



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZED

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEFTF

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for biodiversity conservation, and for the enhancement of ecosystem service and cultural heritage in Niue		
Country(ies):	Niue	GEF Project ID: ¹	5552
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5258
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environment (lead), DAFF, Education, Cultural Affairs, Public Works	Submission Date:	August 13, 2013
		Resubmission Date:	September 6, 2013
		Resubmission Date:	Jan 10, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-Focal Area	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities - Integrated Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihood	Agency Fee (\$):	377,538

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
BD 1	GEFTF	2,539,497	4,600,000
BD 2	GEFTF	1,500,000	4,880,000
IW-3	GEFTF	155,365	2,950,000
Total Project Cost		4,194,862	12,430,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: <i>To strengthen conservation and sustainable use of land, water and marine areas and their biodiversity by building on their cultural heritage values through integrated national and community actions</i>						
Project Component	TA / INV	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Financing (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: Catalyzing conservation initiatives at site and landscape / seascape level through Ridge to Reef Approach	TA	New community conservation and national protected areas established at different levels: - A single and continuous terrestrial conservation area covering 2,550 ha that links at least 7 traditionally strictly protected sites (Tapus, covering at least 300 ha) and their surrounding landscapes - A national marine protected area covering 4,500 ha (Beveridge Reef)	Output 1.1: Conservation and management plans developed, outlining the delineation of traditional strict protection zones (<i>Tapus</i>) as well as the sustainable use conservation areas around them, with resource inventories, plans, enforcement and monitoring mechanisms agreed upon and enforced. Management plans implemented for all conservation and protected areas to deliver on the specified outcomes and overall project objective through support to	GEF	2,495,000	4,975,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

		<p>- Community conserved reefs covering at least 112 ha</p> <p>Threats reduced and biodiversity status of conservation areas improved through effective community management, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stabilization of landuse (no major land conversion) and maintenance of forest connectivity in the terrestrial conservation area - Total stop of resource extraction from traditionally strictly protected sites (Tapu) (community monitoring of compliance) - Improved effectiveness of PA management (METT score of at least 70 points by end of project) - Threatened species' populations are stable or increasing by end of project (these may include coconut crab, Pacific imperial pigeon or lupe, flying fox or peka, pekapeka or white-rumped swiftlet, hega or blue-crowned lory, olive small-scaled skinks and native geckos, to be selected during the project document preparation) - Maintenance of water quality of reef areas (reduced pollution from land or marine activities indicated by quality measurements through periodic sampling) 	<p>sustainable activities</p> <p>Output 1.2: Conservation and management activities (soft and concrete measures) undertaken at village and cross-village levels, including (i) setting up of ecological monitoring and resource management systems; ; (ii) community enhanced knowledge and awareness to improve management of specific threats to the PA; (iii) improvements in water quality in reef areas through reduction in pollution from land and marine activities through an integrated approach</p> <p>Output 1.3: Village committees' and government departments' capacities increased to integrate R2R into community development and adaptation plans (building on CCCSDP), with clearly specified roles and responsibilities, including for sustainable financing</p> <p>Output 1.4: Institutional strengthening of the capacity of the Environment Department and DAFF for planning and monitoring PAs and R2R management for linked landscapes for effective environmental management, enforcement and compliance monitoring, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Strategic training activities and application of the professional competency standards for staff (to be developed); and (ii) participation in regional R2R training activities through the regional R2R program support project. <p>Output 1.5: Systematic national level ecosystems and species level biodiversity monitoring system established, with data sharing and joint training and survey activities for terrestrial and marine areas and integrated approaches; monitoring and evaluation results are fed to the R2R program through the</p>			
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			regional program support project to facilitate lessons sharing and cross-country fertilization			
Component 2: Strengthening knowledge, capacities and partnerships for Ridge to Reef concept application outside protected areas	TA	Strengthened cross-sectoral involvement of relevant national government departments to promote effective Ridge to Reef management by mainstreaming environmental concerns into plans and actions, as illustrated by: - Increase in the sectoral operational budgets for the R2R relevant actions by 20% by end of project from baseline - Increased awareness on R2R related environmental awareness amongst government staff and school students - Areas around conservation areas effectively managed to mitigate threats to their biodiversity	Output 2.1: Economic, social/ cultural and biodiversity significance of Niue's environment documented and communicated nationally through targeted campaigns, publications in local language and English, and also available through a dedicated website and the media (also targeting involvement of non-resident Niueans) Output 2.2: Sector-related legal framework, policies and plans support effective Ridge to Reef conservation and sustainable use outside of conservation/ protection areas, embedded in (i) community development plans, (ii) cross-sectoral plans such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, tourism and the plan for achieving water security, and (iii) sectoral plans such as education, culture and Public Works (particularly on water division and their work on water pollution control) Output 2.3: National capacity building actions on R2R implemented such as (i) mainstreaming environment curriculum and activities in schools, and (ii) environmental monitoring approaches and capacities (e.g., reefs, water quality, pollution sources and levels)	GEF	1,500,000	6,805,000
Sub-Total					3,995,000	11,780,000
Project Management Cost					199,862	650,000
Total Project Costs					4,194,862	12,430,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Environment Division	In-kind	950,000
	Education	In-kind	2,100,000
	Community Affairs	In-kind	2,000,000
	Public Works Department (water related)	In-kind	600,000

	Department of Agriculture	In-kind	3,300,000
	Taoga Niue (Cultural Affairs)	In-kind	340,000
	Department of Justice	In-kind	1,160,000
	Tourism Authority	In-kind	650,000
	Department of Administration	In-kind	780,000
Bilateral Agency	New Zealand Agency for International Development	In-kind	350,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	150,000
		Grant	50,000
	TOTAL		12,430,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA	Country name/Global	Grant amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Niue	1,331,702	119,853	1,451,555
UNDP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Niue	932,192	83,897	1,016,089
UNDP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Niue	1,775,603	159,805	1,935,408
UNDP	GEFTF	International Waters	Global	155,365	13,983	169,348
Total Grant Resources				4,194,862	377,538	4,572,400

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project as well as PPGs for which no Agency fee has been requested already.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)³

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grants:

Amount Requested (\$) Agency Fee for PPG (\$)⁴

- (upto) \$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million 140,000 12,600

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY

TRUST FUND	GEF AGENCY	FOCAL AREA	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
GEF TF	UNDP	Biodiversity	Niue	44,445	4,000	48,445
GEF TF	UNDP	Land Degradation	Niue	31,111	2,800	33,911
GEF TF	UNDP	Climate Change	Niue	59,259	5,333	64,592
GEF TF	UNDP	IW	Niue	5,185	467	5,652
Total PPG Amount				140,000	12,600	152,600

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION⁵

³ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁴ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

⁵ Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

A.1. Project Description

This project will enhance the Niue's capacities to effectively create and manage its protected areas, focusing on the expansion of its PA estate on land and on its marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas and government-led PA. In the Community Conservation Area, strict protection and sustainable use zones will be identified and planned carefully, recognizing that tenure over most land areas are vested in local communities. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of marine and terrestrial PA sites from a site centric approach to a holistic "ridge to reef" management approach, whereby activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity stemming from key production activities (tourism and agriculture). Additionally, the project also introduces the concept of connectivity in landscape and seascape in Niue. The terrestrial protected area will include a landscape that links strictly protected community areas (Tabu) to each other to enhance their integrity and to form a corridor between them. Similarly, the creation of a protected area in Beveridge Reef is expected to sustain recruitment of clams and other marine species for Niue's coral reefs and vice versa.

