRM) national pilot project inter-ministry committees formed by building on existing IWRM committees and contributing to a common results framework at the project and program levels | On track.  Except Kiribati, 13 PICs have their IMC established and functional/Achieved  Highlighted in this report is that both STAR and IW have Joint IMCs in the 7 PICs namely: Cook, FSM, Fiji, RMI, Samoa, Palau and Tuvalu. | On track    Joint Inter-Ministry Committees (IMC) for both STAR and IW have been promoted through the project (reference: MOA between SPC and Pacific Islands Countries). To date, four (4) countries (Fiji, FSM, Palau and RMI) have joint IMCs. Five (5) countries have IMC solely for IW while the remaining five countries are still in development.    The reported data differs from the previous report due to misunderstanding as regards the nature, status and functionality of IMCs. See notes of the MTR on IMCs. The national project managers are mainly responsible for keeping records of IMC composition and functions. |
| 3.2.2 Number of people participating in inter-ministry committee (IMC) meetings conducted including scope and uptake of joint management and planning decisions \*Participation data to be disaggregated by gender | 3.2.2 Limited number and variety of stakeholders participating in national coordinating bodies to ensure community to Cabinet planning of investment in sustainable development of PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.2.2 The number and variety of stakeholders participating in periodic IMC meetings in 14 PICS are doubled, with meeting results documented, participation data assembled and reported to national decision-makers and regional forums  \*50% of participants will be women, youth, and/or from vulnerable groups | On track.  As mentioned in 3.2.1, only Kiribati still needed to establish its IMC. Contrary to what has been stated in the indicator, the project shall advocate for a functional IMC with multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary membership including representatives from LGUs, community-based organizations, NGOs, private sector, etc. | On track    SPC considers that IMCs are in effect Project Boards/ Project Steering Committees. There is thus limited opportunity to vary the number or composition. SPC also acknowledges the MTR’s concern for wider inclusion and believes this can be achieved through participatory community engagement aligned to the community to cabinet approach. See also indicator 2.1.2. |
| 3.2.3 Number of networks established between community leaders and local government from pilot projects | 3.2.3 Limited exchange between communities on best practices in environment and natural resource management | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.2.3 Community leaders and local government create at least 14 networks via national and regional round-table meetings complemented by community tech exchange visits | Off track.  The planned community tech exchange visits did not materialize. Upon further investigation, it wasn’t feasible as there was no functional piggery in RMI but alternative technical visits are planned. | Off track    RPCU has planned for a technical exchange that will provide exposure to a long-term, successful, operational and coordinated approach to pig waste management. This activity is scheduled for September 2019. |
| 3.2.4 Number of inter-ministry committee members meeting within the 4 pilot PICs that is engaged in learning and change in perception through participatory techniques  \*Participation data to be disaggregated by gender | 3.3.4 Limited learning on effectiveness of investments in country-driven approaches to development assistance in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 3.2.4 At least 20 ICM members total from the 4 pilot PICs (sub-regional, mix of high island, atoll settings) gauge in learning, leading to change in perception through participatory techniques.  \*50% of participants will be women, youth, and/or from vulnerable groups | On track.  A one-day MSC Technique training was held in Tonga with 18 participants from STAR and IW projects.  During the cluster meetings in November and December 2017, and the recruitment of the new project managers, the MSC technique was again presented. During these meetings, four countries volunteered to apply the MSC technique nationally (Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu). This indicator be fully reported at the end of the project. | On track    Inaugural 1-day MSC workshop will be held in the margin of RPSC 4. National projects will apply the MSC technique by collecting and sharing MSC stories. RPCU prepared the MSC Overview and Guide, and Story Collection Guide. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 8**  **National and regional formulation and adoption of integrated and simplified results frameworks for integrated multi-focal projects** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 4.1.1 Number and quality of national and regional indicator set with the proposed targets and outcomes of the R2R program | 4.1.1 Calls from Pacific leaders for strengthened emphasis on results in the planning and financing of development in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.1.1 1 simple and integrated national and regional reporting templates developed based on national indicator sets and regional framework to facilitate annual results reporting and monitoring from 14 PICs | On track.  CCMEA recruited in November 2017  Various planning and reporting templates were developed (such as the Annual Progress Reporting, Mid-Term Report, and Results-Oriented Planning Tool (multi-year costed workplan). | On track    RPCU continued disseminating and advocating for the use or application of various planning and reporting templates and tools. Linking planning, implementation and reporting following a results-based management approach is key to effective and efficient use of development funds.    Two of the Pacific island countries (Palau for the GEF 6 project workplan, and Nauru for their Nauru Integrated Environment Policy) have indicated interest in using the R2R MYCWP template. |
