



## **Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

9880

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **Project Title**

Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project

#### **Countries**

Fiji

#### **Agency(ies)**

FAO

#### **Other Executing Partner(s):**

Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests, Department of Environment, Ministry of Economy

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

201,345.00

**A. Focal Area Strategy Framework and Program**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
LD-3_P4	Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach	GET	566,225.00	8,249,148.00
CCM-2_P4	Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land use, and support climate smart agriculture	GET	1,553,200.00	22,628,067.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,119,425.00</b>	<b>30,877,215.00</b>

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To promote community-based integrated natural resource management at landscape level to reduce land degradation, enhance carbon stocks and strengthen local livelihoods in Ra and Tailevu provinces

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Strengthening local level capacities for Integrated Natural Resource Management	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Local level capacities strengthened for integrated natural resource management	<p>Output 1.1 Improved INRM coordination platforms, linking all the different trainings already existing by the different Ministries, for enhanced CB implementation and monitoring (meetings/ target province (2/year) + 1 CB monitoring system set up and tested in 5 villages)</p> <p>Output 1.2 Training programs on climate smart agriculture practices, sustainable land management and forest and landscape restoration implemented through Demonstration Farms/Farmer Field Schools (FFS) across 17 villages in the project areas (4 demonstration farms and 3 main trainings)</p> <p>Output 1.3 Training programs on agroforestry, forest protection and improved management measures implemented by the Forest Training Centre covering 17 villages in the project areas (4 different trainings done 4 times each)</p>	GET	293,973.00	7,874,229.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Planning and Implementation of Community-Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM)	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Planning process for INRM strengthened over 47,719ha	Output 2.1.1 District level Participatory Land Use Plans (PLUPs) improved/developed using the recently developed Participatory Land Use (PLU) planning guidelines	GET	1,468,252.00	19,892,986.00
			Output 2.1.2 Community Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Participatory Land Use Plans developed at Land Use Units level			
		<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> At least 18,799ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management (CBINRM)	Output 2.2.1 Capacity of communities for CBINRM plans implementation enhanced (17 YMST supported)			
			Output 2.2.2 CBINRM plans implementation supported through direct investments, investments of other partners and providing incentives to communities (4 CBINRM forum, grants for business plans implementation over 2,100 ha & 4 enterprises linked to INRM supported)			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination	Technical Assistance	<b>Outcome 3:</b> Adaptive management ensured and key lessons shared	Output 3.1: Lessons learned documented and disseminated ( 1 INRM knowledge platform, 10 lessons learned systemized)  Output 3.2: Project progress continually monitored and adaptive management actions taken (CB monitoring developed and tested in 8 communities)	GET	246,930.00	3,110,000.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>2,009,155.00</b>	<b>30,877,215.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
				GET	110,270.00	
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>					<b>110,270.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>					<b>2,119,425.00</b>	<b>30,877,215.00</b>

**Please provide justification**

The 5% PMC would be USD 111,270 while the project is currently budgeting slightly lower amount at USD 110,270.

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Government	Ministry Of iTauki Affairs	In-kind	1,677,215.00
Government	Ministry of Forests	In-kind	7,010,000.00
Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	21,690,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	500,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>			<b>30,877,215.00</b>

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>NGI</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
FAO	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation		No	566,225	53,791
FAO	GET	Fiji	Climate Change		No	1,553,200	147,554
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>						<b>2,119,425.00</b>	<b>201,345.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,500

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>NGI</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
FAO	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation		No	26,716	2,538
FAO	GET	Fiji	Climate Change		No	73,284	6,962
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>						<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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0.00	2100.00	0.00	0.00
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### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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	1,050.00		
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### Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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	700.00		
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### Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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	300.00		
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### Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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	50.00		
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### Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	45619.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	45,619.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	0	443019	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	0	1909345	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)		443,019		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)		1,909,345		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2020		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)		0		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)		0		
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		1,750		
Male		1,750		
Total	0	3500	0	0

## PART II: Project JUSTIFICATION

### 1. Project Description

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

*The global environmental problems linked to land degradation; biodiversity loss and unsustainable forest management are the following:*

Deforestation and land degradation linked to agriculture expansion and unsustainable wood harvesting

Deforestation and land degradation in forests and peripheries of forest frontiers are key environmental problems faced by Fiji. The rate of degradation in the forest peripheries, in this context, also refers to loss of vegetation cover in agroecosystems (including rangelands), and the continued loss of productivity in agricultural lands, impacting local livelihoods significantly. Poor agricultural land practices have contributed to degradation of agricultural lands and their productivity, and the vicious cycle of resource depletion and land degradation. Some of these practices are:

- Subsistence and commercial agriculture; agriculture is identified as the main driver of deforestation in Fiji. This is due to the extensive use of clear cutting methods for shifting cultivation. The need to move from one piece of land to another is mainly caused by poor soil conservation and other agricultural practices (e.g. intensive slope land agriculture, mono-cropping). This is the primary cause of forest clearing at the forest frontiers, and for continued degradation of agricultural lands. One of the key contributors to deforestation is indiscriminate clearing of forest, especially around watershed areas for semi-commercial and commercial agriculture, predominantly for taro and kava cultivation. While taro market prices have been stable, increasing market demand and price for kava have made it the most popular semi-commercial and commercial alternative for many rural land owners. Kava cultivators are predominantly iTaukei subsistence farmers who are transitioning to semi-commercial operation<sup>[1]</sup>. There have been different strategies proposed to address both the above drivers, this includes sustainable farming practices/techniques to maximize production without degrading the land, diversifying crops, agroforestry, and overall better land-use planning. But these strategies have not yet been implemented adequately due to the barriers described below.

- Pastoral practices; dairy farming and livestock production (including goats) with free roaming cattle and goats have caused heavy forest degradation mainly due to the effects of browsing on natural regeneration. Indeed Fiji with over 258 000<sup>[2]</sup> goats in 2014, Fiji has much more livestock than any other Pacific island. The Lack of suitable rangeland management practices has resulted in the cattle moving on further and further into forests for pasture. Improved rangeland practices and agro-silvo-pastoral systems would be the key to addressing this driver.

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· Unsustainable community harvesting; communities harvesting timber for local use (e.g. construction) using practices that cause damage to the forests. This can be addressed through improved forest management practices at community level as well as training of community wardens and adopting community-driven forest protection measures. Another issue linked to logging is licensed forest projects/leasings' transgressing the agreed boundaries, the training of forest wardens and law enforcement officers can support the fight against this. In Fiji, initiatives against this type of logging exist but they need to be re-enforced through capacity building.

· Unsustainable extraction of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); as mentioned above, local communities depend on NTFPs for various different reasons. Communities collect medicinal plants, wild crops, edible ferns, fruit, nuts, pandanus leaves (for weaving mats), sago palm leaves (for roof thatching), and wild pigs in the forest. However, there is a lack of quantifiable information on the impact of such extraction to substantiate the impact of traditional practices. Excessive and poor NTFPs extraction practices can be a driver of forest degradation in Fiji. For example, using fire for clearing the area in order to access the NTFP is a traditional practice which severely damages the ecosystem. Improved extraction practices and sustainable production of high value multiple purpose species would be an ideal strategy to address this driver.

· Poorly planned infrastructure development[3]<sup>3</sup>. Several types of forest conversion to infrastructure are identified at the national level. In the context of deforestation, infrastructure development includes construction of roads, hydro dams and electricity; urban development and resettlement; tourism development. Fiji does not have a national land use plan, which is a major constraint to resource allocation and management in the rural sector and is of critical importance to ensure rationalised infrastructure development that considers impacts on all land-based resources such as forest, agriculture, minerals, rivers and streams (GoF, 2015a).

The current deforestation rate in Fiji is relatively modest and at face value, cannot be considered alarming (forest cover losses per year is less than 0.1% per year, source: SOPAC, 2012), but these calculations take into account exotic plantations and do not directly reflect the loss of natural forests (from carbon losses perspective, it is also important to note that higher level of carbon is sequestered in the natural forests).

Looking at the Forest Resources Assessment from 2014 and its projection, cf table below[4]<sup>4</sup>, it is clear that closed forest (natural forest) lost ground to Open Forest.

<b>National class (1000 ha)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>
Closed Forest	639	602	562	524
Open Forest	302	344	415	484
Pine plantations	77	92	78	84
Hardwood plantations	53	61	63	70
<b>Total area</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1099</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>1162</b>

There has been a loss of natural forests due to the drivers listed above having disastrous consequences for the unique biodiversity of Fiji. In terms of forest degradation in natural forests, there has been a substantial level of forest degradation in the country, as Fiji's second communication to the UNFCCC and other related reports (FRA 2010, SOPAC 2012) confirm, more than deforestation, forest degradation remains the most important source of emissions from the forest sector in Fiji.

There has been work done to improve harvesting regimes focusing on improved engineering standards (road and crossing construction) and tree felling regimes as well as techniques to reduce the impact of logging on the residual vegetation allowing regeneration and growth of the understory trees and vegetation. Despite these improvements in harvesting regimes, forest degradation is rife and about 40% of native forests are degraded due to clearance for agriculture or timber extraction, collection of firewood, and the growth of invasive vine and tree species. **Mangroves face similar pressures, and they have declined of 25% between 2003 and 2013. Increasing risk of droughts, fires and landslides due to changing rainfall patterns and intensity along with cyclones are increasing the vulnerability of native forests and mangroves.** Approximately 2.7% of native forests are currently protected, and there are plans to protect an additional 14%.<sup>[5]</sup><sup>5</sup>

#### Burning and Grassland fire

Deliberate and uncontrolled burning is a rampant problem, especially during the dry season and on sugarcane plantations. In the project areas, the majority of the land consists of talasiga grassland that is continuously exposed to fires, thus decreasing surrounding soil quality and increasing difficulties associated with management of exotic species. The expanded grass land increases the threat of the encroachment of exotic species into the higher elevation pristine areas of the Nakauvadra and Nakorotubu range. A study of the water and nutrient dynamics of pine forest on former grass land soils in south west Viti Levu (Waterloo 1994) concluded that fires should not be used between pine crop rotation as subsequent crop yield will decline significantly. This decline is attributed to massive surge in nutrients released to streams with the first rain after the burn-off. Pine forests are harvested on a 20-24-year cycle while sugarcane fields are harvested annually.

Historically, grassland fires in the project zone have occurred on an annual basis, largely due to pig hunting, careless behaviour, and stray fires from sugarcane burning. In 2014 a total area of 169 ha was destroyed by fire compared to 19 ha in 2011 and 2013. This was due mainly to the extreme dry conditions. Several fire prevention measures such as mixed species to help contain fires, fire prevention and educational campaigns, or fire breaks including fire-retardant plants such as pineapples, coconuts and citrus trees have been planted. Planting fruit crops in the firebreaks means that communities will take a more active interest in monitoring for fires near the reforestation sites, whilst also providing additional food security and income generation.

#### Vicious circle of land degradation and climate vulnerability exacerbating extreme weather events' impact

Ecosystem degradation also has significant implications in terms of vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Deforestation of mountain watersheds undermines the roles of forests in buffering variations in hydrological regimes and river flows, which are likely to become increasingly pronounced under conditions of climate change and during extreme storm events and to pose increasing risks to populations living downstream. The degradation and loss of riparian, aquatic and coastal vegetation similarly increases the vulnerability of local populations to climate change and variability and to natural disasters, given the importance of these vegetation types for ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA).

The project areas are already prone to droughts exacerbated by seasonal El Nino weather pattern. Since 1989, a series of droughts have significantly impacted Ra and Tailevu, the most extreme of which occurred in 1992, 1997-98, 2003, 2010 and 2015. The 2010 event lasted 16 months resulting in water rationing and dispersal of emergency water supplies to many communities. These droughts impact subsistence and commercial farming as well as survival rates of livestock as food stocks become increasingly depleted.

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Tropical Cyclone Winston, the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, devastated huge areas of vegetation and coral reef in the Ra Province. **The degradation of mangroves only increased the phenomenon, not only preventing them from playing their protection but also making them also very vulnerable to these events, continuing a vicious circle.**

Flooding is another extreme weather event that greatly impacts the Province and affects livelihoods and wellbeing of communities, which is usually associated with tropical depressions and cyclones. Flooding in the area is further exacerbated by reduced vegetation on the catchment and gravel extraction, which increases stream-flow during extreme rainfall events.

***The remaining barriers to address these environmental threats are the following:***

As described in the section above, deforestation and land degradation in Fiji is caused by a myriad of drivers. The programs lead by the governments mentioned above are trying to address these drivers. But, in spite of them, some barriers have not yet been adequately addressed:

Inadequate knowledge and capacity at ground level for the formulation and implementation of effective, attractive and sustainable INRM approaches

A country cannot mitigate or adapt to climate change without first having the capacity to do so. That is why capacity-building has been part of the UNFCCC negotiating process since its inception two decades ago. Capacity-building has long been recognized in the Convention's work on such issues as national communications, greenhouse gas inventories, technology transfer and adaptation. It is the same thing with the UNCCD and the fight against land degradation.

Since 2001, capacity-building activities in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition have been guided by two frameworks, described in more detail below.

Lack of capacity is one of the major impediments for project implementation. A set of strategies is needed to mitigate this issue that could contribute to some improvements to make it easier for follow up initiatives and programs.

The Land Resource and Planning Division of MOA, The Ministry of Forest together with other civil society organizations and NGO'S, WWF, USP to name a few had jointly carried out trainings and awareness throughout Fiji on Land Degradation, SLM, SFM and other related technologies. That initiative leads to the formation of the so-called Land Care Groups in different Communities, who were delegated the responsibilities of overseeing and managing their own natural resources.

The different line ministries and NGOs use different modes of getting that message down to the targeted groups, including resource owners/community members. The approach towards dissemination can be through:

1. Direct Training Programs
2. Workshops
3. Establishment of demonstration farms

4. Field trips
5. Group discussions etc.

The rural communities in Fiji have been exposed to different levels and models of rural extension approaches over the years with varying success. The most common and the still effective category is the a) Individual method (one to one) and b) the group method of approaching the communities.

Current extension concepts include; participation, facilitation, partnerships, and sustainability. With increasing emphasis on communities, themselves and community-based extension, newly introduced approaches in Fiji include Farmer Field Schools and Demand-Driven Extension programs.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries continue to be the main drivers of extension service for the resourced based sectors. Civil Society and NGOs continue to assist and facilitate in community-based capacity building approaches; however, they depend on and are driven by funded projects/programs.

Despite the extensive extension programmes undertaken by the departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forestry, at the community level, there is still a significant gap in capacities related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices, rangeland management and sustainable forest management measures (including sustainable harvesting of NTFPs). This is a significant barrier considering the fact that majority of land is communally owned and managed. This is due to both the lack of follow up after the trainings and the lack of incentives for the communities to keep engaging in the new methodologies.

Also the fact that each training happens in silo can be confusing for the communities failing to see the integrated part of the natural resources management. To increase efficiency the trainings have to be programmed in synergy.

#### INRM landscape planning not yet achieved

As highlighted above, the majority of land is communally owned and managed, but there is little integrated land-use planning that takes place either at district or village level. At the district level, several plans already exist each focused on a particular topic: costal management, agriculture development, forest protection, business development etc. Indeed, very often each Ministry has plans, at least at district level such as Land Use plans prepared by MOA, the Forest map done by MoFo, Community Development Plans from the Ministry of Water, TLTB Land Trust Board) District Plans by the Ministry of Planning, etc. but there isn't a global view of all the plans and how they can support sustainable natural resources management and livelihoods for the community. The YMST committee at district level are instrumental in bringing the different plans together in an integrated way.

This has exacerbated the ongoing unsustainable resource utilization practices and has prevented any coordinated efforts to change the utilization/management patterns. Participatory Land Use Planning guidelines have been developed and it is important to utilize the guidelines to initiate integrated landuse planning at local level.

Landscape planning is closely linked to improved capacity building planning which is needed to improve implementation and sustainability.

#### Low commitment from communities to INRM due lack of incentives and opportunities for market-oriented sustainable/alternative livelihoods linked to the INRM plans

One of the major barriers in ensuring sustainable resource management at community level is the lack of adequate business planning linked to INRM planning. This often leads to INRM plans not being implemented. Time and again, it has been demonstrated around the world that with adequate economic incentives local communities would be willing to participate and engage in sustainable management of natural resources. Implementing a business plan attached to the INRM plan will allow enterprises to develop and communities to benefit from and sustain the plan. The main resource based livelihoods in the project sites is related to agriculture (subsistence and semi-commercial) and forest resource extraction,

but there are not enough value chain focused efforts to diversity and improve livelihoods, this severely limits the economic benefits that can be derived by the local communities. The local community-based enterprises that exist require further strengthening, especially in the area of market access and value-addition (primary and secondary processing).

## 2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

The activities carried out by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture form the main baseline for this GEF project. Indeed this project builds on the Strategic Development Plan of each of these Ministries as well as the Annual Operational Plans.

### Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (MTA)

The Ministry is responsible for the preservation of **Fijian culture** and for the economic and social development of **indigenous Fijians**. The Ministry works at all levels; national (MTA), divisional (iTaukei Land & Trust Board), provincial (iTaukei Affairs Board/ Roko Tui or provincial commissioners), District (Mata ni Tikina or Tikina Administrator), and Village (Turaganikoro or Village Administrator). Following the national discourse and policy directions advocating sustainable management of natural resources by the resource owners themselves, the Ministry is gradually establishing Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMSTs) at the village, district and provincial levels. These are community-based institutions and are co-management structures that better facilitate the efforts of government extension officers and conservation officers to work with community leaders and chiefs. The MTA has made this YMST model a prerequisite for all villages in Fiji (via the Village Bylaw) to enhance engagement with communities to strengthen natural resource stewardship. The YMST feeds into the National Resource Owners Committee, which feeds into the provincial councils, which feeds into the Ministry, which feeds into the national multiagency committees via the Permanent Secretary of iTaukei Affairs. These activities form the central baseline for the project's engagement with the local communities. The in-kind contribution of MTA amounts to USD 1,677,215 for the project period.

### Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

MoA's work through the Division of Land Resources Planning and Development, the Division of Crop Extension and the Division of Animal Health and Production will form the baseline for activities on climate-smart agriculture, rangeland management and agroforestry. MoA's in-kind contribution will amount to USD 21,690,000 for the project period. These activities are part of the Ministry's regular programme.

- Division of Land Resources Planning and Development: The division has established demonstration farms for different agroforestry systems, this includes contour farming and alley cropping on slopes, and silvopastoral systems on rangelands. Based on these farms, the department has initiated capacity building activities in agroforestry.
- Division of Crop Extension: The division has 20 crop programmes focusing on increasing production. In addition to a programme to increase availability of extension assistance to women. Other key baseline activities carried out by the division include provision of agro-inputs and assistance to prepare land to introduce climate-smart agriculture practices (through land preparation facility).
- Division of Animal Health and Production: The division's activities related to provision of housing and fencing materials and fodder crop seeds (including legumes) would form the baseline for implementing improved rangeland management practices.

