



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Mainstreaming global environmental priorities into national policies and programmes		
Country(ies):	Palau	GEF Project ID: ¹	5579
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5049
Other Executing Partner(s):	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC)	Submission Date:	25 November 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	36
Name of parent program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	52,250
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> • For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> • For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 			

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) CD-2	GEFTF	200,000	210,000
(select) CD-2	GEFTF	230,000	240,000
(select) CD-5	GEFTF	72,500	67,500
Project Management	GEFTF	47,500	52,500
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		550,000	570,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To strengthen Palau's capacities to meet national and global environmental commitments through improved management of environmental data and information						
Project Component	Grant Type ³	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Component 1: Improved management information system for the global environment	TA	Improved management information system to measure achievements towards global environmental objectives	Harmonized collection and measurement methodologies of key data and information Existing databases and information systems are strengthened and networked to improve access to environmental data and information Agencies' data	GEFTF	200,000	210,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

³ TA includes capacity building, and research and development.

			management protocols are revised to improve access			
Component 2: Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluation of the global environment	TA	Strengthened individual capacities to monitor and evaluate impacts and trends on the global environment	Training on new and improved data and information collection and measurement methodologies Training on analytical skills to evaluate global environmental impacts and trends	GEFTF	230,000	240,000
Component 3: Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment	TA	Institutionalized monitoring and evaluation capacities	Key agencies and OERC mandates have been revised and strengthened to catalyze improved decision-making for the global environment	GEFTF	72,500	67,500
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
		Subtotal			502,500	517,500
		Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴		GEFTF	47,500	52,500
		Total Project Cost			550,000	570,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	OERC	In-kind	320,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	30,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)		Unknown at this stage	220,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			570,000

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	GEFTF	Multi-focal Areas	Palau	550,000	52,250	602,250
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0

⁴ To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

Total Grant Resources	550,000	52,250	602,250
------------------------------	---------	--------	---------

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. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

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

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)⁶</u>
• No PPG required.	-- 0--	--0--
• (upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	30,000	2,850
• (upto)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$200k for projects up to & including \$10 million	_____	_____
• (upto)\$300k for projects above \$10 million	_____	_____

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	MULTI FOCAL AREA	Palau	30,000	2,850	32,850
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total PPG Amount				30,000	2,850	32,850

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

⁵ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION⁷

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description. Briefly describe the project, including ; 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline , the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The Republic of Palau is an archipelago in the Western Pacific consisting of over 500 islands (nine currently inhabited) situated close to the global center of marine biodiversity and covering a land area of 535 sq km. Palau's islands contain a rich diversity of biodiversity and habitats, with an estimated 1,000 endemic species. Most are terrestrial and directly affected by drought, soil erosion, land degradation, and unsustainable development. The economy is supported primarily through tourism and off shore fishing. In addition to these two main economic sectors, the agricultural sector also contributes, albeit at a much less significant level, to Palau's economy. While the tourism industry is the major economic sector in Palau, this sector is extremely sensitive to global economic conditions and hence tourism in Palau was adversely impacted by the recent global economic crisis.

As a result of the Palau's depressed economy, revenue collection is dramatically decreased, leading to inevitable cut backs in government services, government hiring freeze, and off-island migration. This has exacerbated Palau's capacities to implement priority programmes outlined in the NCSA Action Plan due to low institutional capacities and lack of knowledge management and expertise, despite good examples of strong partnerships among community-based organizations, local communities, and national agencies.

