



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Kiribati: Resilient Islands, Resilient Communities		
Country:	Kiribati	GEF Project ID:	5551
GEF Agency:	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	623415
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development	Submission Date:	August 30, 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (months):	60 months
Name of parent program (if applicable):	Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef Program	Agency Fee (\$):	424,803
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> • For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> • For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 			

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-Financing (\$)
BD-1 Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	GEFTF	1,653,960	1,550,000
LD-3 Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape	GEFTF	1,769,350	9,057,000
IW-3 Support Foundational Capacity Building, Portfolio Learning, and Targeted Research Needs for Ecosystem-based, Joint Management of Transboundary Water Systems	GEFTF	154,750	202,000
SFM-1 Reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services	GEFTF	1,141,970	1,441,000
Total project costs		4,720,030	12,250,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Improve biodiversity conservation and landscape management to enhance socio-environmental resilience to climate variability and change

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthen national network of Protected Areas	TA INV	1.1 National Protected Area system expanded to include priority KBA areas <i>(Indicator: 7400 ha of land and 10% of marine areas of Gilbert Islands and Line Islands brought under legal protection)</i>	1.1.1 Feasibility assessments of proposed priority Protected Areas in the Gilberts and Line Groups	GEFTF	1,524,100	1,400,000
			1.1.2 Protected Area agreements signed between government and concerned island governments and/or local communities, and enacted under law	<i>BD-1</i>	<i>1,524,100</i>	<i>1,400,000</i>
			1.1.3 Management Plans produced and implemented for			
		1.2 Strengthened capacity of PA managers and communities to				

		sustain PA management (Indicator: <i>protected area management effectiveness score as recorded by METT</i>)	newly protected areas and species 1.1.4 Positive incentives, eg. livelihood-enhancing activities, identified, demonstrated and integrated as part of the management of newly protected areas and protected species by concerned island government and/or local communities			
2. Promote sustainable and integrated landscape management	TA INV	2.1 Integrated landscape management plans effectively implemented in selected urban areas and outer islands (Indicators: <i>Hectares increase under improved management practices; New developments adhere to Land Use Planning/ICM guidelines in project areas</i>) 2.2 Improved management of priority mangrove areas as part of broader marine and land-use plans (Indicator: <i>Hectares of mangroves under integrated management approach</i>)	2.1.1 Compendium of appropriate traditional and current integrated landscape management approaches 2.1.2 Integrated coastal and land-use management plans developed for at least three landscapes, including at least two urban areas 2.2.1 Feasibility assessments, including appropriate integrated management approaches, for at least 4 priority mangrove areas 2.2.2 Mangrove management plans developed and implemented with island governments and/or local communities in at least 4 sites	GEFTF <i>LD-3</i> <i>IW-3</i> <i>SFM-1</i>	2,820,535 <i>1,626,815</i> <i>142,750</i> <i>1,050,970</i>	10,161,000 <i>8,800,000</i> <i>120,000</i> <i>1,241,000</i>
3. Knowledge management, dissemination of best practices, monitoring and evaluation	TA	3.1 Lessons learned of project identified and applied to future operations and shared with national and regional partners (Indicator: <i>Number of documents published and disseminated</i>)	3.1.1 Midterm and final evaluation conducted 3.1.2 Project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published 3.1.3 Website to share the experience and information dissemination.	GEFTF <i>BD-1</i> <i>LD-3</i> <i>IW-3</i> <i>SFM-1</i>	150,632 <i>51,000</i> <i>58,000</i> <i>2,632</i> <i>39,000</i>	99,000 <i>15,000</i> <i>50,000</i> <i>20,000</i> <i>14,000</i>
Sub-Total					4,495,267	11,660,000
Project management Cost(PMC) (78,860 BD, 84,535 LD, 9,368 IW, 52,000SFM)					224,763	590,000
Total project costs					4,720,030	12,250,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environment, Land and Agricultural Development	in-kind	1,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Communication, Transport and Tourism Development	in-kind	100,000
National Government	Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs	in-kind	600,000
National Government	Ministry of Education	in-kind	250,000
PIPA Partners (National Government, CI, NEA)	Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust	in-kind	300,000
GEF Agency	FAO	cash	200,000
GEF Agency	FAO	in-kind	500,000
Bilateral Aid Agency	NZAid	in-kind, cash	8,800,000
Regional Organization	SPREP	in-kind	500,000
Total Co-financing			12,250,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY AND FOCAL AREAS

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) c=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Kiribati	1,653,960	148,856	1,802,816
FAO	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Kiribati	1,769,350	159,242	1,928,592
FAO	GEF TF	International Waters	Global	154,750	13,928	168,678
FAO	GEF TF	Multi-focal Area (SFM)	Global	1,141,970	102,777	1,244,747
Total Grant Resources				4,720,030	424,803	5,144,883

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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 (\$)</u>
• (Upto) \$150k for projects up to & including \$ 6 million	150,000	13,500