### Ministry of Forests (MoFo)

MoFo's baseline activities amount to 7,010,000 USD in kind. The baseline activities include the following:

Awareness raising- community-level awareness raising, including engagement with school and women groups to increase awareness on SFM related issues; institutional training-refresher training for staff at national and provincial level, especially on integrated forest management; extension services related to silviculture prescriptions, selective low impact logging and establishment of agroforestry farms; providing seeds and seedlings; establishment of community nurseries for forest rehabilitation; establishment of model sites that demonstrate rehabilitation of degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands and publication of guidelines for restoring degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands.

MoFo is very active on forest restoration and sustainable management. It has the Reforestation of Degraded Forest (RDF) and recently (January 2019) launched the 4 Million trees in 4 years initiative. It is part of Government's renewed effort to continue the fight against climate change and to protect Fiji's environment and rich biodiversity. It will also reduce soil erosion and siltation while offsetting some of the Nation's carbon output.

MoFo is also hosting the REDD+ team who will be an important partner for this project.

In addition, the following activities supported by FAO would form the co-financing for this GEF project:

**Action Against Desertification (AAD) project** funded by the EU runs from 2015-2020. Action Against Desertification aims to build the resilience and increase the productivity of forest landscapes in Fiji, while improving the livelihoods of the local population through the restoration of degraded land and the sustainable management of natural resources. The AAD project is a great source of learning for this project on LUP planning and implementation.

The main activities are:

- Land Restoration for small-scale farming on 2 000 hectares of communal lands in 64 local communities. About 8 000 kg of seeds and over 1 000 000 seedlings of native species are being produced in village nurseries for direct sowing and planting to restore degraded forests and rehabilitate agro-forestry and agro-ecology farmland.
- Promotion of non-timber forest products to help 2 000 farmers, of whom half are women, increase their income. Activities include bee farming for honey production and crop pollination, sandalwood and wild ginger production, nutritional gardens, and the production and marketing of handicraft made of forest materials.
- Capacity Development of communities and village technicians involving around 240 farmers and 540 members of 64 communities. Subjects include forest seed collection and handling, nursery and restoration techniques, sustainable land and forest management practices and market analysis and development. Around 150 government staff are being trained in specialised fields, such as tree breeding, farm soil testing, land use planning and resource mapping, GIS and remote sensing.

**The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLR Mechanism):** The FLRM was launched in 2014 which is helping countries to achieve their commitments towards the Bonn Challenge, Aichi Targets and related goals by supporting the implementation as well as monitoring and reporting of FLR. The FLR Mechanism is providing specific country support in the Fiji to : 1) facilitate multi-stakeholder processes to defining needs and opportunities for FLR resulting in a national FLR plan; and 2) establishing pilot projects that leverage new large-scale projects and programmes with national, bilateral and multilateral donors and the private sector.

Two projects of the FLR are of particular interest for this project: The Restoration Initiative (supported by the GEF of section Coordination with other GEF initiatives in the Project Document) and The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions supported by IKI and to be launched in early 2019.

As recognized in the Paris Agreement, forest based options are key to achieve NDCs through joint mitigation and adaptation approaches providing both carbon benefits and non-carbon-benefits (REDD+).

The effective implementation of the Bonn Challenge, through several regional initiatives, represents an opportunity to scale up FLR efforts and contribute to several NDCs. Three regions with diverse landscapes and high potential for increasing both forest carbon stocks and the provision of non-carbon benefits through large scale FLR programmes are targeted: the Pacific Islands (Philippines + Fiji), the GGWSSI region (Ethiopia + Niger) and the Mediterranean (Lebanon and Morocco). To turn NDC and FLR pledges into action in the three targeted regions and building on the global movement led by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), the project will support:

- (i) existing regional platforms for a better integration of FLR options in NDCs with a strong focus on knowledge sharing, capacity development, mobilization of innovative financing & investments options (including private sector investments and climate finance including the Green Climate Fund) and FLR monitoring guidance for an efficient reporting of FLR impacts to UNFCCC in the context of the Paris Agreement
- (ii) implementation of existing national FLR action plans/programmes with a multidimensional approach.

Specifically in Fiji, the project will focus on:

- An enabling environment is created for the implementation of national FLR programs and scale up through inter sectoral coordination and relevant policy - Development of FLR policy/strategy well integrated with current national initiatives and other existing policy frameworks in Fiji and capacity building at national level on key FLR and land use planning approaches
- Restoration approaches are implemented in selected sites with a high potential for FLR providing both carbon and non-carbon benefits through participatory and gender-responsive planning, community driven FLR investments and sustainable economic alternatives provided at landscape level - Participatory planning and implementation of pilot landscape plans on Mamanuca and Yasawa in Fiji and set up the conditions for effective FLR (local coordination, nurseries, capacity building and development of economic alternatives).
- The monitoring capacity is enhanced and both socio-economic and environmental benefits are monitored with a minimum set of indicators well adapted to both national and regional contexts - Build capacity on FLR monitoring in Fiji by promoting guidance documents developed by FAO and GPFLR members and use the tools in restored areas of Mamanuca and Yasawa (e.g. FAO/WRI guidelines - Collect Earth Open Foris)

3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[6]<sup>6</sup> strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The **development objective** of the project is to address the negative impacts of unsustainable management forests and land driven by economic development as well as poverty and livelihood demands of local communities. The project aims to achieve this by establishing and pursuing a landscape-based approach to comprehensive planning and management that harmonizes socio-economic development, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. The project's interventions will ensure that proper restoration strategies and financing are put in place so that degraded forests and lands are rehabilitated and existing protected areas and high conservation value forests are protected by communities having received adapted capacity building support.

The **project objective** is to promote community-based integrated natural resource management at landscape level to reduce land degradation, enhance carbon stocks and strengthen local livelihoods in Ra and Tailevu provinces.

The main targets for the projects are:

- 47,719 ha are under Land Use Plans integrating Integrated Natural Resource Management at District level
- 18,799 ha are under CBINRM thanks to the development and implementation of CBINRM plans
- 3,500 people have a more diversified income source and livelihood
- 443,019 tCO<sub>2</sub>e emissions are mitigated through project activities over a 20-year period (direct). Note: the project has an indirect impact potential after the end of the project of an additional 1,909,345 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

In order to reach these objectives, the projects will undertake the following activities.

Component 1: Strengthening local level capacities for Integrated Natural Resource Management

**Outcome 1: Local level capacities strengthened for integrated natural resource management**

In Fiji, people face obstacles in building the required capacities, skills sets, and enabling environment to effectively respond to evolving challenges of conserving natural resources and in meeting their various multilateral environment agreement targets. Local capacity needs assessment point to the fundamental need for strengthening capacity across the region, if the full potential is to be realised for restoring and protecting areas to contribute to sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity, ecosystem protection and community resilience in the face of global warming. The lessons learned from other projects and programs implemented can contribute substantial insight with respect to capacity building and awareness raising.

The significance of capacity building to the rural communities cannot be overemphasized. It is the core activity in changing the current mindset of resource owners to become more committed and responsible towards managing their own resources. Communities need to be supported to take action by themselves. Engaging communities from the onset is the best way forward to establishing their commitment and ownership towards the intervention.

As indicated in the Theory of Change, activities under this component will build on on-going/planned community level awareness raising (MoFo, MoFi & MoA), institutional capacity building activities for Sustainable Land and Forest Management/Restoration (MTA/FAO AAD) and demonstration activities (MoFo, MoFi & MoA) under the baseline and co-financing initiatives. GEF incremental resources will be utilized to improve the coordination of current capacity building activities, expand the capacity building to the community level in a streamlined manner and ensure that local communities have the adequate capacity to implement INRM plans at the village level.

The main outcomes expected from this component are:

- 17 target communities where the Capacity Building scores are improved
- 4 demonstration sites effectively running and maintained by community members, showing efficient capacity building

*Output 1.1. Improved INRM coordination platforms, linking all the different trainings already existing by the different Ministries, for enhanced CB implementation and monitoring*

The project will support such coordination at the provincial level triggering better integration at the district and community levels (see Institutional context in Section1/National Context in the Project Document). It will also monitor capacity building specifically to ensure that progresses are made.

- Support the Provincial meetings with a focus on capacity building linking all the different trainings already existing developed by the different Ministries and other stakeholders

The project will build on the positive experience of the Land Care groups, where the Land Resource and Planning Division of MOA and the Ministry of Forest together with other civil society organizations and NGO'S, WWF, USP, etc. have jointly carried out trainings and awareness throughout Fiji on Land Degradation, SLM, SFM and other related technologies. That initiative led to the formation of the Land Care Groups in different communities, who were delegated the responsibilities of overseeing and managing their own natural resources.

Following this approach of working jointly, the project will support Provincial meetings in Ra and Tailevu with a focus on capacity building coordination. As these meetings also include district representatives, they will then bring back the information at the district and the community level through the YMST or Land Care groups.

It will be key to ensure that all the key Ministries but also the other stakeholders involved in capacity building are invited to participate in these meetings. The meetings will be held twice a year in the Provincial office and will be facilitated by the capacity building expert and the provincial coordinators. The outputs will be clear Capacity Building plans at the provincial level (with an impact on the district and community level plans).

- Set up a monitoring system for capacity building based on score card methodology

During the filed assessments, it came out clearly that many trainings are not followed by successful activity implementation. This can be linked to a lack of ownership or technical/financial means. Considering the considerable amount of resources invested in capacity building, it is important to develop a monitoring system, going beyond the number of people trained, to understand the successes and failures of the current capacity building system. A system of CB scorecard could be used. This can lead to adaptive management in the current capacity building system at all levels (national, provincial, district and community levels).

A Monitoring and Evaluation expert will be hired to develop this system in close collaboration with the different Ministries as well as the provincial, district and community stakeholders. The system will then be validated through workshops and field tested in 5 communities.

*Output 1.2 Training programs on climate smart agriculture practices, sustainable land management and forest and landscape restoration implemented through Demonstration Farms/Farmer Field Schools (FFS) across 17 villages in the project areas*

Despite the broad extension programmes undertaken by the different departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forestry, at the community level, there is still a significant gap in capacities related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices, rangeland and sustainable forest management measures (including sustainable harvesting of Non Timber Forest Products) as well as forest and landscape restoration. This is a significant barrier to CBINRM as the majority of land is communally owned and managed.

A detailed Capacity Need Assessment was carried out by the Action Against Decertification (AAD) project through a capacity assessment workshop that was carried out from the 25th to 26th November 2015.

During the project preparation, after field discussions and key stakeholder interviews, it appeared that the detailed results of the Capacity Need Assessment are still relevant (results presented in 1.2.3 below). It was decided to not repeat the complete assessment but ensure that gaps are addressed during project implementation. Nevertheless, additional information will have to be added for coastal communities who are also management freshwater and marine natural resources.

In order to increase the project ownership by the local communities, the trainings will be done through Demonstration Farms using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach (see 1.2.2 *Demonstration Farms set up and run* below). The communities will benefit from targeted trainings effective climate-smart agricultural technologies, forest and soil restoration and conservation practices (see 1.2.3 *Focused Technical Trainings*) which can be used to enrich the Demonstration Farm experience. These trainings will be completed by trainings more focused on forest and biodiversity management done by FTC (cf *output 1.3 below*).

#### 1.2.1. Community consultations and CBINRM awareness raising

Awareness raising campaigns will happen in 17 villages within the 3 selected districts. The selected villages are the ones where the CBINRM Land Use Planning exercise will happen in some of the largest of their Mataqali.

Community consultations will be organized to present the project and the CBINRM approach as well as the proposed capacity building initiatives through the INRM Demonstration Farms. These consultations will be critical to fine tune the capacity need assessment and ensure the alignment of the capacity building programs with the field realities.

#### 1.2.2. Demonstration Farms set up and run

The Demonstration Farms will become models for Integrated Natural Resources Management using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. FFS is based on people-centred learning. Participatory methods create an environment conducive to learning: the participants can exchange knowledge and experience in a risk-free setting. Practical field exercises using direct observation, discussion and decision making encourage learning by-doing. The field is the space where local knowledge and outside scientific insights are tested, validated and integrated, in the context of local ecosystem and socio-economic settings.

Community based problem analysis is the entry point for the FFS groups to develop a specific curriculum adapted to local specificities of communities supported. The practices proposed in the Demonstration farms will be closely linked to the needs identified by the communities when defining their CBINRM Land Use Plans (Component 2 below) as well as to the gaps identified during the Capacity Need Assessment. As much as possible the training will be linked to existing curriculum from the line ministries and other programs.

The Demonstration farms will be set up by motivated community members, local extension staff and NGOs that will be trained, to enable them to effectively and efficiently engage in training other community members. The training of Trainers methodology will be used.

In total 4 Demonstration Farms will be conducted to cover the 3 Districts. In order to reach the maximum number of people, they should be located in:

- i) Namena
- ii) Dawasamu
- iii) Naocobau
- iv) Nasau

In order to set up a Demonstration Farm/Farmer Field School (FFS) the following steps need to be considered:

### **1. Conduct Ground working activities:**

- Develop solutions to identified problems
- Establish farmers' practices development need (cf Capacity Need Assessment above + activities in the CBINRM plans (see Component 2))
- Identify field school participants
- Identify field school sites

### **2. Training of Facilitators on:**

- Field guides on how to effectively deliver crop/livestock/Forest production & soil and forest restoration/protection topics using non-formal education methods (NFE)
- Participatory technology development (PTD) with emphasis on the approaches and developing guidelines on conducting PTD
- Non-formal education methods with emphasis on what, when and how to use NFE in FFS
- Crop/livestock/Forest production and protection technologies
- Group dynamics
- Special topics to be addressed at diverse stages of training.

### **3. Establishment and Running FFS**

- With the guidance of facilitators, the group meets regularly throughout the project phase, and carries out production and restoration activities as part of the CBINRM plan.
- Implement Best Practices (Test and Validate)

#### **4. Evaluating Participatory technology development (PTDs)**

- Data analysis for group Monitoring & Evaluation of the progress
- Group discussion on the technics testing and special topics

#### **5. Field days**

- During the period of running the FFS, field days will be organized where the rest of the farming community is invited to share what the group has learned in the FFS.
- 1 or 2 per year depending on stages of growth and experiences in eth Demonstration Farm
- Farmers themselves facilitate during this day

#### **6. Graduations**

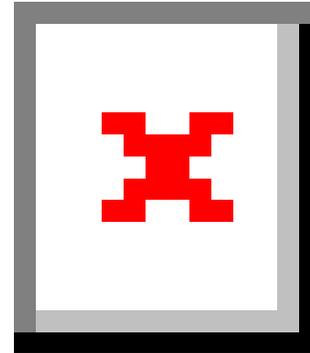
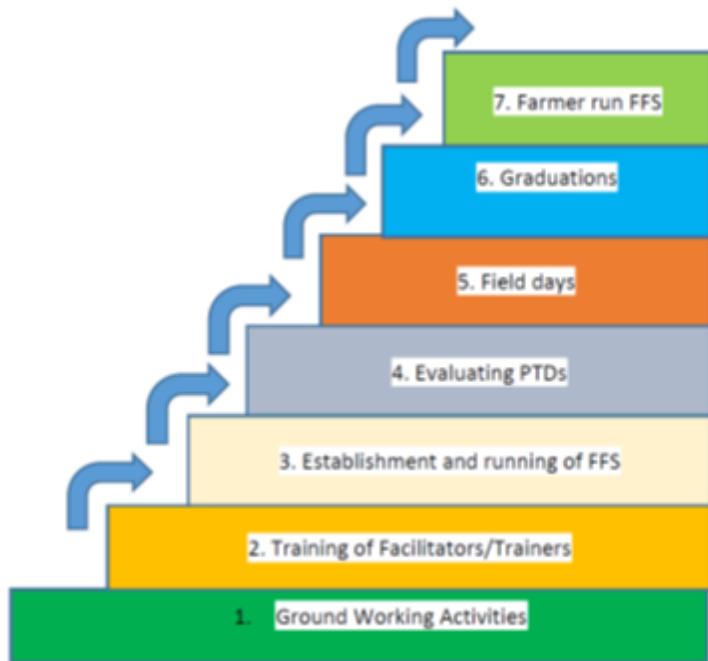
- Marks the end of the annual long FFS. Farmers are awarded certificates

#### **7. Farmer run FFS**

- FFS farmer graduates now have the knowledge and confidence to run their own FFS.

#### **8. Follow up by facilitators**

- Occasionally the core facilitators will follow-up on farmers that have graduated preferably on a quarterly basis. The core facilitators also backstop on-going farmer run FFS.



FAO has an extensive experience on training FFS trainers [7] and many modules are already available. The FFS approach is very much a learning by doing approach. The activity will be conducted by the Capacity Building/ Farmer Field School Coordinator with the support from the MoA and MoFo and MoFi extension officers in the field. For this activity, the project should build on the SPC/GIZ "Coping with climate change in Pacific Island Regions" experience on community-based trainings such as the ones on resilience by the Ministry of Youth (the National Qualifications in Resilience Levels 1-4), and others by the Technical Colleges and Fiji National University. The CCPIR trained extension officers in the Ministry so that they have the right knowledge to train others, these officers have also been involved in the Action Against degradation project. The project should identify the staff who have been trained and understand if they need additional training before training others. They will then be the key focal point so extend the training network. Applying the FFS approach to restoration is new in Fiji so the project will pilot it making use of the institutional resources available thanks to the CCPIR project. The very close collaboration with the different line Ministry will allow for building capacities in the Ministries and for a close monitoring of this methodology which could then be included, together with formal Trainings of Trainers, in the Ministry workplans and budgets.

The expectation is the FFS will continue after the end of the project through the support of the line Ministries.

### 1.2.3. Focused Technical Trainings

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In order to support the implementation of the Demonstration Farms and the CBINRM approach integrating the different landscape elements in a synergetic way, specialized trainings will be given on the sustainable and climate-smart land management as well as forest and landscape restoration (cf box below for the definitions). The training needs highlighted below mostly come from the Capacity Assessment Needs done by AAD that have been validated by the project preparation team through interview and discussion with communities. At the beginning of the project, during the discussions with communities and the definition of the CBINRM plans, the specific themes for the focused trainings will be defined. The main results of the AAD assessment are highlighted the following priority themes for community capacity building:

General knowledge on INRM

*Possible themes:*

- ü Land use planning
  
- ü Integrated farming/ Integrated homestead farming to produce nutrient-rich foods(e.g. fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat and milk)
  
- ü Land tenure. For this, awareness-raising on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests, and Fisheries[8]<sup>8</sup> would be a good option.

Forest and Landscape Restoration activities including nursery techniques

*Possible themes:*

- ü Species selection and timing
  
- ü Using of local material in building nursery
  
- ü Developing improved processing and germination testing methods and procedures
  
- ü Forest and landscape restoration techniques adapted to the local context
  
- ü Sustaining plantations, including mangroves ones

Soil conservation and management techniques (erosion control, shelterbelts)

*Possible themes:*

- ü Integrated soil fertility and nutrient management, adoption of SLM Concepts using different practices
-

- ü Contour cropping
- ü Soil capability evaluation
- ü Advance training on soil conservation & management techniques

Integrated farming systems such as row cropping, multiple cropping, alley cropping, zero tillage, agro-forestry, and other techniques building resilience to climate change (Climate Smart Agriculture)

*Possible themes:*

- ü Right crop mix in multi-cropping
- ü Crop selection depending on soil type
- ü Selection of climate resilience crop variety (heat and drought tolerant)
- ü Agroforestry technics
- ü Conservation agriculture/minimum tillage;
- ü Integrated crop and livestock farming systems
- ü Integrated pest and disease management (IPM);

Water use, including water harvesting, hydropower and water-saving irrigation techniques (Climate Smart Agriculture)

*Possible themes:*

- ü Proper use of existing water source –fish pond
- ü Water source protection and management
- ü Capacity development on irrigation technique and appropriate technology (e.g. Water-saving irrigation techniques)

Sustainable biodiversity conservation and use, including management of native flora/fauna, management of invasive species

*Possible themes:*

- ü Conservation status strengthening, Registration of conserved site with TLTB
- ü Baseline Assessment & monitoring of Potential Site
- ü Setup community base site support group
- ü Potential use and eradication of invasive species

Creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities (including development of value chains from production to marketing and agroforestry)

*Possible themes:*

- ü Quality control to meet market standard
- ü Value adding & improving supply chains
- ü Enhancing marketing system & market connexion

The themes will be reviewed at the beginning of the project with the target communities so they can choose the most relevant creating linkages with the needs identified when defining the CBINRM Land Use Plans (Component 2 below). Coastal management and fisheries will be included as key thematic for coastal communities. As a lot of these trainings do include an aspect of improving communities resilience, they should build (or collaborate with) the National Qualifications in Resilience Levels 1-4. The Fiji Ministry of Youth delivered Certificate I directly to a number of rural and remote communities in Fiji. Building on the knowledge acquired at the senior secondary school level, Certs I and II look at the causes and impacts of climate change as well as adaptation using traditional knowledge and techniques.

**Output 1.3 Training programs on agroforestry, forest protection and improved management measures implemented by the Forest Training Centre covering 17 villages in the project areas**

As described above, the FTC offers tailor made trainings that will complement the trainings already offered by the MoA, MoFo and MoFi. They will focus mostly on biodiversity and sustainable forest management.

Depending on the needs, the trainings will happen at the FTC in Suva or the Demonstration Farms.

Some of these trainings can be geared towards law enforcers and forest warden to fight against illegal logging in the areas where this is an issue.

The activity will be coordinated by the Capacity Building/ Farmer Field School Coordinator and implemented through a Letter of Agreement with FTC.

**Component 2: Planning and Implementation of Community-Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM)**

As indicated in the Theory of Change, activities under this component will support improved i) stakeholder coordination in CBINRM planning at district and community level and ii) CBINRM activities implementation. The YMST at district and local levels are key elements of this exercise to ensure local empowerment.

The activities under this component will be guided by the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests, and Fisheries<sup>[9]</sup>, specifically on a) Land Recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties and b) Administration of tenure.

In order to comprehend the planning and implementation process around natural resources management, it is important to understand the Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) structure. As indicated in the institutional context, the YMST is a community-based institution developed at either village, district and/or provincial level. It is a co-management structure that operates to support government extension and conservation officers at the district and provincial level to work with community leaders and chiefs. The Ministry of iTaukei (Indigenous) Affairs has made the YMST model a prerequisite for all provinces in Fiji to enhance engagement with communities to strengthen natural resource ownership.

In order to support Community Based INRM (CBINRM) under this component the project will:

- Support the different layers of planning at district and community level on INRM: i) integrating the plans already existing in each level (district/community), ii) ensuring synergies between the district and the community level planning efforts and iii) developing business plan for short and long term implementation of the plans.
  - Support the implementation of the CBINRM plans through:
    - ü direct investments
    - ü supporting investments of other partners (such as the GCF or existing governmental support programs).
    - ü supporting the development of community-based enterprises for the provision of improved/alternative livelihoods
  - Work with the MTA to re-enforce the YMST system, to make them effective INRM planning and implementation bodies.
-

**Outcome 2.1: *Planning process for INRM strengthened over 47,719ha through the improvement and development of 3 district level plans and 21 Participatory Land Use Plans***

The main results expected under this outcome are:

- improved district level Land Use Plans (LUP) integrating INRM over 47,719 ha
- 18,799 ha under CBINRM plans (covering 21 land use units)

**Output 2.1.1 *District level Participatory Land Use Plans (PLUPs) improved/developed using the recently developed Participatory Land Use (PLU) planning guidelines***

At the district level, several plans already exist each focused on a particular topic: coastal management, agriculture development, forest protection, business development etc.

The project preparation team highlighted the fact that despite the numbers of plans and information available, no integrated plans currently existed. The YMST committee at the district level are instrumental in bringing the different plans together in an integrated way.

To support improved Land Use Planning, participatory land use planning guidelines have been developed. These Guidelines will be used to develop Participatory Land Use Plans in our 3 target districts: Namena and Dawasamu (Tailevu) and Nokorotubu (Ra).

The Annex 12 presents in more details the participatory land use planning guidelines but their key points are that when undertaking land use planning the following should be observed:

1. Promote Integration – involvement of all sectors and disciplines.
2. Promote the active participation of local communities – the PLUP approach will encourage resource owners to be actively involved in all phases of planning.
3. Be ecosystem conscious – the planning approach will promote an ecosystem-management mentality.
4. Be supported by institutional frameworks at all levels – to ensure inter-sectoral support, an established National Body (e.g. Land Conservation Board via the LandCare Committee) will be mandated with supporting land use planning initiatives.
5. Be supported by an effective and reliable information management system – through supportive institutional structures and formal agreements between agencies, all types of data and information on a targeted area should be readily available and accessible to the land use planning team.
6. Promote Community-Based Adaptive Management - the PLUP approach will encourage capacity development of communities to identify and effectively respond to factors (both internal and external) that affect land use or resource management regimes.

7. Be supported by relevant national plans, policies, and legislations – land use planning is cross-cutting amongst all land-related policies such as the National Rural Land Use Policy (umbrella policy for all land-related policies) , the National Forest Policy, the Environment Management Act, etc.
8. Be supported to meet international commitments – the development of land use plans to ensure the sustainable utilisation of land resources contributes towards meeting the objectives of the 3 Rio conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification.
9. Schedule of land use values is to be guided by land capability guidelines to determine rental assessments and new lease considerations
10. Ensure gender-responsive planning
11. Ensure transparency and open information sharing amongst all agencies
12. Capacity building of land use planning teams and institutions
13. Support the development of skilled land use planners from local communities ...(to be part of the land use planning team)

Considering all these elements, and building on existing planning documents (Land Use plans prepared by MOA, the Forest map done by MoFo, Community Development Plans from the Ministry of Water, OTLTB District Plans by the Ministry of Planning, etc.) the project will support development or revision of the LUP in the 3 target districts (47,719ha). In Nakorotombo there is a YMST plan which needs to be revised and turned into a PLUP while in Namena and Dawasamu, there aren't any plans yet.

To facilitate the planning process, a GIS expert will support the mapping and the regional coordinators in the PMU will facilitate the gathering of documents and the workshops organisation (2 per district). This work will be done in support of the YMST and the line Ministries. It will be important that District level planning informs community level planning and vice versa.

#### *Output 2.1.2 **Community Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Participatory Land Use Plans developed at Land Use Units level***

At a much more localised level, the same planning process will be implemented in the 21 targeted Mataqali (land owning units) covering 18,799 ha. As explained in the site selection process, the project decided to focus on the larger Mataqali (over 400 ha in Nokorotubu and Namena and 300 ha in Dawasamu) within the districts in order to have the biggest impact possible.



Districts	Total land area (ha)	Total number of villages in the District	Population	Total number of Mataqali	Total number of villages with large Mataqali	No.LUPs in the large Mataqali	Number of ha available for CBINRM in the selected mataqali
Na mena	8,089	9	2,307	85	5	6	2,551
Da wa samu	5,806	9	1,301	49	7	10	2,367
Na korotubu	33,823	15	5,595	274	5	5	13,881
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,719</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9,203</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18,799</b>

In Tailevu, several villages can share the land unit (it is an exception) so one mataqali could have several land use plans as for each village/Mataqali portion. The planning needs to happen at the land use unit which is the unit responsible for the land management. Each land use unit depends on a community where YMST systems will be supported.

In order to support CBINRM Land Use Planning, and in close collaboration with the local YMST and line Ministries, the project will support the following activities:

#### 2.1.2.1 Awareness raising to initiate CBINRM land use plans

Meetings will be organized in each of the 21 Land Use Units to present the project and consult the stakeholders on their expectations. The expected result of these meetings is a general agreement to engage with the CBINRM land use planning process.

#### 2.1.2.2 Biophysical surveys of community lands

As described in the land use planning process at the district level, having good maps and understanding of the different land units is key to sound INRM planning. In order to get these maps, the project can build on the AAD project, which trained GIS staff on using Collect Earth Open Foris, using satellite images from SPC and REDD+. The department of Land Use of the MoA will assist in the biophysical survey.

Collect Earth is a tool that enables data collection through Google Earth. In conjunction with Google Earth, Bing Maps and Google Earth Engine, users can analyze high and very high resolution satellite imagery for a wide variety of purposes, including:

- Support multi-phase National Forest Inventories
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) assessments
- Monitoring agricultural land and urban areas
- Validation of existing maps
- Collection of spatially explicit socio-economic data
- Quantifying deforestation, reforestation and desertification

Its user-friendliness and smooth learning curve make it a perfect tool for performing fast, accurate and cost-effective assessments. It is highly customizable for the specific data collection needs and methodologies.

The data gathered through Collect Earth[10]<sup>10</sup> is exportable to commonly used formats and can also be exported to Saiku[11]<sup>11</sup>, a tool that facilitates data analysis.

The data collected via satellite images will also be field proofed by ground surveys. This methodology will also be used for the monitoring of CBINRMLUP implementation.

#### 2.1.2.3 Development of participatory land use plans including long-term business plans

The CBINRM Land Use Plans (CBINRMLUP) will be developed following the same steps and rules as described in [Output 2.1.1](#) but the innovation at the local level in Fiji is the development of business plans attached to the CBINRM plans. Indeed, during the community discussions, it was clear that the communities were tired of planning and having trainings but no long-term plans attached to it.

CBINRM should always be implemented with consideration of the accomplishment of multiple benefits: ecological and social. Indeed, a plan with only sustainable natural resources management activities and no clear benefits to the communities has fewer chances to be implemented and sustained than one that includes activities from which communities can gather benefits in the short and long term (i.e., agro-forestry, activities linked to payment for ecosystem services, etc.).

In the selected sites, communities will be supported to review or develop CBINRMLUP responding to the need of the areas as well as the need for long-term sustainability of the efforts. Such plans must: 1) address the INRM needs of the area, 2) be consistent with the landscape or broader plan developed in Output 2.1; and, 3) include a short and long-term financial/incentive plan that provides for long term benefits of the local communities drawn from the gains of implementing the restoration plans over a period of 10 to 15 years. This plans will also build on available technical solutions, coming from previous projects or government support, for which they have already been trained or will be trained (through component 1). For example, in the plans, when Climate Smart Agriculture is envisaged, climate-resilient root crops identified by SPC/GIZ, “Coping with climate change in Pacific Island regions” (CCCPIR) should be considered.

The financial/incentive plan (or package) should include different forms of incentives available in the short to long term including [detailed in Output 2.2.2. below](#):

- Direct subsidies from the public and private sector
  - Project grants
  - Economic revenue from community enterprises linked to restoration or PES schemes
  - Etc.
-

The CBINRM LUP should be fully comprehensive including infrastructure development need which could be supported by the Ministry of Agriculture currently working on improving infrastructure for value chain development with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The PMU provincial coordinators, which will be LUP experts, will lead the activities under 2.1.2. in close collaboration with the YMSTs and the line Ministries, which will participate in all missions to the communities to develop the LUP. For the financial/business part of the plans, a partner specialized in such plans at the community level will be contracted. For these activities, close collaboration with the AAD and the REDD+ program will be sought as they also have community LUP experience this project could benefit from.

#### 2.1.2.4 Two yearly review of INRM LUPs

The plans will be reviewed after 2 years to make sure that they are still relevant answering both to the INRM and the livelihoods development objective. This will allow for adaptive management of the plans when needed.

#### **Outcome 2.2: *At least 18,799ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management (CBINRM)***

Once the CBINRM plans, covering 18,799 ha, have been developed and linked to sustainable business plans, the project will support their implementation through supporting coordination mechanisms and fundraising/support seeking for the activities.

The main expected results under this outcome are:

- 17 YMST committees following up the implementation of the CBINRM plans
- 18,799 ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management (including 2,100 ha through direct investment)
- 4 enterprises, linked to CBINRM support, generating benefits

It is important to note that not all the 18,799 ha of the plans need investment and direct actions, but the CBINRM area should be seen as a whole with activities implemented in a holistic way.

#### **Output 2.2.1 *Capacity of communities for CBINRM plans implementation enhanced***

The YMST system development and implementation isn't at the same level in each province, district and community. For example, while it is quite developed in Ra, it is much less present in Tailevu. Based on other projects experiences, such as the ADD project one, the YMST are key players in the implementation of the LUP.

The project will, therefore, support the Ministry of iTauaki Affairs in developing YMST to manage natural resources at the community level in the communities from which the 21 land use units (under 2.1) pertain. The project will support regular meetings for the 17 local YMST facilitated by the project provincial coordinators. It will be important to make sure that the entire community is represented in the YMST, including women (at least 30%) and youth. YMST people should also be the target of the capacity building activities in component 1.

As indicated above, CBINRM plans will be developed at the Land Owning Unit but the implementation will be supported by the YMSTs. These land units can also be considered as a pilot unit of interest to the entire community which might decide to extend the experience to all the Mataqali of the community.

*Output 2.2.2 CBINRM plans implementation supported through direct investments, investments of other partners and providing incentives to communities*

In order to ensure that the CBINRM LUP plans are implemented, communities will be supported in the implementation of their business plans through 3 different activities:

- Support to the investments of other partners in the CBINRM plans
- Inputs providing program for the best community business plans (grants available to support the CBINRM over 2,100 ha)
- Community-based enterprises linked to the INRM plans strengthened

It is the combination of these 3 sources of incentives: direct investments by partners, grant by the project (for 2,100 ha) and support to enterprises which will then have a strong business interest in supporting CBINRM, which will allow the implementation of CBINRM over all the mataqalis where CBINRM LUP have been developed. The business plans will give more detailed information on what is needed where for each mataqali.

2.2.2.1. Support to the investments of other partners in the CBINRM plans

The Fiji government has a number of capacity building and technical support programs targeting community development and management of natural resources. According to the interviews led during the project preparation phase, the issue is that the communities aren't empowered to reach out to the Ministries or Projects and request the support needed. An example of this is a recent EU project, which didn't manage to reach its reforestation targets as not enough communities asked for restoration support. There is a major unbalance between the demand which seems low compared to the service offered.

Once the communities will have CBINRM LUP prepared and associated with business plans they will have a very clear picture of their needs in terms of capacity building, financial and technical support needed. The plans will have be prepared with the support of the line Ministries, therefore, they will already integrate activities that the Ministries can support.

In order to bring together the demand and the offer, annual fora will be organized every year starting from year 2 bringing together the YMST/Land Owning Groups, the line Ministries (including the Ministry of Trade, which do enterprise development or Ministries giving grants such as the Ministry of Youth, Ministry Woman & Culture, Ministry of Commerce) and other stakeholders such as the private sector, which could be interested in participating in the implementation of the plans. Actors such as the National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprises Development (NCSMED), Fiji Development Bank (FDB) the Integrated Human Resource Development Program (IHRDP) would be important stakeholders.

As presented earlier, a major Green Climate Fund project (over 50 MUSD) is currently under preparation and will also target the Ra and Tailevu provinces. This project will want to invest in communities ready to directly implement climate smart activities.

These fora, organized by the national coordinator will run over 2 days and involve around 50 people presenting what they need and what they offer. The format of the forum could mix plenary presentation and one to one discussions.

#### 2.2.2.2. Inputs providing program for the best community business plans

To start up right away the implementation of the CBINRMLUP, grants for INRM implementation will be attributed to the most promising CNINRMLUP and their associated business plans. A committee composed of the Project Management Unit (PMU), government officials at the district and provincial level as well as the line Ministries will be selecting the appropriate candidates.

Considering the financial resources available, it has been estimated that through direct support, 2,100 ha of land can be restored/ under improved management: 500 ha of climate smart agriculture technologies, 550 ha agroforestry, 50 ha mangrove replanting, 450 ha SFM, 250 Forest plantation/ restoration, 300 ha improved rangeland management.

The types of activity supported are:

- *Climate smart agriculture* (primarily related to agricultural crop production): improved soil management, crop nutrient management, and water management as well as improved crop variety (incl. Indigenous ones)
- *Agroforestry* (as an interface between agricultural land and forest frontiers): contour farming, alley cropping, and agro-silvo-pastoral systems would be implemented
- *Rangeland management*; controlling and influencing the movement of livestock (e.g. water development, fencing, stock trails, and herding) and improved feed crop management (closely related to agroforestry activities)
- *Sustainable Forest Management*; forest protection measures (through patrolling by community wardens) to ensure that i) transgressions are not committed by leasings/concessions (specifically spillage from exotic plantations) and forest fires do not get started inadvertently or go uncontrolled (measures include creation and maintenance of fire lines, deployment of fire watchers, etc.), ii) sustainable extraction of timber (e.g. low impact logging, systematic and planned harvesting) and NTFPs. Sustainable extraction of NTFPs will be facilitated through ecological assessments (impacts of NTFPs harvest, dynamics under the impacts and management practices that can mitigate negative impacts and promote positive impacts) and market assessments (economic viability of products and potential for diversification).
- *Forest & Mangroves restoration*: restoration of degraded forests will be carried out through planting (site suitable indigenous species) and assisted natural regeneration, forest cover in the terrestrial forests and mangroves will be increased by 10% and 12% respectively. Restoration will be geared towards preserving indigenous agrobiodiversity and at the same time providing multiple benefits (e.g. NTFPs, timber for construction) to local communities.

#### 2.2.2.3 Community-based enterprises strengthened through value-addition activities for provision of improved/alternative livelihoods linked to the INRM plans

A number of productive options exist in the project areas, which have the potential to be strengthened through CSA, FLR, sustainable forest and land management, and to generate significant livelihood and commercial benefits for farmers.