This project responds to three main categories of articles under the three Rio Conventions, demonstrating both the global environmental value of the project and its cross-cutting capacity development strategy. The first set of Rio Convention articles refer to stakeholder engagement, where the three Rio Conventions call for the building of capacities of relevant individuals and organizations (resource users, owners, consumers, community and political leaders, private and public sector managers and experts) to engage proactively and constructively with one another to manage a global environmental issue (FCCC: Articles 4 & 6; CBD: Articles 10 & 13; and CCD: Articles 5, 9, 10 & 19). The second set of articles call for countries to develop capacities of individuals and organizations to plan and develop effective environmental policy and legislation, related strategies, and plans based on informed decision-making processes for global environmental management (FCCC: Article 4 & 6; CBD: Articles 8, 9, 16 & 17); and CCCD: Articles 4, 5, 13, 17, 18, and 19). The third set of capacities refer to strengthening environmental governance, in particular to strengthen capacities of individuals and organizations to enact environmental policies or regulatory decisions, as well as plan and execute relevant sustainable global environmental management actions and solutions (FCCC: Article 4; CBD: Articles 6, 14, 19 & 22); and CCD: 4, 5, 8, 9 & 10).

This project is innovative and sustainable in that it will develop capacities to create a more resilient environmental management information system that will also be sustainable because of its expected cost-effectiveness. Traditionally, management information systems are organized and operated by individual agencies and organizations. This was a rational development approach due to the limited availability of financial resources that required organizations to focus on their particular data and information needs. Also, having

⁷ Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

proprietaryship of this data and information allowed for greater predictability of the availability and accessibility of the needed data and information. Over time, there have been both convergent and divergent capacities developed: In a number of instances, agencies and organizations have evolved their data and information collection and management operations to be very agency-specific. In other instances, the limited resources have forced agencies and organization to maintain now outdated methodologies and operations for managing data and information. An extension of these information barriers is that decision-making is increasingly being taken on the basis of inaccurate information, or in some instances taken in absence of information.

The project's strategy is to take an in-depth institutional strengthening approach to developing a national environmental management information system that fully integrates principles and features of resiliency and sustainability. This will require the appropriate re-negotiation of institutional mandates governing the collection, management and distribution of data and information, as well as building key back-up structures and mechanisms. Barriers to sharing data and information across institutional boundaries will be removed through concerted negotiations among owners of intellectual property. The sustainability of the national environmental management information systems (EMIS) thus requires much more than the basic and simplistic approach of training of social actors that represent present and future stakeholders, though this is certainly one important element of capacity development activities of the project. Additional awareness-raising activities will be required with users of data and information, in particular decision-makers and planners, including those in the private sector, who hold important positions of influence on resource mobilization that can adversely or positively impact the global environment. The value of this project, much like the other similar UNDP/GEF EMIS projects under development in the region, is that they will look at managing EMIS as a more complex dynamic system, rather than take the traditional transactional approach to database management and help move Palau to structuring and implementing an EMIS that will more readily lend itself to a more sophisticated Decision Support System and/or Executive Information System. The demonstration of the latter will serve to demonstrate the long-term value and thus sustainability of the EMIS, and provide lessons learned and best practice approaches on how to scale up the project outcomes.

This project will target the capacity building activities towards assessing data and information gaps and weaknesses, strengthening data and information sharing through improved networking, thereby reducing unnecessary duplication of financial resources, and realigning organizational mandates to help institutionalize developed capacities. The project will also strengthen the institutional linkage between data and information management systems and environmental decision-making for the global environment, which includes institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation capacities. This project will be closely coordinated with similar cross-cutting capacity development projects in Tonga and Vanuatu to build up a critical mass of developed capacities that can be shared within the region, as well as to create important economies of scale and cost-effectiveness.

Palau's existing data and information systems currently contribute to national planning processes as well as to the preparation of Rio Conventions' reporting requirements. A number of agencies and stakeholder organizations make more of a contribution to others in this area, although all are facing increasingly serious limitations due to financials cuts, which further limit the ability to retain technically qualified staff to undertaken the strategic analyses to inform decision-making and prepare the required national reports.

Co-financing will be leveraged to help assess data and information needs to meet sustainable development priorities, with GEF funds used to reconcile those needs to inform decision-making necessary to meet Rio Convention obligations.

