GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Improved Biodiversity Stewardship in the Solomon Islands	
Region Asia	GEF Project ID 11795
Country(ies) Solomon Islands	Type of Project GBFF
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	GEF Agency Project ID 754443
Project Executing Entity(s) Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology	Project Executing Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Biodiversity	Submission Date 10/8/2025
Type of Trust Fund GBFF	Project Duration (Months) 48
GEF Project Grant: (a) 2,374,340.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 225,562.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 2,599,902.00	Total Co-financing 7,620,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 100,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 9,500.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 2,709,402.00	
Project Tags : GBF Target 1, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 14, GBF Target 21, GBF Target 22, GBF Target 23, Support IPLC	

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Solomon Islands lies in the globally important East Melanesian Islands Hotspot and contains 36 KBAs, 16 of which coincide with the project's target provinces (Isabel and Western). Threats to biodiversity include logging, mining, unsustainable land use, waste, species overharvesting, and land clearance for subsistence farming.
The project objective is to empower local communities for collaborative and adaptive sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity (BD), covering a range of PA and OEM modalities, including areas that are a) declared under the PA Act, b) on the way to declaration, c) declared under other legislative instruments, and d) where communities are interested in conservation but without formal declaration.
It will support conservation approaches that are i) community (IPLC)-led; ii) compatible with communities' livelihood and resilience needs; iii) integrated, recognizing biological, social and productive interactions and interdependencies between different elements of farming systems, tribal lands and land/seascapes; iv) inclusive, equitable and gender-responsIve and v) institutionally and financially sustainable.
The project will support gender-responsive community-led approaches to BD conservation through 1) strengthening of national and provincial enabling environments; 2) collaborative land/seascape planning; 3) sustainable management and livelihood support activities, with a focus on rural women's empowerment; 4) awareness and knowledge management to allow scaling up.
It will benefit IUCN Red List species such as the Faro Island Treefrog, New Georgia Monkey-faced Bat and Solomon Island Palm Frog (VU); the Humphead Wrasse, Isabel Giant Rat and White-eyed Starling (EN); and the Hawksbill Turtle (CR).
The project contributes to GEF Core Indicators: 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (coincides with CI4.5: Terrestrial OECMs supported): 20,000 ha ; and 5.3 Marine OECMs supported: 20,000 ha

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To empower local communities for collaborative and adaptive sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity in selected KBAs in the Solomon Islands

Project Components

Component 1: Enabling environment for collaborative and adaptive biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
147,760.00	437,718.00

Outcome:

1.1 Policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and capacities adaptively supporting biodiversity conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas

Target: MECDM, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Isabel and Western PGs effectively and consistently applying policy and regulatory frameworks in support of community-led conservation

1.2 Financing is available to support community-based conservation promoting financial inclusion

Target: Mechanisms fully functioning in support of community-led conservation areas: - PA Trust Fund - Carbon finance - National banking/ cooperative sector - RCDF and PG discretionary funds

GEF Core Indicator 11: *People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count).*

Output:

1.1.1. Relevant policy and regulatory frameworks at national and provincial levels are revised and aligned with the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas

1.2. National and provincial institutions with capacities to support the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas

1.2.1. Sustainable financing plans in support of community-led conservation areas

1.2.2 Capacity development programmes to MEDCM, Provincial Governments and financial institutions for administering sustainable and gender-responsive financial instruments

Component 2. Collaborative land/seascape planning in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for sustainable management and biodiversity conservation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
277,760.00	1,007,189.00

Outcome:

2.1 Land/seascapes in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province are subject to effective collaborative planning that optimizes biodiversity and social outcomes and sustainability

Target:

100% of targets set in province-level action plans met over the project lifetime

2.2 Individual community-led conservation areas are subject to effective planning, adaptive management and governance

Target:

Community-led conservation areas, covering 40,000 ha with reductions in threat ratings:

- 20,000 ha terrestrial, **Core Indicator 4.5**
- 20,000 ha marine, **Core Indicator 5.3**

Output:

2.1.1. Comprehensive and gender-responsive strategies and action plans at provincial levels in support of conservation based on community-led conservation areas

2.1.2. Province-level spatial plans developed/updated to optimize integrated biodiversity and social outcomes

2.1.3. Decision-support systems at national and provincial levels to support gender-responsive strategic and spatial planning to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social benefits to all community members, including women.

2.1.4. Provincial capacity development programmes for Provincial Governments, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and traditional governance bodies on multi-stakeholder collaborative gender responsive decision-making, planning and action

2.2.1. Individual community-led conservation areas agreed, demarcated and registered.

2.2.2. Frameworks and mechanisms established and implemented for the collaborative adaptive management and governance of individual community-led conservation areas

Component 3. Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation areas

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,531,874.00	4,853,917.00

Outcome:

3.1. Local people (IPLCs) are applying sustainable management and livelihood support options that are compatible with biodiversity conservation and gender responsive in community-led conservation areas
Targets:
15,000 people of which 50% are women with community-led conservation areas engaging in and benefiting from sustainable management and livelihood support options (GEF Core Indicator 11)
20,000 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity **(Core Indicator 4.1)**

Output:

3.1.1. Sustainable management and livelihood support options that contribute to biodiversity conservation and promotion of gender equality identified and supported

Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up community-led approaches to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
80,500.00	263,690.00

Outcome:

4.1 Information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management supports gender-responsive decision-making, planning and scaling

Target:
ECD and provincial Governments reflecting information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management in decision-making and planning

Output:

4.1.1. Systems/networks for compilation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned on community-led conservation areas and good practices that promote gender equality, with the participation and consent of local communities

4.1.2. Decision support tools developed and applied to assess and present to policymakers and planners the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas, including on gender equality

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
130,550.00	387,365.00

Outcome:

Established project M&E platform to track the project interventions.

Project Indicators:

Effective M&E Framework in place as indicated by on-time MTR & TE completion and submission

Output:

Evidence-based project reporting conducted through geospatial tools via Gender-responsive M&E platform.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Enabling environment for collaborative and adaptive biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province	147,760.00	437,718.00
Component 2. Collaborative land/seascape planning in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for sustainable management and biodiversity conservation	277,760.00	1,007,189.00
Component 3. Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation areas	1,531,874.00	4,853,917.00
Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up community-led approaches to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation	80,500.00	263,690.00
M&E	130,550.00	387,365.00
Subtotal	**2,168,444.00**	**6,949,879.00**
Project Management Cost	205,896.00	670,121.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**2,374,340.00**	**7,620,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Project Management Costs are higher than normal for two related reasons:

1) The project will need to have three separate implementation teams, each with their respective management costs. A national office is necessary to embed the project in MECDM, to maximize institutional uptake and capacity building as well as to carry out policy and planning work at central level; in addition a separate office will be needed to provide oversight and coordination in each of the two provinces in which the project will work in the field, which are widely separated geographically.

2) Two Operational Partners are needed, each requiring budget for annual audits and spot checks. This is because MECDM lacks the technical and logistical capacities that would be required for it to carry out the fieldwork in the target communities, as sole OP (the NGO partners TNC and WCS, by contrast, have strong field-level presence, capacities and experience in the target provinces); furthermore, MECDM is not able to act as sole OP and sub-contract one or both of the target NGOs because of its Moderate Risk rating in its current HACT micro-assessment.

PMC costs have been limited as much as possible by cost-sharing some of the human resource and office costs, and by one of the NGOs being sub-contracted by the other (the lead OP NGO), which avoids the need for a third OPA, with the associated costs that would imply.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:

a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);

b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;

c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;

d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and

e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

1. In consultation with Government and other key project stakeholders, it is proposed to change the project objective from: *"To empower Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) in effective management of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in select KBAs of Solomon Islands"* to *"To empower local communities for collaborative and adaptive sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity in selected KBAs in the Solomon Islands".*

2. It was felt that using the term "*Indigenous Peoples*" (IPLC) in the objective might generate unnecessary distraction, given that almost the entirety of the population in the Solomon Islands is indigenous, and the target communities are not culturally distinct or marginalized relative to the rest of the population. The term "*Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)"* was also felt to have the potential to generate distraction, as it is not commonly used in Solomon Islands.

3. The total area target (Core Indicators 4.5 and 5.3) has been increased from 20,000 ha to 40,000 ha, based on the characteristics of the target localities; these area figures are however subject to confirmation after project start, on the basis of further participatory planning processes with target communities. At the same time, the target for the number of beneficiaries has been reduced from 30,000 to 15,000 people, given that the total population of the wards in which the project sites are located is less than 20,000.

B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Biodiversity values

1. Solomon Islands forms part of the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot, defined by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund: this includes Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and the islands region of Papua New Guinea (PNG), which includes the provinces of Manus, New Ireland, East New Britain and West New Britain plus the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

2. In terms of species richness and, especially, endemism, the East Melanesian Islands are one of the most biologically important regions on the planet. Notable endemic species include the majestic Solomons sea eagle (*Haliaeetus sanfordi*) and many species of flying-fox. The East Melanesian Islands also harbour a diverse and unique group of flora and fauna including: 3,000 endemic vascular plants species, 41 endemic mammals, 148 endemic birds, 54 endemic reptiles, 45 endemic amphibians and 3 endemic freshwater fishes. The hotspot is a terrestrial conservation priority, and habitats include coastal vegetation, mangrove forests, freshwater swamp forests, lowland rainforests, seasonally dry forests and grasslands, and montane rainforests.

