



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Implementing a “Ridge to Reef” approach to protecting biodiversity and ecosystem functions in Nauru (R2R Nauru)		
Country(ies):	Nauru	GEF Project ID:	5381
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5218
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Environment	Submission Date:	5 April 2013
		Resubmission Date:	15 April 2013
		Resubmission Date:	18 April 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-Focal Area	Project Duration (Months)	48
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 Livelihoods	Agency Fee (\$):	237,992

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
BD-2	GEF TF	1,789,829	1,600,000
LD-3	GEF TF	699,429	1,553,000
IW-1	GEF TF	155,100	3,200,000
Total Project Cost		2,644,358	6,353,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods in Nauru using a ridge-to-reef approach						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
1. Conservation of Marine Biodiversity	TA	1.1 Improved management effectiveness of new marine conservation areas	1.1.1 Network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) established covering at least 15% of Nauru’s total coastline, equivalent to about 2.8 km. through community actions and supporting enabling government actions such as ordinances and regular budget allocation 1.1.2 LMMAs strengthened through development and implementation of management plans following participatory approaches and Integrated Coastal Management to address threats, including climate change impacts; guidelines for utilizations of LMMAs including closed	GEF TF	1,312,525	1,450,000

			seasons and closed areas agreed on and implemented			
2. Sustainable Land and Water Management	INV	2.1 Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities living within the 'bottom-side', and applicable 'ridge', and 'topside' areas not covered by mining.	<p>2.1.1 Biophysical, demographic and socioeconomic assessments conducted in the entire island, focusing on the bottom-side and applicable 'ridge' areas and topside not covered by mining.</p> <p>2.1.2 Integrated land-use plan developed for the bottom-side and applicable 'ridge' and topside areas that are not covered by mining through review of the draft land-use plan and patterns of land ownership.</p> <p>2.1.3 Soil and water conservation measures implemented, including through rehabilitation of degraded land in 'ridge' and topside areas using economic species such as fruit trees and increase of communal water storage facilities in four water-stressed areas to support home gardens and household water supply.</p> <p>2.1.4 Drought- and salt-tolerant food crops tested and practices disseminated to communities and households building on initiatives of bilateral and multilateral organizations.</p> <p>2.1.5 Innovative measures implemented (e.g. small scale solid and wastewater treatment systems, composting toilets and artificial wetland wastewater filtration) to reduce pollution loads by at least 10% on LMMAs to improve ecosystem health and sustain ecosystem services. This is based on successes of pilot demonstrations of the IWRM project and as a way of implementing the national IWRM plan.</p>	GEF TF	765,310	3,944,760
3. Governance and Institutions	TA	3.1 Biodiversity conservation and SLM mainstreamed in policy and regulatory frameworks	<p>3.1.1 Relevant policies developed for key sectors such as environment, waste management, natural resource management, coastal fisheries, agriculture and land-use" developed.</p> <p>3.1.2 Capacity strengthening of national agencies such as MCIE (agriculture, environment, ecotourism etc.), Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resource Authority (coastal division). DCIE: 15, NFMRA: 15, NUC (Nauru Utilities Corp): 5, Ministry of Health: 5, Nauru Rehabilitation Corp: 5, in the following areas: policy formulation, including drafting of legislation; monitoring and evaluation (impacts, water quality, etc); project implementation/ management and oversight; GIS; land-use planning; among others</p>	GEF TF	334,095	300,000

			3.1.3 All local leaders in 17 communities capacitated towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and climate change adaptation through appropriate trainings and other capacity building activities focusing on: project management, land-use planning, LMMA and ICM			
4. Knowledge Management	TA	4.1 Improved data and information systems on biodiversity and land management best practices	4.1.1 Integrate data and information on biodiversity and sustainable land management and relevant sectors on CLiDE (Climate Database for Environment) 4.1.2 Knowledge products (videos, photo stories, flyers, brochures) on all thematic areas and best practices developed and disseminated through various media (print and broadcast)	GEF TF	100,210	150,000
Sub-Total					2,512,140	5,844,760
Project management cost					132,218	508,240
Total project costs					2,644,358	6,353,000

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 (grant or in-kind)	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Environment - Environment Division	In-kind	400,000
Bilateral	European Union	In-kind	653,000
	Australian Agency for International Development	Grant	1,200,000
	Pacific Environment Community Fund	Grant	4,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	100,000
Total Co-financing			6,353,000

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

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA	Country Name / Global	Project Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Nauru	1,333,290	119,996	1,453,286
UNDP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Nauru	444,430	39,998	484,428
UNDP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Nauru	711,088	63,998	775,086
UNDP	GEF TF	International Waters	Global	155,550	14,000	169,550
Total Grant Resources				2,644,358	237,992	2,882,350

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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 (\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No PPG required. • (up to) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million • (up to) \$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million • (up to) \$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million • (up to) \$200k for projects up to & including \$10 million • (up to) \$300k for projects up to & including \$10 million 	<hr style="width: 100%;"/> 85,000	<hr style="width: 100%;"/> 7,650
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>

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	Nauru	42,857	3,857	46,714
GEF TF	UNDP	Land Degradation	Nauru	14,286	1,286	15,572
GEF TF	UNDP	Climate Change	Nauru	22,857	2,057	24,914
GEF TF	UNDP	International Waters	Global	5,000	450	5,450
Total PPG Amount				85,000	7,650	92,650