| 4.1.2 Level of acceptance of the harmonized results tracking approach by the GEF, its agencies and participating countries | 4.1.2 Lack of results tracking and reporting approach tested via GEF Pac IWRM project, including training of a cadre of national WatSan sector staff | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.1.2 1 unified/harmonized multi-focal area results tracking approach and analytical tool developed, endorsed, and proposed to the GEF, its agencies and participating countries | On track.  With the focus of harmonizing results reporting along the GEF Focal Areas, a simple Harmonized Results Reporting (HRR) template and corresponding guidance document was prepared, and will be presented to the RSTC and the RPSC3. | On track    Both RSTC and RPSC approved the implementation of the Harmonised Results Reporting (HRR) tool. To ensure its full utilisation, the GEF implementing agencies may promote the use of the tool by the child projects of the GEF Pacific R2R program.    Complementing this tool is the GEF Pacific R2R Programme dashboard for visualising financial and technical information. Once the data are supplied by the child projects under the GEF Pacific R2R Programme, the dashboard has the capability to graphically display the results of the GEF investments according to GEF focal areas. |
| 4.1.3 Number of National planning exercises in 14 Pac SIDS conducted with participants from relevant ministries with a mandate to embedding R2R results frameworks into national systems for reporting, monitoring and budgeting | 4.1.3 An increasingly large myriad of national level reporting requirements for natural resource and environment agencies constrains the timely and accurate reporting of results of development assistance in PICs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.1.3 Up to 14 national planning exercises in 14 Pac SIDS conducted with participants from relevant ministries with a mandate to embed R2R results frameworks into national systems for reporting, monitoring and budgeting | On track.  Request from UNDP STAR projects for orientation and/or training on Results Based Management was supported. The importance of linking planning-monitoring and reporting results were highlighted during the orientation/ training sessions. | On track    In October 2018, responding to the request of the Director of Environment, Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment or DCIE, the RPCU held a workshop to apply the MYCWP for the Nauru Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP). There were 13 participants from various departments and divisions, including the DCIE. The preliminary output of the workshop is a NIEP operational plan using the MYCWP template.    As previously reported, project advocacy for these planning, monitoring and reporting tools may see them adopted in national processes, but ensuring take-up is beyond the scope of the present project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 9**  **National and regional platforms for managing information and sharing of best practices and lessons learned in R2R established** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 4.2.1 Regional communications strategy developed and number of partnership with media and educational organizations | 4.2.1 Absence of public-private partnership in support of communicating benefits of IWRM initiated via GEF Pac IWRM project | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.2.1 Regional ‘ridge to reef’ communications strategy developed and implemented and assistance provided to national R2R project including at least 10 partnerships with national and regional media and educational organizations | On track.  The communication strategy and guide to developing national communications plans supports both STAR and IW projects in designing/formulating their respective communication plans and implementation. | On track    As previously reported, the communications strategy and guide to developing national communications plans are in place. RPCU also held a communications capacity-building workshop for R2R project managers at the 3rd RSC Meeting.    Below are links to the outcome of the Third RSC Meeting in Townsville:  https://twitter.com/i/status/1024485052153905154  https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2018/08/capacity-building-and-coordination-highlighted-at-third-pacific-ridge-to-reef  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\_if-uA-neY&t=13s  3rd Inter-Regional SIDS Meeting for SAMOA Pathway MTR in Apia - GEF side (October, 2018) 25 years of GEF SIDS support, Experiences and Emerging lessons from GEF Pacific R2R programmatic implementation. Joined by GEF and Samoa SGP recipient.  IW R2R national demonstrations project manager’s induction and coaching session in May 2019 for 5 project managers, including – communications and knowledge management planning and implementation.  The MTR has made recommendations to strengthen the communications strategy and implementation, and a paper will be presented to the RSTC on these enhancements. |