A.1.1) The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers

Country Overview & Context:

Niue, located in the South Pacific Ocean (Lat. 169°55'W, long. 19°02'S), is the world's largest single raised coral atoll. The island rests on a seamount with the surrounding ocean depths reaching over 4000m. The total land area for Niue is 259km², with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 39,000km². The average height of Niue from the mean sea level is around 35 metres above mean sea level, with its highest point being 68 above msl. There are no permanent streams or rivers on the island. A fresh water lens, located approximately 60m below the rim of the central plateau that is replenished by rainwater filtering down the soil and rocks, is the main source of fresh water on the island.

Niue's Parliament is made of 20 elected members from the 14 village communities and 6 urban seats. The Country adopted self-rule in free association with New Zealand in 1974. The country's economy is largely dependent on overseas aid and remittances. New Zealand provides the major budgetary and technical support to the Government of Niue annually. Niue has a modest export production mainly comprising of organic vanilla and noni. Households mostly practice subsistence agriculture (mixed agroforestry and animal husbandry), fisheries and forestry. The government policy is focusing on ecotourism and private sector development.

According to the national census of 2011, Niue's total population is 1,618, of which 800 are women and 818 are men. The indigenous Niueans are of Polynesian descent. According to Niue's poverty analysis (2004), there is no absolute poverty in Niue. However, the 2002 Niue Household Income and Expenditure Survey reported that about 11% of households do not have sufficient income to meet the 2,100 calorie/day standard. This survey also noted that a larger number of female-headed households are in the lowest quintile of household expenditure distributions than male-headed households. Almost 99% of Niue's land is owned by families under customary land ownership based on traditional rights of families and their descent groups. Such traditional lands belonging to traditional Niuean families are managed by a trustee (called "*leveki magafaoa*") on their behalf. Total land percentage belonging to the Crown is registered at 1% with an additional 4% from leases of traditional lands.

Environmental context:

Terrestrial: Niue's terrestrial ecosystems consist of forests, agro-ecosystems, settlements, and a rugged and rocky coastline of steep cliffs, caves, chasms and blow holes. Many caves host brackish and freshwater pools. Much of Niue's land can be considered karst ecosystem. The island's vegetation consists of fern land, littoral shrub land, littoral forest, coastal forest, matured forest and secondary forest. The full biodiversity values of Niue have not yet been studied. Available information suggests that Niue's plant diversity includes 629 native species of vascular plants, including 175 indigenous species being. Till date, 31 bird species, (6 sea birds, 10 shore birds and 15 land birds), 5 lizard species, 376 insect species, and one native mammal (*Pteropus tonganus*) have also been recorded. Niue is also home to some regionally endemic butterfly species such as *Belanois java schmeltzi* (found in Samoas, Tonga & Niue); *Jamides argentina* (Samoas & Niue); *Euploea lewinii perryi* (Niue

& Cook Is).⁶ A number of endemic species have also been described from Niue⁷ such as subspecies of the Polynesian Triller *Lalage maculosa whitmeei*, the Polynesian Starling *Aplonis tabuensis brunnescens*, and the Purple-capped Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus porphyraceus whitmeei*. Invertebrates restricted to Niue include a recently described butterfly, the Niue Blue *Nacaduba niueensis*. Other endemic invertebrates include a rattlebox moth *Utetheisa maddisoni*, a leafhopper *Empoasca clodia* planthopper *Macrovanua* (or *Vanua*) *angusta*, a weevil *Elytrurus niuei*, a scale insect *Paracoccus niuensis*, a land snail *Vatusila niueana*, a crab *Orcovita gracilipes*, a cave-dwelling crustacean *Pugiodactylus agarthus*, an ostracod crustacean *Dantya ferox*, and a periwinkle *Cenchrites* (or *Tectarius*) *niuensis*. A screwpine *Pandanus niueensis* has been described from Niue.

Niue's globally important terrestrial species include the Endangered Olive Small-scaled Skink, and seven globally Vulnerable bird species - Bristle-thighed Curlew, Parkinson's Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Cook's Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, Chatham Albatross and Campbell Albatross. Niue is listed in WWF's globally important Ecoregions under Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests under South Pacific Islands Forests. Niue also falls within the Micronesia-Polynesia Hotspot as delineated by Conservation International.

Marine: Niue's marine ecosystems include narrow fringing reef around the island, seamounts (notably Endeavor Seamount, and Lachlan Seamount), submerged atoll (for example, Beveridge Reef), and open ocean. The total area of reef flat and sub-tidal reef has been estimated at 620 ha. The marine biodiversity comprises of 70 coral genera, over 240 fish species, over 20 species of invertebrates including crabs, giant clams, beche-de-mer and others. Niue's marine ecosystems host a number of globally, including globally Endangered Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Humphead Wrasse Green Turtle and Vulnerable: Green Humphead Parrotfish, Whitetip Oceanic Shark), Queensland Groper, Flat-tail Sea Snake, Whale Shark, Bigeye Tuna, Blacksaddled Coral Grouper, Sperm Whale, Blue Marlin. Many globally Vulnerable coral species are also found in Niue's extensive EEZ – including *Acropora globiceps*, *Acropora horrida*, *Acropora retusa*, *Acropora speciosa*, *Acropora striata*, *Acropora vauhani*, *Alveopora allingi*, *Alveopora verrilliana*, *Astreopora cucullata*, *Heliopora coerulea* (Blue Coral), *Leptoseris incrustans*, *Montipora angulate*, *Montipora australiensis*, *Montipora calcarea*, *Montipora caliculata*, *Montipora lobulata*, *Pavona bipartite*, *Pavona cactus*, *Pavona decussata* (Cactus Coral), *Pocillopora elegans*, *Porites nigrescens*, *Turbinaria mesenterina*, and *Turbinaria reniformis*. One endemic marine fish has been described from Niue – the combtooth blenny *Ecsenius niue*. The Niuean Flat-tailed Sea Snake *Pseudolaticauda* (or *Laticauda*) *schistorhynchus* is sometimes considered to be endemic.