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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 projects; 4) incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF, NPIF) and adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The south Pacific small island state of Nauru is one of the smallest countries in the world. Despite biologically rich terrestrial and marine flora and fauna, currently over 70% of the island is unusable due to phosphate mining on the island’s interior, which has driven the population to the coastal fringe. The combination of serve mining operations and coastal development has had considerable implications and consequences for sustainable land and water management, biodiversity conservation (including marine ecosystem), and the possible effects of climate change. Despite a number of initiatives, the baseline can be characterized as one where existing initiatives remain under-funded and not long-term sustainability, important biodiversity areas remain unprotected, allowing Nauru to far short of national conservation targets, and ad hoc management of critical terrestrial and marine ecosystems with little consideration of downstream impacts or sustainable livelihood opportunities. This project proposes a long-term solution by implementing a ridge-to-reef approach that combines functional, representative and sustainable national system of coastal and marine managed areas that are integrated with the adoption of appropriate SLM practices in adjoining / upstream watersheds. By also improving government capacity, the proposed project will effectively reduce land degradation and enhance protection for marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, whilst improving coastal livelihoods and creating lasting management of Nauru’s natural resources

A.1.1 Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Country Overview & Context: The country of Nauru is located in the dry belt of the equatorial oceanic zone and is situated 200km East-North East of Papua New Guinea and 4450 km South-South East of the Philippines. Nauru

is a raised coral limestone island and is one of the smallest independent nations in the world – with a total population of 9,068 during the last census in 2006 and a total land area of 22 km². Nauru is surrounded by a fringing coral reef ranging from 120m to 300m wide, which drops away sharply on the seaward edge to a depth of approximately 4,000m. The coastal plain is a zone of sandy or rocky beach on the seaward edge, and a beach ridge or fore-dune, behind which is either relatively flat ground or, in some places, low-lying depressions or small lagoons filled by brackish water where the surface level is below the water table (freshwater lens). The raised central plateau (Topside) generally lies between 20-45 meters above sea level with occasional elevations of up to 50-70m. The central plateau comprises a matrix of coral-limestone pinnacles and limestone outcrops, between which lie extensive deposits of soil and high-grade phosphate rock covering approximately 1600 ha (over 70% of the island). Given the extensive phosphate mining on the Topside area, the majority of Nauru's population is concentrated along the coast with many settlements along the coastline. Excluding the 70% of the island that is unusable due to phosphate mining, the population density on the remaining coastal fringe could be over 1,500 persons per km². This has considerable implications and consequences for sustainable land and water management, in terms of the availability and suitability of land and water for future settlement, health and safety, biodiversity conservation (including marine ecosystem) and the possible effects of climate change.

Nauru is lowly ranked at 15 in the 2008 Human Development Index (HDI) due to the high proportion of the population without access to safe water (18.3%) and a very high comparative proportion of children not attending primary school (40%), (UNDP, in draft). Nauruans had lived a sustainable lifestyle and in tune with the island environment for some three thousand years until the nineteenth century when European contact was made and subsequently, the island and distinct culture became seriously exploited and degraded. Coconut monoculture of the island during the colonial period, followed by widespread destruction and displacement of people during World War II, and almost a century of open-cast phosphate mining has now made Nauru one of the most environmentally degraded areas on earth. There is now serious breakdown of the Nauru physical environment as well as the socio-economic wellbeing of its people. If this environment trend is not reversed, Nauru will not survive into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Ecosystem Functions and Uses: The vegetation and flora of Nauru, although highly disturbed and outnumbered by introduced exotics, still constitute a critical ecological and cultural resource to the people of Nauru. This is particularly true for the indigenous species, virtually all of which had wide cultural utility within the traditional subsistence economy. The most important ecological functions of Nauru's plant resources include the provision of shade to humans and animals, animal and plant habitats, protection from wind, erosion, flood and saltwater intrusion, land stabilization, protection from the desiccating effects of salt spray, soil improvement and mulching. All of these functions are seen as critical to the sustainable habitation of Nauru. Preliminary analysis indicates some 174 purposes or use categories for 40 indigenous species, an average of over four uses per species. There are 434 uses for 354 exotic species, an average of 1.2 uses per species. This gives a combined total of 608 use/purpose categories for 394 species (1.5 uses per species). Twenty (20) indigenous and 80 exotic species had no reported uses.

Nauru's main fisheries zones are: the fresh to brackish water ponds, including Buada Lagoon and the systems of sinkholes found inland from the coast; the shallow fringing reef or intertidal zone; the sub-tidal areas and reef slope including fissures or canyons in the reef slope (to about 25m depth); the deep reef and near-shore deepwater areas below 25m; and the open ocean or pelagic fishery. All of these areas are of critical subsistence importance, as well as being of limited local commercial importance. The first four zones are usually considered to be part of the inshore fishery and the latter referred to as the offshore fishery. The resources in the first three zones are heavily exploited while the deep reef and near-shore deepwater areas are becoming increasingly exploited. Most of the potential for increased commercial catches is therefore from deepwater offshore species (snapper and sharks) and pelagic species (mainly tunas) in Nauru's EEZ, an area of approximately 320,000 sq km. There is a wide and diverse range of marine resources available for sustainable harvest in Nauru. The resilience of the resource is evidenced by the fact that, despite many years of daily reef gleaning, it is still possible for some families to glean their daily protein needs from the intertidal zone and fringing reef areas. However, the increasing scarcity of many formerly common marine organisms such as turtles, large reef cod, squirrelfish, drummers and

turban shells is alarming. This situation underlines the need for protective legislation and sustainable harvesting and management strategies.