3. The East Melanesian Islands Hotspot lies partly within the Coral Triangle (The Coral Triangle Initiative 2012). The ecosystems of the Coral Triangle support 75 percent of known coral species, with an estimated 3,000 species of reef fish, and are considered one of the major centers of coral evolution. Thus, the geographic scope of the hotspot is considered to include nearshore marine habitats, such as coral reefs and seagrass beds, but to exclude offshore marine habitats. The Solomons Islands contains 36 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) or 38% of the total in the Hotspot.

4. The Solomon Islands Rainforests is one of the five terrestrial ecoregions within the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot; it is classified as Vulnerable: located on true oceanic islands, this ecoregion has high vertebrate endemism, including single-island endemics, restricted-range mammals, and 69 bird species found nowhere else in the world. The country includes three Endemic Bird Areas: the Solomon Group, of Critical Priority with 78 restricted range species; Rennell and Bellona, of High Priority with 12 restricted range species; and Vanuatu and Temotu, also of High Priority with 30 restricted range species.

Biodiversity values in the target provinces

5. The two target provinces, Isabel and Western, include 16 of the country's 36 KBAs.

Table 1. KBAs in the two target provinces of the project (Isabel and Western)

Code	Key Biodiversity Area	Province	Total Area (ha)	Land Area (ha)
SLB1	Alu	Western	3,288	3,231
SLB6	Fauro Island and Islets	Western	78,628	10,827
SLB8	Gizo*	Western	12,862	3,782
SLB10	Kolombangara Upland Forest	Western	30,963	30,717
SLB12	Marovo Kavachi	Western	155,741	65,708
SLB13	Mborokua Island	Western	1,222	467
SLB19	North New Georgia	Western	12,463	12,463
SLB22	North-west Vella Lavella	Western	14,641	10,879
SLB26	Ranongga	Western	5,469	5,425
SLB27	Rendova	Western	19,954	19,286
SLB28	Roviana - Vonavona	Western	63,800	31,818
SLB31	Tetepare	Western	12,568	12,292
SLB16	Mount Sasare Catchments	Isabel	57,172	56,002
SLB17	Mufu Point	Isabel	361	196
SLB21	North-west Isabel	Isabel	204,794	72,721
SLB29	San Jorge Island	Isabel	24,428	20,133

*Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site due to the island endemic and endangered Gizo White-Eye (*Zosterops luteirostris*)

Table 2. IUCN Red List Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) and Critically Endangered (CR) Species in the KBAs of the two target provinces (KBAs coinciding with project target localities are highlighted)

		Western									Isabel		
		SLB6 Fauro Island and Islets	SLB8 Gizo	SLB10 Kolombangara Upland Forest	**SLB12 Marovo**	SB19 North New Georgia	SLB26 Ranongga	**SLB27 Rendova**	**SLB28 Roviana - Vonavona**	SLB31 Tetepare	**SLB16 Mount Sasare Catchments**	SLB21 Northwest Isabel	SLB29 San Jorge
Accipiter imitator	VU										X	X	

(Imitator Goshawk)													
Aplonis brunneicapillus (White-eyed Starling)	EN							X					
Cheilinus undulatus (Humphead Wrasse)	EN				X				X				
Eretmochelys imbricata (Hawksbill Turtle)	CR	X			X								
Graphium meeki (Meek's Graphium)	VU										X	X	
Haliaeetus sanfordi (Sanford's Sea-eagle)	VU				X			X		X		X	
Litoria lutea (Faro Island Treefrog)	VU				X							X	
Nesasio solomonensis (Fearful Owl)	VU										X	X	
Osmoxylon arrhenicum	VU										X		
Palmatorappia solomonis (Solomon Island Palm Frog)	VU										X	X	

Phyllos copus amoenu s (Kolom bangara Leaf-warbler)	V U			X									
Pitta aneryth ra (Black-faced Pitta)	V U										X	X	
Pteralo pex flannery i (Greater Monkey-faced Bat)	C R											X	
Pteralo pex taki (New Georgia Monkey-faced Bat)	V U				X	X							
Pteropu s mahaga nus (Sanbor n's Flying Fox)	V U										X	X	
Pteropu s woodfor di (Dwarf Flying Fox)	V U	X			X	X					X	X	
Solomys sapienti s (Isabel Giant Rat)	E N										X	X	
Tribolo notus blancha rdi (Blanch ard's Helmet Skink)	V U										X	X	
Xanthos temon melanox ylon	V U												X

Zosterops luteirostris (Gizo White-eye)	EN		X				X							

6. The forests of Isabel support a high biodiversity of animals, birds and plants, including the nationally endemic and IUCN Red List Vulnerable ironwood species (*Xanthostemon melanoxylon*), known locally as Tubi, which has only been recorded from southern Isabel Province (the island of San Jorge Island and the southern part of the island of Santa Isabel) and Choiseul Province (the southeastern part of the island of Choiseul)[1][1]. Isabel province has 22 distinct frog species, the highest diversity of anywhere in the Solomon Islands, with most of these species being endemic[2][2].

7. The target provinces also have many very important turtle nesting beaches. The Arnavon Islands support the largest remaining nesting population of the critically endangered hawksbill turtle population in the South Pacific. The critically endangered western Pacific leatherback turtle also nests around Isabel between December – March, and the Litogharhira and Sasakolo nesting beaches in the southwest of Isabel are the largest leatherback nesting beaches in the country[3][3].

Demographic and socioeconomic conditions

8. The national population of the Solomon Islands is estimated at 828,857[4][4], with an annual growth rate of 2.6% between 2009 and 2019; the population growth rate is much higher in urban areas (5.9%) than rural areas (1.5%); in the two target provinces, the rate is 2.0% in Western and 1.8% in Isabel[5][5]. Total national population is projected to increase by 64% by the year 2050, to 1,309,110[6][6].

9. The majority of the population (72.4%) lived in rural areas at the time of the 2019 census, but this represents a significant decline from 80.2% at the previous census in 2009, as a result of rural-urban drift, with rural migration into urban areas especially amongst the younger population. The capital Honiara accounted for more than 65% of the total urban population (199,000) in 2019. Opportunities in urban centres attract people of all ages and gender, raising concerns in urban areas such as illegal settlements in urban peripherals, housing standards, and inadequate health services[7][7].

10. Most people in the Solomon Islands are ethnically Melanesian (94.5%); other large ethnic groups include Polynesian (3%) and Micronesian (1.2%), with a few thousand ethnic Chinese in the country. There are 70 living languages in the Solomon Islands with Melanesian languages spoken mostly on the central islands.

11. The country has a young population, with 41% of Solomon Islanders being under 15 years of age. This results in a very high dependency ratio, which stood at 72% in 2018, meaning that for every 100 individuals between 15 and 65 years of age, there are 72 young or elderly individuals (World Bank, 2019). This high dependency ratio can create hardship for income earners, especially those living in rural areas and depending on income from the agricultural sector. The 2009 Census forecasted that the population will age and that the working age population (aged 15–59) will drastically increase (rising by about 83% from 2009 to 2030) (Solomon Islands Government, 2009).

12. Fertility levels of Solomon Islands women decreased from a total fertility rate (TFR) of 4.7 in 2009 to 4.4 in 2015. The TFR is higher in rural areas than in urban areas (4.7 and 4.4, respectively). The adolescent fertility rate is high, at 77 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years between 2011–2015. This rate is down from 88 births per 1,000 women during 1996–2000 but is significantly higher than the regional average of 22 births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years in East Asia and the Pacific[8][8].

13. The Human Development Index (HDI) value for Solomon Islands was 0.546 in 2018. This positions the country within the low human development category, with a ranking of 152 out of 189 countries and territories recognized by the United Nations. Sex-disaggregated HDI is not available for the Solomon Islands, nor are Gender Development Index (GDI) or Gender Inequality Index (GII) values and rankings available.

14. Solomon Islands is a Least Developed Country, with the second-lowest average per capita income in the Pacific region[9][9]. In 2023, GDP was USD 1.5 billion, and this is projected to grow by around 2.0% in the medium term (2024-26). Around 61% of the population is considered poor based on the lower-middle-income poverty line[10][10]. The country has a patriarchal society and gender inequality means that women are affected more by adversities than men. There is little or no participation of women in decision making regarding tribal land resources. As of February 2021, only 8% of seats in parliament were held by women[11][11].

The communities targeted by the project are in general terms typical of rural communities in the Solomon Islands, in that they are characterized by a deep reliance on subsistence lifestyles, strong communal cohesion based on kinship ('wantok' system), and governance by traditional leadership; they are in general small, dispersed, and situated along the coasts, operating with limited formal government presence and infrastructure.

Key social characteristics of rural Solomon Islands communities include:

- Subsistence-Based Livelihoods: The economy centres on fishing (some of the highest per capita intake in the world) and subsistence gardening (taro, cassava, yams, sweet potatoes).

- Strong Social Capital and Cohesion: Rural life is built on extensive social networks ('wantok' system), where sharing resources—food, labour, and shelter—is routine, especially during times of crisis.

- Customary Governance: Rural areas are primarily governed by tribal systems, including councils of chiefs or 'big men,' rather than formal government structures.

- Strong Religious Influence: Christianity is a dominant force, with many community activities revolving around church groups (Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, etc.).

- Distinct Gender Roles: Gender roles are traditionally defined, with men often engaging in fishing and heavy labour, and women managing household duties, gardening, and sometimes participating in local church or women's groups.