| 4.2.2 Number of IW:LEARN experience notes published | 4.2.2 Limited regional and global sharing of information on best practice and lessons learned from the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.2.2 Participation in IW:LEARN activities: conferences; preparation of at least 10 experience notes and inter-linked websites with combined allocation of 1% of GEF grant | On track.  Participated in the IW Learn events that were held in Cape Town (Nov-Dec. 2017) and in Bangkok (April-May 2018).  At least 3 experience notes published by IWC 2018. | On track    RPCU coordinated the attendance of 3 participants to the International Waters Conference (IWC) in Marrakech in November 2018 as part of a Pacific R2R Programme panel presentation. Two draft experience notes (Tuvalu and Vanuatu) had been submitted to RPCU as the basis of participation.    As a result of the IWC presentation, a twinning proposal was developed by the Caribbean IWEco Project inviting the Pacific IW R2R Regional Project CKMA to present similarly at their 3rd IWEco Steering Committee meeting in April 2019. The Technical and Monitoring Officer of the IWEco will participate at the Pacific R2R 4th Regional Steering Committee and a joint experience note will be drafted and published.  -Technical brief and guide – Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation    GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange Resource Network (IWLEARN) and GEF Large Marine Ecosystem: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (LMELEARN) Twinning Exchange With University of New South Wales and Pacific Ridge to Reef Regional International Waters Project |
| 4.2.3 Number of users, volume of content accessed, and online visibility of the ‘Pacific R2R Network’ | 4.2.3 Need for media platforms and targeted communications in support of efforts to harness support for inter-ministerial coordination and policy and planning elements of the R2R program | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4.2.3 Pacific R2R Network established with at least 100 users registered, online regional and national portals containing among others, databases, rosters of national and regional experts and practitioners on R2R, register of national and regional projects, repository for best practice R2R technologies, lessons learned etc. | On track.  The R2R Website that was previously established is undergoing enhancement to ensure its optimum functionality. Negotiation is ongoing with a service provider and a proposal submitted to RPCU in October 2017.  Included here the weblink to the current website and R2R Network.  https://pacific-r2r.org/ | Off track    The procurement process was initiated in September 2018, through an open Request for Proposals, administered by the SPC Procurement Unit. The RFP attracted only one bidder and the price exceeded the notional budget significantly so the procurement stalled. R2R has since been advised to negotiate with a preferred SPC supplier. Technical discussions with the supplier were ongoing at the end of the reporting period. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 10**  **Effective program coordination of national and regional R2R projects** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 5.1.1 Program coordination unit recruited and staff retained | 5.1.1 No coordination unit and full time personnel established | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5.1.1 Functioning overall R2R program coordination unit with alignment of development worker positions contributing to coordinated effort among national R2R projects (Year 1) | Off track.  The project suffered several setbacks with the resignation of the Regional Program Coordinator. CKMA was Officer-in-Charge of Regional Project and RPCU with no reliever for the CKMA function as it was uncertain of the return of the RPC  CCMEA was hired in Nov. 2017.  A consultant was also commissioned to act as interim PSL.  Since May 2018, the Director of GEM-SPC acted as the interim Regional Program Coordinator. | On track    Immediately following RPSC 3, the GEM Deputy Director served as the Regional Programme Coordinator.    As of February 1, 2019, RPCU has had a full staff complement with the engagement of the Regional Program Coordinator and the Science and National Project Leader. |
| 5.1.2 Number of requests for regional-level support to national project delivery and management met by program coordination unit | 5.1.2 Limited national level experience and capacity in delivery of large integrated natural resource and environment projects and programs | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5.1.2 Technical, operational, reporting and monitoring Unit is operational to provide support to national R2R projects, as may be requested by PICs, to facilitate timely delivery of overall program goals. At least 14 requests per year are met effectively. | On track.  RPCU provided technical and management support to the 12 PICs in reviewing their quarterly and annual plans and progress reports. | On track    From August 2018 to June 2019,  / on site) technical and management advice to national project managers, agency focal points and supervisors. In limited cases, RPCU staff also met with STAR project coordinators to discuss opportunities for collaborative implementation and joint advocacy for mainstreaming of R2R in national planning and policies.    In addition to the country visits, an induction for new project managers and coaching session for selected national projects facing significant implementation delays was held in Suva on May 27-31, 2019. This included Nauru, Kiribati, RMI, Niue, and Tonga. The 5-day session resulted in national managers gaining a better understanding of the GEF Pacific R2R Programme, the Regional IW R2R project, its various technical and management requirements, including refined national logframes, end of project targets and corresponding MYCWPs. |