Environmental legislation: No legislation is in-place to warrant the specific conservation of biodiversity and promotion of sustainable land management practices in Nauru. Laws in the Republic of Nauru that pre-date independence (before 1968) were termed “Ordinances” and remain in force unless and until they are repealed by new government Acts. The existing Ordinances that have relevance for addressing environmental issues and this project are concerned with wild bird preservation, clearing of leased land and its rehabilitation, marine resource management, and littering. The *Wild Birds Preservation Ordinance, 1937*, prohibits the taking of frigate-birds without permission, effectively provides a year-round closed season for “magpies, snipe, quail, white *noddies* and *etsirer* (Nauru canary)”, and a closed season from 1 August to 31 October for the black *noddies*. The *Lands Act* of 1976 makes provision for “the leasing of land for the purposes of the phosphate industry and other public purposes, and for the removal of trees, crops, soil and sand and the payment of compensation and other moneys”. Section 8, paragraph 3 states that “The Corporation shall be liable to rehabilitate any land from which phosphate is mined ... if required by the cabinet by notice in writing to rehabilitate such land”. Compensation is also prescribed when certain culturally important trees and vegetation are removed. The *Marine Resources Act* of 1978 is designed to regulate the fishing industry, both inshore and within the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). New regulation prohibits some fishing methods such as spear-fishing and driftnet fishing, the use of scuba and the taking of marine mammals. The regulation also stipulates minimum sizes for rock lobster and octopus, minimum length for turban shells, blue-tail mullet, topsail drummer and rainbow runner, and minimum size for the coconut crab. The *Litter Prohibition Act* of 1983 allows for fines of up to \$300 for the offence of littering.

Environmental and Natural Resource Governance: The ability to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Nauru depends on the nature of institutions required to support the enforcement of environmental-related legislations. The Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Environment (MCIE) is the lead agency in the planning and administration of environmental matters, including for environmental policies, agriculture, livestock development and tourism, as well as indirectly responsible for the affairs of the Nauru Phosphate Commission (NPC) through its mandate in the general planning and development of all new (non-phosphate-related) and alternative industries. It is also responsible for the initial formulation of the Rehabilitation Authority under the Nauru Australian Cooperation Rehabilitation and Development Feasibility Study (NACRDFS).

To strengthen its environmental capabilities, MCIE established an Environment Division in 1995. The Environment Division has the responsibility of coordinating environmental management activities by both the public and private sectors and is a point of contact for international activities and programmes. The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is responsible for ensuring sustainable fisheries so that Nauru fisheries waters are not overfished and that the impact of fisheries upon the environment is reasonable, and seeking to ensure that the impact of other human activities on fisheries is reasonable. NFMRA also protects aquatic food security: to ensure that Nauruans are able to catch or grow sufficient fish to maintain healthy nutrition. NFMRA is also responsible for maximizing economic return to Nauru from commercial fishing in the Nauru EEZ. NFMRA is an authority and has a legislation to guide and enforce the protection of Nauru’s marine resources.

The Development Planning and Policy Division (DPPD) were established under the finance department in order to mainstream and harmonize developmental projects and plans in all sectors of government. DPPD oversees the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) and works with the Aid Management Unit (AMU) in ensuring that all donor funded projects are part and parcel of the NSDS. The AMU is the link between bilateral partners and government entities in order to harmonize development projects to ensure that assistance received are not duplicative between sectors.

NGOs are a very important part of development in Nauru as most NGOs comprise the Nauru Island Association of Non Government Organization (NIANGO), Church Groups, Women’s Group, Youth Groups, Life Skills Groups (i.e. fishing), cultural groups and the private sector. The National Environmental Coordinating Committee

(NECC) is established to endorse and guide national environment projects to ensure that they are coordinated and achieved within the allotted duration. The Nauru Community Councils (NCCs) have been very active within the last two to three years as each community groups are representative of all 14 districts. The 14 districts have their own different councils and represent the population of each community. The district councils are very organized and active as important national issues are often encompassed within the 14 councils, which include meetings of council leaders to meet and discuss important national issues. The Government of Nauru works in partnership with the NCC for development projects that require community buy-in and ownership.

Loss of Biodiversity: Significant declines are evident in all fauna and flora groups studied recently. The start of such declines would have come from the early European introduction of coconut monoculture and the extensive phosphate mining on the island over the past century. The natural environment of Nauru has been greatly affected by the forest clearance at Topside, the mining operations and its impacts in coastal and marine areas, and by pollution and over exploitation of the sea's natural resources. A significant impact of the mining operations on biodiversity is the dramatic change in the socio-economic system in Nauru from that of natural resources dependent (subsistence) lifestyle to that of a cash-driven economy. Several factors causing the decline of biodiversity need to be addressed.

- **Loss of Ecosystem Diversity:** In 1994 only 37 ha remained of the original Topside *Calophyllum* forest, and almost all of that is now lost to mining. Similarly, because of the pressure of residential development, Bottonside sites now contain very little surviving natural vegetation. It is critical that some of the remaining natural areas and their component ecosystems are preserved immediately; to avoid the high cost and uncertainty of future revegetation programmes to recreate the original ecosystems and forest types of Nauru. Preservation of examples of original ecosystems could be achieved through some form of conservation zones and these should be taken up as highest priority in the rehabilitation process of Nauru. *However, the continuing mining has put rehabilitation of the Topside on hold.*
- **Loss of Species Diversity:** One consequence of the reduction in area of natural vegetation is that some of the less common species of plants and animals have become very restricted either in distribution or in the numbers of individuals in their remaining populations. As a result, up to 45% of Nauru's indigenous plant species (28 out of 60) and a significant proportion of bird species are considered to be rare or endangered.
- **Coral Reef and Marine Resource Degradation:** Degradation and overexploitation of the intertidal zone, subtidal coral reefs, reef slope and pelagic (open ocean) fisheries resources are major constraints to sustainable development and lead to breakdown of the traditional marine tenure systems and resource use systems, including the traditional aqua-cultural system.
- **Pest and Disease Infestation:** The current lack of quarantine regulations and facilities in Nauru is an issue as currently, pests and disease organisms (whether plant, animal or micro-organism) are introduced unchecked to Nauru through air and sea transport terminals. Several pest species such as a range of aggressive weed species and a number of fruit flies are now present in Nauru which adds to the increase in population of pests and disease vectors thereby affecting both environment and health of Nauruans.
- **Pollution and Waste Management:** The issues of air, noise, oil and water pollution and waste management have always been linked to mining operations that affect both the natural and urban environments, and especially the health of Nauruans. The remaining limited groundwater has been chronically polluted and its use is primarily limited for toilet flushing. Potable water is supplied from desalination facilities and from rainwater.
- **Population Growth and Urbanization:** Population growth and urbanization place increasing pressure on natural and cultural resources and constitute a major constraint to sustainable development in Nauru. There are already clear signs of land shortage and increasing population pressure on scarce resources, such as water and marine resources. Uncontrolled urbanization has increased population density and declining productivity of the land. Most of Nauru's people now live urban lifestyles. This has led to the loss of traditional knowledge about plants and animals and the environment and the abandonment of subsistence living to that of cash-dependent lifestyles.
- **Climate Change and Sea Level Rise:** Potentially very serious impacts on biodiversity could result from changes in climate and sea levels associated with global warming. For Nauru, increased temperatures will have devastating effects on its natural ecosystems and affect particular species in the marine sector. Nauru's biological resources will all be drastically affected by climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