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY AND FOCAL AREAS

Type of Trust Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	PPG (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) c=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Kiribati	52,500	4,725	57,225
FAO	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Kiribati	57,000	5,130	62,130
FAO	GEF TF	International Waters	Global	4,500	405	4,905
FAO	GEF TF	Multi-focal Area (SFM)	Global	36,000	3,240	39,240
Total Grant Resources				150,000	13,500	163,500

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project description

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

Kiribati is an atoll nation with 33 islands spread over some 3.5 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean and home to over 100,000 Kiribati people. The 33 small islands fall under three main groups: Gilberts, Line and Phoenix. The Gilbert Group consists of 17 small atolls and a limestone island. The Phoenix Group consists of 8 atolls that lie to the east of the Gilberts. Most of the islands in this Group are largely uninhabited. The Line Group lies to the far east of the Gilbert Group and consists of another 8 atolls that include Kiritimati, which contains over half of the total land area of Kiribati (Teariki-Ruatu, 2002¹). Banaba, which is the only uplifted phosphate limestone island, is situated 400 km² to the southwest of Tarawa (MELAD, 2006²).

The distance between the eastern and western extremes of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is over 4,500 km. The atolls of Kiribati on average rise 3-4 meters above mean sea level and are no more than 2 km wide. The country is recognized as one of the most vulnerable to climate change induced rises in sea level in the world. The nation is facing numerous economic, social, demographic and environmental challenges, but the greatest challenge is the tyranny of distance. GDP per capita is near the lowest in the Pacific Island Forum group and the economic outlook is fragile. In comparison to the neighboring Pacific Islands countries and other SIDS, Kiribati has the lowest level of natural diversity while it is the most important means for survival of the country and the people.

It is not surprising that the limited diversity of plant genetic resources available in Kiribati is due to the existing harsh environment. The terrestrial vegetation associations are limited to coastal strand vegetation, limited areas of mangroves and coastal marsh vegetation; remnant stands of inland atoll forest, and in the case of Banaba, limestone escarpment of pinnacle vegetation. The flora of Kiribati consists of approximately 306 species, of which 83 are possibly indigenous. These also include crop genetic resources such as coconuts ('Te nii' – *Cocos nucifera*); pandanus, ('Te kaina' – *Pandanus tectorius*); breadfruit ('Te mai' – *Artocarpus altilis*); giant swamp taro ('Te bwabwai' – *Cyrtosperma chamissonis*) including traditional vegetables such as pisonia or the great lettuce tree ('Te buka' – *Pisonia gradis*); beach mulberry ('te non' – *Morinda citrifolia*) and the broadleaved purslane ('Te boi' – *Portulaca lutea*), which have formed the basis of traditional sustenance on the islands (MELAD, 2007)³.

The mangrove habitat is a distinct ecosystem that is of critical importance to the people of Kiribati. Mangrove forests are composed of trees, shrubs and ferns, which live half way between the land and the sea (inter-tidal zone). Mangrove swamps are known to be common in most islands of Kiribati, where these represent 'natural monuments' that depict undisturbed indigenous vegetation types. According to MELAD (2007), there are about 268 hectares of mangroves in the Gilbert Group. There are 166 hectares of mangroves in Butaritari, 57 hectares in Tarawa, 21 hectares in Maiana and 14 hectares in Aranuka. Tarawa has lost some 70% of its mangroves since the 1940s and only 57 hectares now remain. There are four different species existing and these are:

- Te tongo- red mangrove (*Rhizophora stylosa*)
- Te nikabubuti- white mangrove (*Sonneratia alba*)
- Te tongo buangi- oriental mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*) and
- Te aitoa (*Lumnitzera littorea*)

Kiribati is a coastal entity. Marine and coastal biodiversity are critically important. Kiribati's relatively rich marine fauna includes between 300 and 400 finfish species alone. Marine non-fish species of considerable importance include turtles, a wide range of crabs, shrimps, prawns, lobsters and other crustaceans, shellfish

¹ Teariki-Ruatu, N. (August 2002). Summary of Priority Environmental Concerns for Kiribati: Prepared for Strategic Action Programme for the International Waters of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (IWP). Ministry of Environment and Social Development. Tarawa. Republic of Kiribati.