- Vulnerability to Environmental Changes: Due to their reliance on natural resources, these communities are highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly sea-level rise, which has already caused the submersion of several islands.

Economy[12][12]

15. Eighty seven percent of Solomon Islanders live a subsistence-based lifestyle, with the national economy heavily dependent on local production. The subsistence sector is the backbone of the domestic economy, supplying the basic livelihood needs such as food and housing materials for the majority of the rural population and a significant proportion of the urban population. Although the value of the subsistence sector has not been well quantified, it is estimated to far exceed all other sectors[13][13]. Overseas exports from the smallholder sector are made up of dried copra and cacao along with non–perishable marine products such as bech-de-mer (currently banned), shark fin and trochus. The commercial harvest of bech-de-mer dates back to the mid 1800's (Bennett, 1987).

16. The macro-economy is dominated by overseas aid and exports of primary products such as logs, tuna, gold and palm oil, while fuel, food and equipment dominate imports. Logging has been a significant component of foreign earnings in the past two decades, but in the last ten years rates of logging have grossly exceeded sustainable levels and are now at a crisis level.

17. With the imminent exhaustion of loggable forests there is an increasing focus on developing the minerals and mining sector. The Gold Ridge mine in Guadalcanal became operational in 2011 after a decade of closure due to the 1999-2003 political

instability. In addition, considerable deposits of gold, copper, nickel and bauxite have been identified in locations across the country. In 2008, the Ministry of Mines and Energy issued 56 prospecting licences, including considerable seabed areas in the New Georgia group of islands in the Western Province[14][14]. This has immense implications for conservation planning across the nation including Isabel Province, as many areas of high biodiversity and local significance will be potentially impacted by this increase in mining activity.

18. There is also renewed interest in fisheries policy reforms that will ensure that that country gains a greater percentage of revenue from its pelagic tuna stocks. Solomon Islands also has significant potential for ecotourism, yet a lack of infrastructure and low investment by government means that this sector currently provides less than 4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a figure that is far lower than neighbouring countries such as Vanuatu, and not expected to change significantly in the next decade (Peguvaka, 2011).

Tenure

19. The Solomon Islands National Lands and Titles Act (1996) recognizes the customary rights to land and sea of Indigenous People. Solomon Islanders are dependent on the subsistence economy and maintain traditional land practices that continue to be intrinsic to their social and economic well-being. Hence, according to entitlements, communities, tribes and clans have the primary right of ownership of land and sea. Ownership of 90% of inshore coastal regions by the Indigenous People is through the customary marine tenure systems. Rural communities maintain their rights to harvest fish and coastal marine products for income, food and livelihoods through customary marine tenure rights[15][15]. Almost all of the land in the country is under customary tenure: a notable exception is Isabel Province, around half of the area of which belongs to the Provincial Government rather than to customary owners, as a legacy of colonial rule.

Threats to biodiversity

20. Major threats to Solomon Islands biodiversity include logging, mining, unsustainable land use practices (including in oil palm, coconut and cocoa plantations), waste and overharvesting of species, as well as the clearance of land for subsistence gardens. From 2002 to 2024, Solomon Islands lost 155 kha of humid primary forest, making up 65% of its total tree cover loss in the same time period; total area of humid primary forest in Solomon Islands decreased by 7.8% in this time period[16][16]. Logging rates on Isabel are currently at crisis levels.

21. Mining activity has the potential to damage ecosystems through direct land clearing, infrastructure development, and contamination of freshwater and marine systems. Mining also has many potential ecological consequences, including the risk of acid mine drainage and movement of metals into streams and marine ecosystems, affecting freshwater resources and food security, as well as threatening populations of the nationally endemic, IUCN Red List Vulnerable and culturally important Tubi tree (*X. melanoxylon*), which only occurs on soils that have high levels of nickel.

22. Unsustainable fishing practices also pose a threat to biodiversity and livelihoods. In many regions of Solomon Islands valuable macro- invertebrates are severely overexploited, while large vulnerable reef fishes are in serious decline in some provinces. Valuable marine invertebrates such as pearl oysters and green snails have been overfished to the point of commercial extinction, with national export bans typically implemented after the fisheries are in serious decline. Such strategies do not always prove successful: for example, the pearl oyster fishery in Solomon Islands showed no signs of recovery 15 years after a complete ban on harvesting pearls was put in place in 1993[17][17].

23. In the marine environment of Isabel, overfishing has occurred for many valuable species such as beche-de-mer and pearl oyster, and fin fish stocks are also greatly depleted in some areas such as Maringe Lagoon, which is in close proximity to the provincial capital Buala. Widespread overfishing of coral reefs is a concern because overfished and stressed reefs have less ability to bounce back from other shocks such as coral bleaching or storm damage.

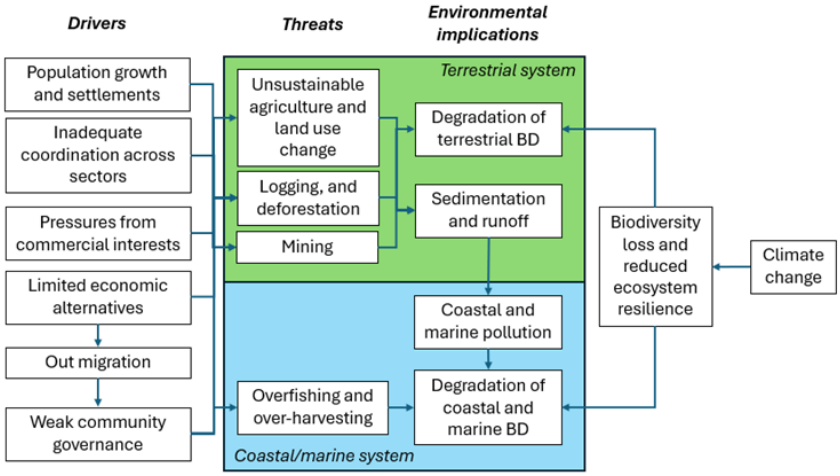
24. These threats bring associated impacts on marine biodiversity, including waste, increased water turbidity from logging, bycatch, and overharvesting of eatable species. Emerging threats, such as climate change and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are also increasing in magnitude[18][18]. In Western Province, studies in Marovo Lagoon have found elevated levels of heavy metals in sediments and bivalves, significantly in excess of EU guidelines on safe consumption levels, due to a combination of factors

including logging, mining, agriculture and boating and fishing[19][19]. Huge sediment plumes and high sedimentation have been reported by local people in the vicinity of logging areas around the lagoon[20][20]; there is also evidence of algal bloom and coral bleaching near areas where logging companies established oil palm plantations, using high levels of artificial fertilizers, in response to communities' concerns about erosion and siltation[21][21].

The underlying drivers of these threats include population growth (with an annual growth rate between 2009 and 2019 of 2.6%), urbanization and migration patterns, economic growth and increasing consumption. Population growth in situ directly increases pressures on biodiversity from agriculture, fishing and forest use; urbanization and migration undermine traditional governance systems, which are already stressed by growing pressures on natural resources; and overall demographic and economic growth across the country drives damaging extractive activities including mining, logging and commercial fishing, to generate revenue to support the national economy. The impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt across the islands and include sea level rise, increased frequency of storms and coral bleaching; these phenomena exacerbate migration processes, directly impact biodiversity values, undermine the resilience of ecosystems to threats from extractive activities, drive short term overexploitation of resources to meet emergency needs following storm events, and undermine the relevance and effectiveness of conservation strategies.

Further information on threats reported by local communities in the specific locations in Isabel and Western Provinces to be targeted by the project is presented in the description of target localities in Section C. The target localities of the project each have their own specific characteristics, as described in Section C, but the commonalities among them mean that a generalized problem/solution analysis (Figure 1) and ToC (Figure 3) can be presented with confidence.

Figure: System-wide problem analysis



Institutional, regulatory and policy frameworks related to protected areas and biodiversity conservation

Key central Government institutions

27. The **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECDM)** is the head of the environment sector, responsible for sustainable environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management and meteorological services. Government allocations towards MECDM have been progressively increasing, reflecting increasing government commitment to biodiversity conservation and broader recognition of its value.

28. Within MECDM, the Government entity with lead responsibility for conservation and protected areas is the **Environment and Conservation Division (ECD)**: the function of ECD is to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment of Solomon Islands, having regard to the need to promote sustainable development. Given the scale of this responsibility, the Division always strives to achieve the most desirable outcome by working in partnership and collaboration with other relevant national level agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs)[22][22]. The Environment & Conservation Division is responsible for the Environment Act 1998, the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998, the Protected Areas Act 2010, the Meteorology Act 1985 and the National Disaster Council Act 1989. The Environment Act (1998) requires Development Consent issued by MECDM for development proposals with potential environmental impacts.

29. The **Ministry of Forestry & Research (MoFR)** is relevant to the project given the significance of forest resources in the target provinces, and the threats to biodiversity posed by logging. The functions of the Ministry include[23][23]:

- Implementation of the Forest Development and Reforestation program
- Planning and management of forest resource
- Monitoring all logging operations
- Implementation of the Government Forest policy
- Regulation, monitoring and enforcement of the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act (FRTUA), its regulations, forest policy and the code of logging practice etc.: The FRTUA provides for the conservation and management of private and public forests and the declaration of State Forests and Forest Reserves, and regulates the felling of trees and the operation of timber mills, including the granting of timber concessions and permissions
- Nurture and supply of seedlings
- Provision of relevant technical advice and ensure compliance
- Promotion of sustainable forest resource management
    - Research studies into timber, logs, flora and fauna; and improvement of botanical gardens and safe keeping of vital specimens.