Threats to global environmental values:

Unsustainable harvesting of wild resources: One of the key threats to Niue's biodiversity is the unsustainable harvesting of wild species. Traditionally, flying foxes and the Pacific pigeon are hunted in Niue. Though this practice is formally disallowed outside the hunting season (typically December-January), some hunting has been observed that out of hunting season, which has contributed to a decline of these species. Over-harvesting of the coconut crab has been noted as a particular concern in the country. Traditional fishing methods such as using poison also lead to death of non-target species and all sizes of target species. Deaths of coral and seaweeds have been reported through the use of such poison⁸. This practice of using poison is currently considered to be on a decline. Local communities have also noted impacts on fisheries and coral damage from the use of non-traditional fishing methods (e.g. use of hammers, axes, and crowbars) when reef gleaning or through use of small-sized nets for trawling. Reports from local divers suggest that giant clam species are in danger of becoming extinct. Local women that frequently glean or fish on the reef flats are concerned about the rarity of *Caulerpa spp* compared to decades ago. Baseline surveys indicate that non-protected reef flats on the southwestern area of the island showed very low species diversity in both invertebrates and coral species compared to a protected area of relatively the same size.

⁶ [http://www.conservation.org%2FDocuments%2FCI CEPF Biodiversity Conservation Lessons-3-Samoa-Butterfly.pdf](http://www.conservation.org%2FDocuments%2FCI%20CEPF%20Biodiversity%20Conservation%20Lessons-3-Samoa-Butterfly.pdf)

⁷ <http://Intreasures.com/niue.html>

⁸ http://www.sprep.org/att/publication/000544_IWP_PTR38.pdf

Land Degradation: Over 30 years since 1966, 22% of the indigenous forests were lost from Niue⁹ as they were converted to agricultural land. Although the soils of Niue tend to be moderately fertile, they are shallow. Only 60% of the island's land area is suitable for agriculture, although the potential is limited by the lack of running water and irrigation facilities, and by the small number of aging farmers in the island. Deforestation has occurred on the more fertile soils and very little in thin soils and on soils with a large proportion of coral outcrops as these areas are deemed unsuitable for agriculture. Construction of new roads for logging operations could potentially open up more forest for hunting and agricultural activity which would affect negatively on the conservation of forest values. Traditional 'slash and burn' cropping techniques are still practiced, garden areas are left to fallow for up to 10 years before being cultivated again. Composted materials are added to the soil to facilitate rejuvenation. As a result, much of the island is now a mosaic of varying stages of regeneration, interspersed with cultivated gardens. In more recent decades, traditional slash and burn method has been gradually replaced by the use of bulldozers for land clearance. Disc ploughing is considered the largest single contributor to soil structure and fertility decline in the 1950s-1960s.

Pollution: Increasing household waste, agricultural chemical use (inorganic fertilisers, weed killers) and oil spillage from boats are some of the key pollution sources of land and water in Niue. SOPAC's study on coastal water quality in 2003 showed that there was high nitrate and phosphate concentration in some coastal areas through seepage of water from households' untreated septic tanks draining into the groundwater and coastal areas, which caused poisoning and death of fish in such areas.

Water quality: The groundwater lens is considered highly vulnerable to land activities due to the permeable nature of the coral structure with infiltration from surface to groundwater at 1-2 days. The likelihood of contamination of groundwater is now much higher due to the relocation of households and government buildings and the location of piggery and poultry farms in the water catchment and the proximity of onsite treatment systems to groundwater supply bores. As a result of the higher nitrate concentrations around Alofi and the confirmation of the high vulnerability to groundwater contamination¹⁰, there are now calls to relocate supply bores further inland and to employ best practices in waste treatment. Indirect water seepage and direct sewage discharge has also affected coastal water quality.

Invasive alien species: The global invasive species database has noted around 60 invasive species in Niue¹¹, including 13 tree species, vines/ creepers such as *Micania micrantha*, and at least three different species of rats. Although the impacts of such invasive species on native species have not been fully documented, the impacts of such species on native species and ecosystems are considered to be negative. The METT carried out under "PAS: Forestry and Protected Area Management" indicates that invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds) and invasive non-native/alien animals are medium threats (i.e. having some negative impact).

Climate change: Predicted global climate change impacts on Niue include increases in average temperatures of both the land and sea surfaces; reduction in the amount of dry season rainfall and increases in the extreme rainfall events in all seasons; and increases in wind speed, particularly in the dry season. El Nino Southern Oscillations (ENSO) are expected to further compound the climate change impacts, as it is located under the typical movement of the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), which causes droughts during severe El Nino years. There are some predictions that changes in the global climate will result in more frequent and intense storms and cyclones, which can cause major damages to the country's infrastructure and natural resources (forests and coral reefs). The Tropical Cyclone Heta in 2004 caused peak wind gusts of 296 kms/hour, and waves in excess of 50 meters in height. This caused major damage to Niue, including its forests and coral reefs. It caused uprooting of trees and deaths of wildlife directly as well as from starvation following loss of habitats. A survey on Niue after Cyclone Heta (a Category 5 storm that caused massive damage to Niue's ecosystems) found that several invasive species already present on the island expanded their range and abundance after the cyclone. Tropical Cyclone Ofa struck the island in 1990 and was reported to have caused considerable damage to the reefs, particularly on the western coast.

⁹ Slash and burn agriculture led to a decline in forest cover from 86% in 1966 to 64% of the island in 1996.

¹⁰ Source: Mosley, L. and Carpenter, C.R.L., 2005. Niue Coastal Water Quality and Groundwater Resources Assessment. SOPAC Technical Report 372. SOPAC Secretariat, Suva

¹¹ <http://www.issg.org/database/species/search.asp?st=sss&sn=&rn=niue&hci=-1&ei=-1&x=38&y=8>

A.1.2 the baseline scenario and any associated baseline

Niue's overall annual government budget for the past few years has averaged approximately around 21 million US dollars. Of this annual budget, the investment in environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries constitutes around 1 million US dollars, which are allocated annually through the Department of Environment and the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (DAFF). Furthermore, some additional funds spent on environmental related activities are channeled through local development (Department of Community Affairs) as well as through Public Works (on water resources management). As a result, the estimated resources allocated from the government budget to environment related activities total 1.5 million US dollars and implemented through various government agencies. Under the baseline scenario, most of the budget is spent on recurrent budget lines such as salaries. The government of Niue has been supporting agriculture development, and promoting sustainable land and water management through its Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. It has developed a Forest Management Plan, Fisheries Management Plan, as well as Integrated Water Resources Management Plan. Furthermore, actions have also been undertaken to effectively manage waste in order to avoid contamination of groundwater lens on which all residents depend for drinking water supply. The development to the abovementioned policies and the legal aspects of environmental work are implemented by the Department of Justice and the Department of Administration. The Tourism Authority on its own and with support from the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) is implementing the Cultural Initiative Project and the development and promotion of cultural and nature tourism. The incremental activities of this project will complement these plans, and support their implementation.