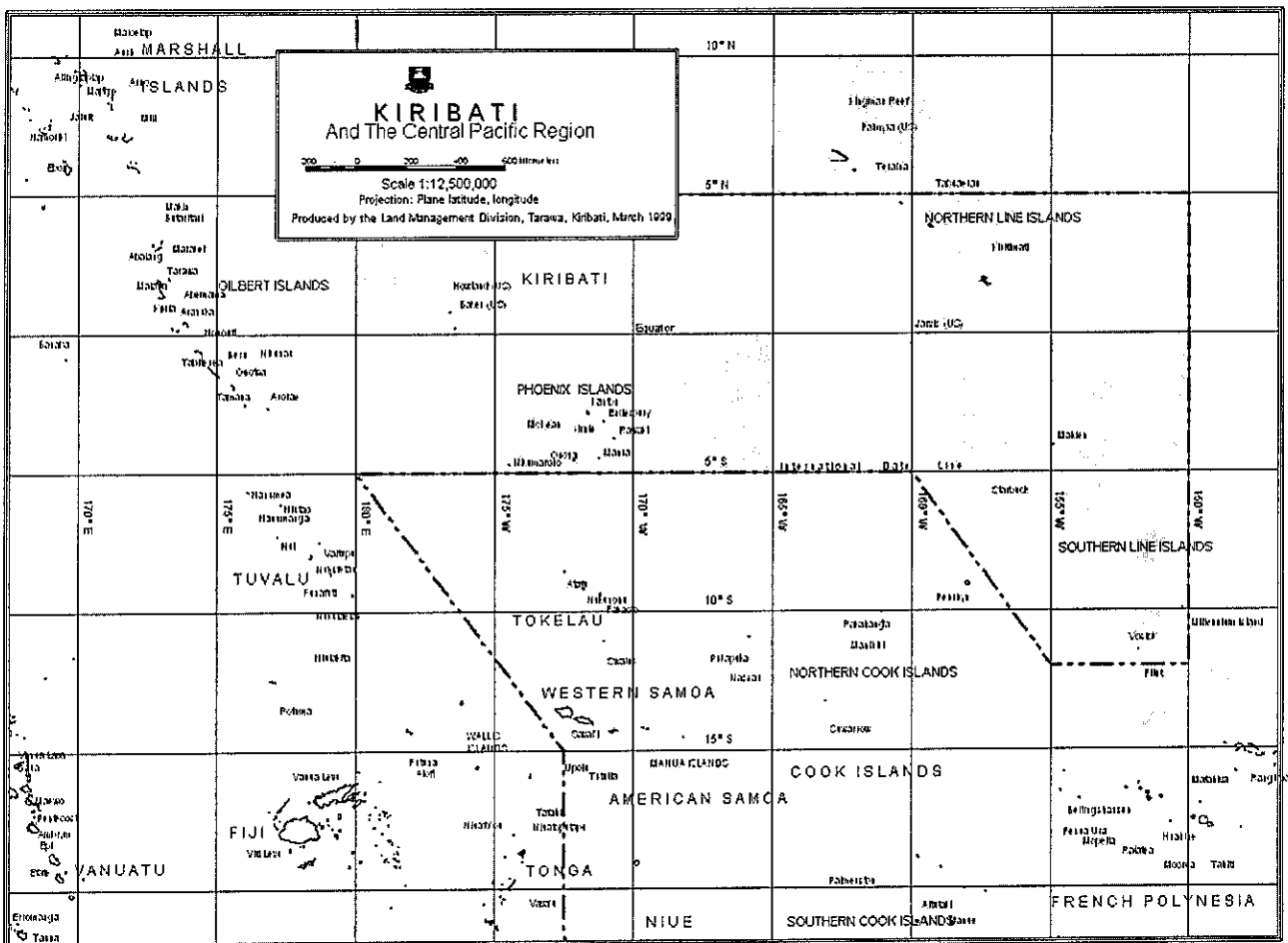
² MELAD. (2006). Kiribati National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plan 2005. Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, Republic of Kiribati.

³ MELAD. (2007). Kiribati Country Report to The Conference of Parties (COP) of The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Republic of Kiribati.

including both bivalves and gastropods, and holothurians or beche-de-mer. Among these species found in Kiribati, four species of Giant Clams (*Tridacna gigas*, *Tridacna Squasoma* *Tridacna maxima*, *Cypraea spp.*), 3 turtle species (*Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricate*, *Dermostochelys coriacea*), 3 species of whales (*Megaptera Novaeangliae*, *Balaenoptera musculus* *Megaptera novaeangliae*) and 38 species of birds are listed as endangered species (MELAD, 2006).

The coral reefs plays a significant role in the life of Kiribati people. More than 90% of the animal protein consumed by I-Kiribati comes from marine fish that live around coral reefs. Currently these corals are reported to be in excellent conditions in the Gilbert, Line and Phoenix Groups, except for some damage around South Tarawa and Kiritimati. In Tarawa, the western reef is very much affected by anchoring while patch reefs within the eastern side of the island have been affected by the closure of reef passages with causeways. Coral reefs, like mangroves are also priceless resources that need protection. They have been a source of subsistence and commercial living to people in Kiribati for many generations. However, with the increase in human population as is experienced in South Tarawa, coral reefs are susceptible to over-exploitation, over-harvesting and eventual death.

Kiribati has established a system of protected areas on land that includes off-island conservation areas and marine protected areas that aim to conserve biological diversity in marine and terrestrial areas.