30. Unsustainable agriculture is one of the threats to biodiversity to be addressed by the project. The lead of the agriculture sector is the **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)**[24][24], the functions of which include:

- Facilitation and support of the development of commercial agriculture in Solomon Islands.
- Facilitation of research, development and marketing of high value cash crops.
- Facilitation of the acquisition of Russell Islands Plantation Estates.
- Support to agroforestry in the country.
- Facilitation and support of the development of livestock industry.
- Enhancement and promotion of sustainable agriculture development and ensure the sector contributes to economic growth, stability, food security, good health and rural development through improved rural livelihoods.
    - Promotion and improvement of leading agricultural developments to ensure they are profitable and environmentally sustainable through the provision of timely and quality agricultural information, research, extension, education and regulatory services throughout the country

31. There are a number of mining concessions in the target provinces (especially Isabel), which potentially pose a threat to biodiversity. These fall under the responsibility of the **Ministry of Mines, Energy & Rural Electrification (MMERE)** [25][25], the functions of which include:

- Implementation of the National Mineral Policies, Energy Policy, and other policies applicable under mandated function of the ministry.
- Actively encouraging co-operation between investors and resource owners to facilitate the sustainable exploration and harvesting of minerals and hydrocarbon resources in the country.

- Exploring and developing mechanisms to increase the financial rewards accruing to resource owners from large mineral and hydrocarbon extractive developments

32. The **Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)** is responsible for the fisheries sector, and is engaged in community-based fisheries management in a number of localities. Its functions include:

- Coordinating all fisheries activities operating within the 200 miles economic zone of the Solomon Islands.
- Improving current fishing facilities to encourage local fishermen to effectively preserve and market their fish and other perishable marine products.
- Ensuring that the harvesting practices of all marine resources are properly coordinated and monitored so that certain resources are not depleted unnecessarily[26].

33. Locally Managed Fisheries Areas are declared between MECDM and the Ministry of Fisheries.

34. The **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)** provides support towards communities in regard to development and the supply of services. The Rural Development Division (RDD) under the Ministry hosts the technical functions of the Ministry, which include[27]:

- Support to the preparation of the Constituency Development Profiles and Plans in close consultations with Constituencies.
- Oversight to project planning, design, appraisal and implementation with respect to the Project Planning Guidelines and provide technical support to constituencies when needed.
- Facilitating the implementation of Constituency Development programmes and related funding with respect to SIG and PRC financing and procurement guidelines.
- Provision of capacity building and technical support to constituency officers and constituency development committees where and when needed
- Monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs implemented through Constituency Development Funds.
- Carrying out research and development assessment as part of rural development planning process at constituency level.
- Coordination of the development of Constituency Development Centres.

35. Solomon Islands has two levels of government: national and provincial. The establishment of provincial governments is provided for by the Constitution of Solomon Islands. Provincial Governments have powers to issue subordinate legislation (ordinances) within the national constitutional and legal framework. Each of the country's nine Provinces has a Provincial Executive which is accountable to the Provincial Assembly. The Executive is composed of a Premier who is elected by an absolute majority of Provincial Assembly members. In practice, Provincial Governments have limited power or autonomy, and typically they just do ordinances to implement national policies and legislation, but there is Government interest in developing a federal system.

36. Isabel Province has a "tripod" governance structure composed of provincial Government, the Councils of Chiefs and the Church (almost all the population is Anglican).

37. The **Ministry of Provincial Government and Institution Strengthening (MPGIS)** is responsible for[28]:

- Administration of the Provincial Government Act 1997
- Capacity Building in Provincial Government Development Support and Supervision
- Provincial Development Planning
- Provincial Budgets and Funding System

- Resettlement Planning and Management Schemes
    - Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting systems to ensure accountability and transparency

38. The **Ministry of Traditional Governance** is supporting the reform of Councils of Chiefs. Western Province is leading in this regard with the strengthening of the role of chiefs, for example in Vella Islands the Ministry gives a legal certificate to chiefs following enthronement.

39. The **Ministry of Lands, Housing and Social Survey**[29][29] includes a Physical Planning Division which exists to ensure that land in the Solomon Islands is developed in accordance with properly considered policies that are formulated on adequate information, and are directed to promote the welfare of the inhabitants of the Solomon Islands and others living here. The Division works along with civil engineering, architecture, Land Surveying, land administration, environmental building, and social planning in the course of its planning process. The Division is also responsible for providing quality advice to the Permanent Secretary as well as to the Minister on the activities of Town and Country Boards, including gazette of new local area plans and changes in board membership, to ensure that the activities are in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

40. The Division is made up of three Units: i) the Strategic Planning Unit, which is responsible for the development of a National Urbanization Policy and Local Planning Schemes; ii) the Development Control and Enforcement Unit, responsible for Development Assessment, Enforcement and for dealing with issues related to Informal Settlements; and iii) the Provincial Development Coordination Unit, responsible for ensuring that physical planning requirements are complied with by coordinating the enforcement of these requirements through Provincial Town and Country Planning Boards (which exist in all of the country's provinces, including Western and Isabel).

Policy and Regulatory frameworks

41. Policy and regulatory instruments of particular relevance to the project are summarized in include the following:

Instrument	Focus
National Development Strategy 2016-2035.	Puts in place a long-term, whole-of-government planning framework to enable the Solomon Islands to transition to a more sustainable growth strategy, recognizing the importance and potential of the natural resources (e.g. in tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry) to achieve the SDGs and improved social and economic livelihoods for all Solomon Islanders. Of the five objectives set out in the NDS, objective #4 is the most relevant to the MECDM's work: to achieve "Resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and recovery." This is divided into two mid-term strategies that aim to achieve this objective, interventions to achieve which are implemented by numerous agencies but mostly MECDM: 1) Improve disaster and climate risk management including prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery and adaptation as part of resilient development. 2) Manage the environment in a sustainable resilient way and effectively respond to climate change.
Environmental Policy 1998[30][30]	Makes provision for protection and protection of the environment
Environment Act 1998	Requires Development Consent
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2020	This is the primary policy document for biodiversity conservation.
Protected Areas Act 2010[31][31] and Regulation 2012[32][32].	Makes provision for the declaration of PAs and the protection of biological diversity; regulates the conservation and management of biological resources to ensure biological diversity within or outside PAs and promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings; sets out the twelve steps required for communities to have their landscapes/seascapes assessed and declared as PAs.

Instrument	Focus
Solomon Islands National Lands and Titles Act 1996	Recognizes the customary rights to land and sea of Indigenous People. Solomon Islanders are dependent on the subsistence economy and maintain traditional land practices that continue to be intrinsic to their social and economic well-being. Hence, according to entitlements, communities, tribes and clans have the primary right of ownership of land and sea. Ownership of 90% of inshore coastal regions by the Indigenous People is through the customary marine tenure systems. Rural communities maintain their rights to harvest fish and coastal marine products for income, food and livelihoods through customary marine tenure rights.
Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019	Promotes agricultural production and management of its environmental effects, including promoting soil conservation and access to productive land, managing climate change effects.
National Rural Land Use Policy 2015-2020[33][33]	Aims to ensure all agricultural projects should avoid negative impacts including a reduction in ecosystem services, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and increased food insecurity, and follows the principle that ecosystem-based approaches should be promoted for sustainable economic development.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)[34][34]	Reports on progress in meeting the Paris Agreement, in particular, its effort in the carbon storage in the forest, coastal and marine ecosystems
National Ocean Policy 2019/Marine Spatial Plan (SINOP)	Strategic roadmap for integrated management and governance of the ocean
National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS)	Provides guidelines and strategies to manage the environment
National Species Management Plans	Provides lists of important and threatened species (e.g. dugong, crocodile) to come under protection.
Wildlife Protection & Management Act 1998/Amendment 2017	Seeks compliance with obligations imposed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES) and related matters
National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2016 – 2026	Covers the management of wastes and pollution control
Fisheries Management Act 2015[35][35]	Designed to ensure the sustainable management, conservation, development, and use of fisheries and marine resources
Forestry Act 1999[36][36] and Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act (Amendment) 2000[37][37]	Sets out provisions for the protection of forestry resources. Governs timber concessions and permissions.
Charitable Trust Act	Makes provisions for Associations to be registered for religious, educational, literary, scientific, social or charitable purposes. A Charitable Trust is a popular choice for landowner groups who want to become organised to promote conservation on their land.
Planning and Development Act 1980[38][38]	This Act refers to the administration of town and country planning, the making of local planning schemes, the control and development of land and connected matters.

Other stakeholders

1. A detailed stakeholder analysis is presented in Annex K. In addition to the key institutions described above, other key stakeholders of the project include the following:

• Provincial Governments of Western and Isabel: acting in accordance with the provisions of the Provincial Government Act (1997), the Provincial Governments will support the activities of the GBFF project which are aligned with the Provincial Plans; lead and participate in roles such as land use planning, provincial

conservation planning and multi-stakeholder collaboration; and represent their constituents' interests through participation in provincial steering/advisory committees.