Successive governments in Fiji are committed to revitalize the agricultural sector. The government is also committed to revitalize the non-sugar sub-sector due to the decrease in sugar production as well as the need to improve the exports and food security. The policy goal is to “establish a diversified, economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture sector.” Its main focus is strengthening the linkages along agricultural value chains from production, distribution, storage, marketing and value-addition to improve efficiency for the sector to be a driver of economic growth. This will assist to lessen poverty, build food security and self-sufficiency and raise the level of exports. Programs and project are being developed to support mechanization, value addition, organic farming and build capacity within the sector.

During the field visits, several small enterprises/cooperatives have been visited and could be strengthened in support of the CBINRM plans. They will be an important part of the business plans associated to the CBINRM plans.

The project will strengthen these enterprises which support CBINRM in order to have an impact on a greater number of ha. In order to strengthen these enterprises different activities will be led:

- a. Localized value chain analysis on promising products such as honey, forest cocoa, mud crab, handicrafts, coco and kava (as the European market just opened for Kava). The value chain analysis will give recommendation on how to improve existing enterprises. A key element of these studies will be the market opportunities locally and regionally. Only the value chain with a strong market will be pursued. For this activity, close collaboration with PHAMA will be thought. Indeed, PHAMA’s key achievements in Fiji were to support government and industry to utilize export opportunities for agricultural and other primary products, identify and develop new export opportunities for fresh and processed products, and strengthen contingency planning and surveillance for pests and diseases.

Some value chain analysis work has already been done such as the booklet on “Fiji Kava value Chain Analysis” launched by PHAMA and the Ministry of Agriculture in 2018. This will booklet will assist many of the kava producers for high productions. The MoFo and BAF have value chain procedures/ information on the top five agriculture products that are mainly exported. The information will improve the quality and consistency of produce.

A review was done by Shepherd et.al (2012) on the shortfall of value chains of agriculture commodities in the Pacific. The result is that the main shortfalls are linked to the locality of products, poor transport linkages and high costs, poor economies of scale, natural disasters, plant diseases and market access barriers. Despite these constraints, significant opportunities do exists to reduce failures and to expand successes through identifying ways to improve the value chains for agriculture products. Improvements are measured in terms of the sustainable increase in the income earned by those participating in the value chain.

The project will use this existing material and go into more detailed value chain analysis for the most promising commodities in the target areas.

- b. Assessment of existing enterprises in the target communities including recommendations for improvement. For this study, a close collaboration with PHAMA, CI and Nature Fiji is recommended as they worked on value chain development and community enterprises (bee farming, aquaculture pounds, etc.)

c. Business Development Experts will provide direct coaching to entrepreneurs, including the development of simple business and financial plans. The 5 most promising enterprises will benefit from this coaching offer. Women and youth-led enterprise will get a special attention from the project. The enterprise strengthening activities will focus on primary and secondary processing of the products, accessing market information and ensuring adequate market access. Learning from previous projects (such as the Drawa), clarification of roles and relationships between the enterprises and the communities will have to be defined very early on. The enterprises will be connected with the respective producer associations/councils (usually supported and subsidized by the government) (refer to the stakeholder table) as well as potential investors during the CBINRM fora (cf above).

For this activity it is anticipated that the project will collaborate with the Integrated Human Resource Development Program (IHRDP), a key coordinating agency for all relevant stakeholders in a participatory approach to promote economic and social well-being for all communities. It does have experience in community-based enterprises development.

In promoting enterprise development and employment, FAO, following the Decent Work Agenda (DWA) aims to promote productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity based on the four pillars: (1) promoting jobs; (2) guaranteeing rights at work; (3) extending social protection; and (4) promoting social dialogue.[12]<sup>12</sup> Each of the pillars will be taken into consideration while promoting enterprise development. A special focus will be made on women and youth led enterprises to support their empowerment.

**Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination**  
***Outcome 3: Adaptive management ensured and key lessons shared***

This component will ensure that project results and achievements will be disseminated for replicability and scaling up and that project's progress is tracked and periodic evaluations are conducted for adaptive management.

Under this component, the main expected results are:

- 5,000 key stakeholders in Government agencies, CSO and communities with increased awareness of the potential of INRM
- 10 good practices systemized and shared through the online platform and the Community of Practice
- 8 communities involved in CBINRM monitoring
- A M&E system put in place to ensure adaptive management

*Output 3.1: Lessons learned documented and disseminated*

3.1.1 FLR knowledge platform, linking to existing REDD+ knowledge platforms and communities of practices, established

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For this activity, the project will closely collaborate with the REDD+ group. The REDD+ program has been in place since 2010. It has an active Steering Committee who meets on a quarterly basis with members coming from:

- Ministry of Forestry (Secretariat/chair)
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- National Land Trust Board
- Private sector
- Fiji Pine
- NGO (International environmental NGO & Local community based NGO)
- Resource /land owner
- University of South Pacific/Fiji National University

As well as several Technical sub-committees focusing on particular themes such as: MRV, Safeguards, Governance & Finance, Knowledge Management (KM).

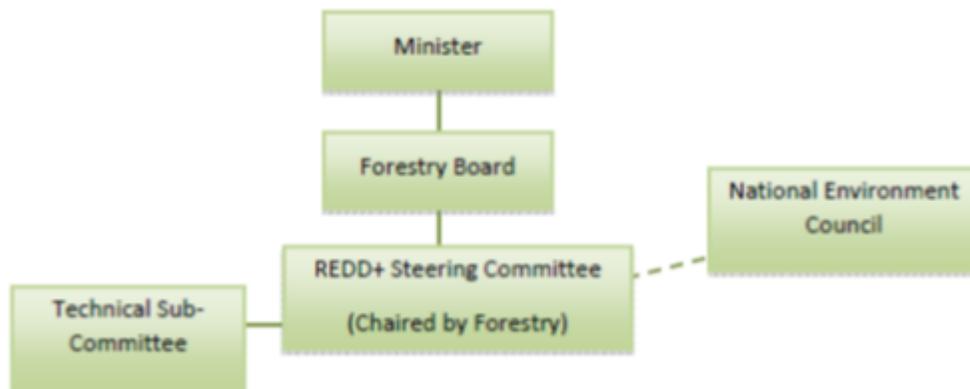
The KM activity of this project will be discussed within the KM sub-group to ensure alignment.

One of the foreseen activity, is to develop a light web-platform, as an add-on to the REDD+ one, to share the lessons learnt from other Natural Resources Management projects in Fiji, promote the CBINRM approach and share the lessons learnt from the project. This add on should be interactive one.

Given the level of social media (Facebook use) ascertained during the baseline socio-economic survey; the project will also develop a social media presence to assist in knowledge sharing but also to facilitate e-discussions with community/stakeholders.

The person in charge of the platform and the social media presence is the National Coordinator (M&E and KM expert). He will also establish key knowledge partnership(s) to ensure effectively shared knowledge. Synergies should be established as much as possible to avoid duplication of knowledge and to promote knowledge sharing across all partners operating in project sites.

#### ***Fiji REDD+ Governance structure***



The Fiji REDD+ Steering Committee is established by and reports to the Forestry Board. The REDD+

### 3.1.2 Systematisation of lessons learned, success & failures stories and project results

The project, through its capacity building approach linked to experience, via the Demonstration Farms, will create a wide array of new knowledge to be captured and shared with the project stakeholders and beyond.

Systematization of experience is a method aimed at improving practice based on a critical reflection and interpretation of lessons learned from that practice. Within the context of the full-size project this involves a facilitated process of capturing, analyzing and structuring tacit knowledge on INRM, specifically, best practice and lessons learned, from the perspective of the major stakeholders, i.e., the communities, the local government, the line ministries. Failures will also be examined in details to allow critical review and lessons learnt definition. The systematization methodology encompasses the identification, documentation and transfer of experiences and key lessons extracted from a project or an initiative, or group of projects or initiatives for the purpose of advocacy, learning and replication/scaling up. Local-level systematization workshops will be conducted annually in the demonstration farms to capture, process and organize project generated INRM best practice and lessons learned. These lessons learned will then be shared through the web-platform, the social media and the CoP but also in paper form as it is appreciated by farmers.

The National Coordinator (M&E and KM expert) will be responsible to facilitate the systematization meetings, with the assistance of the Provincial Coordinators and produce factsheets on best practice and lessons learned. These lessons will then be shared in paper and electronic form with the project stakeholders and beyond.

### 3.1.3 Participate in key learning events and mechanisms for documenting and sharing learning

The team will participate in learning events such as the ones proposed by the IKI project on reaching the Paris agreement or in other events in INRM such as the one proposed by the CBD secretariat on Forest and Landscape restoration. This will be the occasion to share knowledge gathered by the project but also gather new experience to share and try in the project area.

*Output 3.2: Project progress continually monitored and adaptive management actions taken*

3.2.1. Ongoing monitoring of project results

Under this activity, a monitoring system will be developed to monitor the progress of the achievements of the results framework presented in Annex 1 with special attention to socio-economic and sex-disaggregated indicators. But the monitoring system should not only focus on the results of the project but also its impacts. For this purpose, the M&E expert will lead a participatory multi-stakeholder consultation, involving primarily the TWG, designed to generate meaningful indicators that will assess the impact of the project at broader scales and over a long-term time horizon. To do this, the M&E expert can gather information on current project working on M&E such as the upcoming IKI project on the Paris Agreement implementation or the work under the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism on Monitoring for FLR.

In addition to monitoring the progress of the results framework, the M&E expert will also monitor the progress of the Workplan, specifically the accomplishments of the activities of each output as shown in Annex 2.

The National Coordinator, who will also be the M&E expert, should review existing monitoring systems in Fiji to see how to both build on them and support them with additional data. His main tasks will be to:

- review current M&E system for the project and develop and set up the Project's M&E system including data collection, analysis and means of verification for indicators and project output
- Conduct field survey and site visits for collecting and analysing data needed for monitoring condition and progress of indicators and output. Manage the data collector team. For the biophysical monitoring, the data from Collect Earth Open Foris (cf LUP development) could be used.

3.2.2 Development and implementation of a community based monitoring

An effective way of boosting community ownership is to make them responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of their own activities. The AAD project has tested this approach through community champions having a strong interest in INRM implementation. Nature Fiji is also already implementing some community based monitoring focused on freshwater systems

These local champions, after being trained by the M&E expert on the reporting template and assessment methodologies, are responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of INRM activities (this includes ecological and social indicators). In order to incentivize them, grants will be made available for them to develop their activity related to INRM (such as nursery development etc.). It is proposed that this is conducted through the village headman's quarterly report.

4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and [co-financing](#);

Under the baseline scenario, the activities of the different Ministries will keep happening in isolation lacking the long-term vision of their contribution to a broader plan supporting sustainable natural resources management. Capacities will be built but the communities will not necessarily have the means to effectively put their new skills into practice and keep sustainable practices over the long term. Therefore, land will keep being degraded accelerating the vicious circle of climate change and lack of resilience for the poorest communities.

Thanks to the GEF resources, long term planning for integrated natural management will be supported at the district and the community level, building on the existing activities from the line Ministries. The plans will integrate all the activities happening at the community level: agriculture, pastoralism, Non Timber Forest Products collection, forest management and utilisation etc. These plans will not only be a joint effort between the communities and the line ministries but they will be linked to business plans to ensure that they can be implemented on the short and long terms. The project will also link up the community with appropriate public and private investors to make sure the plans are being implemented.

The project will closely collaborate with the line ministries to ensure that the capacities are built at the local level in a coordinated way and a monitoring system for capacity building will be developed to ensure that communities have the right skill sets to implement the plans.

Finally, community ownership will be supported all along the project implementation and community based monitoring will be developed to allow the communities to gather for themselves the successes and lessons learnt from this process.

This project will also pave the way for an upcoming large Green Climate Fund (GCF) project focused on restoration. Lessons learnt from this project will allow for the GCF project to be more effective.

The table below summarizes the desired outcomes and shows the importance of the GEF supported activities to improve the baseline scenario for Community Based Integrated Natural Resources Management (CBINRM) in Fiji.

Outcome	Baseline Scenario	GEF Alternative Scenario
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Outcome 1: Enhanced local level capacities for integrated natural resource management

Activities will build on currently led initiatives on community level awareness raising (MoFo, MoFi, MoA), institutional capacity building for SLM/SFM and forest restoration (MTA & FAO AAD) and demonstration activities (MoFo, MoFi, MoA). Despite the extension programmes undertaken by the different Ministries at community level, there is still a significant gap in capacities related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices, rangeland management and sustainable forest management measures (including sustainable harvesting of NTFPs). This is a significant barrier considering the fact that the majority of land is communally owned and managed.

There is a lack of a planning to coordinate the capacity building efforts led by the different ministries and projects. The programs are happening in isolation and with little follow up. This prevents the integration part of the “Community Based Integrated Natural Resources Management-CBINRM” to happen.

It is also difficult to have a clear picture of the level of capacities built in Fiji up to now, as there has not been a unified monitoring system.

The proposed project will support the improvement of capacity building programs for Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) by

- supporting INRM capacity building platforms coordinating all the different capacity building activities already existing or planned by the different Ministries at the Provincial level (triggering then down at the district and community level)
- developing a joint capacity building monitoring system
- developing Farmers Field Schools to provide hands on training on climate smart agriculture practices, Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Mitigation
- collaborating with the Forest Training Centre to improve capacity on Sustainable Forest Management, Mangrove Management, INRM and Biodiversity Management

Without GEF resources, capacity gaps for implementation of INRM at the community level will remain.

<p>Outcome 2.1: Planning process for INRM strengthened over 47,719ha</p>	<p>The key Ministries engaged in natural resources management have active extension activities (MoA, MoFi, MoFo), and inputs programs (MoA), nurseries (MoFo, FAO AAD), and mangrove rehabilitation activities (MoFo) carried out under the baseline and co-financing initiatives. But there is little integrated land-use planning that takes place either at district or village level. Too often, each Ministry has plans, at least at district level, but there is not a global view of all the plans and how they can support sustainable natural resources management and livelihoods for the community. This has exacerbated the ongoing unsustainable resource utilization practices and has prevented any coordinated efforts to change the utilization/management patterns.</p>	<p>In order to support Community Based INRM (CBINRM) the proposed project will:</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2: At least 18,799ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management (CBINRM) (including 2,100 ha of direct investment)</p>	<p>A major barriers in ensuring sustainable resource management at community level is the lack of adequate business planning linked to INRM planning. This often leads to INRM plans not being implemented. It has already been demonstrated around the world that with adequate economic incentives local communities would be willing to participate and engage in sustainable management of natural resources. Implementing a business plan attached to the INRM plan will allow enterprises to develop and communities to benefit from and sustain the plan. The main resource based livelihoods in the project sites is related to agriculture (subsistence and semi-commercial) and forest resource extraction, but there are not enough value chain focused efforts to diversity and improve livelihoods, this severely limits the economic benefits that can be derived by the local communities. The local community-based enterprises that exist requires further strengthening, especially in the area of market access and value-addition (primary and secondary processing).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support the different layers of planning at district and community level on INRM: i) integrating the plans already existing in each level (district/community), ii) ensuring synergies between the district and the community level planning efforts and iii) developing business plan for short and long term implementation of the plans.</li> </ul>
	<p>Two elements have been recently developed and need support to expend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Participatory Land Use Planning guidelines have been developed (SPC/GIZ) and it is important to utilize the guidelines to initiate integrated natural resources management land use planning at local level.</li> <li>· The Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) developed by the MTA to support the planning/governance structure for community based natural resource management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· At community level, the plans will be managed by the communities, giving them full ownership over planning and implementation of their own natural resources. Their engagement from the initial stages of planning and implementation is important to ensure the sustainability of the program. Lessons learned from other projects highlight the significance of community buy-in at all stages.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support the implementation of the CBINRM plans through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ü direct investments</li> <li>ü supporting investments of other partners (such as the GCF or existing governmental support programs).</li> <li>ü supporting the development of community-based enterprises for the provision of improved/alternative livelihoods</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Work with the MTA to re-enforce the YMST[13]<sup>13</sup> system, to make them effective</li> </ul>

<p>Outcome 3: Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination</p>	<p>Some experience of community based monitoring have been made through the AAD project (cf baseline projects). These experiences need to be tested at a larger scale to empower communities.</p> <p>A Knowledge Management working group exists under REDD+ Fiji which captures all key stakeholders relevant to this project.</p>	<p>In order to support Community Based INRM (CBINRM) the proposed project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Support Community Based Monitoring implementation</li> <li>· Ensure regular monitoring for adaptive management</li> <li>· Develop a Knowledge Management system to promote CBINRM</li> <li>· Learning from Fiji CBINRM will be systemized to be shared to the wider community</li> </ul>
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5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The project will generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) as it is expected that it will contribute to having 47,719 hectares of land under land use plans generating multiple benefits with a clear path to achieve restoration at the landscape/watershed scale. As part of these 47,719, innovative restoration alternatives/solutions to ensure long term commitment to restoration will be implemented over 2,100 ha. The remaining 45,619 ha will be on a path to sustainable land management in production systems. These objectives are intimately linked to livelihood improvement of local communities involved in integrated natural resources management and restoration, the project aiming at directly benefiting 3,500 people.

The direct lifetime GHG emission mitigation potential from the project is estimated as 443,019 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq

*Note: the project has an indirect impact potential after the end of the project of an additional 1,909,345 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq (see Annex 13 of the Project Document).*

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

### **Innovativeness**

The project has been designed to promote community based integrated natural resources management in Fiji. It promotes a level of integration in terms of planning and field implementation, which is new in Fiji. The main innovations proposed by the project are the following:

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- Promoting in Fiji the integration of different land use plans in order to act in a coordinated way and integrated landscape-wide perspective to natural resources management. For the moment the different line Ministries plan and execute their activities in silo. This project will support coordination to maximise the synergies. This integration will also certainly be a good way to develop innovative INRM strategies and strengthen the collaboration between the different ministries to support communities while implementing their own plans. The participatory resource management planning will happen at multiple levels – both local and landscape. Traditionally, one of the bottlenecks in translating participatory village resource planning and management impacts to the larger landscape level lies in the individual villages operating in silos without any linkages. In this project, common district level PLUPs will be developed (involving all the villages effectively), within this overall framework the individual villages will prepare local level INRM plans, translating into wider landscape level benefits.

- Building on the few experiences of FFS in Fiji to expand the concept and get it down to the community level.
- Using the latest research in Fiji in terms of indigenous species and climate resilient/ smart species to upscale restoration. The demonstration farms are a good way to have these types of practices tested and adopted by the communities.
- Strengthening the sense of community, which tends to be lost by having the demonstration farms where the community can debate and agree on the best way forward and test it.
- Linking up local level planning with public support programs: linking the demand and the offer is both innovative and a way to ensure sustainability.
- Introducing capacity building monitoring which would be important to better understand the progress towards improved skills for local communities
- Creating a platform to widely share information on CBINRM in Fiji and support a Community of Practices discussing concrete field activities.