Map: Protected areas (highlighted in Blue) in Kiribati (Source: MELAD, 2007)

Existing wildlife sanctuaries or protected areas are presented in the table below:

Terrestrial Protected areas	Area (sq km)	Marine Protected Areas	Area	Protected Islands	Area (sq km)
Ngaontetaake PA	61.44	Butaritari Marine Closed Area	NA	Phoenix group; Phoenix (Rawaki); McKean and Birnie	408,250 (21.5 sq km of land area)

Dojin PA	NA	Marakei Marine Closed Area	NA	<i>Southern Line group:</i> Malden and Starbuck Island	3930*
Tanguoua PA	NA	Abaiang Marine Closed Area	NA	<i>Northern Line group:</i> Kiritimati Island	NA
Koil PA	NA	Nonouti Marine Closed Area	NA		
Toyota PA	NA	Tabiteuea North Marine Closed Area	NA		
Mouakena PA	28.58	Onotoa Marine Closed Area	NA		
Motu Tabu PA	1.20	Cook Islet Marine Closed Area	NA		
Motu Upua PA	203.5				
Cook Islet PA	21.79				

Source: MELAD, 2005; *FAO, 2000⁴

The soils in Kiribati are derived from coral limestone. They are young, shallow, alkaline, coarse-textured and deficient in major nutrients for plant growth. Due to flat topography and very porous nature of the soils, freshwater lens is hydrostatically floating on the higher density saltwater beneath the islands making the fresh water slightly brackish.

Coupled with the adversity of nature and extreme weather events, rapid urbanization and squatter settlements, degradation of coastal ecosystems such as deforestation of mangrove forest, sand and gravel mining, and rapidly developing infrastructure on coastal areas such as road and causeway constructions on South Tarawa have added the burden on people's livelihood and threatened pristine ecosystem on which the I-Kiribati depend on for survival. The present state of biodiversity in Kiribati is being degraded by actions which are socially, economically, politically and even judicially driven.

In South Tarawa and Kiritimati the increase in human populations is resulting in gradual loss of habitats and biodiversity. Areas of pandanus and coastal species are being cleared to make way for housing and increasing demand for fuelwood. Kiritimati (Line Islands, Kiribati) supports globally important populations of many seabird species including the largest breeding populations of two threatened species – Te ruru (Phoenix petrel, *Pterodroma alba*; Endangered) and Te bwebwe ni marawa (whitethroated stormpetrel, *Nesofregetta fuliginosa*; Vulnerable). These and other seabirds and one landbird species are increasingly being threatened by an increasing human population and the impacts of mammalian pests, including the recent arrival of black rats (*Rattus rattus*). Poor planning of migration has led to widespread degradation of remaining habitats of the Kiritimati Reedwarbler (*Acrocephalus aequinoctialis*) due to habitat loss from fires, clearing for coconuts, development and habitat modification, e.g. proliferation of the weed *Pluchea indica* (shrubby fleabane, Asteraceae) following fire (MELAD, 2011)⁵

Some of the root causes of these problems includes:

- Increased in Unsustainable utilization and poor management of biodiversity based resources
- Limited measures to eradicate, control and manage the impacts of invasive species
- Limited public awareness and inadequacy of data
- Inadequate national capacity and limited enforcement of provisions of relevant Legislation including the Environment Act 2007
- Declining quality & quantity of national water lenses
- Limited national capacity to address the increasing impacts of urbanization

The main barriers that need to be overcome to address these problems include:

⁴ FAO. (2000). Report of the Forest Resources Assessment Programme, FAO Workshop Data Collection for the Pacific Region, Samoa.

⁵ MELAD. (2011). Report of the National Capacity Self Assessment Project, Republic of Kiribati.

Lack of technical and financial capacity: The Government of Kiribati (GoK) has a limited budget to provide anything beyond the basic services to its population, especially when considering the extremely high costs of travel and transport to the outer islands. As a result, most of the still insufficient government expenditure and effort is focused in Tarawa and Kiritimati Islands to some extent, where large urban populations live. Limited support to the governance systems for outer islands has been possible. Further, while many government departments have solid technical capacity, it is limited to a few individuals in most cases.

Land and resource use planning: The GoK has some experience with land use planning, but limited experience with integrated land use planning at a landscape, or island-landscape, level. Capacity to enforce what laws and regulations do exist is weak, so many developments are not in line with existing plans and guidelines. The draft Kiribati Integrated Environmental Policy (KIEP) provides a framework through which sectoral regulations and policies related to land, sea and resource planning and use can be integrated, but very little actual integrated planning has been done to date.

Limited economic opportunities and governance in outer islands: due to the vast distances between the capital and the outer islands, very few economic opportunities are available to compel people to remain on the outer islands, particularly the youth, and especially because the resource base is being degraded due to lack of awareness and capacity for effective management. Further, due to resource and capacity constraints, very little attention has been paid to establishing governance regimes, and associated capacity, in outer islands.

Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Brief description of co-funded baseline project activities	Co-financing type and amount (US\$)	
Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development - Research and awareness on environmental issues - Policy development - Enforcement of environmental regulations - Environmental monitoring	in-kind	1,000,000
Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) Trust - Protected Area planning and management	in-kind	300,000
Ministry of Communication, Transport and Tourism Development	in-kind	100,000
Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA) - Support to Island Councils	in-kind	600,000
Ministry of Education - Curriculum development and delivery	in-kind	250,000
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Capacity building in coastal fisheries management - Policy and technical advice for food security, rural livelihood security	cash in-kind	200,000 500,000
NZAid - Urban development program - Solid waste management - Land use planning and management	in-kind and/or cash	8,800,000
SPREP - Policy and technical advice and assistance	in-kind	500,000
Total		12,250,000

The table above gives a summary of the baseline activities that this project will build upon. The main activities (by area of intervention) are as follows:

Protected Area Management: The Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) initiative, under the Ministry of Environment, Land, and Agriculture Development (MELAD) and its external partners such as New England Aquarium and Conservation International and to be financed by a Trust, oversees all aspects of the management of the Protected Area. While focused on the Phoenix Islands, the processes, guidelines, methodologies and capacity generated by the PIPA initiative serve as a solid base from which to build a national network of protected areas. The Environment & Conservation Division of MELAD also provides a knowledge and experience base for establishing a national network of protected areas for the rest of Kiribati.

