



# Rio Doce Panel – Annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Report 2022

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## Executive Summary

### i. Product design, delivery, and quality

In 2021 the RDP published Thematic Report 03 and Thematic Report 04. Both are publicly available, in Portuguese and English, on the Rio Doce Panel website.

In surveys done after the in-depth meetings of both Thematic Reports (TRs), all Renova Foundation (RF) respondents agreed that the studies are useful



## Introduction

This report presents the progress made by the Rio Doce Panel (RDP) in 2021 against the objectives and targets set up in the project result framework. The current MEL Strategy defines five result areas for the monitoring of RDP performance: i) Product design; ii) Product delivery and quality; iii) Outreach and uptake or recommendations; iv) Influence effects of RDP recommendations, and v) Knock-on effects.

The strategy also defines a set of tools to monitor predefined indicators for each of those result areas. The objective is to provide evidence to assess how the Rio Doce Panel is performing and help to respond to the key MEL questions:

Is the Panel informing and influencing target audiences in the way it anticipated? If not, then how?

Are the Panel and IUCN performing as expected in the planning phase?

What impact has the Panel had on how its audience undertake their core activities, and how lasting are these change likely to be?

Are there any unintended consequences of Panel actions?

What does the Panel know that could enhance other ISTAP-related processes?

In the first part of the report, we present the assessment of the indicators designed to evaluate the performance in the result areas. Part two discusses how those results can help respond to the MEL key questions and discuss MEL expectations for 2022.





attendees in the surveys. Nevertheless, the results can still give us elements to evaluate how the recommendations are received by the RDP's audience and their expectations about the implementation.

**Annex 2** shows the results of the Surveys. In general, respondents from Renova, the CIF and CBH Doce agree that the studies are of high quality and essential for the restoration process. Some other insights are:

- Renova teams generally agree with the quality and relevance of IP04.
- Regarding TR03: CIF members are less





The Twitter account shows less engagement, and the Communication team is evaluating the relevance of keeping the RDP account on this platform. Figure 2 shows the downloads of RDP knowledge products per year since 2018: a total of 12,611 downloads.

TR03 and TR04, launched in 2021, had 977 and 438 downloads, respectively (PT and EN versions). TR01 is the most downloaded study (around 8,000 total unique downloads, 1,563 only in 2021).

This fact reinforces the importance of TR01, which is also the most cited RDP paper in scientific articles and studies (see item *Citations of RDP work in scientific articles and technical studies* in Section 1.5).

Also, TR01 and IP04 are the basis of the new modality of the RDP work with Renova, which can explain the excellent download numbers even after 2-3 years of the studies' launches (2018 and 2019, respectively).

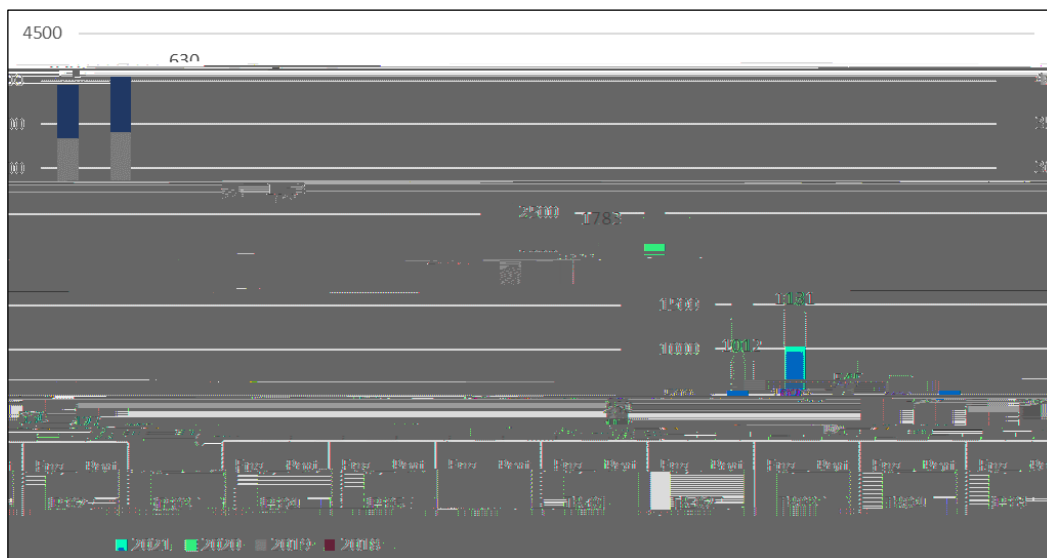


Figure 2. Total downloads of the RDP papers by year.