## **Sustainability**

The project promotes INRM at national, district and local levels to contribute to sustainable use of ecosystem services and the reduction of deforestation and land degradation. In this way, the project directly contributes to environmental sustainability. The project aims to improve INRM practices in Fiji to secure essential ecosystem services (including biodiversity and carbon benefits) as well as the production of commodities based on a sustainable and inclusive economy. The project will be implemented in areas under severe threat of degradation and in a particularly fragile environment, which is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This project will intensify efforts to manage natural resources sustainably ensuring the flow of ecosystem services and supporting the diversification of the rural economy. Environmental sustainability will also be enhanced by the project's emphasis on supporting strong local ownership of the project and developing short & long term financing plans linked to CBINRM plans.

The whole project strategy is built around environmental sustainability. CBINRM is anchored in an environmentally sustainable approach that aims to bring back the good functioning of ecosystems and the overall quality of the environment in the long term, while improving local communities' livelihoods.

In its first component, the project will seek to improve local capacities to plan and implement INRM plans.

In its second component, the project will support district and community based planning ensuring that all activities (agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, conservation zones, etc.) have their place to avoid conflict. It will ensure inclusive benefit sharing, NRM planning and initiatives that are demand driven, transparent, and involving all stakeholders, particularly local communities, women and youth. The activities will include the development of incentives and enterprises that will motivate land managers to continue sustainable management practices.

The third component will focus on developing a stronger monitoring for environmental and social results of INRM and ensure proper adaptive management of the project. The Knowledge component part will also ensure that the good practices tested can be replicated in the Fiji and beyond.

These different measures will directly contribute to the environmental sustainability of project activities as it will improve efficiency in the use of forest resources while contributing to conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems.

The environmental sustainability has to be couple with socio-economic benefits and sustainability. These benefits are described in details in section A 7 (below).

### **Potential for scaling up**

The potential for scaling up is high for this project as

- It will lay the ground for large investments through creating CBINRM investment opportunities. The project will support the development of plans over large areas, which will then be “investment ready”. Indeed, the communities will have:

- ü Participatory LUP approved by all the key stakeholders

- ü Strong local institutional structures in charge of natural resources management, such as the YMST.

- ü Strong capacities developed through replicable models.

- ü Sustainability strategy put in place through the financial plans linked to the CBINRM plans. Major investments are already planned in Fiji through programs such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) which will be looking for investment ready communities. During the project preparation phase, it was clear that several projects did not deliver the expected restoration targets as there weren't any investment-ready communities yet. The upcoming projects will be able to invest in the project communities to scale up activities there and outside.

- It will support the line ministries in working together for integrated planning and implementation. Successful activity at the village and district level will then have a catalytic effect on other districts. The district and village plans will be a synthesis of all the other existing plans from the different Ministries. As it is currently happening in the AAD project, planning exercise will involve staff from the different Ministries (Planning, Forest, Agriculture, etc.) working together and with the communities. Ministries do have significant budget they can use to scale up the planning and implementation exercise once they are convinced this is a successful pathway.

It will support capacity building that can be replicated. Strong local capacities will be developed through replicable models (i.e. FFS) and in line with the line ministry existing programs, which will stay beyond the project time. The trained staff will be able to use capacity building resources from the ministries to scale up the work in and outside of the target districts.

It will bring new donors/investors to the CBINRM sector through the forum (cf Component 2 and the Support to the investments of other partners in the CBINRM plans) and through the promotion of CBINRM enterprises creating opportunities to scale up.

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[1] Emission reduction program Document (ER-PD) FCPF Carbon Fund, December 2018

[2] <https://fr.actualitix.com/pays/wld/elevage-de-ovins-et-caprins.php>

[3] Emission reduction program Document (ER-PD) FCPF Carbon Fund, December 2018

[4] <http://120.52.51.13/www.fao.org/3/a-az212e.pdf>

[5] Emission reduction program Document (ER-PD) FCPF Carbon Fund, December 2018

[6] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

[7] <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-food-value-chains/training-and-learning-center/details-materials/en/c/276309/>

[8] <http://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

[9] <http://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

[10] <http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth/tutorials/saiku.html>

[11] Saiku Server is a web-based open source software that facilitates data visualization and data querying. Although a version of the software is freely available on the Saiku website, a special version has been customized for greater compatibility with Collect Earth. Saiku Server is included in the Collect Earth installer.

[12] <http://120.52.51.16/www.fao.org/3/a-i5957e.pdf>

[13] The Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) is a community-based institution developed at either village, district and/or provincial level. It is a co-management structure that operates to support government extension and conservation officers at the district and provincial level to work with community leaders and chiefs. CF section **institutional context as part as National Context in Section 1 of the ProDoc**

#### A.2. Child Project?

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

n/a

#### A.3. Stakeholders

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

Please refer to the attachment.

### Documents

Title

Submitted

#### Fiji Stakeholdr Engagement

**In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.**

Key stakeholders and their involvement in the Project are elaborated in the stakeholder mapping and analysis in the attachment "Fiji Stakeholder Engagement". The stakeholder mapping and analysis provides detail on each stakeholder's level of involvement, perceived influence, level of impact and priority for engagement. Details and definitions of these parameters are also included in the stakeholder mapping and analysis.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;**

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;**

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain) Yes**

The civil society will play a key role in the project as they will be the ones deciding on and implementing the CBINRM activities. The project will directly support the Yaubula Management Support team (YMST) system which empower civil society. For example in Ra: The Ra Yaubula Management Support Committee or Ra YMST is set up at the Provincial level that is housed at the Provincial Office and coordinated by the Roko Tui's office (Provincial Administrator). It was formally recognised in 2012. Members of this committee include provincial level government, NGOs, communities and the private sector. Their key role is to make management decision on natural resource use/protection within the province of Ra. The Ra YMST has two working group/sub committees – marine and terrestrial, to address issues, risks, threats relating to the two types of ecosystems within the province. They are in charge of developing provincial level plans.

Below the Provincial level YMST is the tikina/district level YMST in which villager leaders participate representing their respective village level YMSTs. Their role is to review and update the tikina/district the Provincial level strategic action plans based on the implementation of the village action plans. The smallest management unit is the village-based YMST. This unit holds the most important role, being the implementer of the management plans developed at the district and village levels.

#### **A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).**

As reported by the government of Fiji to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), women play a critical and central role in farm practices, natural resource extraction and use at local level. They wrote in 2012: *“Rural women are the major subsistence and semi subsistence agricultural producers. They grow food crops for the market where they sell their surplus produce. A survey conducted in the Sigatoka valley for the Fourth Fiji Islands Road Upgrading project found that Fijian women*

*do more routine agricultural work than men; their workloads included subsistence cultivation and market gardening*". Nevertheless, their perspectives and priorities are often not considered when determining management practices and approaches. The main way that gender issues have been incorporated into the project preparation process is through the adoption and use of participatory approaches in all important decisions and activities in preparing the document. The project design also ensures that effective representation of both genders is achieved in all project activities (especially considering the fact that women are key change agents in terms of adopting new practices). Indeed, most of the activities will be decided and implemented through community committees/groups, knowing that these groups will have to be aligned with the provincial target of 30% women representation in all community committees/groups. Also, for all the capacity building activities as well as for the knowledge management, the project team will ensure that at least 30% of women are involved in all the activities. Finally, the enterprise development part will have a particular focus on women to ensure that they also participate in the value addition and commercial part. Indeed, The 2010/2011 Employment and Unemployment Survey (EUS) analysis indicates that women in both urban and rural areas spend far more time on employment and housework than men. Women, who do 74 percent of all domestic work, spend 54.2 hours per week on unpaid employment, compared to 32.3 hours for men.

The project design follows the guidance on mainstreaming gender in the project cycle[1] developed by FAO. Reporting on project activities, outputs and outcomes will also be disaggregated by gender (where applicable), so that performance in this respect can be monitored.

The project seeks to pay special attention to women from the onset. The consideration of equal benefit to men and women through the project interventions, has taken into account traditional and culturally accepted roles of men and women in the community setting and through a well-established system of governance. It also takes into full account the national policy/regulatory approach to gender mainstreaming and equality which is formalized in the National Gender Policy.

During the PPG phase, the following activities were undertaken to ensure effective mainstreaming of women into all areas of consultations and project design:

1. Literature Review of national policies, FAO and GEF policies relating to gender mainstreaming. This included the National Gender Policy approved in 2014; review of country gender assessments conducted by UN Women and the Asian Development Bank; review of FAO Policy on Gender Equality: Attaining Food Security in Agriculture and Rural Development; and GEF's Gender Mainstreaming Policy.
2. Inception & Validation Workshops – ensuring targeted interviews with women on their qualitative experiences as well as roles in facilitating projects relating to natural resource management in the project identified areas; ensuring there was at least 30% attendance by women from various stakeholder groups; workshop facilitation took into consideration traditional gender roles in Fiji and provided opportunities for women to express their views freely.

3. Community Engagement – Specific consideration was given to women, with targeted interviews and rapid gender analysis techniques incorporated into the scope of lead questions for focus group interviews targeting women. Where there was additional information to be gathered, one-on-one interviews were conducted with women in communities. Gender assessment methodologies complementing the baseline socio-economic survey focused on the following questions, which were also developed as a guide for all consultants in their interaction with women:

- What are the main roles of women in your community?
- What are the main roles of men in your community?
- What decision making do women engage in?
- What decision making is left to men?
- Who normally looks after food preparation and cooking?
- What are some of the methods you use to prepare food?
- What are some of the challenges you meet in eating fresh/nutritious food?
- What aspirations do women have for themselves if given more power/resources?
- How often do women travel to neighbouring villages? What are their interaction outside of the village?

The provincial council indicated that efforts are already in place to have 30% women in community development committees, however buy-in and changes in traditional mindsets are imperative in the execution of project targets relating to gender. The community willingness to adopt this approach is one of the key assumption of the project. The fact that the project will be supporting the local YMST, and therefore engage with women directly, will be one element to promote women empowerment together with the enterprise development activity. Also exchanges with other sites are expected to happen, these could be a great opportunity to showcase women leadership in these communities.

The status of women and men varied greatly from one community to another in project sites. Some key observations established through rapid gender assessment and focus groups as well as targeted interviews were that:

- Villages where women played key leadership roles (mainly in Tailevu), were more proactive in village development, nutrition and support towards socio-economic advancement (an example being women led sports/physical fitness initiatives to combat NCDs);
- While women acknowledged that they would appreciate more autonomy in decision making around planting, management of natural resources (execution of their traditional roles) however, during the women only discussions, women seemed to indicate that they would prefer to have men retain the ultimate positions of authority. This points to the need of analysing intra-household gender roles and dynamics so to get a better understanding of women and men's position, autonomy and agency.

In regard to enhancing community livelihoods, it has been proven in other countries that gender equity is essential towards achieving sustainable commodity supply chains; improving household nutrition and access to food and efficiency as well as effectiveness of community development[2]. The participation of women in all aspects of project implementation is imperative to achieving this.

To inform project design and to ensure gender integration throughout the PPG and project implementation phases, key indicators have been established to ensure women's participation in all components of project implementation. There is also a specific focus on women as recipients of opportunities relating to enterprise strengthening/development as well as participation in project monitoring as community based champions.

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[1] <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6854e.pdf>

[2] <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000022433/download/>

## Documents

Title

Submitted

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**If yes, please upload document or equivalent here**

During the project implementation phase, special attention will be paid to women in the following ways to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout all levels of project implementation.

*Component 1* – women will constitute at least 30% of participation in all capacity building and training activities.

*Component 2* – women, together with youth, will be a key focus of awareness raising and enterprise strengthening and market access activities to enhance livelihoods.

*Component 3* – women will be appointed as community based champions, empowered to contribute to ongoing monitoring of project socio-economic indicators at the community level and to contribute to feedback as well as capturing grievances/perceived negative impacts at the community level. They will be trained and a system that facilitates and supports their role as leaders in project implementation will be established.

During the project evaluation phase, women’s stories of success/experiences from the project are particularly encouraged.

The gender mainstreaming indicators are incorporated into the results matrix under the appropriate outcome indicators. Monitoring of gender related indicators as detailed above in Component 3, will be conducted at the community level and through progress reporting on capacity building/training initiatives. This will comprise sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive monitoring indicators.

**If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:**

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes**

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

**Will the project’s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### **A.5. Risks**

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being, achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.**

The project presents low risks as its approach is anchored in community-based forest and ecosystem planning, management and reforestation, aiming to increase ownership of communities over the sustainable management and use of forest resources and services.

Nevertheless, the project has been rated moderate risk as the project will be active in areas where Indigenous People live. The project has been developed in close consultations with indigenous peoples and is being executed by the Government agency responsible for indigenous affairs – the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. The village profiles (Annex 8 of the Project Documnet) provide a comprehensive breakdown of disaggregated population statistics of indigenous people in the project sites (by sex, age and village amongst other subsets of data).

The project will be implemented in accordance with the established governance system of the iTaukei people (working directly with communities at the mataqali level – the traditional unit of land ownership). This will ensure that where there is consent at the mataqali level, there is guaranteed buy-in and informed consent for all levels below that.

The table below summarizes the other risks to the project, including climate change and potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and the proposed measures that address these risks during the time of project implementation.

Risk No.	Risk statement	Impact  (effect on project organization if risk were to occur: H, MH, ML, or L)	Likelihood  (estimate of likelihood: H, MH, ML, or L)	Overall ranking  (Red/Amber/Green)	Mitigating action	Action owner
1	Changes in Government priorities in relation to natural resources management	MH	Low: the Government's commitment is expressed in a number of major policy documents	Green	The project will focus strongly on demonstrating the feasibility, cost-effectiveness and social and sustainability benefits achievable through appropriate integrated natural resources management.	PMU & PSC

2	Lack of close and collaborative cooperation between the key institutional stakeholders	MH	Low: key institutional stakeholders have already had good experiences working together	Green	Close and collaborative cooperation between many institutional stakeholders will be essential for the project to achieve its stated goal and objectives. All the stakeholders have been (and will be) involved from the beginning of the project preparation process and through establishment of a working group for the project implementation under the project steering committee. Multistakeholder platforms will be supported at national, district and local levels to ensure maximum coordination.	PMU & PSC
3	Reluctance of local population to take ownership of the project activities	M	ML	Green	Local communities and their representatives will be effectively engaged from the onset of the project preparation process. Their perspectives and concerns will be taken into account in the project design, and sensitization activities carried out during the project preparation phase would communicate the socio-economic benefits to be delivered through the project.	PMU

4	Long gestation periods for alternative livelihoods to mature and yield benefits which can undermine the short gains of CBINRM initiatives and weaken community participation	H	ML	Amber	The restoration plans will include livelihood menu of options (including activities with short-term gestation periods like high value agricultural crops as buffer until longer-term investments generate sustainable benefits). This is to help diversify the livelihood and resource base, including linkage with on-going governmental and NGO programs to supplement and complement project activities.	PMU
5	CBINRM activities are undermined by climate change patterns	MH	Medium	Amber	Diversifying the NRM methodologies and approaches will lower the risk of strong climate impacts. Also the introduction of climate smart practices will increase resilience to climate change.	PMU
6	Changes in climate patterns negatively impacting the project results	MH	MH: the recent weather patterns have shown an increase in extreme weather events	Amber	Through IRNM and restoration activities, the project will increase the climate resilience of the local population. Climate-smart species and activities will be chosen to ensure the project sustainability.	PMU & PSC
7	Reduced financial support from co-financiers due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19	Medium	Medium	Amber	If there are negative changes in co-financing, in consultation with the government, seek alternative options for and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas.	PMU & PSC

8	Closure of offices, transport etc. will delay launch of the project and its implementation.	Medium	Medium	Amber	It is likely that periodic closures of transport and offices as well as restrictions on organizing meetings/training with a large number of people will impact project implementation. Therefore, the project will institute local mechanisms such as local facilitators, work with local partners to ensure that some work can continue on the ground. Detailed planning will be done with the government and stakeholders, and the project will ensure that all recommended safe practices are followed by the project team and by communities.	PMU & PSC
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Project risks were identified and analysed during its preparation and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the design of the project. With the support and supervision of FAO, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be responsible for managing these risks as well as the effective implementation of mitigation measures. The Monitoring and Evaluation system (M&E) will be used to monitor indicators of outcomes and outputs, project risks and mitigation measures. The PSC shall also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures and adjust mitigation strategies as needed, and to identify and manage any new risk that was not been identified during the preparation of the Project, in collaboration with the project partners.

Fiji's officially confirmed COVID-19 cases as of 14 September 2020 is 32 persons, which is extremely low compared to other parts of the world. However, being an island nation, the impact of the pandemic on the local and national economy has been significant. Whilst there are still risks of COVID-19 cases to increase in the country, most implications on this project are likely to be from the future lockdowns and associated economic fallout, especially on co-financing. The project will provide support to facilitate community-level access to social protection mechanisms and other government, donor, private sector and NGO programs that are currently being designed and implemented.

During this period, people being locked down in their communities, not being able to work in the tertiary sector, have also turned to agriculture which could create a risk of deforestation in favour of agriculture land in the future. This risk can be controlled by the project as it will be introducing much-needed land use plans and sustainable practices. The project, by improving the current land uses, will also increase the resilience of communities, by making them less dependent on external agricultural products. This project is an opportunity for Fijian to be better adapted to extreme weather events but also other catastrophic events, such as the COVID pandemic.

The six-monthly Project Progress Report (PPR) is the main monitoring and risk management instrument. The PPR includes a section of systematic risk monitoring and mitigation actions that were identified in the previous PPR. The PPR also includes a section to identify any new risks or risks that have not been addressed yet, rating and mitigation actions, as well as the staff responsible for monitoring such actions and the estimated duration of the same. FAO will monitor the project risk management and the follow up as needed, providing support for adjusting and implementing mitigation strategies. The preparation of reports on risks monitoring and rating will also be part of the Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) prepared by FAO and submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

#### **A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination**

**Describe the Institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

##### 3.1.1 Roles and responsibilities of main institutions

The main institutions and their roles in the project are described in details in the Stakeholder matrix in Annex 11.

##### *Institutional and management arrangements*

The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (MTA) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight as GEF Agency as described below. The MTA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO. As Operational Partner of the project, the MTA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The MTA will be the Operational Partner (OP) for the project based on the standard Operational Partners Agreement to be signed between FAO and MTA. The OP will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partners Agreement to be signed by the OP, and GEF relevant requirements.

As OP of the project the MTA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely and quality implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for intended purposes. The implementation of all agreed results and activities in full compliance with the OPA provisions and due diligence with regard to FAO Social and Environmental Quality Standards will be ensured by the OP.

The OP will bear full fiduciary and programmatic risk, and will be administratively and technically responsible to FAO for the implementation of the agreed results of the project, monitoring and financial management in accordance with the rules and procedures as established in the signed OPA. Such responsibility extends over all funds disbursed by the OP to any entity under contract with the Operational Partner.