This project, as with those for Tonga and Vanuatu, will be implemented in three linked components:

Component 1: Improved management information system for the global environment
(49% GEF, 51% co-financing)

Improving existing management information systems to measure achievements towards global environmental objectives. This component will focus on assessing and strengthening those sets of measurement methodologies, negotiating agreements towards harmonizing these and institutionalizing them within the relevant agencies and sharing protocols in a cost-effective manner. Under this project component, there are three main sets of outputs:

Output 1.1: Harmonized collection and measurement methodologies of key data and information

An analysis of the institutional field concerning the management of data and information relevant to the global environment will be undertaken, building upon the current set of analyses and capacity development work underway or planned in Palau and the region. With the active participation of technical staff in the key institutions and agencies in Palau through expert working groups, the harmonization of the current set of collection and measurement methodologies will be negotiated and officially agreed by the relevant decision-makers.

Output 1.2: Existing databases and information systems are strengthened and networked to improve access to environmental data and information

Building on output 1.1, targeted existing databases and information systems will be re-structured and re-organized, taking care to maintain the right level of redundancy necessary to ensure the resilience of these systems. This will include negotiating networked systems with other countries in the region.

Output 1.3: Agencies' data management protocols are revised to improve access

This output focuses on negotiating cooperation and collaborative arrangements, and will be undertaken in a way that builds legitimacy among partner institutions and agencies. The sustainability of the databases and management information systems may thus also require the development of specific legal instruments, such as memoranda of agreements or understanding, as well as agreed financial terms for the exchange of data and information.

Component 2: Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluation of the global environment (49% GEF, 51% co-financing)

Strengthening technical capacities to monitor and evaluate impacts on the global environment. While the first component focuses on strengthening the institutional and organizational capacities for improved data and information collection, management and sharing, this component focuses on the strengthening of human capacities to use improved data and information for strategic decision-making in the interest of meeting global environmental obligations. Strengthening the network linkages with other countries will be piloted with through the Tonga and Vanuatu CCD projects. Under this project component, there are two main sets of outputs. This output is targeted to the identifying and developing new and existing technical skills, and will be closely correlated with output 2.2. Output 2.1 focuses on the what (the new and existing technical skills for M&E) while output 2.2 focuses on the how, who, when and where. That is, expert workshops and university courses for current staff and university students, and coordinated with similar training to be undertaken by parallel projects in Palau or the region.

Output 2.1: Training on new and improved data and information collection and measurement methodologies

This output includes the identification of the necessary methodologies to be included in the set of trainings under this project, taking into account those necessary methodologies that the project will not finance because they are being provided by parallel projects. In the case of the latter, output 2.2 will ensure the appropriate level of coordination.

Output 2.2: Training on analytical skills to evaluate global environmental impacts and trends

The long-term sustainability of effectiveness of the project requires building up the absorptive capacities in Palau. Training will be provided to current staffs, but must also include the development and implementation of the necessary skills to university students, which serves as a national pool of local expertise. This is intended to minimize the loss of absorptive capacity as a result of staff turnover. Activities under this output will be coordinated similar activities in other countries in the region, taking into account the need to ensure resilience and improve cost-effectiveness.

Component 3: Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment institutionalized (50% GEF, 50% co-financing)

The third component focuses on enhancing the institutional sustainability of capacities developed under the project through the assessment and targeted strengthening of monitoring and evaluation processes. As such, this component will be strategically implemented alongside component 1 that serves to strengthen the institutional linkages of data and information systems across agencies and stakeholder organizations. Lessons learned and best practices will be reconciled with those identified through the Tonga and Vanuatu CCCD projects, as well as the regional UNEP/GEF SPREP project.

Output 3.1: Key agencies and OERC mandates have been revised and strengthened to catalyze improved decision-making for the global environment

Activities under this output are targeted to the facilitation of a working group of decision-makers of the key agencies to negotiate revisions to their institutional mandates. This will build on the institutional assessment of output 1.1, with particular attention to selecting best practices in the region that can be appropriately applied to Palau.