Key activities under the baseline that are relevant to ride to reef management include:

Biodiversity monitoring, conservation and sustainable use: Niue has created two terrestrial protected areas, namely Huvalu Conservation Area (IUCN Category VI) and Hakupu Heritage and Cultural Park (IUCN Category III). The Huvalu Conservation Area was established in 1992 through the assistance from the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Program (SBCP) and SPREP. The land area is approximately 54 sq.km. in the eastern side of the island. It includes an area of reef flat about 15 to 20 m from high tide mark. Huvalu consists of a sacred area, a primary forest and a buffer zone. The Hakupu Heritage and Cultural Park extends south from the Tuhia Access Track that was initiated by members of a family owning land. Its primary objective is to inventory and protect areas of historical and ecological significance, including caves used traditionally for burials and others where women of the village traditionally undertook weaving, as well as fortress sites identified as ancestral dwellings, and a flying fox sanctuary.

There are two marine protected areas, the Anono Marine Reserve, formerly known as Namoui (IUCN Category VI) and Alofi North Temporary Closed Area till date. The terrestrial PAs cover 23% of Niue's area, and the marine ones cover a very small area of Niue's EEZ (23.45 ha compared to over 31 million ha). In addition, there are other small areas that have been traditionally defined as strict protection zone or subject to seasonal closures. Although still practised, these are under the danger of dying out as it has not been supported by the government.

The government has been supporting annual bird counting to measure their population. Furthermore, the government has also closed some marine areas from fishing, such as the Beveridge submerged reef, and is also promoting management and development of pelagic fisheries (tuna and associated species) guided by a new "Niue Pelagic Management and Development plan (2012). The overall thrust of the plan is to take an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) that has a broader focus than simply that on the sustainability of target species and takes into consideration the interactions that the fishery has on other sectors and the wider ecosystem. Some reef monitoring activities are also undertaken. Under business-as usual scenario, the funding available under this baseline program will not be sufficient to expand the protected area estate and as such no integration of existing PAs and *tapus* into a single and continuous terrestrial conservation area will take place.

Management of islands' waste: The majority of the waste management costs are fully funded by the government. The Government of Niue spends annually NZ\$70,000 to collect and manage its waste through a number of dump sites around the island. This budget is supplemented with revenue from septic tank pumping services. The government collects and disposes of waste water from septic tanks in designated areas only to

avoid contamination of the underground fresh water. The government also undertook activities to safely dispose roofing materials containing asbestos that were used in the past. Furthermore, the government also supports activities to collect and safely dispose used batteries from cars and other sources. In addition, local Village Councils take actions to ensure that their wider village is clean and clear of weed and waste.

Sustainable water and land management: The government has identified key boreholes in the country and has developed regulations. For example, a certain area around the borehole should be protected to prevent pollution of these sites. The actual area depends on the purpose of the boreholes and the prescribed distances are from 50 metres radius to 100 metres. Furthermore, the government has supported the promotion of organic farming of noni and vanilla farms. Currently, 60 (22 female and 38 male) farmers are involved in certified organic farming covering around 633 ha of land. The government is also supporting the promotion of vegetable and fruit production by farmers through provision of seeds, planting materials and technical advice. Moreover, the use of soil and water management techniques, such as the use of nitrogen fixing crops as green manure/mulch, has also been promoted by the government.

Despite the current investment in environment management, several barriers exist to attain the objective of this project: government sectors and communities effectively manage their ecosystems and natural resources in an integrated and inclusive way to maintain their global and local values for the long term. These include the following two key barriers:

Barrier 1: Limited capacities and mechanisms for an integrated landscape and seascape management

The values of biodiversity resources in Niue have not been properly documented. Whilst basic economic values (such as use of wild resources for food, the provision of water, tourism values from nature, etc.) are known, they have not been comprehensively documented. Additionally, analysis of the biodiversity values of the island's biodiversity or its marine biodiversity has not been updated regularly. Information on biodiversity status and hotspots are currently unavailable for all of its land and marine areas. Furthermore, social and cultural values of nature, reflected in traditional knowledge, folklores, handicraft production related to biodiversity, are being lost. This can be explained by the interrupted transfer of these values from older generations to new generations due to emigration.

The lack of analysis and documentation of values is largely due to the limited capacities and involvement of different government departments and communities in ecosystems management. There is an emerging recognition by different development sectors on the relevance of their work for ecosystems management and of ecosystems to their priorities (such as education, culture, water resources management, community development), but limited capacities and awareness on such linkages has hampered effective mainstreaming of environmental issues in their work. This has led to fragmented approach to resources management by different sectors – without clear cross-agency cooperation and partnerships. This has meant that the desired positive impacts on the environment have not been achieved as the possible synergies that exist between different sectors have not been realized. At last, it should be noted that also the inclusion of the communities is important for the realization of an integrated approach as the new terrestrial PA will contain 7 Tapus. Further, the social and cultural values may complement the economic values and inclusion will assure a more holistic approach. Moreover, the promotion of sustainable activities in the areas surrounding the continuous conservation area is necessary to reduce the threats from outside.

Another constrain to local capacity to deliver efficient and effective development programmes is the low population of Niue. The current population fluctuates nominally every year (depending on the rate of out and in migration). Therefore, the issues underlying this constrain should be investigated and a plan should be developed and implement to address these. Conversely, it should be noted that smaller populations possibly lead to lower environmental pressures (e.g. unsustainable farming and deforestation) leading to lesser measures needed.

Under the baseline activities, sectoral plans have not effectively internalized the multiple benefits of integrated land, water, biodiversity, and seascape management. Ecosystems management is seen as primarily a sectoral priority (of the Environment Department) and the multiple benefits of integrated production landscape management has not been maximized through targeted support to communities to manage landscape and seascape – especially at those areas that have been considered critical from the perspective of global

environmental values as well as local values (for cultural, water bore hole areas) etc. Therefore, under the baseline, biodiversity conservation in conservation landscapes and seascapes will continue to be impacted by unsustainable land use practices outside them and the ecosystems and cultural values of such areas will also be negatively impacted through community and other sectoral activities.