The MTA will coordinate all efforts to implement the project's components, aligning with other initiatives and assuring that all deadlines are achieved in a timely manner and that the project's results are discussed with national and local institutions involved.

Other main institutions involved in the project are described in the stakeholders engagement table (cf Annex 11).

FAO and the project partners will collaborate with the implementing agencies of other programs and projects to identify opportunities and facilitate synergies with other relevant GEF projects, as well as projects supported by other donors. This collaboration will include: (i) informal communications between GEF agencies and other partners in implementing programs and projects; and (ii) exchange of information and outreach materials between projects.

The project will develop mechanisms for collaboration with the following GEF initiatives (cf section below):

- UNDP FSP “Implementing a Ridge to Reef to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji” (GEF ID 5398): To preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, sequester carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods through a ridge to reef management of priority catchments on the two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

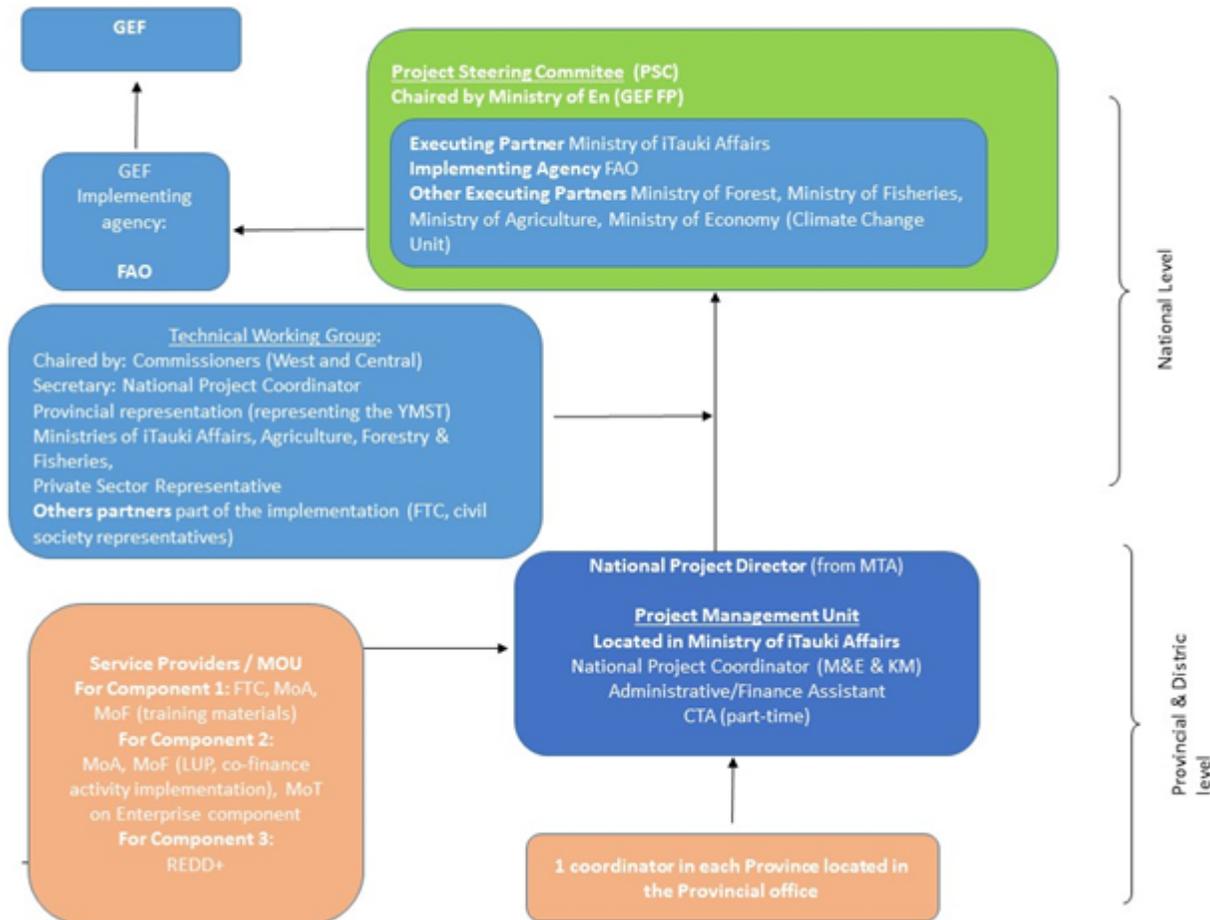
IUCN/FAO/UNEP Program “The Restoration Initiative” (GEF ID 9264): To contribute to the restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and

Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

The project organization structure is as follows:



A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established, chaired by the PS Environment. It will be comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Forests, Fisheries, Agriculture and Economy (Climate Change Unit), and from FAO. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution.

The National Project Coordinator (see below) will be the Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet at least two times per year to ensure:

- Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs;
- Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project;
- Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support;
- Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication;
- Effective coordination of government partner work under this project;
- Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB);
- Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the National Project Coordinator of the PMU

As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will (i) technically oversee activities in their sector, (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project, (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency, and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

The government will designate a **National Project Director (NPD)**. The NPD will be a MTA staff and will have the responsibility of supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities. He/she will also be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He/she will be responsible for requesting FAO the timely disbursement of GEF resources that will allow the execution of project activities, in strict accordance with the Project Results-Based Budget and the approved AWP/B for the current project year.

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be funded by the GEF and established within the MTA at national level and the local Provincial offices. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidelines of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU, at national level, will be composed of a National Project Coordinator (NPC), specialized in

M&E and Knowledge Management, and an Administrative/Finance Assistant. In each of the two target project areas, a full time provincial coordinator will be responsible for project implementation. These provincial coordinators will be Land Use experts to be able to bring their technical expertise to the project. A part time Chief Technical Advisor/CTA (60 days/year, 4 years) will technically support the project.

The **National Project Coordinator** (NPC) will be in charge of daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Operational partner and within the framework delineated by the PSC. S/he will be responsible, among others, for[1]: i) coordination with relevant initiatives; ii) ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels; iii) ensuring compliance with all OPA provisions during the implementation, including on timely reporting and financial management; iv) coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities; v) tracking the project's progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs; vi) monitoring, providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants, who will be hired with GEF funds, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project, including products and activities carried out by project consultants; vii) approve and manage requests for provision of financial resources by FAO using FAO provided format in OPA annexes; viii) monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports; ix) ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO as per OPA reporting requirements; x) maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use project resources as per OPA provisions, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and designated auditors when requested; xi) implementing and managing the project's monitoring and communications plans; xii) organizing annual project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan; xiii) submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO; xiv) preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR); xv) supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder, FAO GEF Coordination Unit, and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED); xvi) submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate the information exchange between the OP and FAO, if needed; xvii) inform the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support. FAO will support the National Project Coordinator, as needed, including through annual supervision missions.

The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the National Project Coordinator (PC) and Project Team (PT) are listed in Annex 6.

FAO assurance role will be provided by FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific (FAO SAP) and technical support provided by FAO SAP and HQ.

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[1] Detailed National Project Coordinator Terms of Reference is available in AnnexAppendix 6

**Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:**

#### **A.7. Benefits**

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptaion benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

The most efficient way to ensure a CBINRM project sustainability is to have it strongly anchored in the field and ensure local community engagement in natural resources management. For this, local communities have to be trained and benefit from the activities on the short and long term. To ensure this, the project will support the following:

- strong capacities development at the local level allowing communities to get the appropriate skills for INRM
- strong YMST to follow up on the project activities to ensure their sustainability
- enterprise development and benefit generating activities linked to INRM bringing short and long term benefits to local communities

Through this approach, local communities will have a direct interest in pursuing CBINRM as they will derive socio-economic benefits from it. It is expected that the project will allow communities to diversify their income source or livelihood allowing them to rely less on public support for safety net.

**A.8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate on the Knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.**

The capture and management of knowledge is fundamentally important to this project. Two thirds of Component 3 are dedicated to it. As detailed in Component 3, to capitalize and share existing knowledge on CBINRM approaches the project will systematize knowledge and share it in the most appropriate way. Its purpose is the sharing and reuse of project results, best practice and lessons learned internally and externally at the local, national and global levels. The users will be: project staff; project beneficiaries; decision makers; policy makers; the international forest restoration community of practice; and the general public (for success and human interest stories).

The project will ensure that stakeholders at all levels can both benefit from lessons learned and contribute to generation of new knowledge and good practices during the systemization workshops.

As detailed in Component 3, each group of stakeholders will have communication channels adapted to their needs.

The project's technical team will be tasked with working to make certain best international principles and practices are reflected in all project activities and outcomes. The website will serve as a knowledge repository and function as an organic monitoring, assessment, and reporting tool. The website will provide stakeholders with information regarding best practices and the results of on-going/implemented project activity.

Effective communication is essential for achieving upscaling of project results to national level. Best practice, lessons learned, tools and new knowledge and awareness developed by the TRI project will inform and synergize with this work, and this will further broaden and strengthen the project. Importantly, this linkage will enhance local-global level dialogue and engagement of Fiji in CBINRM (with LD, BD, CCM co-benefits) at the country level.

## **B. Description of the consistency of the project with:**

### **B.1. Consistency with National Priorities**

**Describe the consistency of the project with nation strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.**

#### Alignment with national development goals and policies

Fiji is strongly committed towards climate change mitigation, land degradation reduction and biodiversity conservation as its international commitments show through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and REDD+[1] mechanism, the CBD (mostly Aichi targets 15) and the UNCCD. This is detailed in section 1.1 "Legal and Policy Context" of the project Document, together with the set of policies deriving from these commitments.

As this project is supported by the Land Degradation line under the GEF STAR allocation, its result should be closely linked to the achievement of the target under the UNCCD. Fiji hasn't yet committed to a Land Degradation Neutrality target but is currently finalizing a National Action Plan and a strategy. Fiji's implication in land degradation is real and the UNCCD focal point for target setting in the Pacific is hopeful that this project will support Fiji commitment. Fiji is considering setting up a target for UNCCD COP14.

It is also supported by the Climate Change line under the STAR allocation and its results will be used by to achieve the targets set up by Fiji under the Paris Agreement. The results of the project could be an important to convince Fiji to review its NDC to better integrate the forestry sector as for the moment the main focus is on energy.

This project is aligned with the strategies developed to reach the goals for sustainable development defined by Fiji at the international, regional and national levels. The strategies are under the overarching Green Growth Framework (GGF) launched in 2014 serves as the government's blueprint for sustainable development in Fiji and to fulfilling the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment. Thematic Area 3 of the Green Growth Framework, Sustainable Islands and Ocean is perfectly aligned with this project.

All Ministerial Annual Corporate Plan (ACP) are aligned to relevant outcomes identified in the Roadmap (RDSSD) and the Strategic Development Plan. These documents include: The Green Growth Framework, the 5 Year & 20 year National Development Plan, Climate Change Action Plan, Fiji Forestry Policy 2007, Fiji 2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda and line Ministerial Annual Corporate Plans to name a few.

As outlined by the major UN conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD), a country needs the appropriate capacities to better manage its natural resources and reach the goals it committed to in terms of emissions, land degradation and biodiversity loss reductions. The frameworks under the UNFCCC (enshrined in decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7.) provide a set of guiding principles and approaches to capacity-building, for example that it should be a country-driven process, involve learning by doing, and build on existing activities. They also

contain a list of priority areas for action on capacity-building, including the specific needs of least developed countries and Small Island Developing States. They reaffirm that capacity-building is essential to enable these countries to implement the objective of the Conventions. The frameworks set out a way forward for capacity-building activities, such as developing and strengthening skills and knowledge, as well as providing opportunities for stakeholders and organizations to share their experiences and increasing their awareness to enable them to participate more fully in the sustainable natural resources management process. This project focuses an entire component (Component 1) on capacity Building.

#### Alignment with national development goals and policies

Fiji is strongly committed towards climate change mitigation, land degradation reduction and biodiversity conservation as its international commitments show through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and REDD+[2] mechanism, the CBD (mostly Aichi targets 15) and the UNCCD. This is detailed in section 1.1 “Legal and Policy Context”, together with the set of policies deriving from these commitments.

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#### Alignment with National action Plans on Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Combat Desertification

As described below the project is well aligned with all the major plans under the Rio convention and will participate to achieve their goals.

#### *Climate Change*

As described in 1.1, Fiji is very committed to climate change and made a pledge under the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) for an unconditional 10% emissions cut by 2030, compared to business as usual levels, or a conditional 30% reduction with international support. The second National Communication (NC) under UNFCC was presented in 2013. It highlights[3] 2 important points tackle by this project;

- Need to focus on local communities

- Need for capacity building: “Fiji realizes the importance of national capacity building across all sectors thus requires well-trained scientific, technical and managerial staff that will not only understand climate change but also be involved in responses to climate change that will create a need for a well-equipped institutional structure that will provide facilities and finances to support climate change programmes and activities.”

The Government of Fiji started a national REDD+ programme in 2009, and adopted a National REDD+ Strategy in 2011. REDD+ is seen as a long-term measure for tackling deforestation and forest degradation, ensuring sustainable forest management, and enhancing carbon stocks and forest biodiversity conservation, while also meeting the demands for energy and other forest products. The intended REDD+ Strategy options are being developed with a view to enhancing positive impacts, co-benefits and reducing any likely negative socio-economic and environmental effects on forest-dependent communities and the country as a whole.

In 2017, the GoF presented its National Adaptation Plan Framework[4] to guide efforts to develop its National Adaptation Plan (NAPA) on an ongoing basis to comprehensively address climate change. The National Adaptation Plan will reinvigorate collaboration between the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division and the many stakeholders relevant to adaptation. Knowledge sharing and institutional learning are seen as fundamental ingredients of success.

#### *Land Degradation*

In 2007, Fiji published a report titled “National Action Plan to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate against drought”[5]. It describes in details the causes of land degradation in Fiji as well as the past and current projects and outline a National Action program proposal. The Fiji government has not officially endorsed the National Action Plan (NAP). Although the Ministry of Agriculture started as its National Focal Point, the GEF operational and political focal point were moved to other ministries. At present the Ministry of Water Ways and Environment through the CB2/CCD Project is strengthening all existing multilateral and bilateral agreement that exist within government. Included in that is the revisit of the NAP.

As part of the report, Fiji emphasised the importance of capacity building across all sectors as a cornerstone in the achievement of sustainable development through better education and training and creation of public awareness concerning sustainable development. It is a very important issue that needs to be addressed both at local and national level. The project is very well aligned with these priorities.

#### *Biodiversity*

Fiji’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) endorsed in 2003, translates Fiji’s commitment achieving its 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In terms of protected areas, the country already counts over 100 Locally Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMAs). Fiji has identified its Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs), nationally significant wetland sites, fish aggregation and spawning sites. Ecosystem-based management is more and more used, notably in the Kubulau reserve, and quota systems have been introduced for marine and terrestrial export commodities, as prescribed by CITES and the Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002).

Thriving programmes have been set that range from terrestrial ecosystems to marine ecosystems and for which positive outcomes have already been identified by communities. The Ministry of Education, through the Culture and Heritage Department, is conducting a survey and mapping of traditional knowledge to enhance indigenous peoples’ participation in biodiversity conservation. Cooperation with individual famers was also carried out to combat pests that are harmful to Fiji. In terms of environmental education, several programs have been carried out in schools, notably by the Mamanuca Environment Society (MES), in order to raise awareness of the environment amongst children. Fiji has also moved to enforce the Environment Management Act 2005.

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[1] REDD+ stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

[2] REDD+ stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

[3] <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/FJInc2.pdf>

[4] <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Parties/NAP%20Framework%20Fiji.pdf>

[5] <https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/naps/fiji-eng2007.pdf>

**C. Describe The Budgeted M & E Plan:**

The table below presents an overview of the M&E plan. This will be detailed during the project inception.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Inception Workshop	PMU, FAO Fiji	Within two months of project document signature	5,000 USD
Inception Workshop in Project Districts	PMU, FAO Fiji	Within two months of project document signature	6,000 USD
Field based impact monitoring	M&E expert	Periodically - to be determined at inception workshop.	USD 50,000
Monitoring of indicators outlined in project results chain	M&E Expert (with community champions)	Bi-Annually	
Supervision visits by FAO	PMU, FAO Fiji, LTO	Annually	The visits of the LTO and FAO SAP will be paid by GEF agency fee. The visits of the PMU will be paid from the project travel budget.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Project Progress Reports	PMU, with inputs from project partners	Semi-annually	Covered by staff costs
Project Implementation Review report	PMU, with inputs from project partners as well as FAO PTM, LTO	Annually	Covered by staff costs
Mid-term Review	PMU, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit (GCU)	At mid-point of project implementation	USD 30,000 for independent consultants and associated costs. In addition the agency fee will pay for oversight of FAO staff time and travel
Final evaluation	Under the responsibility of FAO Independent Office of Evaluation in consultation with the project team, the GCU and other partners	Six months prior to the actual project completion date	USD 50,000 for external, independent consultants and associated costs. In addition the agency fee will pay for oversight of FAO staff time and travel
Terminal Report	PMU, LTO, TCSR Report Unit	At least two months before the end date of the Execution Agreement	USD 6,700
Total Budget			USD 147,700

The project will cover a vast landscape and villages are scattered. The road conditions between project areas are difficult with non-paved roads. Long distances will need to be covered to reach the target communities. To ensure the safety of PMU staff, it is of utmost importance to have motorbikes. The government co-financing will cover mobility for government staff, but the project needs to ensure that a safe motorbikes are available the PMU to implement day-to-day project activities.