Although there is an important sustainable development baseline to the project in the form of the OERC and various data and information management systems housed within various government agencies and stakeholder organizations, these require significant co-financing to bring these networks up to date, including training of existing and new staff on latest data and information collection methodologies and analytical tools needed to develop and implement national development plans that are more comprehensive. An estimated equal amount of GEF resources will be needed to reconcile these capacity needs to global environmental priorities and obligations. Indeed, in order to ensure that global environmental needs are fully reflected within the national data and information management systems, each capacity development activity under the project will need to be carefully and strategically developed within a Rio Convention construct.

An additional activity under this project relates to institutional linkages with other Pacific islands' data and information management systems, in particular the parallel projects for Tonga and Vanuatu. GEF funds will be allocated to help strengthen networked national data and information management systems, partnering with key regional organizations, including but not limited to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), and University of the South Pacific (USP).

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:

Key project stakeholders are those organizations, agencies and individuals that collect, share and use data and information for taking decisions and actions that affect the global environment. The first key stakeholder is the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC), which is Palau's focal point to the Rio Conventions and is responsible for coordinating and facilitating Palau's negotiations and follow-up implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio Conventions. The OERC will implement this project.

Other key stakeholders are government agencies that have direct responsibilities for collecting data and information relevant to assessing environmental trends. These include the Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau

of Marine Resources, Environmental Quality Protection Board, National Environmental Protection Council, the Palau Automated Lands and Resources Information System (PALARIS), the Environmental Quality Protection Board, the Palau Community College-Cooperative Research and Extension (PCC-CRE), and the Palau International Coral Reef Center. Each of these organizations will play a role in the project, taking part in implementing, as appropriate, specific capacity building activities, as well being beneficiaries of capacities developed under the project. These will be determined during the project preparation phase.

In addition to government stakeholder organizations include non-governmental organizations such as the Palau Conservation Society and The Environment Inc., as well as state affiliated community organizations (e.g., youth and women) will also be important project stakeholders. During the project preparation phase, these will be identified and their role in project implementation and as beneficiaries determined.

Important stakeholders include a number of regional organizations, such as SPC, SPREP and USP, each of which are eminent institutions in the region in collecting and using data and information for important decisions and actions pertaining to local, regional, and global environmental concerns. The project will include a set of activities that serve to capitalize in the expertise and comparative advantages of these organizations, with particular attention to them helping achieve economies of scale and reducing unnecessary redundancies. To the extent necessary, the project may also help strengthen targeted capacities of these organizations with a view to achieving the project's cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

During the PPG phase, the appropriate types of mechanisms to engage non-state actors, including CSOs can only be determined through consultations. Notwithstanding, examples include creating or strengthening existing information networks and linking these with technical working groups of committees established or to be established for each of the three Rio Conventions. The validity and strength of the project's sustainability will rely on a set of regular dialogues with civil society on information barriers to effectively addressing global environmental issues. Without prejudice to the consultations to occur under the PPG, one model of CSO participation (and there may well be multiple models) could be the regular convening, e.g., every three months or so within the framework of some existing community outreach programme that may be managed by one or more NGOs, to include an agenda item on priority Rio Convention issues that require civil society mobilization.

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):

Risk 1: Lack of absorptive capacity to implement activities

Level of Risk: Medium

Mitigation Measures: Project activities and implementation arrangements would be designed through a comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation to ensure they can be cost-effectively and feasibly implemented during the project preparation phase (PPG). Project partners will be identified and partnerships created for project implementation.

Risk 2: Delays in project implementation due to bureaucratic processes within the Government

Level of Risk: Low

Mitigation Measures: The Office of Environmental Response & Coordination (OERC) will implement this project with the direct support of UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office. Key institutions at the national level have been involved in conceptual stage and will be critical stakeholders during the project preparation phase. Representatives from different institutions, relevant local municipalities, NGO and academic representatives will be represented on the Project Steering Committee, and will be directly involved in project implementation.