Barrier 2: Limited integration of terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation into government and community plans and actions

As noted earlier in this PIF, most of the land resources of Niue are vested in the extended families, under the stewardship of the family appointed Levekis. Therefore, any creation of protected areas on land needs to be consented by the families and enforced primarily by them. The current approach to developing community sustainable development plans has not included any focus on natural resources management or heritage protection. The traditional practice of setting aside strict protection areas (Tapu) or seasonal closures (Fono), although still practiced, is under the danger of dying out as it has not been formally supported by the government. Such areas, particularly terrestrial Tapus, are of relatively small sizes for them to effectively conserve important biodiversity in Niue, and if the wider surrounding areas around them are to be degraded or mismanaged, then the integrity of such Tapus themselves are likely to be jeopardized. In addition, related to barrier 1 above, local communities also have not fully internalized the benefits of conservation actions to their lives and livelihoods and threats to both marine and terrestrial biodiversity continue from pollution and unsustainable use. Marine areas, in particular, have received less attention for conservation efforts. Though communities have been setting aside land and reef areas as permanent or periodic closures, these areas have been of relatively small size for them to effectively conserve important global biodiversity in Niue, especially as wider surrounding areas around them have continued to be degraded or mismanaged, through overharvesting of resources (particularly species such as flying foxes, coconut crabs) and land conversion (for agriculture primarily). Such community set-aside areas have also not been given formal legal designation as protected ecosystems. Additionally, current conservation initiatives have not been implemented as integrated ridge to reef approach. Whilst basic economic values (such as use of wild resources for food, the provision of water, tourism values from nature etc.) are known, full values of its ecosystems in terms of biodiversity values and cultural values have not been documented, thus the current PAs have not fully incorporated multiple values of the ecosystems in Niue. This issue is particularly relevant to Niue as almost all land areas are owned by local families.

A.1.3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and; A.1.4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing:

This project will build on the baseline and use GEF resources to ensure that Niue's global environmental values are enhanced through the implementation of the following two components. Primarily, the project seeks to strengthen conservation and sustainable use of land, water and marine areas and their biodiversity by building on their cultural heritage values through integrated national and community actions, using the R2R approach as the overarching framework. This is a comprehensive approach to managing all resources within a complete 'catchment' or 'watershed' and out to sea. In the case of small islands like Niue, the R2R approach will cover the entire island including terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems by reducing or eliminating damaging activities and promoting rehabilitation and sustaining activities by resource users in order to protect their natural resources upon which their livelihoods depend. Management of natural resources in small islands where there are no clearly defined catchment area and no rivers or streams is a considerable departure from the standard sectoral approaches. This underlies the holistic and integrated approach in this project as the sectoral approach has not effectively addressed the degradation of natural resources, including underground freshwater sources that are the lifeblood of any island. Thus, while the focus of this project is on biodiversity conservation, the R2R approach will necessarily involve other related considerations such land management, pollution control, among others. Cross cutting activities in capacity building particularly as these relate to the overarching R2R approach, community participation are necessary in a holistic approach to be able to deliver on the objectives of this project.

Component 1: Catalyzing conservation initiatives at site and landscape/seascape level through Ridge to Reef Approach

The project will assist the government of Niue to establish new terrestrial and marine protected areas that will build on Tapus and Fonos¹² defined by local communities under traditional practices and include additional areas that ensure ecosystems connectivity between such Tapus and Fonos. This will include the establishment of a new terrestrial community conservation area covering 2,550 ha that will encompass at least 7 traditionally strictly protected sites and their surrounding zones. This area is considered important for biodiversity conservation, because Tapus and Fonos usually contain important breeding sites for many species including the coconut crab¹³, the flying fox¹⁴, many fishes and doves, as well as many of the species mentioned in the environmental context (pages 5 & 6). Furthermore, the increase in surface area and the linking of Tapus and Fonos will reduce the threats from outsiders and therefore conserve more effectively the biodiversity on the island.

In addition, the project will also support the creation of new marine conservation areas to conserve important reef areas that have linkages with the terrestrial conservation areas, in order to ensure a coherent “ridge to reef” management system. The particular location and unique ecosystem characteristics of this elevated atoll have allowed the development of important biodiversity colonies as specified in the environmental context. The project will also support the creation of a new marine conservation area in the high sea in the Beveridge Reef, which may be an important recruitment area for important marine species for the reef areas around Niue¹⁵.

By undertaking these actions, the project will contribute to a significant increase in the conservation and sustainable use of globally important ecosystems and species in Niue. Key outputs will include community conservation and management plans containing (i) clearly delineate traditional strict protection zones (Tapus) and surrounding sustainable use conservation areas with designated zones for resources harvested and used by local communities, (ii) strategies to restore the now fragmented and degraded ecosystems and reduce their threats, (iii) inventories of biodiversity resources and values (economic, cultural and social), and (iv) monitoring and enforcement mechanisms agreed upon and enforced.

Furthermore, the project will support the strengthening of the necessary capacities for the development and implementation of the community conservation and management plans at village and cross-village levels. This includes community trainings tailored to improve management of specific threats to PAs.

Specific outputs are presented in the Indicative Project Framework included above in the document, and they are expected to be further developed during the project document preparation.

Component 2: Strengthening knowledge, capacities and partnerships for the Ridge to Reef approach

The project will support the communities to manage their landscapes outside the designated PAs effectively. They will be supported to integrate environment friendly actions in their community development plans. Community capacities will be built to monitor their landscapes to identify threats both at their village level, and through cooperation with adjacent villages, also at wider landscapes/seascapes and effectively mitigate them. Where appropriate, farming/forestry practices (such organic farming; avoiding forest clearance at critical sites), fishing practices will be introduced to promote sustainable use. Sectoral plans and actions will also be supported to effectively integrate actions that support ridge to reef management - particularly in education, culture, water resources management, community development sectors. Environmental curriculum tailored for Niue will be introduced in the school curriculum, and senior students will be involved in ecosystems monitoring and study activities so as to build their knowledge of their environment. Small scale waste management activities will also be supported to minimize pollution of water – both freshwater and marine areas. Additional national capacity building actions on R2R will also be implemented particularly on environmental monitoring and enforcement

¹² Such areas are usually areas that are important for breeding of coconut crabs, fish species, the flying fox and doves

¹³ The coconut crab is the largest land-living arthropod in the world and the only species of the genus *Birgus*. In 1981, it was listed on the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species, but a lack of biological data caused its assessment to be amended to Data Deficient in 1996.

¹⁴ Included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

¹⁵ This is yet to be confirmed

capacities (reefs, water quality, oil spill/ ballast water release prevention etc.). Specific attention will be also given to the establishment and enforcement of appropriate legal, institutional and financial frameworks to enhance the sustainability of the newly created continuous conservation area, also clarifying the roles, responsibilities and involvement of government agencies and local communities.

As mentioned before, specific outputs are presented in the Indicative Project Framework included above in the document, and they are expected to be further developed during the project document preparation.