**PART III: Certification by GEF partner agency(ies)**

**A. GEF Agency(ies) certification**

<b>GEF Agency Coordinator</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Alexander Jones, Director Climate and Environment Division		Eriko Hibi, Sub-Regional Representative	0657055680	Eriko.Hibi@fao.org
Jeffery Griffin, Senior GEF Unit Coordinator		Yurie Naito, Programme Officer	0657053172	Yurie.Naito@fao.org

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).**

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
<p><b>Project Objective:</b> To promote community-based integrated natural resource management at landscape level to reduce land degradation, enhance carbon stocks and strengthen local livelihoods in Ra and Tailevu provinces</p>	#ha of under Land Use Plans integrating Integrated Natural Resource Management at District level	0	47,719 ha (draft plans)	47,719 ha (final plans)	LUP at District level (3 target districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders are ready to integrate Integrated Natural Resources Management in their district &amp; community level planning</li> <li>Stakeholders are getting the right skills to implement CBINRM</li> <li>Households are willing to diversify their safety and not rely as heavily on public support</li> </ul>
	#ha of under INRM thanks to the development and subsequent implementation of CBINRM plans	0	10,000 ha	18,799 ha	CBINRM plans and field verification for implementation	
	# people with a diversified income source or livelihood (the women/men beneficiary ratio should be the same as in the general population)	0	1,500	3,500	Household surveys	

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
	# tCO2eq emissions mitigated through project activities over a 20-year period (direct)	0		443,019 tCO2eq <i>Note: the project has an indirect impact potential after the end of the project of an additional 1,909,345 tCO2eq</i>	EXACT	
<b>Component 1: Strengthening local level capacities for Integrated Natural Resource Management</b>						
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Local level capacities strengthened for integrated natural resource management	# target communities where the Capacity Building scores are improved	0	10	17	CB report following the methodology developed in the Project Y1	· Stakeholders are open to INRM and working together on capacity building in a cohesive way
	# demonstration sites effectively running and maintained by community members (at least 30% women)	0	4 (in preparation)	4 (fully functioning)	CB Monitoring report	· Mindset can be changed through appropriate capacity building  · Stakeholders are motivated to engage in capacity building activity

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
<p>Output 1.1.1 Improved INRM coordination platforms, linking all the different trainings already existing by the different Ministries, for enhanced CB implementation and monitoring (meetings/ target province (2/year) + 1 CB monitoring system set up and tested in 5 villages)</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 Training programs on climate smart agriculture practices, sustainable land management and forest and landscape restoration implemented through Demonstration Farms/Farmer Field Schools (FFS) across 17 villages in the project areas (4 demonstration farms and 3 main trainings)</p> <p>Output 1.1.3 Training programs on agroforestry, forest protection and improved management measures implemented by the Forest Training Centre covering 17 villages in the project areas (4 different trainings done 4 times each)</p>						
<b>Component 2: Planning and Implementation of Community-Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM)</b>						
<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Planning process for INRM strengthened over 47,719ha	# improved district level LUP integrating INRM	0	3	3	LUP at District level (3 target districts)	· Stakeholders are ready to integrate Integrated Natural Resources Management in their district and local planning
	# CBINRM plans for land use units	0	10	21	CBINRM plans for land units	· Concerned institutions and stakeholders are willing to collaborate together in the development and implementation of CNINRMLUP
<p>Output 2.1.1 Improved capacity for District level Participatory Land Use Plans (PLUP) integrating Integrated Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Output 2.1.2 Improved capacity for Community Based Integrated Natural Resource Management Participatory Land Use Plans</p>						

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> At least 18,799ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management	# YMST committees (with at least 30% women representation) following up the implementation of the CBINRM plans	0	10	17	YMST meetings reports	· Financial and technical external support do exist for communities having CBINRM plans ready
	# ha brought under community-based integrated natural resource management (directly and indirectly)	0	11,000 ha	18,799 ha	Project report, including CB monitoring	· Economic activities linked to restoration are attractive to farmers/local communities/ Markets for their products exist
	# enterprises, linked to CBINRM support, generating benefits (25 to 50% of enterprises will be women or youth led)	0	2	4	Enterprises reports	· Activities respond to the real needs of local communities (including women and vulnerable people)
Output 2.2.1 Capacity of communities for CBINRM plans development and monitoring enhanced (17 YMST supported)						
Output 2.2.2 CBINRM plans implementation supported through direct investments, investments of other partners and providing incentives to communities (4 CBINRM forum, grants for business plans implementation for 18,799 ha & 4 enterprises linked to INRM supported)						
<b>Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination</b>						
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Adaptive management ensured and key lessons shared	# key stakeholders in Government agencies, CSO and communities with increased awareness of the potential of INRM (including at least 30% of women)	0	2,500 (including at least 30% of women)	5,000 (including at least 30% of women)	Project M&E reports	· Stakeholders are interested in learning more on INRM  · Stakeholders provide consent for

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
	# good practices from men and women systemized and shared	0	5	10	Systematization workshop minutes Technical factsheets on the good practices	sharing information  · Accurate data is available to perform project M&E tasks
	# of communities involved in CBINRM monitoring (at least 30% of the monitoring champions will be women)	0	4	8	Project M&E reports  National FLR monitoring system report	
	# M&E system put in place to ensure adaptive management	0	1	1	M&E system	
Output 3.1: Lessons learned documented and disseminated ( 1 INRM knowledge platform, 10 lessons learned systemized)						
Output 3.2: Project progress continually monitored and adaptive management actions taken (CB monitoring developed and tested in 8 communities)						

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

Questions	Secretariat Comment	FAO Response to GEFSEC
2. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?	2017-08-31 - Could you please confirm if Fiji has adopted an LDN strategy and if yes provide elements regarding the consistency with the project?	Fiji has not adopted an LDN strategy yet. The country is currently working towards submitting its Expression of Interest for LDN target setting.

<p>3. Does the PIF sufficiently indicate the drivers<sup>2</sup> of global environmental degradation, issues of sustainability, market transformation, scaling, and innovation?</p>	<p>2017-08-31 No -If data exists, could you please indicate the rate of natural forest loss?</p> <p>- Innovation, sustainability and scaling-up are sufficiently indicated. Could you please elaborate during PPG on the lessons dissemination processes that could participate in the scaling-up?</p>	<p>There is no data available yet. The Ministry of Forests, in the context of REDD+ implementation, is currently working with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on gathering data on change in forest cover. This should provide a clear indication on the rate of natural forest loss.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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Questions	Secretariat Comment	FAO Response to GEFSEC
<p>4. Is the project designed with sound incremental reasoning?</p>	<p>2017-08-31 no</p> <p>- Regarding the coordination with the "Ridge to Reef" (R2R) project, could you please expand on the potential articulation and synergy with the current proposal</p> <p>- Please include the R2R project and any other relevant one in the baseline initiatives (in addition to those mentioned as co-financing ones).</p> <p>- More detailed map of the project intervention is required to situate the Navaudra and Tomaniivi-Wabu forest reserves, as well as the mentioned low lands including mangrove zones into Tailevu province.</p> <p>- The project will target at least 60 villages: please provide information on the criteria used to select these villages</p>	<p>The R2R project has been added under the list of baseline initiatives, and an explanation has been added on synergy with the current proposal.</p> <p>At this stage, all directly related projects (forming baseline) has been added under list of baseline initiatives. Other relevant projects have been added under the coordination part. More detailed analyses will be conducted during the PPG to identify any other relevant initiatives.</p> <p>A detailed map has been added under Annex I.</p> <p>Kindly note that the number of villages to be targeted is an indicative (very conservative) figure based on the total number of villages in and around the targeted project sites. A detailed list of criteria will be developed, followed by requisite analyses during the PPG, to identify the individual/specific villages to be targeted under the project.</p>

5. Are the components in Table B sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve project objectives and the GEBS?	2017-08-21 No -could you please make the component 1 title more explicit to reflect the project objectives?	Noted and corrected.
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Component 2:

- the activities to achieve SFM remain vague as "forest protection measures". Please be more specific about the planned activities that will be able to address in a sustainable manner the barriers and root causes of the deforestation and forest degradation.

The planned SFM activities are:

Community-driven forest protection measures- these activities will be carried out by community wardens, through patrolling, to avoid transgressions committed by leasings/concessions (directly related to the root cause- Illegal and unregulated logging through transgressions committed by neighbouring leasings and concessions), in addition to forest fire prevention (apart from prevention of fires getting started inadvertently, will also include creation/maintenance of fire lines, deployment of fire watchers, etc.). Text edited in the document.

Sustainable extraction of timber and NTFPs- this is directly related to the root causes of unregulated logging and unsustainable extraction of NTFPs by local communities. Sustainable extraction/harvesting of timber will include systematic and planned extraction (taking into account regeneration aspects), ensuring low impact logging, etc. Sustainable extraction of NTFPs will be facilitated through ecological assessments (impacts of NTFPs harvest, dynamics under the impacts and management practices that can mitigate negative impacts and promote positive impacts) and market assessments (economic viability of products and potential for diversification). Specific details of recommended practices will be provided after detailed field assessments during the PPG. Text edited in the PIF

Overall, all SFM activities will be through forest management plans integrated into the village level INRM plans. Text added in the PIF.

The causes of degradation of mangroves are not different from the other targeted forests. The socio-economic reasons for failure of mangrove restoration initiatives are usually;

- Lack of adequate involvement/ownership of local communities in the planning and implementation processes (with clear rights and responsibilities). Restoration of mangroves will be part of the landscape level and village level participatory planning processes, and during the PPG, consultations will be held to ensure community ownership and commitment of the processes- mangrove restoration efforts will not commence without clear ownership and commitment through the village level INRM plans.

		- Economic incentives to carry on managing the mangroves beyond the project period. Economic incentives will come from the value chain/enterprise development activities. This would include mud crab value chain development. Based on further analyses during the PPG, this will be confirmed and further products identified. Carbon benefit estimate, calculated through EX-ACT, has been added (the details of the calculation are provided in the Annex of the PIF).
6. Are socio-economic aspects, including relevant gender elements, indigenous people, and CSOs considered?	<p>2017-08-31</p> <p>-In the gender paragraph, the use of the word adequate leave an important place for interpretation. Could you please use a more specific wording?</p> <p>- As hinted in the paragraph on gender (page 12) we expect a full inclusion of gender considerations during the PPG phase.</p> <p>- as mentioned in the stakeholders' part, we expect a full inclusion of indigenous people (local communities) through the PPG and project phase.</p>	<p>Noted and corrected.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

### Council comments

#### a- Germany's Comments

*Germany approves this project in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:*

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Component 2 - Sustainable Forest Management:

Based on extensive experience of German cooperation in Fiji with regard to sustainable forest management (especially the need for training on low impact logging and the application of a newly established diameter limit table), coordination and collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization and GIZ in long-term training modules is recommended.

The PPG team discussed with the GIZ team in Fiji on how to best build on the CCCPIR experience in terms of using the existing training material as well as engaging the trainers already trained by the CCPIR project for this project. We hope the CCCPIR will enter in a second phase to ensure full synergies.

- Project Description/Root causes:

The outcomes of an ongoing analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and identification of response strategies by Fiji Forestry Department financed by Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for the REDD+ Readiness Process should be taken into consideration for the full proposal.

At the time of information gathering, in summer 2018, the analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation study had not been published yet. In January 2019, the team got a draft version of the study, which confirmed its analysis of the key drivers of deforestation.

- Project Description/Component 2.2.1:

The proposal sets an ambitious target for mangrove restoration. The full proposal will need to rationalise this amount and include maps of intervention.

Mangrove forests present a specific management sub-set of forests, thus should be treated separately under each sub-heading (scale of loss, policy environment, etc.). The integration of mangrove conservation would be beneficial in this context.

Considering the position of the project site, not very suitable of seashore mangrove restoration, the mangrove target has been lowered to much more manageable levels (50 ha).

Sites along the rivers will be considered. Also, in order to highlight the importance of mangroves, additional text has been added in the following sections of the Project Document:

§ 1.1.1. National Context / Biophysical context / Forests

§ 1.1.1. National Context/ Institutional context/ Legal and policy context

§ 1.1.2. Context in intervention areas / Natural Resources context

§ 1.2.1 Main environmental Threats

As detailed by WWF[1], the underlying cause of mangrove degradation is predominantly the shift from a subsistence-based economy to a commercial (market driven)/ industrial based economy. With this shift comes population growth and social changes that involve exploiting natural resources for commercial purposes. New needs, aspirations and wants are being also created. Consequently, the countries are facing new challenges of balancing their economic development goals with those of conservation of their natural resources. Attaining this balance is essential given the limited natural resource endowments and economic opportunities in the islands, high population growth rates generally, and their vulnerability to natural disasters such as hurricanes and cyclones.

What is described above is also true for other forest areas. Indeed, it is important to note that the causes of degradation of mangroves are not different from the other targeted forests and therefore the activities defined in the project to lower degradation and deforestation and restore are applicable to mangroves as well as other forested areas. Each activity concerns as much mangroves as other forested areas, even if mangroves are not specifically named each time.

For example: As indicated in the Project Document (Context section), the main degradation driver of mangrove is coastal development. Land use planning needs to be much more integrated to avoid conflicting land uses. This multi-stakeholder planning is a key element of this proposal and concern all the different types of land uses even if they are not specified (cf Output 2.1.1 District level Participatory Land Use Plans (PLUPs) improved/developed using the recently developed Participatory Land Use (PLU) planning guidelines / Output 2.1.2 Community Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Participatory Land Use Plans developed at Land Use Units level).

Also, the socio-economic reasons for failure of mangrove restoration initiatives are similar to the ones for other forest areas:

Lack of adequate involvement/ownership of local communities in the planning and implementation processes (with clear rights and responsibilities). Restoration of mangroves will be part of the landscape level and village level participatory planning processes. Mangrove restoration efforts will not commence without clear ownership and commitment through the village level INRM plans.

Lack of economic incentives to carry on managing the mangroves beyond the project period. Economic incentives will come from the value chain/enterprise development activities developed as part of the project. This would include mud crab value chain development.

- Reference could be made to the newly developed National Qualification on Resilience (Certificate Level 1 to 4), which includes entire sub-strands on agriculture, forestry and coastal management (mangroves) respectively.

Reference to the newly developed National Qualification on Resilience (Certificate Level 1 to 4) have been made in the trainings proposed by the project under Component 1. Output 1.2 Training programs / Focused Technical trainings. Indeed increasing resilience is key for these communities.

- Project Description/Baseline projects; Proposed alternative scenario/Component 2:  
Reference is made to climate-resilient root crops identified by SPC/GIZ, “Coping with climate change in Pacific Island regions” (CCCPIR) as baseline project but should be included more clearly in envisaged climate-smart agriculture practices under component 2 of the alternative scenario.  
[Done \(also see comments above on linkages with the CCCPIR project\)](#)

- Proposed alternative scenario/Component 2  
Development and institutionalisation of “Training of Trainers” modules present a complex and long-term process. Consequently, the full proposal should elaborate more detailed which institutions are envisaged and how this institutionalisation is supposed to happen. Entry points could be community-based trainings on resilience by the Ministry of Youth. Further trainings are planned via the Technical Colleges and Fiji National University. SPC/GIZ CCCPIR education component could act as broker.

As detailed in (1.2.2. Demonstration Farms set up and run) FAO has an extensive experience on training FFS trainers [2] and many modules are already available. The FFS approach is very much a learning by doing approach. The activity will be conducted by the Capacity Building/ Farmer Field School Coordinator with the support from the MoA and MoFo and MoFi extension officers in the field. For this activity, the project should build on the SPC/GIZ “Coping with climate change in Pacific Island Regions” experience on community-based trainings such as the ones on resilience by the Ministry of Youth, and others by the Technical Colleges and Fiji National University. The CCCPIR trained extension officers in the Ministry so that they have the right knowledge to train others, these officers have also been involved in the Action Against degradation project. The project should identify the staff who have been trained and understand if they need additional training before training others. They will then be the key focal point so extend the training network.

Applying the FFS approach to restoration is new in Fiji so the project will pilot it making use of the institutional resources available thanks to the CCCPIR project. The very close collaboration with the different line Ministry will allow for building capacities in the Ministries and for a close monitoring of this methodology which could then be included, together with formal Trainings of Trainers, in the Ministry workplans and budgets.

The expectation is the FFS will continue after the end of the project through the support of the line Ministries.

## b- United States' Comments

- The proposal does not provide much detail about the added value from this project. It states the importance of GEF funding – for example expanding capacity at the local level – but does not give specifics on activities.

The full description of the Theory of Change of full Project Document section 1.3.1 Theory of Change and incrementality is now outlining better the added value of this project.

- The explanation of the project's sustainability plan is limited and lacks sufficient technical details. The proposal mentions market-oriented value chains developed through the project, but does not state what these might be, even examples would be welcome. In addition, a lack of market opportunity was a listed risk and should be addressed during project development (this was not clearly stated in the PIF).

### Sustainability plan:

The full Project Document details the sustainability strategy for the project (section 2.3). In particular considering socio-economic benefits and sustainability, it stipulates that:

The most efficient way to ensure a CBINRM project sustainability is have it strongly anchored in the field and ensure local community engagement in natural resources management. For this, local communities have to be trained and benefit from the activities on the short and long term. To ensure this, the project support the following

- strong capacities development at the local level allowing communities to get the appropriate skills for INRM

- strong YMST to follow up on the project activities to ensure their sustainability

- enterprise development and benefit generating activities linked to INRM bringing short and long term benefits to local communities

Through this approach, local communities will have a direct interest in pursuing CBINRM as they will derive socio-economic benefits from it. It is expected that the project will allow communities to diversify their income source or livelihood allowing them to rely less on public support for safety net.

### Value chains & market

Concerning the type of market oriented value chain and business development the project activities will be as described below (cf 2.2.2.3 Community-based enterprises strengthened through value-addition activities for provision of improved/alternative livelihoods linked to the INRM plans). It is important to note that the careful study of value chain will include market opportunities analysis. Only the value chain with a strong market will be pursued. During project preparation phase, stakeholder emphasized that the issues were often more linked to getting the product to the market rather than not having a market.

A number of productive options exist in the project areas, which have the potential to be strengthened through CSA, FLR, sustainable forest and land management, and to generate significant livelihood and commercial benefits for farmers.

Successive governments in Fiji are committed to revitalize the agricultural sector. The government is also committed to revitalize the non-sugar sub sector due to the decrease of sugar production as well as the need to improve the exports and food security. The policy goal is to “establish a diversified, economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture sector.” Its main focus is strengthening the linkages along agricultural value chains from production, distribution, storage, marketing and value-addition to improve

efficiency for the sector to be a driver of economic growth. This will assist to lessen poverty, build food security and self-sufficiency and raise the level of exports. Programs and project are being developed to support mechanization, value addition, organic farming and build capacity within the sector.

During the field visits several small enterprises/cooperatives have been visited and could be strengthened in support of the CBINRM plans. They will be an important part of the business plans associated to the CBINRM plans.

The project will strengthen these enterprises which support CBINRM in order to have an impact on a greater number of ha. In order to strengthen these enterprises different activities will be led:

1) Localized value chain analysis on promising products such as honey, vanilla, forest cocoa, mud crab, handicrafts, coco and kava (as the European market just opened for Kava). The value chain analysis will give recommendation how to improve existing enterprises. A key element of these studies will be the market opportunities local and regionally. For this, close collaboration with PHAM will be thought. Indeed, PHAMA's key achievements in Fiji were to support government and industry to utilize export opportunities for agricultural and other primary products, identify and develop new export opportunities for fresh and processed products, and strengthen contingency planning and surveillance for pests and diseases.

Some value chain analysis work has already been done such as the booklet on "Fiji Kava value Chain Analysis" launched by PHAMA and the Ministry of Agriculture in 2018. This will booklet will assist many of the kava producers for high productions. The MoFo and BAF have value chain procedures/ information on the top five agriculture products that are mainly exported. The information will improve the quality and consistency of produce.

A review was done by Shepherd et.al (2012) on the short fall of value chains of agriculture commodities in the Pacific. The result is that the main shortfalls are linked to the locality of products, poor transport linkages and high costs, poor economies of scale, natural disasters, plant diseases and market access barriers. Despite this constraints, significant opportunities do exists to reduce failures and to expand successes through identifying ways to improve the value chains for agriculture products. Improvements are measured in terms of the sustainable increase in the income earned by those participating in the value chain.