Sustainable Land Use and Resource Planning and Management: MELAD, other Ministries, and NZAid are working on various aspects of land and resource management, particularly in urban areas. The ECD works to raise awareness of key environmental problems and issues including waste and pollution issues, in addition to striving for regulatory coherence under the Kiribati Integrated Environmental Policy (KIEP). The ECD has regulated development projects and is regulating/controlling waste and pollution issues through the Environment Act 1999 (as amended 2007). The limitation of this Act, however, is that its pollution provisions (on land) are mostly exclusive to South Tarawa. The Lands Management Division within MELAD works to resolve land conflicts and enforce existing, though often out-dated, land use ordinances. The NZAid-supported Urban Development Program (UDP) is working to address solid waste management issues, including enhancement support towards both the existing landfills, a Green Bag collection system, and composting for organic waste matter.

Extension services to outer islands: The Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA) works to support the Island Councils in establishing governance arrangements in outer islands. This includes training on basic planning and management, support for the development of outer islands laws and regulations, and associated enforcement activities.

Capacity Building in environmental planning and management: MELAD is engaged in outreach activities in an attempt to raise awareness of communities in Tarawa on the importance of a clean environment for their health and well-being. SPREP provides policy and technical advice to MELAD on request. FAO is engaged in activities on building capacity in coastal fisheries management, and rural livelihood security. The Ministry of Education develops and delivers the national curriculum and integrates environmental messages into the curriculum.

Proposed alternative scenario, components and expected outcomes

The overall aim of the project is to build on the baseline activities above and to utilize GEF resources to focus on selected areas and outer islands to demonstrate an integrated approach to land and resource planning and management and biodiversity conservation, consistent with the ridge-to-reef approach. Project sites have been discussed but not finalized, as a more robust prioritization is required during project preparation to identify sites that will be best suited to implement the ridge-to-reef approach.

Component 1: Strengthen National Network of Protected Areas. The objective of the first component is to improve the management of existing and new protected areas. This will be achieved through development of network of locally managed protected areas, and associated species-specific protection measures as needed. Building on the work of PIPA, initiatives in Kiritimati, and the outcome of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas phased projects, this component would include the following activities: i) engage in extensive local community/outer island consultation to identify areas where people are receptive to establishing and supporting protected areas using their own resources to partner national Government efforts; ii) select at least 3 – 4 islands to focus the implementation of this project; iii) establish formally 2 or 3 community-based protected areas; iv) Identify, demonstrate and promote livelihood-enhancing activities; and v) build capacity of PA managers and stakeholders/communities to manage and monitor PAs. The expected outcome of this component is the initiation of a national network of protected areas, as evidenced by an increase in area and species under protection under the relevant regulations of the Environment Act 1999 (as amended 2007).

Component 2: Promote sustainable and integrated landscape management. The objective of this component is to ensure that land remains liveable and ecosystems continue to provide services by minimizing causes of land degradation across broad landscapes. In addition to reducing solid waste, pollution, land clearing by indiscriminate cutting and burning as in the case of outer islands, erosion and other forms of land degradation, a primary focus of this component would be on improving mangrove management, given the significant role mangroves play in sustaining biodiversity, ecosystem services, and shoreline protection. However, while a focus will be on mangroves, the project will also address issues affecting sea grasses and coral reefs, as part of an integrated approach to coastal management. Efforts will be made to ensure local communities feel a strong sense of ownership of the management plans to increase the likelihood of effective, long-term implementation. The activities under this component would include the following activities: i) identify best practices, including the most appropriate traditional land management practices for revival, as well as strengthen and/or improving existing good land management and governance systems; ii) develop integrated land use management plans for broad landscapes, and mechanisms to ensure effective implementation; and iii) strengthen management of priority mangroves ecosystems. The expected outcomes of this component include: i) effective landscape-level

management plans established and implemented for at least the 2 main urban areas and 1 outer island; and ii) the establishment of mangrove management areas.

Component 3: Knowledge management, dissemination of best practices, monitoring and evaluation. This component will ensure that lessons learned and best practices are broadly disseminated, the project is well monitored, and external evaluations are conducted in a timely manner. Project information will be made available to interested external parties.

Incremental cost reasoning

Biodiversity baseline: While government plans and strategies call for an increase in the number of Protected Areas under effective management, the GoK has inadequate financial and technical resources to begin establishing new Protected Areas, particularly on the outer islands. The PIPA will continue to protect biodiversity in the uninhabited Phoenix Islands, but the other outer islands in the Gilberts and Line Island groups will continue to see a degradation of biodiversity and of ecosystem services.