| 5.1.3 Number of R2R staff trained resulting in effective results reporting and online information sharing | 5.1.3 Low-level familiarity with GEF minimum standards for results-based management, monitoring and evaluation, and financial and progress reporting requirements of GEF and its implementing agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5.1.3 At least 14 R2R staff are trained (in harmonized reporting and monitoring and other regional and national and capacity building modules, among others) resulting in effective results reporting and online information sharing. | On track.  As mentioned in 4.1.3, RBM training conducted for both STAR and IW highlighting the importance of linking planning-implementation-monitoring and reporting. | On track    A pre-RPSC meeting/ workshop was held in Townsville. One of the workshop objectives was to revisit the rationale for the GEF Pacific R2R Programme, and the programmatic approach to implementation. STAR coordinators and IW project managers together with the national agency representatives and GEF focal points participated. It was also during this meeting that the HRR was presented together with the other planning and reporting tools. See also status of indicator 4.2.1 (on communications capacity-building workshop).    Overall, the interactions among child projects of the GEF Pacific R2R Programme are limited and remained a challenge for SPC. As mentioned in previous reports, full programming requires support from all GEF implementing agencies through the RPCG and should feature in the agenda of all project board or project steering committee meetings. SPC takes every opportunity to encourage programmatic implementation to promote in-country collaboration at the minimum between national IW R2R project and STAR project.    SPC also needs to be informed or consulted on any planned reviews or evaluations of the child projects. ToR for national STAR project reviews/ evaluation should at a minimum indicate or refer to the GEF Pacific R2R Programme and note the need to consult with SPC.    SPC continues to advocate for the establishment of joint Project Boards/ Inter Ministry Committees or, or Project Steering Committees, whenever feasible. To date, only four countries have established joint steering/ governance bodies at the national level: Fiji, FSM, Palau, and RMI. The first PSC meeting in Solomon Islands yielded no decision on whether the Solomon STAR project will agree to a joint board/ IMC. Such joint boards will provide platforms for programmatic implementation through joint planning and reporting. |
| 5.1.4 Volume and quality of information and data contributed by program stakeholders to online repositories | 5.1.4 Existing GEF IWRM interactive website with a cadre of national project stakeholders trained in its operation | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5.1.4 At least 4 quality information and/or data contributed/ updated per year (total of at last 16 throughout the project) to the online repository, as a result of support provided to PICs for the development and operation of the Pacific R2R Network and regional with national R2R web pages as a repository of information, documentation and for sharing best practices | On track.  Consolidation of available Programme information and communications products into the website conducted.  Continuing environmental management database system with consultant led workshop in February and ongoing with SPC. | Off track  No new progress since last report. See also indicator 4.2.3 (RFP on website development |
| 5.1.5 Number of planning and coordination workshops conducted for national projects teams to ensure timeliness and cost-effectiveness of IW pilot project and STAR project coordination, delivery and reporting | 5.1.5 Limited sub-regional and regional coordination and planning workshops conducted in association with inter-governmental meetings for cost efficiency purposes | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5.1.5 At least 4 (1 per year) planning and coordination workshops conducted for national project teams in the Pacific R2R network | On track.  Further to the usual technical and management backstopping support to the PICs, the RPCU also held cluster meetings in November and December 2017, aimed to support the project managers in their respective tasks.  RPCU staff provides technical support to UNDP projects (STAR project managers and coordinators) by acting as resource person in planning and management meetings, orientation, and workshops. | On track    A Results-Based Monitoring (RBM) System for the GEF Pacific R2R program was produced during this reporting period. A copy of this document was made available to the Midterm Review mission.    RPCU held an internal reflection workshop from December 3-5, 2018. The workshop aimed to take-stock of the project implementation in preparation for the independent midterm review (MTR) of the project. UNDP participated and provided guidance to RPCU.  From May 27-31, 2019, the RPCU also held an induction and coaching session for national project managers of Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, RMI, and Tonga (See also status of indicator 5.1.2).  During the margins of the RPSC week, RPCU will provide opportunities for identification of joint activities that will foster and enhance national level collaboration across STAR and IW R2R projects and programmatic implementation of the R2R Programme. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 43.85% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 43.85% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 4,524,525 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 300,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 10,317,454 |
| Co-financing | 87,708,160 |

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| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 20, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Apr 6, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Sep 1, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Apr 18, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 31, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | May 7, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jun 1, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Sep 1, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-07-29 |
| 2018-07-30 |
| 2018-07-31 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Strategic | Many R2R stakeholders have limited appreciation of the programming role of SPC’s RPCU in the GEF Pacific R2R Programme. This is evidenced in the very limited interaction and collaboration between national STAR and IW R2R projects and between STAR projects and the RPCU, and the limited data sharing that follows.  For SPC to effectively perform its mandated coordination function for the GEF Pacific R2R Programme it is critical that operational clarity on STAR/ IW interaction is established.  The GEF implementing agencies through the Regional Program Coordination Group (RPCG) must provide clear guidance to all child projects regarding data and information sharing and reporting so that they can report effectively to the RPCU. Refer to MTR recommendation number 13. |
| Operational | To achieve the expected outcomes of the Regional IW R2R project, it is important that national projects adhere to their commitment in terms of technical, financial and political support. National projects require competent project managers fully supported and guided by their respective agency heads.  Mainstreaming R2R in planning and policies requires active support and guidance by the national government agencies through the inter-ministry committees. It is critical too that agency heads supervise national projects and project staff effectively.  National logframes and corresponding multi-year costed workplans need to be considered and endorsed by agency heads and ultimately by national steering committees or IMCs to ensure ownership and alignment to national priorities. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| As previously reported, the project has experienced considerable implementation delay for several reasons, principally lengthy gaps in RPCU staffing, the inexperience of some national project managers, the loss of some others, and significant delays in implementation of some national projects.    The RPCU became fully staffed only in February 2019. Since that time the SPC has focused on providing concerted support for those national projects that are significantly behind in implementation, and in brining newly-appointed and/ or inexperienced national project managers up top speed |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Based on a long absence of a project manager and limited progress during this period, it was recommended that the Mid Term Review initially planned for 2018 was postponed to 2019. This was jointly discussed and agreed to by UNDP and SPC. Through informal discussions, SPC has indicated its intentions of applying for a no cost extension. It is anticipated that this requested will be made immediately following the regional steering committee meeting planned of 30 – 31 July. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| NA |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Since the last RPSC in July 2018, the project has made significant progress in catching up with implementation delays. RPCU staff made 11 country visits to, providing direct technical support and management advice to national projects.    In addition, during the reporting period, the RPCU has been involved in preparing for and supporting the conduct of a UNDP-commissioned mid-term review, and an independent financial audit. The recruitment of a new Regional Programme Coordinator Science and National Project Leader has provided the means to revisit project achievements and constraints and to develop measures for overcoming implementation delays.    RPCU also held a combined induction of new project managers and coaching sessions for managers of delayed national projects. These initiatives were aimed at addressing ongoing issues around project management skills and experience and familiarity with R2R project processes.    Regular and persistent follow-ups wit national projects were also made by the RPCU to ensure timely submission of national project planning and reporting obligations. These reports are vital for Regional IW R2R project planning and reporting, aligned with the bottoms-up implementation approach.    Gaining commitment to and action on programmatic implementation of the wider GEF Pacific R2R Programme remains a challenge. For instance, none of the GEF R2R child projects submitted the data required to report on results of GEF investments along with the GEF-5 indicators. Enabling properly programmatic delivery requires action by the respective implementing agencies (UNDP, UN Environment, and FAO) through the medium of the RPCG, noting that SPC has no authority over the STAR projects. Notably, with the exception of Fiji, FSM, RMI and Palau, there is little or no interactions between the national IW and STAR projects and between STAR projects and the RPCU. The RPCU has rarely been informed of or consulted on STAR mid-term reviews and terminal evaluations.  Finally, the SPC procurement process has challenged the timely implementation of activities under component 1 and 4. Appropriate measures have been undertaken to remedy the situation.    