- The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) are large international NGOs which are supporting community-based nature conservation in the two target provinces (WCS and WWF in Western Province, and TNC in Isabel). WCS and TNC will be directly engaged in executing project activities in the provinces in which they respectively operate, under the overall leadership of MECDM (see Section C.1 regarding the proposed institutional arrangements for their engagement).

- The Tetepare Descendents Association (TDA) is a community-based organization (CBO), dedicated to preserving Tetepare Island in Western Province, which is the largest uninhabited tropical island in the Southern Hemisphere. Formed in 2002 by the descendants of the island's original inhabitants, TDA aims to protect Tetepare's unique biodiversity and cultural heritage for future generations.

- The Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA) focuses on environmental protection and natural resource governance across Solomon Islands. As a frontline NGO, SIRA engages in programmes that aim to inform, empower and connect ranger networks across the country.

- Papatura Island Resort is a privately owned tourism business in Isabel Province, which is supporting community-based conservation of marine resources (mainly coral reefs), the creation of alternative livelihood options such as seaweed farming, and regular surfing competitions with some of the proceeds going towards community-based activities.

- The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the only education provider at University level in the Solomon Islands. Its vision is providing a quality National University, raising standards of education and applied research in the Pacific region while its mission is simply championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the country. As an academic institution, SINU is well suited to partnering with the MECDM and the Project to implement appropriate activities of the GBFF project

- Village and Clan Chiefs, and Councils of Chiefs (e.g. Isabel Council of Chiefs) are involved in the production of community development and management plans, the settling of conflicts in their communities, and act as custodians of customary land ownership on behalf of their tribes. They will need to be involved in decision making at the community level, and there will be a need for on-going consultation with them throughout the project life, to ensure that all project activities are implemented without disputes, or, as and when problems do arise, these are identified and addressed urgently.

- Engagement of Mother's Unions will lead to enhanced recognition of women's contributions to conservation and roles as key project stakeholders; strengthening of women's decision-making power and influence; improved livelihood conditions for women and men, with women gaining increased control over income and productive resources; and more inclusive and gender-responsive attitudes in relation to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management, promoting women's representation, participation and leadership.

- KAWAKI is a women's conservation network in the Arnavon Community Marine Park in Isabel Province. Established in 2016, it aims to empower women in marine conservation efforts. The name KAWAKI stands for "Katupika, Waghena and Kia" and has a mission to protect the nesting hawksbill turtles in ACMP. Specific activities include turtle nest monitoring, environmental education, community outreach and ecotourism development.

- Western Province Women's Group is actively involved in various initiatives focused on empowerment, leadership and community development, promoting women's rights and gender equality, and driving positive change within their communities.

- Raumana and Dunde Resource Management Committees have been established under the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) work supported by WCS. Their main focus is the conservation/protection and

sustainable management of marine resources in customarily owned marine areas; they are also involved in alternative livelihood opportunities such as seaweed farming.

• The Barora Faa Carbon Trade Taskforce is an organized Taskforce established to lead Barora Faa customary landowners in Isabel Province to achieve the protection of the Island (under PA Act) and engage in voluntary Carbon Trading intervention (with the NGO Nakau).

The Solomon Islands protected area system

42. The categories provided for in the Protected Areas Regulations (2012) are: I. Nature Reserve, II. National Park, III. Natural Monument, IV. Resource Management Area and V. Closed Area (see Table 3).

Table 3. Protected area categories in Solomon Islands

Category	Primary Objectives	Requirements
Nature Reserves	- Scientific research, environmental monitoring and education - Maintaining habitat conditions necessary for wildlife management, including protecting and meeting the natural requirements of significant species and biotic communities	- **No local community is continuously in occupation of the area** as its usual place of habitation or residence; or - The local community has agreed to relocate to another location or place - Except with prior permission of the management committee, **public access to a nature reserve shall strictly be restricted** and/or limited to the purposes for which the reserve is established.
National Parks	- Protect a major natural region of national significance and its biological and environmental features - Protect the habitat and aesthetic qualities of an otherwise large area of natural and unique scenery - Promote education, research and tourism opportunities	- Must be of **national importance and cover a large area of natural regions**, either terrestrial or marine or both - Recognised as a natural asset of national significance although its ownership may, by virtue of kastom or law, remain vested in a person, institution or organization other than the Commissioner of Lands.
Natural Monument	Protect or sustain: a) A specific monument of **outstanding natural features** (landform, waterfall, sea mount, submarine cavern, cave, ancient grove and such other natural sites of cultural, spiritual and traditional value or significance) and its associated biodiversity and habitat b) An important landscape or habitat **created by the interaction (through traditional practices) between humans and nature** over time	- Must have biological, cultural, ecological and/or scenic value - Its continuous protection is vital to sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and related values.
Resource Management Area	- Promotion of ecologically sustainable uses of natural ecosystems and resources **for the benefit of customary owners and dependent local communities**	Managed in such a way or according to such a system that **allows for controlled access to and use** of natural ecosystems and resources for the purposes of ensuring: a) Sustainable food security levels are achieved or maintained b) Optimal sustainable livelihood and development needs of customary owners and dependent local communities are met.
Closed areas	- To allow and facilitate natural processes of **recovery, rehabilitation, regeneration, replenishment and**	- Closed in perpetuity or for an indefinite period to all forms of human activity that are detrimental or disturbing to the natural processes of recovery,

Category	Primary Objectives	Requirements
	repopulation due to factors including excessive human exploitation and environmental degradation in the past.	rehabilitation, regeneration, replenishment and repopulation. - Areas… which have been the **subject of overexploitation or environmental degradation** caused by destructive human or large-scale industrial activities shall quality for protection s a closed area.

43. In areas declared under the PA Act, according to the PA Regulations the Director of Environment and Conservation Department has a number of roles and powers, including the following:

- The PA Advisory Committee must act on his/her recommendations when appointing a Management Committee
- NGOs directly involved in the management of the PA must submit annual reports to him/her
- The issuance of permits and partnerships is subject to his/her approval;

44. Despite this, the Regulations make specific provisions for protecting the collective interests of customary landowners, including consultation with landowning tribes and local communities regarding applications for consultation, and participation in management committees.

45. In addition, the Fisheries Act (2015) provides for:

- **Marine Managed Areas**, defined as areas, within the fisheries waters, regulated to preserve their natural state, as far as possible, to protect marine life; but allow for harvesting of marine resources
- **Marine Protected Areas**, defined as (a) any area within the fisheries waters for which protective, conservation, restorative or precautionary measures, consistent with international law, have been instituted for the purpose of protecting and conserving species/habjtats/ecosystems or ecological processes of the marine environment: and (b) any area under paragraph (a) that does not form a 'protected area' under the Protected Areas Act 2010.

46. The Solomon Islands PA Act is broad in scope: the most commonly used category is that of Resource Management Area, the primary objective of which is "the promotion of ecologically sustainable uses of natural ecosystems and resources for the benefit of customary owners and dependent local communities" (Table 1): this equates to the IUCN definition of OECMs as including areas where biodiversity conservation is a secondary objective. In this project, therefore, such areas are considered as OECMs even if they are declared under the PA Act.

47. Another, commonly used, modality for landowners to organize to promote conservation on their land is to register their associations under the Charitable Trusts Act, with Companies House, which allows this to be done for religious, educational, literary, scientific, social or charitable purposes. This modality does not, however, necessarily ensure the representativeness or inclusiveness of organizations when they register.

Baseline:

48. The project will build on a solid baseline of investments and activities of central and provincial Governments, NGOs and CBOs, supported by a diversity of funding sources. These include the following projects funded by the GEF, which are of particular relevance:

- Integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands (GEF-5 project, implemented by FAO)
- EREPA: Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (GEF-6 FSP, implemented by IUCN)
- SAFE: Safeguarding Solomon Islands endemic and globally threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly invasive alien species and unsustainable land use practices (GEF-7 FSP, implemented by UNDP)
- Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR) (GEF-7 FSP, implemented by World Bank)
- Revitalizing and transforming Solomon Islands' food system through sustainable agriculture and livestock production for enhanced environmental and community benefits (GEF-8 FSP under the Food Systems Integrated Programme, implemented by FAO – currently under GEFSec review, start expected early 2026).

49. The status of the baseline in relation to each of the key issues addressed by the project is described below.

Protected areas

50. According to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier for the Solomon Islands, in 2021 the country had 92 protected areas, covering a total of 2,481km^2.. This represents 2.39% of the terrestrial and inland waters area (total 672km^2) and 0.11% of marine areas (total 1,809km^2). Of these, only 7 had IUCN categories (as formally defined protected areas), and there were no reported OECMs. Only 5.8% of the area of the country's 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are included in PAs, and 31 KBAs have no PA coverage[39].

51. An updated review by MECDM shows that there are currently 8 Protected Areas in the country formally gazetted under the 2010 PA Act (between 2017 and 2024), covering 25,112ha. Six of these, covering 7,829ha, are Resource Management Areas; one is a Nature Reserve, covering 16,909ha, and the other is a Natural Monument covering 374ha (see Annex P). A further 8 Resource Management Areas, covering 21,028ha, are under the Public Notice/Final Submission stage, and an additional 22 areas have been proposed but have not yet reached the stage of final submission or approval.

Table 4. Protected Areas Gazetted to date under the PA Act (2010).

Name	Size (ha)	Type of PA	Gazettal order/date	Category
Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP), **Isabel**	16,909	Marine-terrestrial	LN #32 10/05/2017	Nature Reserve
Sirebe Forest Conservation Area, **Choiseul**	800	Terrestrial	LN #90 19/10/2019	Resource Management Area
Siporae Tribal Forest Conservation Area, **Choiseul**	666	Terrestrial	LN #89 19/10/2019	Resource Management Area
Padezaka Tribal Rainforest Area, **Choiseul**	4,823	Terrestrial	LN #245 15/10/2021	Resource Management Area
Vuri Forest Conservation Area, **Choiseul**	574	Terrestrial	LN #108 21/03/2022	Resource Management Area
Kira Biodiversity Forest Conservation Area, **Malaita**	660	Terrestrial	LN #59	Resource Management Area
Pamahima Tribal Forest Protected Area, **Makira/Ulawa**	374	Terrestrial	LN #87 6/09/2024	Natural Monument
Waihita Conservation & Protected Area Association, **Makira/Ulawa**	306	Terrestrial	LN #86 6/09/2024	Resource Management Area

Table 5. Summary of status of existing and proposed protected areas

Status	Number	Area (ha)
Gazetted	8	25,112
Final submission	8	21,026
Proposed: public notice stage or earlier	22	>81,602
Total:	**38**	

52. In terms of the governance types of the existing PA, 1.1% are governed by governments (by federal or national ministry or agency), 1.1% are under shared governance (by collaborative governance), 58.7% are under IPLC governance, and 39.1% are not reported with a specific governance type[40].

53. This overview shows that community-led models of conservation dominate the portfolio, as shown by the predominance of the Resource Management Area (RMA) category among the areas that are already gazetted or proposed for gazettal; as shown in Table 1, the objective of RMAs is the promotion of ecologically sustainable uses of natural ecosystems and resources for the benefit of customary owners and dependent local communities, and RMAs are required to be managed in such a way or according to such a system that allows for controlled access to and use of natural ecosystems and resources, for the purposes of ensuring that sustainable

food security levels are achieved or maintained and optimal sustainable livelihood and development needs of customary owners and dependent local communities are met.

Community-based conservation

54. **The Nature Conservancy** (TNC) has been supporting community-based conservation in a number of locations in Isabel Province. Since 1995, the Arnavon Community Marine Park Management Committee has been central to all conservation and development activities in the Arnavon Islands. This Committee is made up of representatives from the indigenous users of the Arnavon Islands, the communities of Kia, Katupika and Waghena (KAWAKI). It also brings together representatives from Isabel and Choiseul Governments, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and The Nature Conservancy. The ACMP Management Committee employs Rangers from the communities of Kia, Katupika and Waghena, who reside on the Arnavons for a month at a time, monitoring turtle populations and ensuring compliance with the management rules. In 2017, the Arnavon islands were declared the country's first nationally protected area - the Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP)[41][41].

55. The levels of interest among local communities for establishing conservation areas on their lands is evident from the large number of areas that have been proposed, as shown in Table 3.

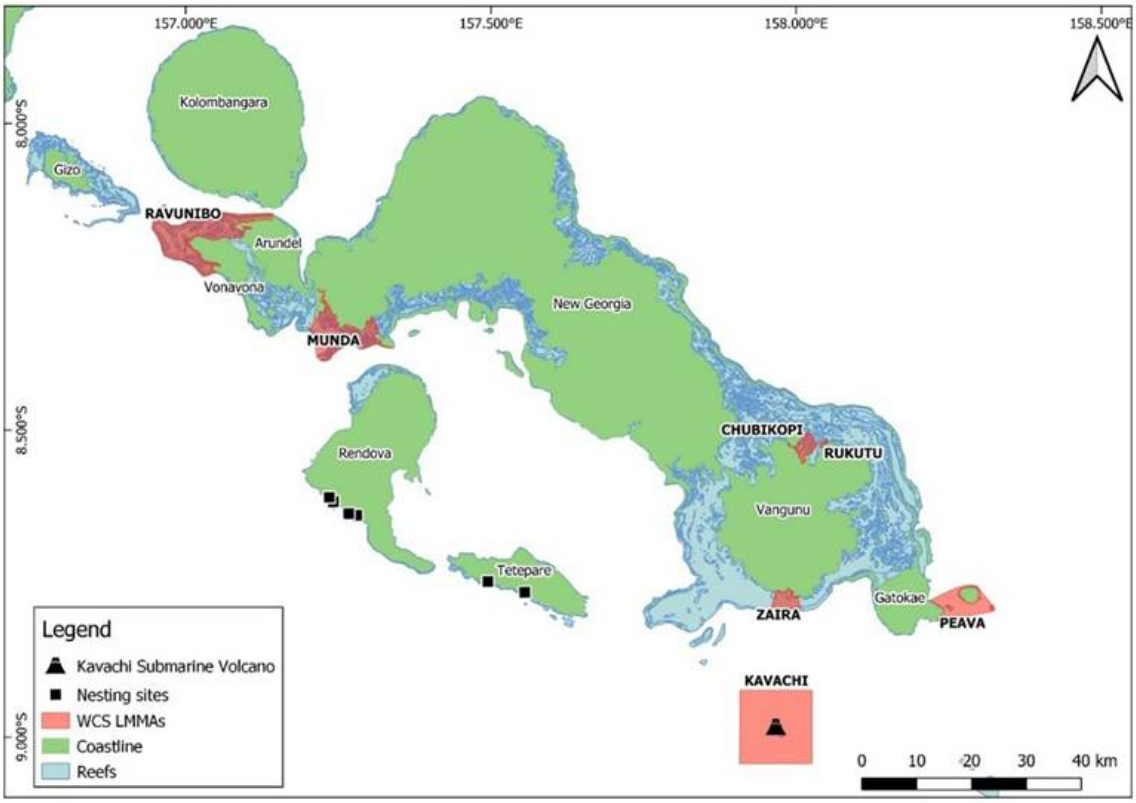
56. In Western Province, the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**[42][42] is mostly working in Gizo and Kolombangara (15 communities, 7 main projects), and is also collaborating with TNC in Central Province and Guadalcanal on terrestrial issues (ridge to reef approach).

57. At the invitation of local communities, WWF has been providing technical assistance and financial support for the effective management of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), including advice on the identification, set-up and monitoring of marine protected areas (see Figure 6). WWF have developed a Community Based Fisheries Management plan with the Ministry of Fisheries, based on the SPC framework.

58. WWF applies a community-led approach, based on an expression of interest from the community, founded on a community agreement and operationalised through a community management plan with a management committee. In Western Province, WWF has supported the capacity building of local people, through the establishment of the Western Province Community Facilitators (CF) Network: 34 Community Facilitators (CFs) have been trained to facilitate meetings, workshops, consultations; more than 100 rangers were trained to do biological monitoring survey in their Fisheries Managed Area or LMMA; and more than 200 community leaders (tribal chiefs, religious leaders, youths and womens' group leaders) were trained in various aspects including applied leadership, financial inclusive training, basic proposal writing etc. WWF is supporting the strengthening of local governance structures, including the registration of seven Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to date including the Ijo Maringi Communities Conservation Association in Saeraghi and the Sirubai Voko Tribe Association, where a logging forum was recently held.

59. WWF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) in December 2023, under which it is supporting four youth rangers to do a Certificate in Environmental Studies. WWF is working with AusAid on community management and enforcement of sea grapes in Saeraghi, on the island of Ghizo in Western Province[43][43].

Figure 1. Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) supported by WCS in Western Province to date



Landscape Planning

60. Currently, provincial Governments and Honiara town council have Town and Country Planning boards, but these only look at land areas registered or held by the Commissioner of Lands. With regards to customary land, where most of the work on conservation take place, there is no requirement for land use planning to be in place, but communities typically carry out their own zoning in accordance with cultural practices, for example in relation to the location of gardening areas and *tabu* sites in terrestrial areas.

61. There has been significant baseline activity with spatial planning at larger landscape level, supported by conservation NGOs. The following Ridge-to-Reef Conservation Plans have been developed to date[44][44]:

- For **Choiseul Province** in 2010, by TNC in response to requests from the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC) and the Choiseul Provincial Government[45][45]. The completion of the Choiseul conservation plan provides a roadmap to guide future conservation efforts throughout Choiseul.4 It is hoped that it will assist in enabling the leaders of Choiseul to implement the Lauru Ridge to Reef Protected Area Network (LPAN), the first such network ever proposed in the Solomon Islands. The development of Choiseul ridge to reef conservation plan also acts as a pilot study for MECDM with regards to a conservation planning process and approach that could be effectively applied to the whole of the Solomon Islands.

- For **Isabel Province** in 2012[46][46], by local communities with support from The Nature Conservancy. The Isabel R2R Conservation Plan aims to support and guide future conservation and development activities throughout Isabel. Stakeholder engagement and participation in resource and resource use planning and mapping made it possible to discuss and agree on the location of conservation priority coast areas or sites, biodiversity threats, impacts of successfully implementing a protected area network across and other important and relevant conservation and management considerations. The Plan provides an important step towards establishing an Isabel Ridge to Reef Protected Area Network (IPAN), which would support future food and

freshwater security, preserve the island's remarkable biodiversity and reduce the stress on terrestrial and marine environments, hereby increasing the resilience of natural systems to external shocks such as climate change. Stakeholders used participatory mapping to identify local features within their customarily owned lands and seas that are of high conservation value to them. These features represent important biological and cultural resources that would benefit from protection or management, such as sources of freshwater, cultural heritage sites, turtle nesting beaches, fish spawning aggregations and megapode nesting areas. Participatory mapping was also used to identify threats to biodiversity (e.g., logging, mining, and areas susceptible to climate change) and to map areas of conservation opportunity, such as sites that are proposed but not yet managed.