GEF Alternative: GEF resources would enable the GoK to start implementing its national network of protected areas by supporting the establishment of 2 or 3 protected areas and building the in-country capacity to manage the areas effectively, including testing co-management arrangements in outer islands. Extensive community consultations will be done in selected priority (KBA) areas to give the project the best chance for success and local community buying-in to sustain expected outcomes, which would help set the stage for establishment of additional protected areas in the near future.

LD/IW/SFM baseline: GoK has enacted various regulations and laws pertaining to land use planning and management, but these regulations are typically sectoral, may not be consistent with each other, and are rarely enforced. The draft KIEP provides an integrated policy framework, an important first step, but given resource and capacity constraints, it is unlikely on its own to result in real improvements in land use planning management, meaning land degradation and loss will continue. A similar situation exists for mangroves, though under the Kiribati Adaptation Project III project (KAP III), select areas are being targeted for improved coverage and management. However, there is a great need to expand mangrove replanting beyond the pilot mangrove areas under KAP III.

GEF Alternative: GEF resources will enable the GoK to test integrated approaches to land and resource use planning and management in line with its draft KIEP, and the R2R Program, in at least two urban areas and one outer island area. The project will allow the government to move more quickly from policy to practice by providing the financial and technical resources needed to address rapid urbanization issues on fragile atoll ecosystems. Further, GEF resources will enable the GoK to test a range of approaches to mangrove rehabilitation, regeneration and management, under the Reef-to-Ridge umbrella, in both densely- and sparsely-populated islands alike. Project lessons would be shared through the R2R program, as well as with the regional “Testing the integration of Water, Land Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihood's in Pacific Island Countries” project.

Expected global environmental benefits

Protected Area coverage increased by 10% (number of hectares to be determined during project preparation when sites are selected) to improve coverage in Gilberts and Line Island groups. Target protected areas widely dispersed geographically, offering spatial range and opportunities for conserving diversities within species, between species and diversity of ecosystems. Also allows for better representation of country's range of island ecosystems and better coverage of threatened species additional to the large ocean area covered by PIPA.

Multiple environmental benefits will be obtained from increased coverage and enhanced management of mangroves, including biodiversity protection and sustaining flows of ecosystem services such as nurseries for fish and crabs and shoreline protection.

Similarly, multiple environmental benefits, including biodiversity protection, sustaining flows of ecosystem services such as nurseries for fish, sand stabilization and shoreline protection will be derived from improved protection and management of near-shore coral reefs, seagrass ecosystems through protected areas and integrated coastal management plans.

Land degradation in extremely fragile and unique atoll island ecosystems will be reduced in project areas as a result of improved planning, management and enforcement. An integrated approach, through the R2R programme, and related projects adds to better management of related natural resources including targeted endangered terrestrial and marine species as listed above.

Describe IW benefits

Integrated coastal planning and management activities will assist in rebuilding coastal fish stocks and protecting and rejuvenate mangrove forests by reducing pressures on these resources. Project activities will serve to demonstrate the value of an integrated approach to coastal management in atoll island systems. The project will also assist in enhancing local and national capacities both via this project and regionally through the umbrella Ridge-to-Reef regional initiative and the Testing the integration of Water, Land Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihood's in Pacific Island Countries project. Project lessons would be shared with these regional programs.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

This project is innovative in the context of Kiribati, because under the rubric of the Ridge-to-Reef approach, it will integrate multiple sectors into a cohesive planning and management system in Kiribati, which has typically operated in a sectoral manner. It will initiate and sustain a national network of Protected Areas in a country where very few Protected Areas have been established outside the vast Phoenix Islands Protected Area. Last, it will address severe urban pollution and land use issues in an atoll environment.

Local communities are a core part of each project activity to ensure sustainability in an environment where the enforcement of laws and regulations on outer islands is extremely difficult. Extensive consultations, livelihood-enhancing initiatives, training and outreach activities, and co-management arrangements are designed to provide communities, especially on outer islands, the knowledge, skills, and tools to manage their environments in a way that contributes to their community's resilience. A key indicator of success will be positive changes in knowledge, attitudes and actions by communities participating in project activities. In addition, in partnership with the NZAid funded Urban Development Program (UDP), the project will identify and assess opportunities for revenue generation to sustain landscape management plan implementation, for example by extending and enhancing the Green Bag initiative whereby urban residents pay for green garbage bags which are then picked up by garbage truck, possibly through partnerships with the private sector. The project will also ensure, through working groups and joint implementation of project activities, that a strong relationship is developed and sustained between MELAD and the Town Councils where the project is operating. Last, project successes and lessons will be integrated into MELAD's continuing communications strategy so that project experiences continue to inform stakeholders into the future. In this way, the project is designed to learn from past experiences with GEF projects, such as the Integrating Watershed And Coastal Areas Management In The Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWCAM).