### *Engagement with stakeholders*

The RDP members participated in 20 meetings and presentations with external stakeholders in 2021, with more than 200 attendees. Three of the meetings were in person during the RDP 9<sup>th</sup> face-to-face meeting. Error! Reference source not found. Figure 4 shows the number of interactions with each group of stakeholders. Most of the meetings were with RF teams.

TR03 and TR04 were launched in private events to Renova teams. Additional presentations of TR03 were made to the CIF, to the Rio Doce Basin Committee, and in the Rio Doce Integrated Seminar event, promoted by Univalle University.

TR04 advanced release was also presented to the CIF, and the final report was presented to CBH Doce and Pró Rio-Doce and pró-Brumadinho Committees.

IUCN teams and RDP members also featured in international events to showcase the RDP experience and lessons learned in the process:

The work of the Panel (TR01 and IP04) was presented at the conference of the International MCID(d)-720nMCID(dc5(nM)-5(1f)21( )nR)

## 1.4. Uptake of RDP recommendations

### *Official feedback from Renova*

By the end of 2021, the RDP had made a total of thirty-three recommendations to Renova and other stakeholders as part of the five Issue Papers and four Thematic reports published since the beginning of RDP work.

After receiving each paper with recommendations, Renova is supposed to give formal feedback to the RDP using an agreed feedback form built jointly by RF technical teams and IUCN. The document allows for the categorisation of the



### *Evaluating implementation*

In 2021, the analysis on the state of implementation served as a basis for creating a framework for the Panel to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations. After several discussions to capture the main impressions from Panel members on the analysis, four main dimensions emerged as essential aspects to take into consideration:

- How aligned are the stakeholders' actions or behavioural changes with the RDP recommendation?
- Who acted? Was it the stakeholder directly addressed by the recommendation or another actor?
- About timing: did action occur in the timeframe expected by the Panel?
- What are the main reasons for gaps in implementation? Internal or external factors? Lack of integration of all relevant aspects? Lack of a strategic view?

These four main questions were piloted in 2021, using TR01's recommendation 1. An open-ended field allows the Panel to describe





knowledge log frame in 2021 to adjust some expectations and priorities following the reviewed ToC. Nevertheless, given the uncertainties about the modus operandi of the new modality and even about project continuation in 2022, this task was delayed. Although a review of the log frame would be beneficial, IUCN needs to decide if the efforts to review it are worthy as the Project enters its final phase.

## 2. Insights regarding MEL key questions and next steps for MEL

### 2.1. How can these results help to answer the MEL key questions?

- I. Is the Panel informing and influencing target audiences in the way it anticipated? If not, then how?

Renova Foundation is the main interlocutor of the Panel as defined by the Project's Theory of Change (ToC). As shown in Figure 4, the Panel has prioritised its interactions with this stakeholder.

Interactions with other stakeholders identified as of great importance in the ToC, as the CIF and the Rio Doce Basin Committee (CBH-Doce), could have been more frequent (only two interactions with each in 2021), especially thinking about their central role for the implementation of TR03 and TR04 recommendations.

Representants of these stakeholders attended papers' presentations, but more strong previous engagement (e.g., coordination meetings) could have favoured a higher perceived likelihood of implementation.

As a specific good result in outreach, we highlight the Panel's work as a reference to inform academic research about the Rio Doce Basin. Media has shown to be interested only in some subjects (e.g., climate change), and therefore it may be risky to concentrate efforts on divulgation through traditional media channels.

The RDP has had a crucial role in how Renova is tackling impact assessment, having a substantial contribution to building a science-based and systematic approach in the context of the project. Media has shown



only in the Rio Doce but in other similar contexts.

In previous years, we found that the work of the Panel had:

## Annexes

### Annex 1. Criteria used for themes selection from September 2020 on.

(After a reformulation suggested by the projects' Midterm review.)