In conclusion, the MTR has fairly assessed the project’s performance, recognising the complexities of the issues and the constraints surrounding project implementation, and recommended critical measures, including but not limited to: refining project indicators, re-assessing the R2R mainstreaming strategy, and extending project duration. SPC welcomes the MTR recommendations and, in open discussion with UNDP, has agreed to implement them, as deemed appropriate and where feasible subject to endorsement of the 4th RPSC. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Since the last PIR reporting the Project has demonstrated progress but in relation to overall project targets this is incremental. Therefore, an overall rating of Marginally unsatisfactory is recommended. The efforts of senior management of Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Regional Program Coordination Unit is appreciated.    However, this has not reached the extent of being able to significantly improve achievements from previous year. Firstly, whilst SPC senior management have met with UNDP management on several occasions reaffirming their commitment, reality is such that Regional Project Coordination Unit was without a project manager for at least 7 months. For such a complicated project involving 14 national demonstration activities as well as regional components, the presence of a regional project manager daily would have been beneficial in terms of providing guidance and much needed decision making on a timely basis. SPC had appointed acting officers in charge for certain periods but decision making of a dedicated project manager was warranted, especially given the absence of a project manager for almost a year.    A Mid Term review was commissioned in first quarter of 2019 and report is close to finalization as feedback from UNDP, Regional Program Coordination Unit and National IWP Projects is being incorporated. The quality of draft report is good and therefore no significant changes is anticipated. Findings of the review in relation to the log frame note that under (a) component 1 indicators not on target to be achieved (b) component 2,2 indicators are off target where as 1 is on target (c) component 3 all 7 indicators are not on target to be achieved (d) component all 6 indicators are on target to be achieved. An indicator of key concern is 1.2.1. Currently draft Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) reports for Palau, Cooks Island and PNG are available but previous PIR reported as of 30 June (2018) identified these reports as available in draft form. One may infer that not much had progressed over the last year despite a technical consultant being hired by the project to superficially support compile these reports, which would provide information for State of Coastal Reports.    In spite of the limited progress to date, the Regional Program Coordination Unit has demonstrated efforts in some areas including a training on gender for FSM, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands as well as facilitating a self-assessment workshop in December 2018 i.e. prior to arrival of Program manager and science officer. There are factors beyond the control of Regional Program Coordination Unit such as level of willingness of National STAR project to collaborate/share information with National IW Projects in country, delayed recruitments of national IW managers (e.g. Fiji, Kiribati) and replacements following staff turn over which is at the dependent upon national government recruitment processes.    Financials: based on overall delivery to date and assuming that the 2019 Annual Spending Limit of USD 2328,715 is acquitted by December, the project is expected to have a balance of US 3,769,597.79 available for the last year of implementation in 2020. This will represent an anticipated financial delivery of 76.5% in 2019. The Regional Program Coordination Unit has advised UNDP of its intentions to seek an extension to the project and will need to base its request upon this estimated remaining balance. Whilst the financial results to date appear reasonable, for the reason explained earlier, this does not necessarily correspond with quality of technical results achieved to date.    The Regional Steering Committee Meeting of 30 – 31 July will provide an opportunity to reflect on findings Mid Term Review. Outcomes of discussions is crucial as this will provide an opportunity to reflect on progress, identify adaptive measures and opportunities to expedite progress. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The Regional R2R project’s 2018 overall development objectives (DO) rating is moderately unsatisfactory and the overall implementation progress (IP) rating, unsatisfactory. The key issues last year were from the delayed staff recruitment and retention. Thus, those hindrances affect the project delivery and activities. This is the 3rd PIR of the project. Both project manager and country officer rate the DO progress as ‘moderately unsatisfactory’, and the country office gives the IP rating as ‘moderately unsatisfactory’.    Considering the project’s ongoing challenges, I have allocated rating for progress towards development objectives (DO) rating of ‘MU’ and an implementation progress (IP) rating of ‘MU’. The ratings are based on these following observations:    DO Progress    The ProDoc had been signed in Aug 15 & the project will be ended in Sept. 2020. The budget for 2019 is $2,328,715. The expenditure in the first 2 quarters at $ 491,932, with the delivery 21% and the RPCU indicated accelerated implementation for the 3rd and 4th quarters that is expected to bring the delivery rate at over 75% in 2019. The cumulative delivery stood at 40.87% as of June 2019. For a project that is expected to end in just over a year, the total fund utilization of less than 50% would indicate that it is well behind schedule putting at risk the project’s ability to achieve its development objectives.    