Due to the distances and costs associated with working in Kiribati, the project will focus on pilot areas identified after stakeholders consultations to test different approaches to improving environmental management and island biodiversity conservation. The lessons learned from this project will be combined with lessons from other initiatives such as the Kiribati Adaptation Programme (KAP III) and the proposed UNDP/GEF/LDCF project on enhancing food security to provide a solid basis for scaling up integrated environmental management in additional islands as resources become available.

A.2 Stakeholders

A list of key stakeholders and their potential roles in the project are provided in the table below. A detailed stakeholder mapping and analysis would be conducted during project preparation to include consultations with local communities, national project preparation workshops (inception and terminal), and baseline socioeconomic surveys. Special attention would be given to youth, women, disabled citizens, and residents of outer islands.

Stakeholders	Roles
Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development	Main implementation partner. Responsible for day-to-day execution, management, coordination, and monitoring
Other Government Ministries (eg. Education, Works, Internal and Social Affairs)	Project beneficiaries (from capacity building) and project partners in implementing project activities
PIPA Trust	Project partner and provide support to the establishment of the system of protected areas linking PIPA to the rest of the

	PAs to be established
Island Councils	Project beneficiaries (from capacity building) and project partners in activities on outer islands
Local communities	Main project beneficiaries
Civil Society (NGOs, churches)	Project beneficiaries (from capacity building) and project partners in implementing project activities
Private Sector	Project partners in implementing activities, including those related to tourism and solid waste management
NZAid, bi-lateral aid agency	Co-financing partners
SPREP	Project partner in line with its mandate as a regional organization with advisory role to national government

A.3 Risks

Risks	Likelihood of Occurrence	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Disruption due to natural disaster and Climate Change effects: Impacts from climate variability and change, particularly severe drought or saltwater intrusion of groundwater supplies in densely populated areas like South Tarawa, have the potential to disrupt project activities as government human and financial resources could be re-directed to respond to the humanitarian situation. In addition, sea level rise, storm surge, and variable rainfall patterns may cause communities to migrate to other areas, potentially disrupting community-led activities.	Low	High	Close project supervision, will assist project management to track potential negative impacts to project areas, as well as to other areas that could impact on the project.
Accessibility of project areas: Potential project areas in the Line Islands could be as far as 4,200km from the capital Tarawa. , Consistent access to project sites due to changing flight scheduled could be a major obstacle to project implementation.	Medium	Medium	Feasibility assessments will be conducted during project preparation and take into account the costs associated with working in the outer islands in the Line group, as well as the outer islands in the Gilberts Group. Adequate resources will be allocated to activities in these islands, as well as a flexible work plan allowing for delays due to accessibility issues.
Commitment from Local Communities: Collaboration of local communities will be critical to achieving the objectives of the project, but these communities will need to meet their own needs before agreeing to devote time and resources to resource management and biodiversity conservation. It may be difficult to reach agreement with all members of communities on management and enforcement measures.	Medium	High	Extensive community consultations are built into every aspect of the project. Project sites will be selected, in large part, in places where communities demonstrate an interest and willingness to engage in project activities. Positive incentives for participation, such as livelihood-enabling activities, would be provided to local communities where possible.
Change in government priority and budget: While MELAD has experience implementing GEF-financed and other projects, overall human resource capacity is generally low, particularly in the outer islands where government presence to look after environment management and protection, is nearly non-existent. Government budgets are fairly low, which could present problems if already low budgets are reduced due to changes in national budget allocations.	Low	Medium	Significant capacity-building activities, for government and stakeholders alike, are included in the project to address capacity gaps. Project management will closely monitor government budget allocations in order to flag and potential shortfalls as soon as possible, so that corrective measures can be taken as needed to ensure continued implementation of project activities.

A.4 Coordination

This project is part of the *Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef National Priorities "Integrated Water, Land, Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods" (R2R Programme)* and will collaborate closely with the other projects in the programme, and particularly the regional project *Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries*. Experiences and lessons learned will be shared with the other countries/projects participating in the programme.

The Environment and Conservation Division (ECD), of MELAD, institutional home of the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) and Political Focal Point (PFP), has initiated a set of Consultative Groups focused on the different aspects of its work, including Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, Solid Waste, Governance, Public Awareness, and Natural Resources Management Groups. These groups have been actively engaged in the GEF5 national priority-setting exercise, in the formulation of this PIF, and will remain the primary mechanism of engagement with Tarawa—based stakeholders during project preparation and implementation. A cross-cutting group, consisting of a few representatives from each of the groups mentioned above, would serve as the Advisory Committee for project implementation.