A.1.2 Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The Government of Nauru through external assistance provides baseline spending in support of the management of the environment and natural resources throughout the country. The Environment Division within MCIE will spend an estimated US\$400,000 from 2014–2018 in coordinating environmental policy, laws and programs, beach profiling, vegetation survey and Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (BIORAP). Bilateral donors are providing funding to Nauru throughout the project lifetime. The European Union is allocating US\$653,000 for improving Nauru's water catchment systems while AusAID is providing US\$1,200,000 for improving water storage capacity in selected sites. The Government of Japan is providing US\$4,000,000 for promoting the desalination of seawater for household and other productive uses. A summary of each baseline project is described below.

The marine biodiversity conservation project aims to build resilience of the marine ecosystem and looks to address the impacts of anthropogenic and natural pressure on coral reefs. Work has been done to provide offshore FADs as an alternative to coral reef fishing and to relieve the pressure off the reef with funding from SPC and assistance for ISP through AusAID funds. Through this project, other alternatives to coral reef fishing will be considered such as the construction of in-land ponds for milkfish farming. The project would also establish a sound institutional basis for coastal and reef fisheries management to ensure that coastal and reef fisheries are appropriately managed and conserved. Skills and practices from the SPC programme will be complemented through the LMMA from this project and will re-enforce the mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into fisheries practices.

AusAID has provided funding to the Government of Nauru for the construction of 200 reinforced concrete water tanks to supply the most vulnerable households in Nauru. Ensuring a strategic approach to securing access to water in the short-term, the Government's immediate focus has been on augmenting household water storage capacity and improving supply-side constraints. To date, 18,400-liter capacity concrete tanks have been chosen due to their sufficient size as well as their longevity.

The EU GCCA: PSIS project for Nauru focuses on water efficiency and governance programmes that reduce vulnerability to climate induced variability in annual and seasonal precipitation regimes. More specifically the national adaptation activities in Nauru have been chosen with the emphasis of providing greater support to the water sector that will increase the resilience of Nauru in combating the adverse effects of climate change. In this respect, Nauru has chosen to focus on improving rainwater harvesting systems on at least 200 households. Moreover, support will also be provided to mainstream climate change into national and sector response strategies. This project stems from the endorsed National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy which evaluated the current state of the water sector, including the need to increase rainwater storage capacities as well as to expand water catchment and national storage capabilities.

Land degradation, which occurs in 70% Topside, is being addressed by the NRC through projects involving reforestation with indigenous species as well as the testing of suitable species for beautification and food crops. An initial site, known as Pit 6, has several test plots of tree species. A new undertaking for rehabilitation is being performed on a one hectare plot with a more accelerated timeline and a more directed, less experimental approach. Short term goals for addressing these needs can be developed and addressed with suitable projects that will build human capacity and increase the physical and mental wellbeing of the population. When the land from Topside eventually becomes available as living space, knowledge gained and community resilience developed can be directed to SLM and land development on the rehabilitated areas.

Despite these initiatives, the business-as-usual scenario for marine biodiversity and land management is one where: i) existing initiatives remain under-funded and only minimally managed for the foreseeable future; ii) areas important to represent biodiversity will remain unprotected, and Nauru will remain far short of its national goals for coverage of conservation areas; and iii) management of critical ecosystems in terrestrial and marine areas will continue on an ad-hoc basis with little consideration of downstream impacts or sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The long-term solution is to implement a ridge-to-reef approach that combines a functional, representative and sustainable national system of coastal and marine managed areas integrated with the adoption of appropriate SLM practices in adjoining / upstream watersheds. This will effectively reduce land degradation and enhance protection for marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats. The process involved will include but not limited to the following: engaging policy makers and community leaders; identifying the priority pollutants particularly those that degrade coastal ecosystems and coral reefs; identifying effective land management practices which will work to reduce pollution; managing domestic and industrial water effluents; setting targets for pollutant discharge reductions into coastal waters; and monitoring and assessment at the scale of ridge-to-reef. The LMMA approach will comprise: (i) conceptualizing the marine managed area where authorities for boundary-making, existing boundaries and jurisdiction will be determined, agencies and stakeholders engaged, and boundary model developed; (ii) describing the marine boundary that will involve writing the boundary description, and working with mapping professionals; and (iii) digitizing of boundary that involves finding the best available data for digital boundary development, creating and documenting the digital boundary, and providing digital boundary information to the public. A number of barriers stand in the way to achieving this solution.