Much of this progress to date could be attributed to the staffing problems that have plagued the project for the past 2 years or so. The departure of the Regional Science Team Leader and the Regional Project Manager left a serious void which was not adequately addressed by SPC. Even the designation of the GEM division director as the interim RPM and the substantive inputs from the deputy director were insufficient to fill in the gap for the primary reason that both high-ranking SPC managers are already managing a huge portfolio. Progress has been made in this regard when a new RPM and STL were recruited and joined the project early in 2019. It is expected that project implementation will be accelerated in 2019 and beyond and that the chances of the project achieving its development objectives may be significantly enhanced.    For the reference period, I rate DO progress Moderately Unsatisfactory as the recent staff changes have yet to show significant acceleration of project activities. This rating mirrors the results of the independent MTR. Based on my technical assessment, of the 10 project outcomes, 7 are off-track with only 3 on-track.    The most important outcomes with respect to the objective of the project are those related to the objective: test the mainstreaming of ‘ridge-to-reef’ (R2R), climate resilient approaches to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in the PICs through strategic planning, capacity building and piloted local actions to sustain livelihoods and preserve ecosystem services. Foremost of these is Outcome 1 on successful pilot projects testing innovative solutions involving linking ICM, IWRM and climate change adaptation. As the Implementation Progress indicates, the project is way behind. More importantly, while there are positive prospects, it is not clear at this stage even with accelerated pace of implementation that this outcome and therefore the development objective could be fully achieved. This provides the basis for the MU rating.    Implementation Progress:    The RTA rates this project’s 2018 implementation progress as Moderately Unsatisfactory. Both project manager and country office rate implementation progress as ‘moderately unsatisfactory’, and the country office gives the IP rating as ‘moderately unsatisfactory’. The MTR report also indicate such rating.    While much is still to be desired in terms of catching up, the hiring of the RPM the STL in the beginning of 2019 is being met with expectations that the activities have accelerated from that time on. This contributed to the MU rating rather than an Unsatisfactory rating. The delivery for the first two quarters has reached 21% from the above table but is projected to reach over 75% by the end of the year.    The most notable progress achieved by the project is that 31 students are expected to complete the Post Graduate Certificate (PGC) with James Cook University. This is almost triple that the end of target goal, at least 10 people with post-graduate training in R2R management.  Full PIU staff are on board since Feb. 2019. With a full team, the RPCU will be able to provide technical support and advice to national project managers, agency focal points and the countries.    One of the challenges faced is the weak coordination between the national STAR projects and this regional project in the context of a programmatic approach. The need for closer collaboration at both the country and regional levels has been emphasized in various national and regional meetings and hammering the message repeatedly is expected to provide measurable results in the coming months. Moreover, between the GEF Agencies (UNDP, FAO and UNEP) the issue of programmatic collaboration has been discussed and there has been agreement through the RPCG to push this forward in respective national projects.    Recommendation/Adaptive management plan to improve performance and mitigate risks    The RTA together with key staff from UNDP Pacific Office held two sessions with the RPCU in the past 1.5 years to tackle the challenges faced by the project. It is noted that most of the recommendations of the MTR are aligned with the recommendations made by UNDP. These points are summarized below.  • First, the project should re-evaluate national project logframes & end-of-project targets because some indicators are ambiguous and outdated (not fit into current contexts). By updating /adjusting those indicators, it would improve the performance and accomplish targets within the project life. For example, the project should re-assess its strategies on Island Diagnostic Assessment (IDAs) and State of the Coasts (SoCs), then propose Theory of change and feasibility in the pacific contexts. The project should adopt a multi-year activities planning to gain a big picture and to stimulate implementation of overall activities.  • M & E system instead of being viewed as complicated and over workload for national project staff, given the small national budget . Besides, there are many variables among PICs reporting /gaps for submission  • Communications should be considered and integrated into project activities (e.g. IDA-SOC/R2R, mainstreaming plans etc.) since the beginning and be used to identify target audiences, influence the nature of data collected and indicators being used and improve the understanding of how constraints to R2R uptake can be reduced to increase the impact of the project on policy.  • Moreover, since the project has been structured with complex structures, such as, primary key stakeholders: 14 governments of the PICs and in-country R2R project & IW project managers). It is important that both top-down and bottom-up communication must be effective.  • The project considered to request for a no-cost extension during the recent RSC meeting. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| NA |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| As noted, based on the gender analyses conducted in six (6) countries, corresponding gender action plans were developed with the support of a gender specialist commissioned by SPC. The gender analyse provided guidance to national project managers in ensuring gender sensitiveness in the delivery of services to project clients. National project managers are routinely tracking participation of stakeholders by recording sex disaggregated data.  In the future, the project will conduct gender audits of all R2R guidelines and manuals produced in line with the MTR recommendation for ensuring gender responsiveness.    The project has produced the following documents:  - Gender mainstreaming strategy  - Gender mainstreaming toolkit  - Gender analyses for Palau, FSM, RMI, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu  These documents were made available for review by the Mid-term Review (MTR) mission.    Apart from the above measures, the project ensures that equal opportunities are accorded to men, women, children and elderly to participate in planning, implementation and decision making. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| No data/information can be reported.    In addition to providing equal opportunities to women in decision making at national and regional levels, it is noted that of the 31 remaining participants in the Post Graduate Certificate, there is a considerable number of women. These trained women will enhance |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| Apart from the risks mentioned by the MTR mission, no additional update can be provided. |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 5221-SESP Prodoc.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5221/213934/1717262/1723545/PIMS%205221-SESP%20Prodoc.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The R2R programme was developed to provide an opportunity for PacSIDS to develop and implement integrated approaches for the sustainable development of island economies and communities. The practical application of R2R principles present PacSIDS with a unique opportunity to:  Test, refine, replicate and upscale effective mainstreaming efforts of ICM/ IWRM/ SLM/ SFM concepts, practices and policies.    Build capacity of national professionals, new stakeholder groups and community leaders to plan and adopt integrated and participatory mechanisms to complement traditional measures and approaches.    Support livelihoods by the introduction of resilient measures through pilot demonstrations to reduce economic losses, increase farmer income and sustain drinking water supplies.    Improve public health through continued access to safe drinking water during droughts and reduction of sewage pollution of groundwater supplies and shellfish.    Story example:  Rapid Coastal Assessment in Vanuatu  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK2qs3JNopg&fbclid=IwAR2N1fSnjaSes2MJuWOjORHei\_chUjYZFVROsrSOCh2XliItIs7pFLOW8mM    IW R2R Water Quality Monitoring in Funafuti, Tuvalu  https://www.facebook.com/PacificR2RNetwork/videos/295758974588528/    Port Vila communities improve river health for better future  http://dailypost.vu/news/port-vila-communities-improve-river-health-for-better-future/article\_e8e77b5b-892b-581f-bf38-242f41246582.html?utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=twitter&utm\_campaign=user-share |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| 1. RPCU coordinated the attendance of three participants to the International Waters Conference in Marrakech in November 2018 as part of a Pacific R2R Programme panel presentation. Two draft experience notes (Tuvalu and Vanuatu) were submitted to RPCU as the basis of participation.  As a result of the IWC presentation, a twinning proposal was developed by the Caribbean IWEco Project inviting the Pacific IW R2R Regional Project CKMA to present similarly at their 3rd IWEco Steering Committee meeting in April 2019. The Technical and Monitoring Officer of the IWEco will participate at the Pacific R2R 4th Regional Steering Committee and a joint experience note will be drafted and published.    2. GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange Resource Network (IWLEARN) and GEF Large Marine Ecosystem: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (LMELEARN) Twinning Exchange With University of New South Wales and Pacific Ridge to Reef Regional International Waters Project. Innovative Pacific community-based coastal monitoring twinning exchange between UNSW Engineering and PacificR2R on Coastsnap - cost-effective beach and coastal process monitoring  https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=1&v=xDSsbJM4pUQ    3. Pacific IW R2R national demonstration – Fiji Project brochure    Project website: http://www.pacific-r2r.org/  Facebook Account: Pacific Ridge to Reef  Facebook Page: Pacific Ridge to Reef Programme  Twitter: @PacificR2R  Hashtag: #PacificR2R  Youtube: Pacific R2R https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56UU0mFm8LzhjnWUKue-Bw |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 5221 Regional R2R-IW-CEO Endorsement Request 13Feb2015.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5221/213934/1684817/1685098/PIMS%205221%20Regional%20R2R-IW-CEO%20Endorsement%20Request%2013Feb2015.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| A potential area for scrutiny but no data yet available. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.