In addition to the working groups, the ECD, as the primary project implementing unit, will coordinate with existing and planned projects and initiatives, including the World Bank/GEF-financed Phase III of the Kiribati Adaptation Program (KAP III) under which ECD is implementing activities related to mangrove management; the NZAid-financed Urban Development Program (UDP) which will be a key co-financing initiative during project implementation; the GoK-financed Joint Enforcement team initiative which integrates ECD, police, Tarawa Urban Council (TUC) and Betio Town Council (BTC) and Ministry of Health; the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) initiative; and continuing NBSAP and PoWPA phase II activities. Further, the ECD will ensure that this project is prepared in close consultation and coordination with the proposed UNDP/GEF/LDCF project on increasing food security in Kiribati, under which MELAD - ECD will also play a lead implementation role. Last, the ECD will identify additional national and regional scientific and other partners during the project preparation stage.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions

Biodiversity: The Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) report, completed as part of the Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) phase II Project and awaiting Cabinet approval, identifies 22 KBAs, 14 of which are currently afforded little or no protection at all. The project will establish at least three Protected Areas based on the priorities set out in the KBA report, after extensive consultations with communities in and around the proposed sites. The project will also strive to highlight threatened species present in Kiribati and their locations as well as linking to the implementation of the NBSAP objectives. The project also directly addresses a number of key targets laid out in the Island Biodiversity Conservation Policy Area of the draft Kiribati Integrated Environmental Policy (KIEP), including integration of conservation in public education curriculum, customary rights and tenure integrated into protected area management plans, and increase the number of protected areas and protected species under effective management.

Land Degradation: The project will build on, and be in line with, the 2007 National Action Plan (NAP) to address Land Degradation and Droughts. Further, land degradation is identified in the KIEP as a priority issue, especially in urban areas, where population pressure is putting unsustainable pressure on limited land resources, and fore-shore areas.

Sustainable Forest Management: As mentioned above, SFM in Kiribati is focused on improving coverage and management of mangrove forests, through a range of tools and approaches including ICM, and protected areas, locally-managed areas. This is consistent with, and directly responds to the Environment Act 1999 (as amended 2007) and the natural resources management policy areas of the KIEP, and builds on work under KAP II and KAP III. Kiribati does not currently have a national forestry policy or strategy, but a policy specific to mangroves is reflected and integrated under the KIEP. Further, Kiribati has recently become a Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the project will assist GoK in meeting its requirements under that convention.

International Waters: The project activities under the IW Focal Area will focus on developing integrated coastal management plans in select areas. A national ICM framework is being developed by MELAD LMD with supports from ECD under the rubric of KAP III, and will provide guidance to activities under this project. Further, the project will directly address priority activities under the KIEP, namely the development of integrated coastal management plans in the Gilberts Islands group.

B.2 GEF focal area strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

Biodiversity: The project, under its Component 1, will undertake activities that result in outputs and outcomes that contribute to the achievement of the primary GEF Biodiversity Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems. The project, in partnership with communities and other stakeholders, will establish new protected areas and create the institutional and regulatory environment that improves the management and effectiveness of new and existing protected areas, both terrestrial and marine. The project will assist GoK in meeting the Aichi targets, specifically Target 10: Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced, and Target 11: Protected Areas increased and improved.

Land Degradation: The project will contribute to achieving GEF objectives in the focal area of Land Degradation Objective 3: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Current land use has contributed to serious adverse impacts not only to the limited and fragile productive landscapes but also, through rainwater seepage and tidal action, to the often unique coastal and whole-of-atoll ecosystems. Effective land use planning, especially for the densely populated atolls, and integrated with more effective management of the strengthened national network of protected areas, will combine to create opportunities to maximise aggregated global environmental benefits from the proposed Ridge-to-Reef approach.

International Waters: The project will contribute to achieving the GEF International Waters focal area objective 3 Support Foundational Capacity Building, Portfolio Learning, and Targeted Research Needs for Ecosystem-based, Joint Management of Transboundary Water Systems. Integrated coastal planning and management activities will assist in rebuilding coastal fish stocks and protecting and rejuvenate mangrove forests by reducing pressure on these resources. Project activities will serve to demonstrate the value of an integrated approach to coastal management in atoll island systems. The project will also assist in enhancing local and national capacities both via this project and regionally through the umbrella Ridge-to-Reef regional initiative, and will link to the regional "Testing the integration of Water, Land Forest and Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihood's in Pacific Island Countries" project.

Sustainable Forest Management: Underpinning project activities relating to this GEF focal area are targets set out in its Objective 1: reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services. These will be achieved through project activities primarily in its Component 2 and closely linked to activities targeting Objective 5 of the Climate Change Focal Area.

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

As the GEF Agency for the national Kiribati R2R project, FAO will bring its considerable expertise in land use management, land use change management, sustainable forestry management, protected areas, and managing large, complex seascapes like LMEs. FAO has a sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAPA) with 20 multidisciplinary full-time staff, including forestry, fisheries, and agricultural specialists. SAPA currently manages a diverse portfolio of projects and therefore will be in a position to effectively manage this project. In addition, the project will be supported by a multi-disciplinary Project Task Force, comprising FAO technical staff based in SAPA, Bangkok and Rome.

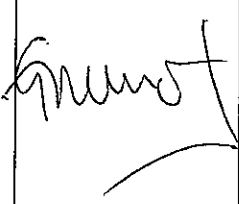
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT AND GEF AGENCY

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT: (Please attach the Operational Focal Points endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFF endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
(Ms.) Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu	Ag. Director, Environment and Conservation Division (ECD)	MELAD	5/4/2013

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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