Barriers	Description of Barriers
Lack of systemic approach and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use	Land tenure is the most critical consideration in terms of the practicality of implementing biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use. Approximately, 90% of community land is tied up with Government and its mining company. Rehabilitation of 'Topside' has begun but must also include the option for landowners to reclaim their rehabilitated lands to begin their own conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity. District communities, as owners of the land, should be empowered to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the community level. Training activities in decision making, resource management and conflict resolution would appear appropriate
Lack of political support and community buy-in for sustainable land management (SLM) approaches	Nauru has made progress in their movement towards SLM as a result of their exposure to the concepts over the past two years. A dedicated group of motivated people working within the government are already implementing projects on pilot SLM activities, sourcing water for productive uses, and improving water conservation and sanitation practices. These should be supported and expanded, with an increased focus on integrating their efforts in the cohesive way that will result with the adoption of the draft SLM NAP and implementation of priority activities such as the expansion of community gardens, land use planning and improving community housing. However, there is a lack of support from political leaders and from community members. A review of the policy and legislation will assist with meaningful reform and with support from decision makers would ensure success of SLM
Lack of community support for integrated land and water management practices	Local community support is critical for effective integrated land and water management in a Ridge to Reef approach. Without moving the attention of the community away from land tenure reform and the economic value of the land and onto community building, land and water use and physical survival will result in failed opportunities for education and active participation in projects. Furthermore, lack of empowered communities to promote natural resource conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the district level means they are less likely to provide acknowledgement and support to national programmes and traditional authorities to enforce and monitor national laws and regulations while providing necessary incentives to improve the standard of living.

A.1.3 Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of the outcomes and components of the project

The Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) management of island ecosystems is being proposed as the overarching approach in this proposed project. R2R management is a comprehensive approach to managing all activities within a 'catchment' or 'watershed' and out to the sea to ensure natural resource sustainability and biodiversity; it is often undertaken in the context of precautionary principle. It is also referred to as Hilltops to Ocean (H2O), White Water to Blue Water, Integrated Catchment and Coastal Management (ICCM), Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) and several other terms. While the terms are relatively new, the concepts of holistic management have been practiced throughout islands Pacific for hundreds to thousands of years. The R2R approach will also include Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) which has been developed to recognize that the nature and functioning of whole

ecosystems should be managed together, rather than focusing on one aspect/sector e.g. a focus on forestry, or agriculture, or fisheries. The approach is fully described in the Program Framework Document under which this proposal is being submitted.

The R2R approach is expected to achieve sustainable management of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources by reducing or eliminating damaging activities and promoting rehabilitating and sustaining activities by resource users who live in or visit the catchment area. This is the basis for this proposed project and the wider program: the integrated management of complete catchment areas or the whole island for smaller mountainous and coral islands. These sites are intended as best practice demonstrations for the rest of the country. The R2R concept encapsulates both Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to cover all activities within the selected area and conserve biodiversity. In this program, both ICM and IWRM will be applied towards reducing, and where possible eliminating, the flow of sediments, excess nutrients, pesticides, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals and solid wastes being delivered from the land through streams and into the ocean. The following project components proceed from the R2R concept.

Component 1: Conservation of Marine Biodiversity (GEF: \$1,180,264): This component of the project will focus on improving the state of marine biodiversity in the waters off of Nauru through a community managed protected network. The expected outcome of Component 1 will be improving the management effectiveness of new marine conservation areas. This will include the establishment of a network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) covering at least 15% of Nauru's total coastline, which is equivalent to 2.8km of Nauru's total perimeter. The project will strengthen LMMAs through the development and implementation of management plans following participatory approaches and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). Additional activities include the re-vegetation of coastal areas to prevent erosion and subsequent siltation of LMMAs. The specifics of how the LMMA concept may be applied in the context of Nauru will be done through PPG phase through an inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultation involving government, NGOs, CBOs, community members, and development partners. Despite the poor institutional framework for marine environmental conservation the project will highlight the linkages to livelihoods and economic activities through an effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process and in doing so, secure buy-in from communities and government officials to anchor the LMMA into a national a policy. The project will also have an opportunity to add the support of legal framework development.

Component 2: Sustainable Land and Water Management (GEF \$943,383): This component of the project will focus on the terrestrial landscape of Nauru by addressing land and water-use management. The expected outcome of Component 2 will be the adoption of integrated landscape management practices by the local community. Assessments on the biophysical, demographic and socioeconomic of the entire island will be conducted with focus on the Bottom-side and applicable 'ridge' and Topside areas that are not covered by mining. In addition, the draft land-use and patterns of land ownership will be reviewed and revised accordingly. Soil and water conservation measures will be implemented including the rehabilitation of degraded land in 'ridge' and Topside areas with economic species such as fruit trees. Furthermore, community water storage facilities will be increased in four water-stressed areas in order to meet water demand for home gardens and household use. The project will also test drought and salt-tolerant crops as well as implement innovative measures to reduce pollution loads into LMMAs from Component 1, thereby significantly improving long-term ecosystem health and sustaining ecosystem services.

Component 3: Governance and Institutions (GEF \$306,968): This component of the project will focus on strengthening Nauru's regulatory ability as well as building capacity in both government and local communities. The expected outcome of Component 3 is the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and SLM into policy and regulatory frameworks. As a first step, policies will be developed for key sectors such as environment, waste management, natural resource management, coastal fisheries, agriculture and land-use. To support the development of policies and to ensure national ownership in the process, national agencies will also undertake training in specific areas of policy formulation including drafting of legislation; monitoring and evaluation of physical, biological and chemical parameters; project management, implementation and oversight skills; GIS; and land-use planning. Altogether, a total of 45 officials would be trained and be able to use the training in respective

sectors such as DCIE (15); NFMRA (15); NUC (5); Ministry of Health (5); and NRC (5). Local communities will also undergo training for empowerment on biodiversity conservation skills, sustainable land management techniques as well as climate change adaptation awareness. Other community capacity building activities include training on project management, land-use planning, LMMA and ICM. Nauru will participate in international trainings and other related activities to build /strengthen national capacity for integrated approaches espoused in the ridge-to-reef program.

