



SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RTAG.5/2

Date: 14th July 2011

Original: English

Fourth Meeting of the Regional Technical Advisory Group
for the SOPAC/UNDP/UNEP/GEF Project:
*"Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater
Management in Pacific Island Countries"*

Rarotonga Island, Cook Islands, 25th July 2011

PROVISIONAL MEETING MINUTES REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (RTAG) 4TH MEETING

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome

The Regional Technical Advisory Group RTAG, met on the first evening of the 3rd GEF Pacific IWRM Project Regional Steering Committee Session at 6pm on Monday 25th July 2011 to consider the items tasked to them. The following provides a brief summary of discussions and recommendations to the Regional Steering Committee.

1.2 Attendees

Marc Wilson (GEF IWRM Project Manager)

Science and Technical Experts

Chris Paterson
David Duncan

Other Representatives

Leerenson Lee Ariens (public water utility representative)
Ulukalesi Tamata (USP - CROP Representative)
Ampai Harakunarak (UNEP)
Jose Erez Padilla (UNDP)
Sopoaga Sam Semisi (GEF IWRM Country representative)
Rhonda Robinson (EU IWRM Project)
Milika Sobey (IUCN – NGO Representative)

1.3 Apologies Ongoing

Peter Sinclair (Technical Expert)
Bruce Missingham (Technical Expert)
Marius-Adrian Oancea (EU)

1.4 Chair

In the absence of the RTAG Chair, nominations were sought from the floor. Dr Milika Sobey was nominated and elected Chair.

2 RTAG MEETING MINUTES

The Provisional minutes of the RTAG's 3rd Session were adopted unchanged.

3 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action	Lead	When	Status
1. PCU would present a draft version of the regional indicator framework at the RTAG meeting of the RSC	David Duncan	RSC3	RSC Agenda Item
2. Comments are to be provided on the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the framework to be presented to RSC for approval	David Duncan	RSC3	RSC Agenda Item

4 PROJECT INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

David Duncan presented document SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RTAG.4/4 "Project Indicator Framework", a guide for countries and the PCU on reporting against the project logframe targets. This guide was presented at RTAG3 with a request for comments to be provided back to the PCU. The comments received were tabled to the RTAG.

It was decided by RTAG that, given the complexity of the framework, RTAG would consider the recommended changes and make further comments directly to David Duncan, who would incorporate key changes for review at the RTAG meeting on the Thursday evening of RSC3. This would also provide an opportunity for any comments from the RSC to be incorporated before finalising the framework at RSC3.

5 REGIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

David Duncan presented document SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RTAG.4/5 "Regional Indicator Framework", to be presented to the RSC in session. It was highlighted by Mr Duncan that each country was likely to have different issues that were considered critical to IWRM; however there were also likely to be a group of key indicators that were reported in each country (albeit using different methods), including the MDGs for access to improved sanitation and drinking water sources and the diarrhoea statistics. It was suggested by Mr Duncan that these indicators were likely to be able to be broadly grouped and initial working categories were suggested as: health and wellbeing; environmental sustainability; human rights; governance, economic development and resilience. Socio-economic development was also suggested as a potential category in discussions. Mr Duncan proposed that the regional indicator framework would need to be flexible to incorporate very different indicators under broad themes.

Dr Ampai Harakunarak proposed that the indicators should be reviewed against the GEF indicator criteria and Dr Jose Padilla proposed that they also be reviewed against the Global Water Partnership criteria. RTAG agreed with this suggestion.

6 REGIONAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

David Duncan presented document SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RTAG.4/6 "Approach to water use efficiency in the Pacific". This presentation will look at the unique aspects of water use efficiency in the Pacific, and how they might appropriately be incorporated into national and regional planning and strategies.

In his presentation Mr Duncan highlighted the unique nature of Pacific island countries, and the significant differences between atolls and large volcanic islands within these countries. These differences included the large amount of available water within volcanic islands which can mean that leakage management may not be a cost-effective in some countries and water stressed atolls, where efficiency of water use is already high as people struggle with water availability below recognised limits for healthy living.

Mr Duncan also highlighted that whilst the Project Document recognised the need for distinct water use efficiency (WUE) strategies, WUE is an integral component of IWRM, and that the critical WUE

strategies needed for improved water management in the Pacific region are likely to be best delivered through incorporation into IWRM strategies, rather than through development of a distinct WUE strategy.

In response to these unique challenges Mr Duncan proposed that applicable WUE principles will be incorporated into national IWRM planning strategies rather than as specific separate strategies. He highlighted the need for WUE strategies to be developed in the context of improving social, economic and environmental values, which will differ at a local, catchment, island and national scale. He proposed that an analysis of WUE approaches applicable to the Pacific be undertaken, considering different drivers and needs of atolls with limited water resources and larger islands with more abundant resources, as well as considering both options for WUE in urban centralised systems and at a household level.

Mr Leerenson Lee Ariens highlighted the relevance of WUE to FSM where some specific country-relevant measures have been adopted. Dr Jose Padilla suggested that a targeted analysis of applicable WUE strategies and incorporation of these strategies into national IWRM strategies may provide a reasonable compromise given the complexity of targeting WUE strategies for Pacific island countries.

7 TECHNICAL REPLICATION

The RTAG agreed to defer the discussion on technical replication to the RTAG 5th Session to enable incorporation of issues raised during the RSC3 Session.

8 SUMMARY OF RTAG AGREEMENTS

The RTAG agreed that:

- Changes would be made to the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to incorporate RTAG comments and any RSC direction for consideration at RTAG5, to enable RSC approval of the framework at RSC3*
- PCU would present a draft version of the regional indicator framework to the RSC for consideration, incorporating a review of the framework against GEF and GWP criteria*
- A recommendation would be made to RSC that applicable WUE principles will be incorporated into national IWRM planning strategies rather than as specific separate strategies*
- A recommendation be made to RSC to recognise that WUE strategies need to be developed in the context of improving social, economic and environmental values, which will differ at a local, catchment, island and national scale*
- A recommendation be made to RSC to support an analysis of WUE approaches applicable to the Pacific be undertaken, considering different drivers and needs of atolls with limited water resources and larger islands with more abundant resources, as well as considering both options for WUE in urban centralised systems and at a household level*

9 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING