

Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10041

Countries

Regional (Palau, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu)

Project Name

Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

12/24/2019

Review completed by PM

4/28/2020

Program Manager

Christian Severin

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF ☐

CEO Endorsement ☐

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): OK

Response to Secretariat comments

2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes. Please note that gender and stakeholder engagement plans have been uploaded separately into the portal.

Moreover, please provide justification and especially explain the roles that the project staff will provide to the different components.

21st of April 2020 (cseverin): Thanks for explanation provided.

27th of April 2020 (cseverin): Please change "Executing Partner type" to something else than GEF Agency, as SPC is not a GEF agency, nor are the national executing entities.

28th of April 2020 (cseverin): Addressed

13th of May 2020 (cseverin):

1) Please remove all references to UNDP being a Senior Supplier, as that indicates that UNDP will be executing parts of the project.

2) As a new category under transboundary water systems have been added, that would capture this part of the Pacific (Others), please tag this investment to that, which will enable the system to capture deliverables from sub indicators under 7.

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): Both above points have been addressed

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP Response, 31 March 2020

The following matrix provides an estimate of the percentage breakdown in SPC officer time between project management and project components. The percentages and amounts are reflected in the budget notes in the project document.

Project Staff	Component 1 National demonstration	Component 2 Human capital and tool	Component 3 Local based solutions	Component 4. Knowledge Management	Project Management
Chief technical Advisor (1)	25%	10%	10%	10%	
National Project Managers (3)	35%	30%	25%	10%	
Technical Advisors (2)	20%	15%	10%	5%	

Technical officer (1)	25%	10%	5%	5%	
Project Administrator					100%
Procurement officer					33%
Communication Officer				10%	
GESI Officer	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	
M&E officer				10%	

Project Management

Chief Technical Advisor/Regional Project Manager (55% Equivalent Full time Position, (EFT) per year for 4 years): Overall responsibility to the delivery of the project.

This role will provide the oversight and leadership to deliver against all four components of the project. The project is very technical in nature and to ensure success requires the project manager to be able to communicate these technical components across a range of audiences from communities in outer islands to high level National Government policy makers as well as the technical consultants and staff required to deliver the project. It is foreseen that much of the role will include liaison with service providers, National Project managers, country representatives, and UNDP to ensure that the project outcomes and outputs are delivered in accordance with the workplan due to the remote location and logistical challenges in which the project will operate. The Chief Technical Advisor will rely upon the two technical advisors in the project team to coordinate the delivery of specific technical activities in each country and location.

In regards to Component 1, the CTA will manage the planning and implementation of water resources assessment surveys, land use surveys, land inundation surveys, and socio-cultural surveys required to enhance the existing knowledge on the current state and vulnerability of coastal aquifers. The CTA will also manage the outsourcing and oversee the implementation of groundwater production infrastructure and of appropriate water treatment technologies in designated sites. In regards to Component 2, the CTA will manage the preparation and delivery of annual training workshops in each country aiming to develop capacities on specific topics and tasks related to infrastructural interventions and to proposed monitoring and management strategies. The CTA will also oversee the procurement of equipment and manage the outsourcing and oversee the implementation of groundwater monitoring infrastructure. In regards to Component 3, the CTA will oversee the development of groundwater numerical models and of technical guidance notes to support the development of aquifer management plans and drought response plans. The CTA will finally revise the proposed reporting templates to facilitate M&E of project results, revise the yearly monitoring of results indicators and manage the knowledge management aspects including the IW funds allocation to IW:LEARN activities.

More detailed responsibilities for the Chief Technical Advisor/Regional Project Manager are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Technical advisors x 2 (50% EFT per year, each, for 4 years): The Technical Advisors will provide support to the Chief Technical Adviser in the overall management of the Project, including supervision of activities and sub-contractors, as described above for the CTA. The technical nature of the project requires staff who are familiar with the technical aspects of each component and are able to assist with the daily operations and implementation activities. Technical Advisers will work

closely with the National Project Managers, and consultants to deliver the activities in each components, specifically the improved access for groundwater, capacity building, and knowledge systems. Each of the two technical advisers will assign up to 50% of EFT towards the project and each will bring different skills to support the delivery of activities such as numerical modelling, drilling and construction of monitoring bores, and construction and management of water supply systems.

More detailed responsibilities for the two Technical Advisors are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Technical Officer (45% EFT per year, for 4 years): The Technical Officer will provide support to the Chief Technical Advisor, the Technical Advisors, and the National Project Managers in the delivery of the activities against each component. The TO role will include support for procurement, and logistical support to undertake the activities in the remote locations.

More detailed responsibilities for the Technical Officer are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Project Administrator (100% EFT per year for 4 years): The Project Administrator will report directly to the Chief Technical Advisor and will assist with the daily operation and implementation of the project across all components. This includes the preparation of all financial and administrative requirements of SPC, including submission of financial documentation, the preparation of progress reports, and FACE forms, support to project managers for their administrative needs.

More detailed responsibilities for the Project Administrator are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Procurement support officer (33% EFT per year for 4 years): The Procurement support officer will report directly to the Chief Technical Advisor and will assist with the procurement implementation of the project across all components. This includes the preparation of all procurement and asset registration requirements of SPC, including support for submission of financial documentation. The procurement support officer is expected to be particularly involved in the delivery of Components 1 and 2 due to their technical nature and the equipment/consultancies required to deliver the proposed activities.

More detailed responsibilities for the procurement support officer are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Communication Officer (10% EFT per year, for 4 years): The Communication Officer will provide support to the project team with guidance and advice on the communication needs of the project and will report directly to the Chief Technical Advisor. The Chief Technical Advisor, National Project Managers, and Technical Advisers will be responsible for the implementation of the communication aspects of the project in consultation with and on advice from the Communication Officer. The Communication Officer will provide specialist technical advice and guidance under Component 4, with responsibility for developing the project communications strategy at the project outset and coordinating its implementation throughout its entire duration.