Component 4: Knowledge Management (GEF \$107,688): This component will focus on improving data and information systems on biodiversity conservation and land management best practices and relevant sectors. It will involve integrating data and information using a user-friendly system. In addition, the component will develop knowledge products (such as videos, photo stories, flyers, brochures) on all thematic areas. It will also capture best practices of the project and disseminate through various media including print and broadcast.

The proposed project would have various immediate socio-economic benefits for local communities. Prevention of habitat destruction (such as indigenous and culturally important species, endemic bird species and coral reefs) will be crucial for ecosystem-based adaptive strategies that reduce vulnerability of human coastal communities to climate change and other natural disasters. Halting the decline of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems will secure and generate economic revenue, food security and improve livelihoods. Land degradation abatement and protection of biodiversity resources will serve to maintain small-scale agricultural and marine-related livelihoods. Local communities and women groups would be involved in the designing and implementation of national interventions to ensure their equitability and sustainability. The project will contribute to direct socio-economic benefits derived from:

- Co-management approaches in protected areas where communities will work in close collaboration with LMMA authorities (comprising the National Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA), the Police Department, and the Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment (DCIE)) to manage and monitor conservation within the LMMA sites while also developing and implementing alternative livelihoods activities;
- Improved ability to sustainably exploit near-shore coastal biodiversity resources as a function of improved coastal water quality, thereby maintaining important fish stocks and creating savings in costs of operations;
- Improved productivity of agro-ecosystems through enhanced land conservation measures with opportunities to diversify into alternative food commodities;
- Improved access to water in water-stressed communities via increased communal water storage facilities; and
- General contributions to overall food security associated with enhanced land and water resources management and improved landscapes.

Approximately 33% of Nauruan households are headed by females and many of these women bear an enormous burden in finding creative ways of sustaining their families. Gender and social issues will be fully considered in this project, and gender accountability is a cross-cutting issue at both the project level and component level that will be tracked as part of the M&E system. Special attention will be paid to gender issues in developing socioeconomic indicators, and in the capacity-building activities.

A.1.4 Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing

The project will support the implementation of all four components to overcome the barriers identified in the earlier section, in order to safeguard Nauru's biodiversity for local and global benefits. The first component will strengthen the national system of protected areas, and the second component will ensure that threats to protected areas from outside the protected areas are effectively mitigated through an approach that promotes integrated land management practices. The third and fourth components will strengthen supportive mechanisms in that while one looks at the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management practices into policy and regulatory frameworks, the other would focus on improving data information systems and management of knowledge.

A.1.5 Global Benefits: This project will result in ecological sustainability of terrestrial and marine ecosystems including: shoreline maintenance, storm protection, soil protection, water provision (quality and quantity), and increased resilience and self-repair of ecosystems from other stresses such as increase in sea temperature. The project will provide direct benefit for the 45% of Nauru’s indigenous plant species and a significant proportion of bird species that are considered to be rare or endangered. This would include increasingly scarce marine organisms such a turtles, large reef cod, squirrelfish, drummers and turban shells.

A.1.6 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Institutional and financial sustainability: A number of factors combine to ensure that the project will establish a high level of financial and institutional sustainability. Firstly, there is a commitment by government to the formal establishment of national-level committees to oversee LMMAs and SLM activities, and for the integration of LMMAs and SLM into community co-management structures. Secondly, there is also a commitment by government to developing sectoral policies for environment, including waste management; natural resource management; coastal fisheries; agriculture; and land-use. The sustainability of various SLM approaches will be based on the focus of the project on implementing livelihoods-based SLM activities, thereby providing an economic incentive for local communities to continue such activities indefinitely.

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:

Stakeholder	Expected Role in Project Implementation
MCIE	Lead agency in the planning and administration of environmental matters in Nauru. It is the ministry directly responsible for environmental policies, agriculture, livestock development and tourism, as well as indirectly responsible for the affairs of the Nauru Phosphate Commission (NPC)
NFMRA	Agency responsible for ensuring sustainable fisheries so that Nauru fisheries waters are not overfished and that the impact of fisheries upon the environment is reasonable, and seeking to ensure that the impact of other human activities on fisheries is reasonable. NFMRA also protects aquatic food security to ensure that Nauruans are able to catch or grow sufficient fish to maintain healthy nutrition. NFMRA is also responsible for maximizing economic return to Nauru from commercial fishing in the Nauru EEZ. NFMRA is an authority and has a legislation to guide and enforce the protection of Nauru’s marine resources.
NRC	Responsibility to rehabilitate mined-out areas to a habitable condition.
DPPD	Responsible for harmonizing developmental projects and plans in all sectors of government. DPPD oversees the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) and works with the Aid Management Unit (AMU) in ensuring that all donor funded projects are part and parcel of the NSDS.
AMU	AMU is the link between bilateral partners and government entities in order to harmonize development projects to ensure that assistance received are not duplicative between sectors.
NIANGO	NIANGO is the parent body of all NGOs in Nauru.
NCC	The 14 districts have their own different councils and represent the population of each community. The district councils are very organized and active as important national issues are often encompassed within the 14 councils, which include meetings of council leaders to meet and discuss important national issues. The Government of Nauru works in partnership with the NCC for development projects that require community buy-in and ownership.