Preliminary Outcome Level Indicators. The matrix below is preliminary and will be finalized during the PPG with the preparation of the Strategic Results Framework.

Outcome	Preliminary Outcome-Level Indicators	Preliminary Indicators and Targets(as indicated in Table B)
New community conservation and national protected areas established at different levels:	<p>Area of protected area system at the national level (terrestrial and coastal / marine)</p> <p>Status of management of PA system based on METT score</p> <p>Status of threatened species populations</p> <p>Status of water quality in coastal areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A single and continuous terrestrial conservation area covering 2,550 ha that links at least 7 traditionally strictly protected sites and their surrounding landscapes - A national marine protected area covering 4,500 ha (Beveridge Reef) - Community conserved reefs covering at least 112 ha Threats reduced and biodiversity status of conservation areas improved through effective community management, as indicated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stabilization of landuse (no major land conversion) and maintenance of forest connectivity in the terrestrial conservation area - Total stop of resource extraction from traditionally strictly protected sites (Tapu) (community monitoring of compliance) - Improved effectiveness of PA management (METT score of at least 70 points by end of project) - Threatened species' populations are stable or increasing by end of project (these may include coconut crab, Pacific imperial pigeon or lupe, flying fox or peka, pekapeka or white-rumped swiftlet, hega or blue-crowned lory, olive small-scaled skinks and native geckos, to be selected during the project document preparation) - Maintenance of water quality of reef areas (reduced pollution from land or marine activities indicated by quality measurements through periodic sampling)
Strengthened cross-sectoral involvement of relevant national government departments to promote effective Ridge to Reef management by mainstreaming environmental concerns into plans and actions	<p>Level of budgetary support for R2R actions</p> <p>Level of awareness on environmental issues in different audiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the sectoral operational budgets for the R2R relevant actions by 20% by end of project from baseline - Increased awareness on R2R related environmental awareness amongst government staff and school students - Areas around conservation areas effectively managed to mitigate threats to their biodiversity

A.1.5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

Global benefits

The direct global environment benefits of the project's actions will include the conservation of globally important habitats and globally threatened species. At the terrestrial ecosystem level, we can mention the

Endangered Olive Small-scaled Skink, and seven globally Vulnerable bird species - Bristle-thighed Curlew, Parkinson's Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Cook's Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, Chatham Albatross and Campbell Albatross.

The global benefits of the project will also include the conservation of marine ecosystems that host a number of important species, including globally the Endangered Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Humphead Wrasse Green Turtle and the Vulnerable Green Humphead Parrotfish, Whitetip Oceanic Shark, Queensland Groper, Flat-tail Sea Snake, Whale Shark, Bigeye Tuna, Blacksaddled Coral Grouper, Sperm Whale, Blue Marlin. The project will also contribute to the conservation of many globally Vulnerable coral species such as *Acropora globiceps*, *Acropora horrida*, *Acropora retusa*, *Acropora speciosa*, *Acropora striata*, *Acropora vaughani*, *Alveopora allingi*, *Alveopora verrilliana*, *Astreopora cucullata*, *Heliopora coerulea* (*Blue Coral*), *Leptoseris incrustans*, *Montipora angulate*, *Montipora australiensis*, *Montipora calcarea*, *Montipora caliculata*, *Montipora lobulata*, *Pavona bipartite*, *Pavona cactus*, *Pavona decussata* (*Cactus Coral*), *Pocillopora elegans*, *Porites nigrescens*, *Turbinaria mesenterina*, and *Turbinaria reniformis*.

Additional information about endemic species is provided in the section of environmental context (see above). It should also be noted that Niue is listed in WWF's globally important Ecoregions under Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests under South Pacific Islands Forests. In addition, Niue falls within the Micronesia-Polynesia Hotspot as delineated by Conservation International. Given the magnitude of important species, complementary research will be carried out during the preparation of the project document to identify those specific globally threatened species whose conservation will receive the highest priority.

Additional global benefits will be from reduction of GHG emission from reduced loss and degradation of forests and reefs.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The project is innovative as very little effort has been made till date to create a national system of protected areas in Niue that includes both marine and terrestrial areas. The project's efforts to support the government and local communities to build such a system based on their community protected areas and other heritage areas, and protection of useful species using a ridge to reef approach is the first such attempt in the country. The project has been designed to provide vehicle for different government agencies to work together, which is also expected to contribute to institutional innovation in the country.

Sustainability: As the project builds strongly on community interest and is focused on building their capacities for long term conservation, the actions proposed are expected to be sustainable. The project is designed to involve of different sectors of the government by building on their comparative advantage and their core mandates, which will further ensure sustainability.

Potential for scaling up: The approach may be used to expand community conservation areas to other marine and terrestrial areas in Niue, particularly on the Eastern side of the island.

A.2 Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

The key stakeholders involved in the project are:

Stakeholder	Expected Role in Project
Environment Department	The Environment Department is the lead government Department for the development of biodiversity strategy and action plan, to ensure that waste and pollution management is carried out on the island, as well as issues of biosafety, invasive species are appropriately dealt with. This Department will be the lead agency for the implementation of this project.
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	The Department is primarily responsible for ensuring increasing agricultural productivity through agronomic research and extension as well by supporting livestock rearing activities. Their role also includes promoting sustainable land management and forestry. Its work on marine areas is largely focused on sustainable fisheries, promotion of fish aggregating devices

	(FADs). The Department will be involved in promoting sustainable land, water and forest use in the buffer zones of the strictly protected Tapus on land and on marine areas. The Department will also be primarily responsible for the creation and effective enforcement of marine PA in Beverigde Reef.
Culture and Heritage	The Culture and Heritage will be responsible for ensuring nature related traditional cultural knowledge, traditions and sites are identified and documented. The project will work closely with the Culture and Heritage Office to ensure that conservation activities complement cultural heritage sites management – particularly around identified traditional village areas, which have been abandoned.
Education department/ Schools	This department will lead in ensuring that the school curriculum in both primary and secondary schools include modules on ridge and reef conservation and sustainable use tailored for Niuen context to raise awareness and to build environment management as one option for future career development of Niuen students. The Department will also involve/ mobilize students in relevant conservation actions.
Treasury	The Treasury will be key in ensuring that project is coordinated with other relevant donor programmes in the country as well as to ensure that financial sustainability of the project is ensured beyond project end.
Community Affairs	This department is the key government agency that works on local development through the Village Councils, which are locally elected local development committees. The department is currently supporting the development of sustainable development plans at the village level.
Village Council	The Councils are locally elected bodies with a 3 year term. They are responsible for local development plans and their implementation. They are also legally empowered to make local by-laws. They receive annual small grant from the national government, much of which is spent on beautification of the villages. Normally, each council has 5 members. These will be very important in the project implementation at the local level.
Water (Public Works)	This department has been involved in promoting integrated water resources management, amongst other activities. Their role in the project will be ensure that water pollution minimization strategies are put in place and some relevant pollution reduction technologies are demonstrated to reduce pollution of both underground water lens and marine areas.
Justice, Lands & Survey Land use planning	The department plays a critical role to resolve land tenure disputes, and has GIS capabilities and data for mapping, survey, GPS database etc. These will be important in the creation of protected areas and their effective management.
Niue Island United Association of Non- Government Organizations (NIUANGO) – including National Women’s Council and Youth Council	Niue has a number of NGOs and all are affiliated with NIUANGO. Some of the more active NGOs in Niue include the National Women’s Council, which has been actively promoting women’s economic empowerment, and the Youth Council has been promoting youth involvement in spiritual and other development. The Association and its members can provide technical support to local communities and for different project activities – including surveys, monitoring and awareness raising.
Niue Island Organic Farming Association	The association is promoting organic Vanilla and Noni farming for export as a viable economic alternative to other farming that uses agrochemicals. Their approach could be promoted to additional farmers for sustainable land and environment management to reduce pollution as well as to increase household incomes.