- For **Ghizo and Kolombangara in Western Province** in 2018[47][47], with support from the World Wildlife Fund, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership and Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands. The plan was developed through a participatory stakeholder's process involving key resource people of Kolombangara and Ghizo islands to provide input and impart knowledge of threats and the key ecological, biological and cultural features found on their corresponding islands. The implementation of Ridge to Reef conservation planning will protect the key ecological (marine and terrestrial habitats) and cultural features on the islands of Ghizo and Kolombangara, resulting in increased food security, income and livelihoods for communities on these islands.

62. Subsequently, a 5-year national Ridge-to-Reef Strategic Action Framework (R2R SAF) was developed for MECDM in 2021[48][48], with support from the GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Regional Project (SPC R2R). The formulation of the SAF was a follow up to the Solomon Islands Diagnostic Analysis (IDA) which was also undertaken as part of SPC R2R project; the IDA identified six priorities related to the ridge to reef which are solid waste management, land degradation, deforestation and forest degradation, water pollution, invasive species, and coral reef degradation[49][49].

63. The vision of the R2R SAF is to maintain the integrity and build the resilience of natural ecosystems through the ridge to reef management approach to secure community livelihood and wellbeing. Its goals are to:

1. Promote and implement effective solid waste management practices at the household, community, provincial and national level for ridge to reef approaches.

2. Encourage and implement sustainable land use practices to address land degradation issues for ridge to reef approaches.

3. Ensure that no large-scale commercial deforestation and forest degradation activities occur within any ridge to reef geographic boundary.

4. Avoid water pollution for the ridge to reef approach and address it at the source.

5. Implement measures to mitigate the introduction and impacts of invasive alien species within ridge to reef geographic boundary.

6. Promote and implement sustainable management of coral reef such as establishment of MPAs and LMMAs.

Financing

64. The 2010 Protected Areas Act provides for the establishment of a Protected Areas Trust Fund (PATF), was drafted with support from the GEF-5 IFM project.

65. In 2010, TNC set up a Trust Fund in Arnavon Community Marine Park, which included capitalization of USD500K by a US donor. TNC estimate that the Fund in the Arnavons only covers around a quarter of costs, and as a result fundraising is needed on an ongoing basis: they estimate that a couple of million dollars more would be needed to cover all costs.

66. At local level, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is working on financial inclusion activities: these have empowered women, resulting in 120 new sustainable businesses in Western Province (e.g. Nusa Tuva Environment Development Conservation Association (NECDA) Women's Savings Club). These savings clubs sustained the women's groups during COVID.

67. The NGO Nakau is supporting carbon payment schemes in Solomon Islands. In Babatana, Choiseul, Sirebe Tribe has used the income from credit sales since becoming verified to provide financial stability and resilience, and for their livelihood

needs, school fees and sanitation facilities. The community also rebuilt their community meeting hall and are exploring opportunities for alternative incomes including a fishing business, mechanic workshop and bakery. In North Isabel, TNC are developing carbon feasibility studies with the potential to cover 10,000ha of lowland forest.

68. At the national level, development budget support from the Government through various ministries can be capitalized upon by this project. For example, under the 2025 development budget, Provincial Governments, allocated a sum of SBD20 million (around USD2.4 million) towards Small-Scale Capital in rural areas. Additionally, a further SDB18 million (around USD2.15 million) is allocated towards Economic Integrated Development and Climate Resilience in rural communities. Through the Ministry of Rural Development, budgetary support of SBD 250 million (around USD30 million) is available for rural development in 2025, spread across the 50 constituencies[50][50].

Policy and regulatory frameworks

69. TNC is working at national level on policy and regulatory frameworks, for example the PA Act and the Mining and Minerals Policy, and in Isabel Province TNC is moving to support provincial government, for example through the funding of two environmental positions, but they consider that there is a gap that needs to be filled in linking top down and bottom-up approaches.

Barriers:

1: Complex policy framework and limited institutional coordination at the sub-national level to mainstream IPLC driven biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in OECMs:

70. There is limited policy alignment and institutional coordination between multiple agencies to holistically address landscape needs for biodiversity conservation involving IPLCs and through OECMs at the sub-national level, feeding the national targets related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This limited alignment and coordination in relation to environmental issues is also evident between MECDM, at national level, and provincial Governments; in both of the target provinces Provincial Environment Officers (PEOs) have been appointed to support the environmental actions of the Provincial Governments, but these PEOs still themselves require support in the form of orientation and capacity development to allow them to do this effectively.

71. In the course of PPG consultations, members of multiple community expressed interest in PA establishment, but referred to the complexity and difficulty of following the twelve steps set out in the PA Act for achieving this: it typically takes around three years for the whole CBRM process including community engagement, leading to a management plan, enforcement plan and finalization of governance structures. As shown in Table 3, since the Act was passed in 2010 only 8 PAs have been formally gazetted, and a further 30 have been proposed by local communities but have not yet achieved gazettal. Of the sites reported in the WDPA Database, 39.1% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

2: Inadequate frameworks for land/seascape planning, management and governance

Inadequate frameworks for spatial planning and decision support tools for avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring cost savings

72. Land use and planning are governed by the Planning and Development Act[51][51]. A limitation of this Act is that it only concerns registered land; furthermore, it does not take into account environmental issues in relation to land development. At provincial levels, land use development comes under provincial Planning and Development Boards, but here as well the board is only concerned with land development for registered land, while over 85% of land in the Solomon Islands is rural based, customarily owned and are not registered[52][52]. This situation is open to abuse: for example, at any stage, landowners can accept loggers or miners to enter a land area; without proper coordination between the policy and regulatory frameworks governing different sectors (such as the Environment Act 1998, the Forestry Act 1999 and the Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act (Amendment) 2000) together with other policies aimed at safeguarding natural resources, there will always be problems with land development on customarily owned land. In trying to address the issue of the customary land issue, the Government has embarked on the Customary Land Recording Policy[53][53]. The land recording task has not been received with

much interest by local communities, however: for example, during PPG consultations community members from Kia in Isabel Province expressed their dissatisfaction with the process and claimed that it brought more disunity to the community, creating frictions among relatives and family members in trying to determine who the primary landowners really are (in Kia, the communities have decided to abandon the exercise).

73. Land Use Planning (LUP) is becoming increasingly important, to address sustainable resource development and management to meet the needs of increasing populations including work towards achieving LDN. Land-use planning at landscape scale is lacking, however, as are strong bottom-up approaches for community planning based on traditional landownership and land use decision making systems. The National Rural Land Use Policy (NRLUP) of 2015[54][54], is the instrument to address land use in rural areas. Currently, there is constraint to use the participatory "bottom up" planning processes, beginning at the local level, to fully utilize the experience and local knowledge of land users to identify priorities and to draw up and implement plans towards Solomon Islands achieving LDN. An integrated approach to problem solving including land use planning at all levels would allow communities to make informed choices about their future sustainable land use, as they face the impacts of climate change and the frequency of natural disasters which confront communities, particularly affecting food production. Further, there is a lack of vertical coordination between national government and the provincial authorities to mainstream biodiversity and sustainable land management in a consistent and targeted way. There remain contradictions and gaps in regulations and provincial ordinances, also a lack of detailed guidance on key threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Ineffective governance, management and enforcement in PAs.

74. The Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier for the Solomon Islands reported that by 2021, 58.2% of terrestrial PAs and 27.6% of marine PAs had completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported; this was below the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) for both terrestrial and marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target. There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

75. The complexity of landownership coupled with varied interests among community members represent challenge for attaining PA declaration: in some communities in the target provinces, some factions favour conservation while other favour logging or mining; this situation may be further complicated by differences in priorities between resident community members and émigrés to other islands who may retain rights over land and other natural resources. in some matrilineal communities, meanwhile, women are the custodians of land and sea resources, but men are the ones making most decisions about the use of the resources[55][55]. This is a challenging situation, as women tend to favour environmental protection more than men do[56][56].

76. Community members also referred to inadequate enforcement of national legislation, such as the Fisheries Act (2015), due to limited capacities of Government (MECDM has only 3 enforcement officers in the whole country) and limited logistical resources (such as boats, outboard motors and fuel) available to local rangers. There is a need for increased awareness in local communities about legal processes and enforcement options: members of TNC described initial effectiveness controlling poaching using community rangers, but then poaching increased again as there was limited punishment due to the legal process not being followed through.

77. There tends to be a reluctance among local people to resort to prosecution in the case of infringements by (or associated with) members of the same community, as it can lead to long-term social friction. San Jorge island, in Isabel province, has significant social frictions associated with logging and mining[57][57]: there is a need to strengthen negotiation and conflict management processes, and collaborative decision-making. Some communities have mixed ethnicities (people from different islands), which complicates governance; there is also a need to distinguish between resource owners and resource users, and take into account village "tycoons" who may have disproportionate power.

Challenges for community-based management of marine resources in Solomon Islands[58][58].