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:

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Lack of community buy-in due to land tenure issues	Medium	Include all community members during project design consultations, ensure all submissions are taken onboard, clarify grey areas, and advocate best practices using examples from Fiji and other countries.
Marine and terrestrial ecosystems are not sufficiently resilient and	Medium	Coral reef and re-vegetation activities will contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change on ecosystem services and human

their biological and physical integrity is compromised by the effects of global and regional climate change		infrastructure (through coastal protection); agricultural activities using drought resistant plants will increase resilience to climate change impacts.
Limited capacity could limit success of project implementation	Low	The R2R program includes a capacity enhancement program for national partners. The project is allocating sufficient resources to ensure participation of key local staff.

A.4 Coordination.

Implementation of the proposed project will be carried out in coordination with, and where relevant, building on the on-going GEF funded and other donor/ partners supported projects, which are listed below:

- This project is part of the program *Pacific Islands Ridge to Reef National Priorities - Integrated Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods*. All 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are participating through national R2R projects and/or through a regional program support project, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The program support project will provide assistance to this and other national projects under the program that will include coordination, capacity building through various national/regional and formal/informal trainings. The modalities for coordination and support will be determined during the design phase of the national projects as well as the regional support project.
- The regional *Sustainable Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWRM) in Nauru* was designed with the purpose To adopt a system of affordable as well as a working system for the sustainable integrated water resource and management of wastewater. Main components include: the protection of groundwater resources from pollution through sanitation upgrading; stress reduction of water resources through conservation and improved water management; and capacity building and awareness. This proposed project will build on knowledge management activities carried out by the IWRM project and involve relevant staff in technical working groups and capacity building activities.
- The regional Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC including PACC+) project is designed to enhance the capacity of Nauru to adapt to climate change, including variability, in selected key development sectors. With the purpose to adopt a system of affordable as well as a working system for the sustainable integrated water resource and management of wastewater, the project looks at: incorporating climate risks in the water sector plans and programmes in Nauru; providing practical guidance to design and demonstrate a hybrid water supply system to reduce vulnerability to drought events; and establishing a hybrid water supply system (with co-financing support). This proposed project will build on knowledge management activities carried out by the PACC project and involve relevant staff in technical working groups and capacity building activities.
- The UNEP-implemented Integrated Island Biodiversity (IIB) project places emphasis on the conservation and restoration of priority species and ecosystems, which are at risk in each participating island countries as identified under the island Biodiversity Programme of Work; and to sustainably use island Biodiversity through improved system and processes and to include assessments and monitoring, legislation, information management, capacity and awareness raising. This proposed project will draw information from the IIB project to strengthen LMMAs and capacity building activities, feed into biophysical, demographic and socio-economic assessments, inform the development of an integrated land use plan and regulatory framework, and contribute to improving data information systems and management of knowledge.
- The main objectives of NBSAP EA add-on funds are: to revise the NBSAP document; to develop the 5th National Report to the CBD; and setting National Targets as aligned in the Aichi Targets. This proposed project will build on knowledge management activities carried out by the NBSAP project and involve relevant staff in technical working groups and capacity building activities.
- Some initial scoping is being undertaken on the development of an Integrated Environment Policy for Nauru. The Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme will be managing the project. It will

integrate all the thematic plans and strategies related to environment and climate change into a single strategic framework document. This proposed project will build on established mechanisms (such as the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group) to improve coordination and consultation in relation to policies and programs.

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.:

Nauru is signatory to at least fifteen international treaties, agreements and conventions that relate to environmental issues which signify the interest in the protection of the global and Pacific environments for the benefit of future generations. Of relevant to this project is Nauru's signatory to the UNCBD (1993), UNFCCC (1992) and UNCCD (1998). The project is relevant to achieving some of the UNCBD Aichi targets namely targets 1, 2, 4, 6 and 11 by promoting awareness of the values of biodiversity as well as steps that can be taken to conserve and use it sustainably; integrating biodiversity into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes; implementing plans for sustainable production and consumption and keeping the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits; ensuring all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably; and conserving coastal and marine areas through effectively and equitably managed systems of protected areas. The project also supports the Decision 11/COP.10 of the UNCCD at its 9th Plenary Meeting in October 2011 that "encourages eligible Parties, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of land degradation, to use existing potential to harness synergies across the Global Environment Facility focal areas in order further to reinforce the importance of sustainable land management for integrating environment and developmental aspirations globally".

The project will support the goals of various national development policies in Nauru, including the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005-2025), which regards environmental considerations as an integral cross-cutting link to national development and identifies the need to sustainably use and manage the environment and natural resources for present and future generation. In addition, the draft National Action Programme (NAP, 2012) to support the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification* recognizes the need to strengthen Nauru's systems, institutions and individual capacities to address land degradation in Nauru. The draft NAP is proposing a framework that will build human capacity through addressing issues (such as food security, land and water) that affect Nauru's natural resources and strengthen community resilience. The proposed project also directly supports Nauru's efforts to comply with its commitments related to international environmental conventions. In promoting the conservation and management of the country's biodiversity, the project is consistent with Government of Nauru's priorities as set out in the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2010) of which the main aim is to conserve and sustainably use Nauru's endemic species and equally secure the future of other species, native or introduced, that are vital to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This aim is made in light of the extensive degradation of 70% of Nauru's land due to phosphate mining. The project will also contribute to Nauru's National Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Policy and associated implementation plan that seeks to address widespread community concerns about the availability and quality of freshwater on the island, during periods of ENSO-related droughts and from pollution of groundwater due to household sanitation systems. Key national policies and plans are also supported by this project, including Nauru's National Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) Corporate Plan, which envisages the protection of coastal fisheries through an appropriate legislation. Finally, by strengthening the country's marine ecosystem, this project will build on the findings of the Pacific Regional Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries Development Programme (PROC Fish) and will be a key component of the Government's strategy to establish and implement the Nauru Locally Managed Marine Area, and will assist Nauru to meet its obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to effectively conserve at least 15% of its total coastline by 2020 as a means to contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for its people and to contribute to protection of the world's biodiversity.