A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
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Low population and low capacities for project implementation	Medium	Niue has an extremely small resident population. Therefore, the project is designed such that it uses its existing human resources by involving as many sectors in the ridge to reef management. It is noted that involvement of multiple sectors from the government as well as others (NGOs, the private sector) can also lead to challenges of ensuring effective coordination and sequencing of relevant activities are implemented on a timely manner. The project will ensure that appropriate institutional mechanisms are designed to have clarity in roles and responsibilities of different sectors in the project – and also build clauses for non-performance of any sector within stipulated period (such as reassigning roles and responsibilities to another entity). A special focus will also be given to increase capacities of Niueans by appropriate partnerships with international/ regional organizations with relevant skills.
Complex land tenure will make declaration of community conservation area difficult	Medium	As has been noted in several sections above, land tenure is vested in families, and as many are non-residents, decision making on land allocation for long term conservation may require time and consultations to ensure that there is support for such actions. The project has been developed on the expressed interests of local communities to establish core protected areas, but the project will ensure that proper consultation and tenure clarification is undertaken.
Significant distance between the island and Beveridge Reef will make it very difficult to ensure it is protected from passing ships / yachts	High	Beveridge Reef is almost 100 km from Niue’s only island. Thus, it will not be possible to monitor its access and use by international vessels. However, signage and awareness materials for visiting vessels will be developed and disseminated, as well as periodic visits by DAFF staff to monitor the status.
Climate variability and change – especially natural disasters	Medium	Extreme weather events, such as the Tropical Cyclone Heta, are difficult to predict but their destructive power means that any conservation efforts put on land and sea may be undermined by their destruction. However, it is assumed that increased resilience of ecosystems through the project’s actions (conservation and sustainable use) will ensure rapid recovery of the ecosystems on the aftermath of such events. In fact, prohibition of hunting of flying foxes, doves and harvesting of certain coral reefs following the tropical cyclone was one of the key reasons that their status has improved to the current status.

A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

The project will be well coordinated with the ongoing GEF finance projects. The following GEF funded initiatives are under implementation by the Environment Department, which will ensure strong cooperation, coordination and synergies between these initiatives. These primarily include:

- Biodiversity Enabling Activity: This is supporting the updating of the NBSAP and 5th National Report to the CBD, with funding support from the GEF and implemented through UNEP. This proposed GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef national project will build on the analysis and recommendations emerging from this updating process, whilst the updating of this important document will also benefit from the recommendations and discussions with key stakeholders to design this R2R project.
- The GEF-FAO PAS Forestry and Protected Area Management Project (and other FAO projects) aims to enhance the sustainable livelihoods of local communities living in and around protected areas. The project is mainly focused on institutional PA arrangements, capacity development and income generation activities to improve the livelihoods of local communities, terrestrial biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and forest management. The R2R project, which address some of these issues but with a much broader and deeper scope, will take advantage of the momentum created by the PAS project and will build on some of its activities, increasing the scale and sustainability of its impact. In particular, the R2R project would, in addition to the activities planned in the PAS project, (i) expand and connect the existing and newly created PAs, (ii) integrate the management of marine PAs and the link between marine and terrestrial PAs, (iii) develop the capacities required to manage the registered PAs and consolidate the conservation steering committees, (iv) guarantee the financial sustainability of the PAs, (v) ensure a fair distribution of benefits to the communities and

landowners, (vi) provide additional support for raising public awareness, (vii) complement the educational programmes at primary school (PAS Project) with the integration of environmental education in the curriculum of the secondary school (R2R), and (viii) support the approval of the laws and their effective enforcement.

The PAS project just conducted its inception workshop on 29 August 2013 and during the PPG for this R2R project, the specific scope for collaboration will be determined and put into place. FAO is also supporting other relatively small agriculture and fisheries projects in addition to this GEF-PAS project.

- The UNEP-GEF PAS Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific Islands: This project is supporting the development of a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, as well as the development of National guidelines for incorporation of IAS in the policy and legislative framework, harmonised regionally. The project also envisages the creation of a National Invasive Species Multi-stakeholder Committee, which may also serve as the main Committee for this R2R project as well.

In addition, the project will also ensure strong coordination and partnership with the following GEF funded initiatives:

- The SSCF-UNDP Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project in Niue is implemented by Public Works Department (Water Division). It is primarily working on three components – the first one is on mainstreaming Climate Change into national policy. Consequently, Climate Change Policy has been endorsed by the Cabinet, and the project is also supporting a climate change adaptation policy. The project will support community adaptation plans using a participatory approach and will assist Community Affairs Department to work in at least 12 villages on such plan development. Second component of this project is on demonstration measures – it is supporting the assessment of costs and benefits of water harvesting. Its third component is on communications, awareness and education.
- The Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management Project (IWRM, UNDP-GEF, EU) linked to the PACC. This IWRM started in 2009 and is completing in 2013. It is an MSP with 500,000 US. The project supported wastewater management plan for Alofi (under village management plan- called community to cabinet. The plan has helped to identify dump sites within the village. The project is also supporting water quality monitoring and helped to put in a new water tank to minimize water loss.
- This project's project implementation will also be closely coordinated with other Ridge to Reef projects in the Pacific under the umbrella R2R programme for GEF5, which will be led by UNDP— helping to cross fertilise lessons and good practices. This will be done through an IW project that is being proposed in conjunction with the regional R2R approach.