2020 Review - "Themes selection indicators."

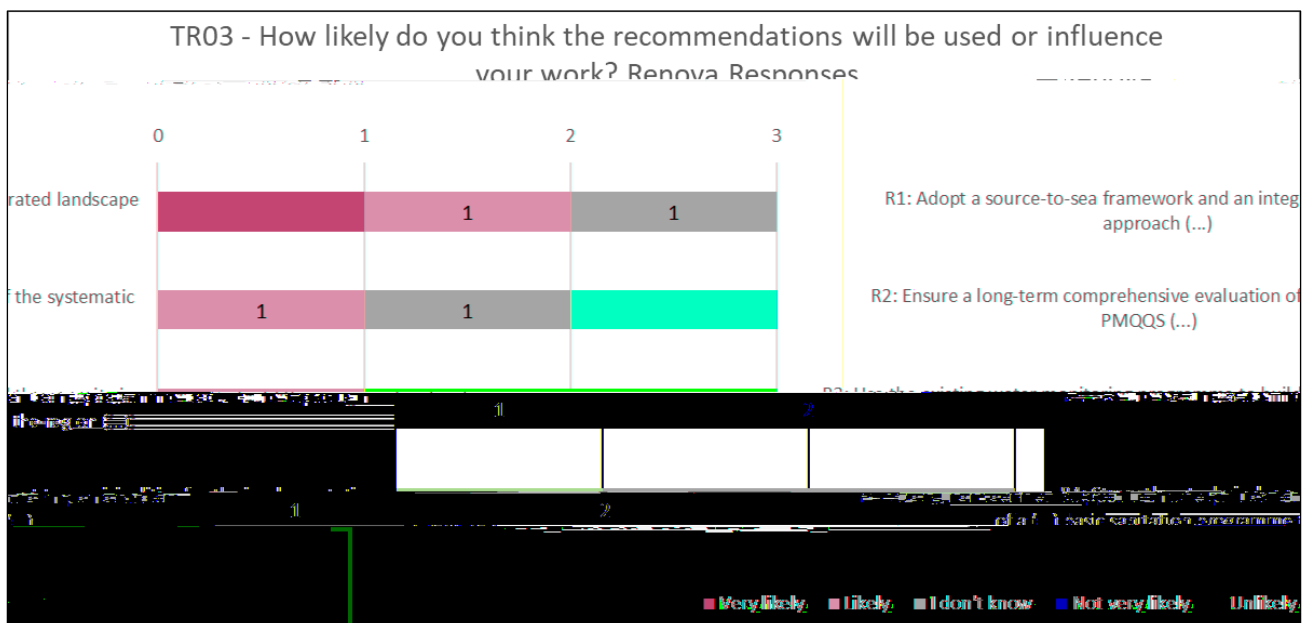
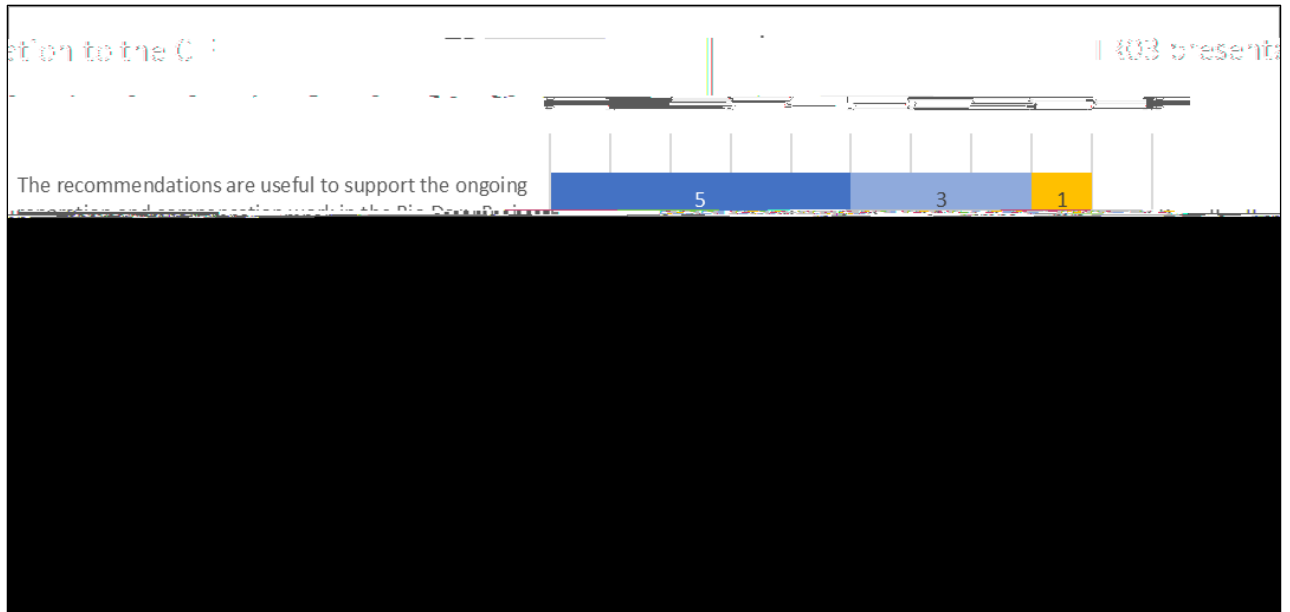
RDP is able to provide useful and informed scientific responses to the issue/theme. (YES is mandatory to ALL - 1 to 4)

1. Does the Panel have the expertise and capacity to lead the elaboration of the product?
2. Does the Panel have enough clarity about what will be the final product?
3. Is there publicly available technical and scientific information about the issue/theme to support the product construction?
4. Does the issue/theme align with the RDP's Terms of Reference and Scope?