Risk 3: Palau recently committed to drill for oil on the Belasco reef in Kanyangel, which in adjacent to a designated conservation area

Level of Risk: Medium

Mitigation Measures: The project will assess the data and information needed to prepare high quality environmental impact assessments to minimize serious risks to the global environment. The project may use this as a pilot case to test the quality of improved data and information management needs.

Risk 4: In 2010, the Olbiil Era Kelulau (Palau's National Congress) passed a purse seining law to allow potentially damaging fishing activity to be conducted within the territorial waters of Palau

Level of Risk: Low

Mitigation Measures: This proposed law was vetoed by the President, demonstrating the political commitment at the highest to natural resource sustainability. The project will strengthen data and information management capacities that will reinforce this veto and similar laws destructive of natural resources.

Risk 5: A recommendation was made to remove the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) from within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, which would have taken away the semi-independent status of the EQPB and would have weakened its authority.

Level of Risk: Low

Mitigation Measures: This move was seen as a way to increase economic investment opportunities by decreasing the requirements and time needed to comply with EIA recommendations and implementation of environmental impact mitigation measures. This recommendation was not accepted by the President, demonstrating the political commitment at the highest level to environmental conservation. The project's strengthening of the data and information needs and analytical skills to prepare EIAs, as well as strengthening consultative processes for EIAs to strategically inform decision-making.

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

There are a number of capacity building projects being implemented that this project would be coordinated with. These include the Capacity Building for National Planning project, which aims to help Palau prepare and implement sectoral and sustainable development strategies aligned with the Millennium Development Goals. Another is the Support to Parliament Project, which aims to improve the effectiveness of parliamentary decision-making. A third is the Sustainable Land Management project that aims to help eradicate poverty caused by land degradation.

There are a number of non-GEF funded projects that could possibly contribute baseline co-financing to the proposed CCCD project, including the AS\$ 328 million AusAID Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme (of which AS\$ 20 million is allocated for Palau). Another possible project is the North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project (€14.4 million for Palau and two other countries)

During project preparation, these and other projects will be identified and assessed to determine the complementarity of relevant capacity building activities, as well as the extent of the baseline and leveraged co-financing.

The UNEP/GEF regional project takes an over-arching regional approach to developing capacities for managing environmental information. To that end, the UNEP project will focus on the regional architecture, with a number of important national capacity assessments (e.g., 1.1.1 of the UNEP/GEF PIF) and trainings (e.g., 3.1.1 of the UNEP/GEF PIF). These and other activities will be framed towards strengthening a network of national and regional databases. The UNDP/GEF project picks up where the UNEP/GEF stops in that the former will focus on harmonizing and reconciling a wider set of national and local databases that would not only contribute to environmental planning, forecasting and reporting, but more importantly for Palau

for integrating information into planning frameworks not covered by the UNEP/GEF project.

The resilience of regional environmental management information systems rests on a number of basic redundancies, which in this case would be demonstrated by having back-up systems in the event of a disaster that destroys part of the network. The UNEP/PIF clearly outlines a strategy that relies on a programme of work to be carried out by SPREP to provide technical advisory services to Palau and other PICs on improving environmental information management systems. The UNDP/GEF project on the other hand takes more national ownership and active role in the strengthening a more nationally holistic construct of their environmental management information system.

Certainly, at this stage of the project, the details of the differences and complementarities of both projects will require consultations and negotiations to better define each project's system boundaries, respecting that there is a clear need for a national project to ensure national ownership and more effectively coordinate with national and local stakeholders that is constrained by a regional project and SPREP.