Other projects that could be relevant include the following: a) The Agriculture Sector Plan 2013, which is being assisted by SPC, will provide an overarching plan covering all agriculture initiatives in Niue and takes into account all levels of agricultural development, from subsistence to commercial, with a multistakeholder approach; b) the Soil Management Plan and the Resource Manual, which are at the proposal stage developed by SPC and Landcare New Zealand, will provide supplementary information on soil maps and other related information.

With the small geographic area and population of Niue and numerous potential synergies with the abovementioned GEF-supported projects, UNDP will explore sharing of a common project steering committee and integrate/coordinate several general activities (communication, M&E, audits, etc.). These will be defined during the PPG.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

Niue's National Strategic Plan 2009-2013 has identified "Sustainable use and management of Niue's natural resources and environment for present and future generations" as one of its key goals. Several targets under this Plan are directly relevant to this proposed project, including the following:

- Develop long-term land use policies by 2009 that will result in legislative guidelines (and land registration system) to facilitate improved access to and security of tenure for (i) residential, private and communal, property; (ii) agricultural and recreational use; (iii) economic and private sector development needs; and (iv) biodiversity, sustainable land management and environmental protection.
- Ensure that the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management are applied in implementing the National Fisheries Management Development Plan and related fisheries and marine resource management plans .
- Develop and implement a National Environment Conservation Plan by 2009
- Increase protected areas (terrestrial, marine and coastal) by 10% by 2013
- Increase number and type of ecosystem species conserved by 5% by 2013
- Promote Environment and Sustainable Development principles into the school curriculum's by 2010 through extra-curricula programmes
- Increase the number of public awareness programmes on Environment and Sustainable Development (public seminars, media programmes) conducted by 50% by 2013

This project is also consistent with Niue's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan, whose vision is "Niue is an Environmentally Friendly Nation in which conservation and the sustainable management of biological resources support all the living community" and has the goal of protection of biological diversity "to retain and enhance existing biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity". This project is consistent with the NBSAP's Theme 1 - Conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial habitats, which has particularly noted the need for forest conservation, as well as Theme 2 - Conservation of terrestrial species, such as the flying fox, and Theme 3 - Coastal, inshore and marine biodiversity.

The project is well aligned with the GEF/UNDP's Programme Framework Document for the regional programme "Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities – Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods". The project's two components are primarily aligned with the Regional PFD Component 1 - National Multi-focal Area Ridge-to-Reef Demonstrations in all Pacific Island Countries, particularly with the following two Outcomes:

- Ridge-to-Reef approach achieved in demonstration sites through the scaling up of IWRM and introduction of ICM towards integrated management of natural resources and to reduce watershed and coastal pollution in priority catchments
- Improved terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation in priority catchments and linked coastal areas

The project will also contribute to the following Outcome under this Component:

- Improved resilience to climate change of island ecosystems and communities in priority catchments

B.2 GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

This project is directly contributing to the GEF 5's Biodiversity Focal Area and its International Waters Focal Area. The project's Component 1 is aligned with the GEF's Biodiversity Focal Area Objective 1 - Improve Sustainability of PA Systems, and Outcome 1.1 - Improved management effectiveness of (existing and) new protected areas. Component 2 will directly contribute to the GEF 5 BD2 Objective - Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors, as the project spearheads the integration of biodiversity considerations into several government sectors (Community Affairs, Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries, Culture, Education) in landscapes linked to the community conservation areas– which fits with Output 2 - National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation. The project will also directly contribute to IW Focal Area's Objective 1 - Multi-state cooperation on water uses in transboundary surface and ground water, Output 1.3 - Pollution Reduction, improved water efficiency, IWRM through the project's activities under Component 2 on pollution reduction in the streams in selected sites.

The project will directly support Niue to achieve the following Aichi Targets; especially those under Strategic Goal B - Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use:

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits (Components 1 and 2)
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity (Component 2)
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity (Component 2)

Component 1 will support the implementation of the Strategic Goal C - To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, particularly:

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

B.3 The GEF agency's comparative advantage to implement this project:

UNDP has supported a number of national level projects and assessments on environmental issues in the past. With the support from the GEF, UNDP has supported the Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forests in the implementation of Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management project (2007-2012).

In addition, UNDP implemented several regional/global projects that have had a component for the Niue. For example, it implemented the GEF funded South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, a capacity building project on Sustainable Land Management, and another on Integrated Water Resources Management. Under the International Waters programme, UNDP has also implemented several GEF supported projects in the country, such as the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the Pacific Small Island Developing States; Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project; PAS Implementing Sustainable Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in the Pacific Island Countries; and the Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS). UNDP has also supported Sustainable Village Development Plans development in two villages, and similar exercises are being planned 12 others under PACC. These plans created good momentum for community engagement, and identified community needs and plans in agriculture, water, and coastal issues, but without integrating climate risks, and providing funds for actual implementation.

This project will directly support the Outcome 1.1 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Pacific Sub-region for 2013-2017, which also covers Niue. That Outcome sets that the UN will work to enhance the national capacities to apply integrated approaches to environmental management.

Under this Framework, the UNDP's Sub Regional Programme Document (SRPD) for the Pacific (2013-2017), which covers Niue, indicates that UNDP will contribute to the following indicative country programme outputs:

- Strengthen capacities of local government departments for effective and participatory environmental governance.
- Implementation of demonstration projects on natural resources management and biodiversity at the community level that can be scaled up and support formulation of evidence-based policies.
- Enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks facilitating transition to green, low-carbon climate-resilient paths of development and increased access to renewable energy put in place.

Those indicative outputs are specifically defined for Niue in the UNDAF Country Results Matrix (yet to be approved), under the national Output 1 - National and local authorities sustainably manage the environment, mitigate and adapt to climate change and natural disasters. In particular, this project will contribute to the following indicators:

- Percentage of terrestrial and marine areas protected (MDG7)
- Improvement of protected areas management effectiveness
- Agriculture and fisheries food security policy endorsed by government
- Expansion of organic agriculture and exploration of niche export markets
- National environmental management strategy adopted by relevant government entity
- Reduction of pollution from land or marine activities as indicated by quality measurements through periodic sampling in preselected representative locations

The project is also in full alignment with UNDP's new global Strategic Response Framework for Biodiversity, which includes Signature Programmes on protected areas, ecosystems management and mainstreaming. UNDP has been supporting numerous protected areas strengthening projects in Asia and the Pacific on PA estate expansion and management, in partnership with the GEF. UNDP's support for this project will be provided through its multi-country office in Samoa, as well as through a locally recruited staff through joint UN presence. Additionally, technical support and project oversight will be provided by UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor based at UNDP's Asia Pacific Regional Centre.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Sauni Tongatule	Director/ GEF OFP	Environment Division, Government of Niue	AUG 07 2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.

AGENCY COORDINATOR, AGENCY NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	PROJECT CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
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