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

Biodiversity (BD) Strategy: This R2R project promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services through the improved management of existing and new protected areas, sector reforms to conserve and sustainable use biological diversity, and the incorporation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into planning frameworks. Two of the BD Strategic objectives for GEF 5 are addressed by projects in the program (**BD 1, 2**). The project supports the development and implementation of LMMA systems and helps build the capacity required to achieve their sustainability consistent with **BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems** in order to strengthen PA management effectiveness. The program is consistent with **BD-2: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes, Seascapes and Sectors** in that it will increase and expand sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation while maintaining economic livelihoods that are closely tied to maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Watershed protection and sustainable forest management for water-related ecosystem services will translate seamlessly to biodiversity conservation along with incorporation of biodiversity conservation into policies and programs.

Land Degradation (LD) Strategy: The project seeks to contribute to arresting and reversing current trends in land degradation of the ‘ridge’ areas from the Topside down to the coast, which are aggravated primarily by mining and unsustainable land management. In particular, the project addresses objective 3 (**LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape**) by reducing barriers to cross-sectoral collaboration (through adoption of integrated tools, including land-use plans and hazard area designation from the forested and agricultural uplands down to the tidal lowlands that receive adverse impacts from upstream mining). The project fosters the promotion of integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities building on lessons learned from community-based and participative interventions from the GEF/UNDP/UNEP Pacific IWRM Project. These demonstration initiatives run the gamut from investments in integrated watershed management through forest rehabilitation and conservation of degraded upland areas as well as conservation of riparian corridors and coastal ecosystems.

International Waters (IW) Strategy (IW Strategic Objectives 1, 3): The project seeks to test cross-focal area (which means also cross-sector), integrated management of catchments, aquifers, and coastal/marine ecosystems of the Pacific Islands. At the program level, the strategy of testing this R2R integrated management approach implemented through national multi-focal projects based on national priorities, complemented by a regional multi-focal project (consisting mostly of IW funding) poses serious coordination, cooperation, learning, experience sharing, and administrative costs for the PICs but is the only way to achieve a sustainable future for these vulnerable island states. At the level of national projects under the program, the IW Strategic Objective 1 is of relevance. This project is supportive of focal area strategic objective IW-1 for implementing IWRM where previously introduced (**IW-1: Transboundary Basins/ Aquifers Catalyze multi-state cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in trans-boundary surface and groundwater basins while considering climatic variability and change**).

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

The proposed project in Nauru fits well in the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UNDAF (2008-2012 UNDAF for the Pacific Sub-region) as well as the future UNDAF (2013-2017). Nauru’s draft 2013-2017 UNDAF country results matrix has four priority outcomes of which one is ‘National and local capacities ably respond to climate change and natural disasters, and sustainably manage and coordinate water resources’. The current document outlying UNDP’s national level support to Nauru is the *UNDP Sub-Regional Programme Document for Pacific Island Countries 2013-2017*. One of four programme areas is ‘Environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management’.

The proposed project also falls under UNDP’s 2012-2020 Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework which seeks to harness the positive opportunities provided by biodiversity and natural ecosystems, as a catalyst for sustainable development. With forty years of experience in the biodiversity and ecosystems field, working at the national level, UNDP is well placed to work with developing countries and countries in transition to achieve the Aichi Targets by 2020. The Framework seeks to leverage the organization’s status as a trusted partner of

governments and its unique ability to link work on biodiversity and ecosystems with that on poverty reduction, governance, and crisis prevention through integrated programming.

UNDP-GEF's capacity in Ecosystems and Biodiversity is demonstrated through on-going work with over 146 countries to support the current implementation of 274 projects with a value of USD 3.4 billion that achieve multiple development benefits. Roughly USD 900 million constitutes grant financing from the various funds administered by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). More than 25 highly skilled staff based in regional centres and Headquarters, along with a vast network of UNDP staff in country offices around the world, support efforts to develop the capacity of countries to better manage ecosystems and biodiversity. Since 2000, an area of over 244 million hectares of production land has been directly impacted by UNDP-GEF's support to modify production practices in the agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, extractive industry and other sectors. Over this period, projects have reported cumulative impacts across more than 2,000 PAs covering almost 280 million hectares, including marine, terrestrial and indigenous and community conservation areas.

In managing its global portfolio of freshwater, marine and coastal programmes, UNDP's Water & Ocean Governance Programme (<http://www.undp.org/water>) draws on a wide range of staff expertise in water resources management, water supply and sanitation, fisheries and marine/coastal resources management at HQ, in its Regional Centers, and through its network of Country Offices. Senior advisors at HQ and in regional centers all have relevant Ph.D.'s (fisheries economics, water resources management, environmental management/policy, marine resource economics, etc.). This project will be directly supported by a team of experienced UNDP Regional Technical Advisor based in the Asia-Pacific Regional Center and by the UNDP Principal Technical Advisor at UNDP Headquarters with responsibility for global oversight of the UNDP Water & Ocean Governance programme.


The Fiji Multi-country Office (MCO) based in Suva, Fiji is the responsible UNDP unit for the proposed project. With regard to capacities there is staff working in key areas including operational and financial and there is an Environmental Management & Financing Unit that currently consists of a total of six staff. One of these staff will act as the UNDP focal point for the project. Thus UNDP has the required on-the-ground operational, financial and technical capacities. UNDP will provide \$100,000 grant co-financing to this project.

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).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Mr. Russ Kun	Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Environment	March 21, 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	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu UNDP		5 April 2013	Jose Erez Padilla	+66 2 304 9100 ext 2730	jose.padilla@undp.org