More detailed responsibilities for the Communication Officer are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

GESI Officer (10% EFT per year, for 4 years): The GESI Officer will provide support to the project team with guidance and advice on the gender equity and social inclusion needs of the project and will report directly to the Chief Technical Advisor. The Chief Technical Advisor, National Project Managers, and Technical Advisers will be responsible for the implementation of the GESI aspects of the project in consultation with and on advice from the GESI Officer. The GESI Officer will provide specialist technical advice and guidance to further develop the GESI Action Plan for implementation across all project components. The GESI officer will have to coordinate with the M&E Officer, under Component 4, to ensure GESI requirements are taken into consideration during the M&E of project results.

More detailed responsibilities for the GESI Officer are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

M&E Officer (10% EFT per year, for 4 years): The M&E Officer will provide support to the project team with guidance and advice on the M&E requirements of the project and will report directly to the Chief Technical Advisor. The Chief Technical Advisor, National Project Managers, and Technical Advisers will be responsible for the implementation of the M&E aspects of the project in consultation with and on advice from the M&E Officer. The M&E Officer will provide specialist technical advice and guidance on project monitoring and evaluation under project Component 4.

More detailed responsibilities for the M&E Officer are identified in the [TOR](#) for the role, Annex G.

Technical Specialists

The project will also draw upon 8-10 specialist technical staff from within SPC to deliver on specialist services for each country under different components, and includes inundation studies to assess groundwater vulnerabilities from seawater overtopping; water resource assessments to determine the extent of the resource and its suitability for development; land degradation assessment workshops; and drilling supervision for construction of monitoring bore; etc. These specialist services, available from within SPC, will be drawn upon as indicated in the log frame, in accordance with project budget, and within SPC financial requirements to support project implementation.

UNDP Responses 27 May 2020

- 1) The implementation arrangements section of the project document and CEO ER have been changed accordingly.
- 2) This is implemented in the portal.

3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes

Response to Secretariat comments

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes

Response to Secretariat comments

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): NA, tracking tools are not needed for this investment.

Response to Secretariat comments

7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes

Response to Secretariat comments

9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes, however, please remove the cost of Audits, that is currently suggested being charged to the GEF M&E budget, as these are not eligible costs.

21st of April 2020 (cseverin): Audit has been removed from ME budget in CEO endorsement document uploaded, but not in the portal entry., please also make the change in the portal entry

27th of April (cseverin): Addressed

13th of May 2020 (cseverin): Please ensure that all the Audit cost is removed from all documents. it seems that the AUdit cost is still featured in eh budget annex in the PRODOC, please carefully read through the different documents, and ensure that Audit cost financed out of the ME budet is not featuring anywhere.

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): addressed.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP Response, 31 March 2020

Financial audit costs, previously identified in the GEF M&E budget, are removed. Annual financial audits will be undertaken as part of the Project Management costs. This change is reflected in the prodoc.

UNDP Responses 27 May 2020

All references to audit cost have been deleted from all documents.

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes, and on top of this, the investment will be fully aligned with IWLEARN.

Response to Secretariat comments

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

GEFSEC

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Yes

Response to Secretariat comments

STAP

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement 3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): STAP concurred at time of PIF

Response to Secretariat comments

GEF Council

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

3rd of February 2020 (cseverin): Council comments were supportive of the investment

13th of May 2020 (cseverin): Please provide explanation as to how the Council comments from the three countries have been addressed.

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): Responses to Council members from France and Germany is included in Annex B.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP Responses 27 May 2020

Refer to Annex B of the CEO Endorsement Request which outlines the responses to the comments from the Council members from France and United States. Germany's expression of support is acknowledged.

Convention Secretariat

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

Recommendation

12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

5th of February 2020 (cseverin): No, please address above comments.

21st of April 2020 (cseverin): No, please address above comment

27th of April (cseverin): No, please address above comment

28th of April (cseverin): Yes, the project is recommended for CEO Endorsement.

13th of may 2020 (cseverin): No, please address above comments

1st of June 2020 (cseverin): Yes, the project is recommended for CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP Response, 31 March 2020

The responses are described above.

UNDP Response, 28 April 2020

Done, as per screenshot below.

Other Executing Partner ⓘ

Executing Partner Type

Pacific Community (SPC)

Government ▼

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations

The multi focal area project (IW & LD) named “Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS”, will be assisting three pacific Island Countries (Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Tuvalu) in addressing the lack of knowledge and information on the status of coastal aquifers in Pacific Island Countries.

Building capacity around coastal aquifers is essential to enhance protection, and governance of coastal aquifers and ensure their incorporation into national water policies. This project ultimately aims at providing to the project countries, and particularly to the selected project sites, the foundation required to support improved aquifer management/governance including the increased engagement of women in island and community level water planning and decision-making processes.

The obvious barrier limiting the generation of knowledge and data on aquifers and groundwater is the limited capacity at local and national level to assess and monitor aquifers and groundwater resources. The absence of dedicated monitoring infrastructure and human capacity impedes the generation of data that is required to support aquifer management and protection. As a result of this data and knowledge gap, there is also a lack of decision making tools and suitable governance mechanisms at local and national level that could support incorporation of groundwater into applicable national water policies. Further, the low level of engagement by women as primary water users and decision-makers at household level is a key barrier to change.

To sum up, the proposed interventions will be supporting efforts to increase water efficiency, reduce groundwater pollution, and addressing the drivers of land degradation which can have detrimental effects on the health of coastal aquifers and hinder the ecosystem services and water security they provide.