The project will use this existing material and go into more detailed value chain analysis for the most promising commodities in the target areas.

2) Assessment of existing enterprises in the target communities including recommendations for improvement. For this study a close collaboration with PHAMA, CI and Nature Fiji is recommended as they worked on value chain development and community enterprises (bee farming, aquaculture pounds, etc.)

3) Business Development Experts will provide direct coaching to entrepreneurs, including the development of simple business and financial plans. The 5 most promising enterprises will benefit from this coaching offer. Women and youth led enterprise will get a special attention from the project. The enterprise strengthening activities will focus on primary and secondary processing of the products, accessing market information and ensuring adequate market access. Learning from previous projects (such as the Drawa one (cf Lesson Learned section), clarification of roles and relationships between the enterprises and the communities will have to be defined very early on. The enterprises will be connected with the respective producer associations/councils (usually supported and subsidized by the government) (refer to the stakeholder table) as well as potential investors during the CBINRM fora (cf above).

For this activity it is anticipated that the project will collaborate with the Integrated Human Resource Development Program (IHRDP), a key coordinating agency for all relevant stakeholders in a participatory approach to promote economic and social well-being for all communities. It does have experience in community based enterprises development.

### Answer to STAP comments

In general the STAP comments and guidance on the PIF advised the team to go deeper in the analysis of the situation and explaining better the project components. We hope that the full project fits with STAP expectations. We believe that the recommendations of the STAP are now integrated in the text of the Project Document. We have highlighted answers to STAP questions below.

Point 1:

#### *Comment*

STAP comment: STAP advises that some of the assumptions behind the presumed linkages between activities and outputs/outcomes are at best excessively simplistic and at worst possibly wrong. For example, a major problem identified in the PIF is illegal and unregulated logging leading to deforestation. The PIF blandly – and without any scientific reasoning – states that this will be addressed (1) "through training of community wardens and adopting community-driven forest protection measures" and (2) "through improved forest management practices at community level" (p.5). These activities mostly focused around standard training methods (Farmer Field Schools, for example) may help achieve the objective of developing community- based NRM, but the assumption needs testing and verification. Experience elsewhere has found that controlling unregulated and illegal logging needs a far more innovative multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach - see <https://theecologist.org/2011/mar/11/7-ways-help-stop-tropical-deforestation-illegal-logging>. Training would be without value unless issues such as:

- Supply chain traceability tackled, leading to a reduction in demand for forest products

- Forest certification, eco-certification and eco-labelling considered as a means of identifying legitimate forest products and controlling unregulated extraction

- Yield regulation systems and demand control for forest products to manage pressure on forest ecosystems

- Stakeholder partnerships instituted so that local communities, businesses and government agencies communicate and work towards the same objectives.

- Enforcement and legislation instituted and acted upon.

#### *Answer*

STAP highlighted that illegal logging can't be fought only with community based training and proper land use planning. This is definitely true when illegal logging is done on a large scale through illegal private companies. We have now updated the language in the document to talk about "unsustainable community harvesting" which is not for commercial use but mainly for subsistence. **Indeed this project focuses on Community Based Natural Resources Management, so we focused on drivers that can be addressed at community**

level. In the Project Document (Section 1 – 1.2 The current situation 1.2.1 Main environmental threats) “Unsustainable community harvesting” reflects better the reality in the project areas. It is a threat and a cause of deforestation and degradation but in the project area it is less concerning than clearing of land for agriculture expansion. Land use planning and community training will support improved sustainable management of land.

The fight against illegal logging is still supported by the project, even if the project focuses on CBNRM. Indeed, forest warden have been appointed to support the Ministry in reporting any illegal logging upon which the Forestry staff will act. But in some cases, law enforcement figures such as the police might not be aware of the policy. As part of the capacity building activities on sustainable forest management, enforcement training for relevant stakeholders/enforcers in Tailevu and Ra will be provided. And the project will ensure that forest wardens are identified and properly trained through the programs offered by FTC in the project areas (cf Output 1.3 . “ As described above, the FTC offers tailor made trainings which will complement the trainings already offered by the MoA, MoFo and MoFi. They will focus mostly on biodiversity and sustainable forest management. Depending on the needs, the trainings will happen at the FTC in Suva or the Demonstration Farms. Some of these trainings can be geared towards law enforcers and forest warden to fight against illegal logging in the areas where this is an issue.”)

This has been clarified in the text of the full project document.

Point 2:

- *Comment*

Part of the problem identified in point 1 above lies in the ‘root cause analyses’. The list of identified causes leaves out issues such as legislation, enforcement, demand for forest products and lack of incentives. The first listed ‘cause’ in the PIF is agriculture and the demand for fertile soils and lack of soil conservation. However, what is behind this ‘cause’? A proper political ecology perspective and analysis may reveal, for example, poverty among subsistence cultivators driving demand for fertile pieces of forest land. Corruption is also a possible reason – see <https://www.ficac.org.fj/> for the Fiji perspective on this problem. An analysis of root causes should display an understanding of local conditions and issues, which currently are missing in this PIF

- *Answer*

The Remaining barriers to address the environmental threats section in the Project Document, highlights what the root causes of land degradation and deforestation are. These barriers are detailed in section 1 of this document. At the Validation workshop, this analysis has been confirmed by the group working on the Fiji REDD+ report on drivers of forest degradation and deforestation (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), Carbon Fund Emission Reductions Program Document (ER-PD), FIJI, June 2019).

As discussed in section “1.3.1 Theory of change & Incrementality” of the project Document, the project will work in particular on these roots causes as detailed in the table presenting the Baseline scenario (highlighting the root causes) vs the GEF alternative scenario in

Point 3:

- *Comment*

Similarly, the analysis of ‘barriers’ that follows ‘root causes’ is simplistic and inadequate. An implication of the second barrier, for example, is that land use planning will help to control deforestation. In the right context and with appropriate legislation and enforcement, land use planning may indeed be part of the process towards controlling deforestation, but lack of land use planning cannot be seen as a ‘barrier’ unless it is linked to other issues that actually drive deforestation. A sceptical view of this ‘barrier’ might suggest that it exists only to be a justification for a project with a large element of land use planning.

### *Answer*

The answer above to question 2 should be covering this question as well as it shows that the project will tackle the issue through multiple angles (from planning to implementation and incentive delivery) and at multiple scale from local to district level.

The report on the drivers of deforestation in Fiji from the REDD+ group (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund Emission Reductions Program Document (ER-PD), FIJI, June 2019) highlights the lack of participation and coordination at all levels as one of the main causes of degradation. Indeed, Part 4.2 Assessment of the major barriers to REDD+ (of the REDD+ report) indicates that the lack of coordinated planning is confusing and prevent any type of long term planning and action for sustainability.

It is true that a land use plan in itself can't be the unique guarantee to reduce deforestation. Nevertheless, working with the communities in a participatory way to understand their needs and how the land can best answer them without compromising natural resources on the long term is a very good way of empowering communities to better manage their land. As indicated in the Project Document (section 1.2.3 Remaining barriers to address the environmental threats// sub-section INRM landscape planning not yet achieved, in Fiji, "the majority of land is communally owned and managed, but there is little integrated land-use planning that takes place either at district or village level. At the district level, several plans already exist each focused on a particular topic: costal management, agriculture development, forest protection, business development etc. Indeed, very often each Ministry has plans, at least at district level such as Land Use plans prepared by MOA, the Forest map done by MoFo, Community Development Plans from the Ministry of Water, TLTB Land Trust Board) District Plans by the Ministry of Planning, etc. but there isn't a global view of all the plans and how they can support sustainable natural resources management and livelihoods for the community. The YMST committee at district level are instrumental in bringing the different plans together in an integrated way. This has exacerbated the ongoing unsustainable resource utilization practices and has prevented any coordinated efforts to change the utilization/management patterns. Participatory Land Use Planning guidelines have been developed and it is important to utilize the guidelines to initiate integrated landuse planning at local level. " The project will not support the development of just another new plan but will integrate all the already existing plans to reduce the risk of competing land uses. Participatory land use planning has been used by the AAD project, one of the baseline projects, and the positive results are showing that the communities are committed to the plan avoiding opening new areas for agriculture and land degradation.

Point 4:

### *Comment*

The two main Components of this proposed project are both focused on local communities and building local capacity to plan and manage land use. While STAP welcomes this overall approach, it follows from points 1 to 3 above that building this local capacity cannot be undertaken in isolation of addressing the fundamental reasons as to why the forests are being degraded and illegal exploitation is occurring. Local people well know why deforestation is occurring; and most of the reasons will be external to the communities themselves and certainly not because of a lack of local knowledge of what is going on.

### *Answer*

Building on the experience of successful projects in Fiji (cf section 1.4 of the Project Document on lessons learnt), working at the community level is successful way to manage natural resources on the long term. For example, "The success of the Drawa project can be attributed to the 11 mataqali of the Drawa model area who have remain united and resolute in their commitment to sustainably manage their forest resources for almost 10 years now. The mataqali have remained so in the face of enticing offers from commercial loggers."

Considering this, the community level work is a major focus of the project. But the project will also work from the community to the district level, scaling up activities. Some activities will also have a positive impact beyond the district level. For example, the capacity building activities for the forestry and agriculture staff will benefit more than just the target communities as the staff is often working in several districts.

Several other projects worked on legislation and policy support. During the discussions with the stakeholders, it was clear that now ground-proofing was important. The AAD project started the work of participatory planning and NR management with all the different Ministries and stakeholders. This has started to create a positive and collaborative dynamic from the field to the national level that this project hoped to continue and promote.

Point 5:

*Comment*

STAP welcomes Component 3 of the project, allocating explicitly funds to monitoring and evaluation as well as some aspects of knowledge management. On p.10, it is stated that "Under this component, project results and achievements will be disseminated for replicability and scaling up." STAP would urge the project managers also to ensure any failures are recorded and assessed to enhance learning from the project. Moreover, in order to strengthen further the knowledge management component, STAP would suggest exploring the implementation of a formal knowledge management system. STAP's on-going advice to the GEF regarding knowledge management can be found at <http://www.stapgef.org/knowledge-management-gef>. In addition, some of the knowledge management tools that are currently recommended can be accessed here: <http://www.knowledge-management-tools.net/knowledge-management-systems.html>

*Answer*

The point on registering failure is well taken and a very important one. The systematization methodology encompasses the identification, documentation and transfer of experiences and key lessons extracted from a project or an initiative, or group of projects or initiatives for the purpose of advocacy, learning and replication/scaling up. Local level systematization workshops will be conducted annually in the demonstration farms to capture, process and organize project generated INRM best practices and lessons learned. The project will be using a wide array of communication tools in order to reach out to a large group of stakeholders. One of the foreseen activity, is to develop a light web-platform, as an add-on to the REDD+ one, to share the lessons learnt from other Natural Resources Management projects in Fiji, promote the CBINRM approach and share the lessons learnt from the project. This add on should be interactive one.

Given the level of social media (facebook use) ascertained during the baseline socio-economic survey; the project will also develop a social media presence to assist in knowledge sharing but also to facilitate e-discussions with community/stakeholders. Lessons learned will be shared through the web-platform, and the social media but also in paper form as it is appreciated by farmers.

The project will build on the current work of the REDD+ group in Fiji which is very active and will continue beyond the life of the project.

Point 6:

*Comment*

The PIF states that the innovation from this project will be the use of participatory resource management planning at multiple levels. In addition to nine district level Participatory Land Use Plans, it intends to develop up to 60 different integrated natural resources management plans at the village level, and claims this will enable landscape level benefits. STAP would suggest consulting literature on integrated landscape management to help refine and strengthen the proposed interventions, and perhaps increase coherence. Good starting points include the following: Reed, et al., (2016). Integrated landscape approaches to managing social and environmental issues in the tropics: learning from the past to guide the future. *Global change biology*, 22(7), pp.2540-2554. For more information on methods, these references may be useful: Sunderland, et al. (2017). A methodological approach for assessing cross-site landscape change: Understanding socio-ecological systems. *Forest Policy and Economics*; and the project website <https://www.cifor.org/library/5867/agrarian-change-in-tropical-landscapes>

*Answer*

The innovativeness section in the Project Document has been further developed and explained (cf in the Project Document Section 2 / 2.1 Innovativeness). It details that:

“The project has been designed to promote community based integrated natural resources management in Fiji. It promotes a level of integration in terms of planning and field implementation, which is new in Fiji. The main innovations proposed by the project are the following:

• Promoting in Fiji the integration of different land use plans in order to act in a coordinated way and integrated landscape-wide perspective to natural resources management. For the moment the different line Ministries plan and execute their activities in silo. This project will support coordination to maximise the synergies. This integration will also certainly be a good way to develop innovative INRM strategies and strengthen the collaboration between the different ministries to support communities while implementing their own plans. The participatory resource management planning will happen at multiple levels – both local and landscape. Traditionally, one of the bottlenecks in translating participatory village resource planning and management impacts to the larger landscape level lies in the individual villages operating in silos without any linkages. In this project, common district level PLUPs will be developed (involving all the villages effectively), within this overall framework the individual villages will prepare local level INRM plans, translating into wider landscape level benefits.

• Building on the few experiences of FFS in Fiji to expand the concept and get it down to the community level.

• Using the latest research in Fiji in terms of indigenous species and climate resilient/ smart species to upscale restoration. The demonstration farms are a good way to have these types of practices tested and adopted by the communities.

• Strengthening the sense of community, which tends to be lost by having the demonstration farms where the community can debate and agree on the best way forward and test it.

• Linking up local level planning with public support programs: linking the demand and the offer is both innovative and a way to ensure sustainability.

• Introducing capacity building monitoring which would be important to better understand the progress towards improved skills for local communities

• Creating a platform to widely share information on CBINRM in Fiji and support a Community of Practices discussing concrete field activities.”

The Project document development team read with interest the documentation proposed by STAP and does agree that what is key for landscape planning is the integration of all the different stakeholders views and interest (agriculture, forest, infrastructure, economic development, etc..) into one single plan approved by all. Creating new plans in silos will not bring the expected results. Also these plans will not be static but negotiated documents with all stakeholders which should be reviewed as often as needed. We are aiming for what is defined by Reeds (2016) as “implemented to their full potential, landscape approaches should encourage coordinated commitment to a given landscape and bridge disciplinary and sectoral divides.” We hope that this is now clearer in the full Project Document in particular under component 2, Output 2.1.1 District level Participatory Land Use Plans (PLUPs) improved/developed using the recently developed Participatory Land Use (PLU) planning guidelines + under Component 2, Output 2.1.2 at a much more localised level, the same planning process will be implemented in the 21 targeted Mataqali (land owning units) covering 18,799 ha Community Based Integrated Natural

Resources Management Participatory Land Use Plans developed at Land Use Units level. These sections detail how the different plans existing will be integrated to develop this new plans at district and community levels and how a financial plans will be attached to them as financing LUP are always an issue.

[1] Ellison, J. (2010). Vulnerability of Fiji's mangroves and associated coral reefs to climate change. A Review. Suva, Fiji, WWF South Pacific Office

[2] <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-food-value-chains/training-and-learning-center/details-materials/en/c/276309/>

## ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS.

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 100,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Salaries Professional	5,660	0	0
Consultants	62,400	55,144	1,205
Contracts	5,550	6,935	0
Travel	18,890	19,626	40
Training	7,500	10,602	0
General Operating Expenses	0	5,808	0
<b>Total</b>	100,000	98,115	1,245

## ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

n/a

### ANNEX E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table G to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

<b>Core Indicator 1</b>	<b>Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</b>				<i>a(Hectares)</i>			
		<i>Hectares (1.1+1.2)</i>						
		<i>Expected</i>		<i>Achieved</i>				
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE			
		0	0	0	0			
<b>Indicator 1.1</b>	<b>Terrestrial protected areas newly created</b>							
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares					
			Expected		Achieved			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE		
		Sum						
<b>Indicator 1.2</b>	<b>Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness</b>							
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score				
				Baseline		Achieved		
					Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			0	0	0	0		

		Sum		0			
<b>Core Indicator 2</b>	<b>Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</b>						<i>(Hectares)</i>
		Hectares (2.1+2.2)					
		Expected			Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement		MTR	TE	
<b>Indicator 2.1</b>	<b>Marine protected areas newly created</b>						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected			Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement		MTR	TE
		Sum					
<b>Indicator 2.2</b>	<b>Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness</b>						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score (Scale 1-3)			
				Baseline		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement		MTR

		Sum					
<b>Core Indicator 3</b>	<b>Area of land restored</b>						<i>(Hectares)</i>
		Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)					
		Expected			Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE		
		0	2,100				
Indicator 3.1	Area of degraded agricultural land restored						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			0	1,050			
Indicator 3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored						
			Hectares				
			Expected		Achieved		
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
			0	700			

Indicator 3.3	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			0	300		
Indicator 3.4	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			0	50		
<b>Core Indicator 4</b>	<b>Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</b>					<i>(Hectares)</i>
			Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
			Expected		Expected	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			0	45,619		

Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			0	0		
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems					6
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
			0	45,619		

Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 5</b>	<b>Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity</b>					<i>(Hectares)</i>
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

<b>Core Indicator 6</b>	<b>Greenhouse gas emission mitigated</b>					<i>(Tons)</i>
		Tons (6.1+6.2)				
		Entered		Entered		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	Expected CO2e (direct)	0	443,019	0	0	
	Expected CO2e (indirect)	0	1,909,345	0	0	
Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector					
			Tons			
			Entered		Entered	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	Expected CO2e (direct)	0	443,019	0	0	
	Expected CO2e (indirect)	0	1,909,345	0	0	
	Anticipated Year		2020		0	
Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	

			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Expected CO2e (direct)				
		Expected CO2e (indirect)				
		Anticipated Year				
Indicator 6.3	Energy saved					
			MJ			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology					
			Capacity (MW)			
		Technology	Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 7</b>	<b>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</b>					<b>(Number)</b>
Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					

		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

<b>Core Indicator 8</b>	<b>Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels</b>					<i>(Tons)</i>
			Metric Tons			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 9</b>	<b>Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products</b>					<i>(Tons)</i>
			Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.1</b>	<b>Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs containing materials and products removed or disposed</b>					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.2	Quantity of mercury reduced					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.4	Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities					
		Technology	Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 10</b>	<b>Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources</b>					<b>(Grams)</b>

Indicator 10.1	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.2	Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 10.3	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 11</b>	<b>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</b>					<i>(Number)</i>
					Number Achieved	

				Endorsement	MTR	TE
			Female	1,750		
			Male	1,750		
			<i>Total</i>	<i>3,500</i>		

**ANNEX F: Project Taxonomy Worksheet**

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part1 by ticking the most relevant keywords/topics//themes that best describes the project

Level 1	Level 2
Influencing Models	Demonstrate innovative approaches
Stakeholders	Local communities
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change
Rio Markers	Climate Change Mitigation 1

**ANNEX G: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**

An Excel file has been uploaded.