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, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.:

Through the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) process, Palau was determined to suffer from a low systemic capacity to implement the Rio Conventions. This is due to the insufficient capacities of the key organizations to collect and manage data and information and technical know-how to inform decision-making and take action to meet global environmental targets. The reporting demands under the conventions further overwhelm Palau's absorptive capacities to adequately collect, collate and analyze data and information and carry out critical analyses. Palau's limited financial resources are currently directed to meet the basic reporting requirements under the Rio Conventions, with insufficient resources available for effective national coordination and implementation of the Rio Conventions through their respective strategies and action plans (FCCC National Communication, CCD National Action Plan, and CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Although the Office for Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) was created by Presidential Executive Order (No. 189 in January 2001) to coordinate Palau's response the United Nations environmental commitments, there remains duplication among government agencies due to historical organizational mandates as well as key work falling between the cracks. This is due in large part to the institutional boundaries among government agencies, leading to little sharing of data and information among government agencies. Coupled with relatively low numbers of technically trained citizens, Palau suffers from limited capacities to effectively implement the Rio Conventions. Consistent with the critical challenges identified in their national reports and communications to the CBD, CCD and FCCC, Palau's NCSA stated that baseline data are either fragmented or non-existent; research and implementation methodologies lack standardization; and there is inadequate sharing of information and feedback when return from international and regional meetings

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

This project is consistent with programming framework CD2 of the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development multi-focal area, which is to generate, access, and use information and knowledge to improve decision-making for the global environment. A number of Palau's agencies have differing responsibilities for collecting and monitoring environmental data and information, however, there is overlap in the collection and measurement methodologies, and the metrics used do not readily lend themselves for accurate assessment and impacts and trends. In particular, CD2 of the CCCD Programming Framework calls for

targeted capacity development support to strengthen and harmonize Palau's environmental management information system in the interest of the global environment.

The above capacity development support will be complemented by targeted cross-cutting capacity development support from CCCD Programming Framework CD5, which focuses on institutionalizing these systems within the decision-making process. The Government of Palau has already helped create a baseline institutional structure through the establishment of the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) by Presidential Executive Order 189 (January 2001). However, over the past ten years, the OERC has been constrained by the lack of a comprehensive environmental framework that includes the necessary variety of policies and clearly designated implementation and enforcement agencies. By strengthening technical and institutional capacities through improved information and knowledge systems, this project would help Palau make more informed and better decisions in support of the global environment.

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNDP prepared Palau's Country Programme Action Plan under the 2008-2012 UN Development Assistance Framework, which provides a strategic agenda for Palau's sustainable development, including the NCSA that serves framed capacity development needs to meet Rio Convention priorities. UNDP has provided extensive support to Palau through a range of development projects through the UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office as well as through a Palau-based Joint Presence Office. UNDP is among the most important global development agency for Palau, playing a critical role in facilitating partnerships among donor agencies in the region, as well as with regional organizations such as SPC, SPREP and USP, among others. The UNDP Fiji MCO currently provides programme development and implementation services for policy, technical and knowledge management to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and has assisted PICs to access financial resources in various environment and development portfolios. The UNDP Fiji MCO is staffed with dedicated environment officers and is supported by Regional Technical Advisors based in Samoa, the UNDP Pacific Centre in Fiji and the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok and also works in close collaboration with Pacific regional organizations for provision of specialized technical services.


UNDP has a significant comparative advantage in being able to leverage significant resources from various multilateral and bilateral donors. For this project, UNDP has identified nine potential sources of co-financing from government agencies and other donors. During the PPG, the further development of this project is needed to identify activities that the donor agencies are willing to co-finance.

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\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Charlene Mersai	GEF Operational Focal Point	OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE & COORDINATION	08/28/2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu Officer in Charge and Deputy Executive Coordinator UNDP-GEF		11/25/2013	Tom Twining-Ward, Senior Technical Advisor UNDP (Green-LECRDs)	-421 2 59337 386	tom.twining-ward@undp.org