Contribution to RDP vision<sup>8</sup> (

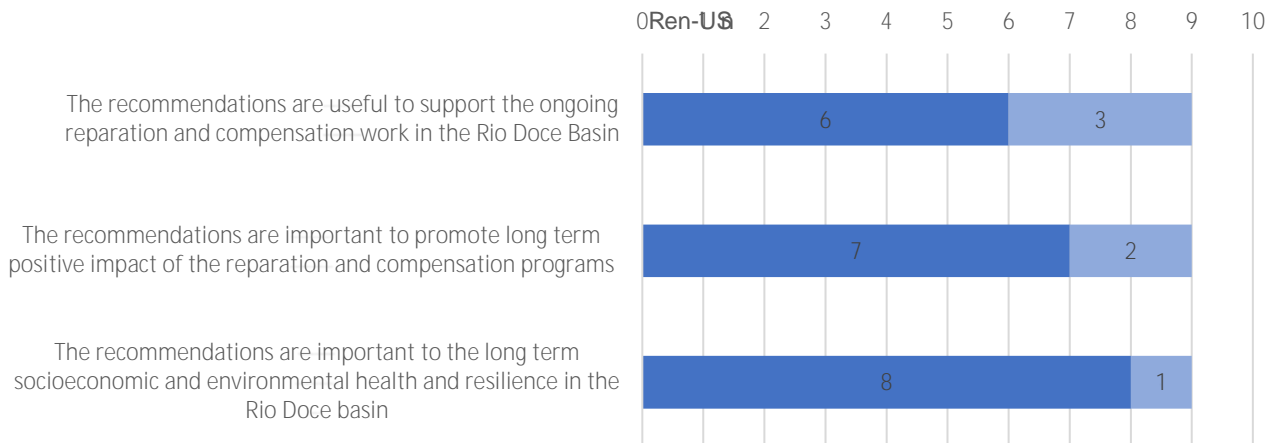
## Annex 2. Survey responses – stakeholders' evaluation of the presented recommendations.

The X-axis represents the number of respondents, and the Y-axis is the survey questions. For TR03, we present the responses disaggregated by stakeholders as there was a significant difference in evaluations.



Due to an error in the survey, Recommendation 5 was not shown to RF respondents.

TR04 - pres164thD9748 4/Image215 Do C1/6an A0t



Only one respondent from Pró-Rio Doce and Pró-Brumadinho Committee and two from CBH-Doce, so those responses were aggregated to those from Renova's teams.









High level governance /  
institutional relations

TR02R01;TR02R02;TR02R04;IP  
02R01



Ecosystem and Human Health  
TR02R03; IP05R01; IP02R02; IP03  
R01; IP05R03; TR03R01; TR03R02;  
TR03R03; TR03R04

- Monitoring/ Participative monitoring:
  - o Renova Foundation mentions a partnership with UNESCO to build capacity among local communities and municipal governments' staff on water monitoring since 2019. We found no information on the activities executed so far or other results. We found a few other examples of local communities involved in monitoring activities.
  - o The Juparanã lagoon is included in the overall RF monitoring programs (water and sediments; aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity). In addition, specific monitoring schemes for the lagoon were implemented in 2020 following a judicial decision.
  - o There is no evidence of local capacity building for integrative monitoring of impacts on human health or the environment.
- Nature-based solutions (NbS):
  - o There are examples of NbS use by RF in the Gualaxo do Norte river and rural areas, mainly upstream from Candonga.
  - o The reforestation program is reported to be an NbS that contributes to carbon sequestration.

- Monitoring/ Participative monitoring:
  - o We found no information on the activities executed or results obtained so far in the scope of the RF's partnership with UNESCO. We found very few other examples of local communities involved in monitoring activities.
- Nature-based solutions (NbS):
  - o NbS haven't been integrated or adopted as a priority in the reparation process.

Rio Pequeno Dam (Juparanã  
lake)

IP03R02; IP03R03