Marine resources [in the Solomon Islands] are principally governed by a variety of local institutions. However, beliefs, rules and norms that sustained fisheries in the past are rapidly eroding[59][59]. Much fishing lore, magic and fishing techniques have been lost over the past 100 years[60][60]. But other practices seem very resilient, throughout the archipelago, people continue to observe specific prohibitions on harvesting and eating species, such as octopus, crocodiles, sweetlips, clams, and sharks. Many deep pools, estuaries, and mangroves are regarded as sacred sites, which essentially function as permanent closures. Such taboos are primarily related to culture, genealogy, and oral history[61][61]. Other customary practices are specifically meant to manage fisheries: reefs, mangroves, and mudflats are owned by clans or, in some cases, individuals, and there are stringent rules on who is entitled to fish in specific areas[62][62]. To maximize fish catches—for example, in preparation of a feast or funeral—fishing grounds are closed for a specific period of time[63][63]. People place a stick or coconut frond on the reef or at the entry to the mangroves to signal that fishing is prohibited. In addition, people have a variety of norms on what, when, and where to harvest.

These mores are, however, unable to address mounting pressures on coastal ecosystems (Schwarz et al., 2020). Extractive industries provide a case in point; there are no local institutions that can mitigate the environmental impacts of logging and mining operations. Local leaders—customary chiefs, teachers, or church leaders—have little influence beyond the boundary of the ancestral territory, village, or congregation. Moreover, villages are coping with a range of social issues, such as alcoholism, crime, and domestic violence, which inhibit collective action, and which are arguably more pressing problems than overfishing. Tenure is increasingly contested, leading to widespread mistrust and conflicts[64][64]. Above all, people need money for school fees, medicines, clothes, tools, building materials, and mobile phones. The need for cash tends to override cultural values such as prudence, cooperation, reciprocity, and respect for the ancestors[65][65].

3: Inadequate options and capacities for combining sustained conservation and livelihood benefits

78. Although rural communities in the Solomon Islands typically have a wealth of traditional knowledge and expertise with the sustainable management of natural resources, in many cases they face challenges in adapting their management options to changing circumstances; their existing practices may be insufficiently attractive to provide alternatives to more immediately lucrative options such as logging and mining; and their practices may not be directly compatible with the conservation of priority biodiversity elements. This situation is due to their limited exposure to alternative options with potential to address these shortcomings; limited opportunities to reflect on the challenges they face and options for addressing them; limited opportunities for exchanging knowledge and ideas with other people and communities facing similar challenges and with ideas or experiences that may be of use to them; and limited coverage of technical advisory support from Government extension services or NGOs.

4: Dispersed knowledge and inadequate decision support

79. There is a significant number of initiatives that have been undertaken to date in Solomon Islands of relevance to community-led conservation, but these are dispersed with no specific attempt to bring together the knowledge and experiences generated through these to guide future directions.

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C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

1. **There is a major baseline of investments (including by GEF) in the Solomon Islands covering aspects including the strengthening and expanding of the national PA system and associated institutions, support to landscape planning with a ridge-to-reef vision, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods that deliver win-win benefits for conservation. Most community-based conservation to date in the Solomon Islands, and in particular in the two target provinces of this project (Western and Isabel) has focused on marine ecosystems.**

2. This project will build on this, and contribute further to the conservation of the country's biodiversity in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the NBSAP, by supporting the development and application of an array of different community-driven modalities that synergize biodiversity and livelihood benefits, within frameworks of broader inclusive and data-driven landscape planning and management in KBAs. This approach recognizes the potential for these different conservation modalities to complement each other, and to meet the differing aspirations and conditions of different communities.

3. The models to be supported by the project will be governed by the following principles:

- Led by local communities (IPLCs), recognizing and building on the predominance of customary land ownership and traditional governance mechanisms over most of the country.
- Compatible with local communities' needs and aspirations for livelihood sustainability, resilience to climate change and other trends and shocks, nutrition and economic development
- Integrated, recognizing the biological, social and productive interactions and interdependencies between different elements of farming systems, tribal lands and landscapes (including among marine, coastal and terrestrial areas, building on the predominantly marine focus of many investments to date)
- Inclusive, equitable in terms of engagement and benefit distribution, and gender-responsive
- Institutionally and financially sustainable, backed up by lasting capacities and mechanisms among national, provincial and community-level institutions.

Through the mechanisms detailed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex K), all relevant community groups (including women, youth, and marginalized populations) will be actively involved in decision-making and benefit-sharing.

4. The range of conservation modalities to be supported in the project includes the following:

1) Areas that are **formally declared under the PA Act** (2010): these tend to be prioritized by communities especially when there are strong external threats to their natural resources, requiring additional regulatory backing to be addressed effectively, and/or where traditional governance systems may be insufficient due to cultural change (for example associated with migration or urbanization) or

other factors. Although covered by the PA Act, these areas are all largely led and managed by local communiities, and so more typical of what are commonly thought of as OECMs than strict Government-managed PAs.

2) Areas that have been **proposed for eventual declaration under the PA Act**, but where the process leading to declaration is still under way. Although these areas may eventually become PAs, they are not yet covered by the PA Act and so may in the interim be considered as OECMs.

3) Areas that have been **declared under other legislative instruments**, such as Locally Managed Marine Areas under the Fisheries Act. These areas may be considered as OECMs given that they are not covered under the PA Act (although in practice the LMMA model is similar to categories covered by the PA Act such as RMAs).

4) Areas where communities are interested in conservation but **not in formal declaration under the PA Act**, as they consider traditional governance structures to be sufficient for bringing out effective conservation, they wish to avoid social tensions that might arise from formalization and declaration, and/or they are reluctant to engage in the complex and lengthy process of achieving declaration. These areas clearly constitute OECMs.

5. The theory of change (TOC) of the project (Figure 3) is rooted in the understanding that critical actions to conserve and manage the biodiversity of selected Ecoregions and KBAs of the country at sub-national scales require multi-faceted, gender-responsive and participatory processes anchored on a whole-of-society approach, led by IPLCs and tailored to traditional governance and customary tenure systems.

The project will apply a multi-dimensional systems approach: this is reflected in the ToC, which recognises a series of concentric spatial and governance systems: Component 3 focuses on field, farm, livelihood and community systems; while Component 2 focuses on the larger spatial systems within which these are embedded, ranging from conservation areas (OECMs) and broader land/seascapes through to provinces, which are the principal sub-national political and governance system at which policies, regulations and plans are defined and implemented.

Particularly at local level, the project recognizes that farms, livelihoods and communities constitute complex systems: the systemic interconnections among the threats and drivers described in Section B include the following:

- Unsustainable commercial and/or illegal logging and deforestation drive terrestrial biodiversity loss, leading to forest fragmentation, habitat destruction, soil erosion, and the loss of endemic species, particularly in lowland and hill forests. Logging roads also open remote areas to further land clearing and hunting pressure.
- Expansion of subsistence and small-scale commercial agriculture—often through slash and burn (shifting cultivation)—contributes to forest conversion where fallow periods are shortened due to population pressure; inappropriate and unplanned land use practices in outer islands accelerate land degradation and reduce ecosystem resilience.
- Alluvial mining, particularly for gold, causes localized but severe terrestrial impacts, including vegetation clearance, riverbank destabilization, soil contamination, and sedimentation; these activities disrupt forest ecosystems and associated biodiversity, often occurring with limited regulation or enforcement.
- Climate induced stress, resulting from rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, increased cyclone intensity, and prolonged droughts affect forest health, regeneration, and species distributions; it also interacts with other drivers—such as logging and land degradation—amplifying biodiversity loss and ecosystem instability.
- Population growth and settlement expansion result in increased demand for land, timber, fuelwood, and building materials, placing additional pressure on forests, especially near communities, roads, and coastal hinterlands.
- Conflicts over land and resource rights, cultural change and the weakening of traditional governance structures, limited institutional reach, and weak enforcement of environmental regulations contribute to unsustainable resource extraction and inadequate protection of critical habitats; in many areas, conservation measures struggle to compete with short term economic incentives.

The project, and the conservation strategies that it will promote, will take into account these multiple and complex interactions and interdependences among social, cultural, economic, productive and environmental factors, considering how interventions in any aspect of the system may generate positive synergies or negative trade-offs for other elements of the system.

Project design, as set out in detail in the descriptions of the project outcomes, outputs and corresponding activities below, also recognizes that the long term sustainability of the project's outcomes may be affected by future trends in the conditions affecting its target localities and constituent systems; it makes provision accordingly to ensure resilience to these factors, and continued relevance and effectiveness.

- Climate change: as set out in section C4, climate hazards (cyclones, sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification and sea level rise) in the target areas are likely to intensify and increase in frequency into the future under a high emission scenario (SSP5-8.5). In addition to directly impacting vulnerable socioeconomic groups (rural smallholder farmers and women) and degrading ecosystems (especially through sea level rise, wind damage and coral bleaching), this may undermine the feasibility of the options for sustainable production and natural resource management that are proposed under Output 3.1.1 below, and change the spatial configuration of ecosystem values, land/sea use potential and threats on which the spatial planning processes proposed under Output 2.2.1 are based.

- Continuing population growth at local and national levels may come to place stresses on natural resources in the target localities that exceed the levels that can effectively be addressed by the options for sustainable production and natural resource management that are currently proposed under Output 2.2.1.

- Continued qualitative changes in socioeconomic and governance conditions in the future may also undermine sustainability: traditional governance systems may be weakened by ongoing processes of rural-urban migration and external cultural influences, and by increasing pressures on community members from external actors (such as logging and mining enterprises) to exploit natural resources unsustainably.

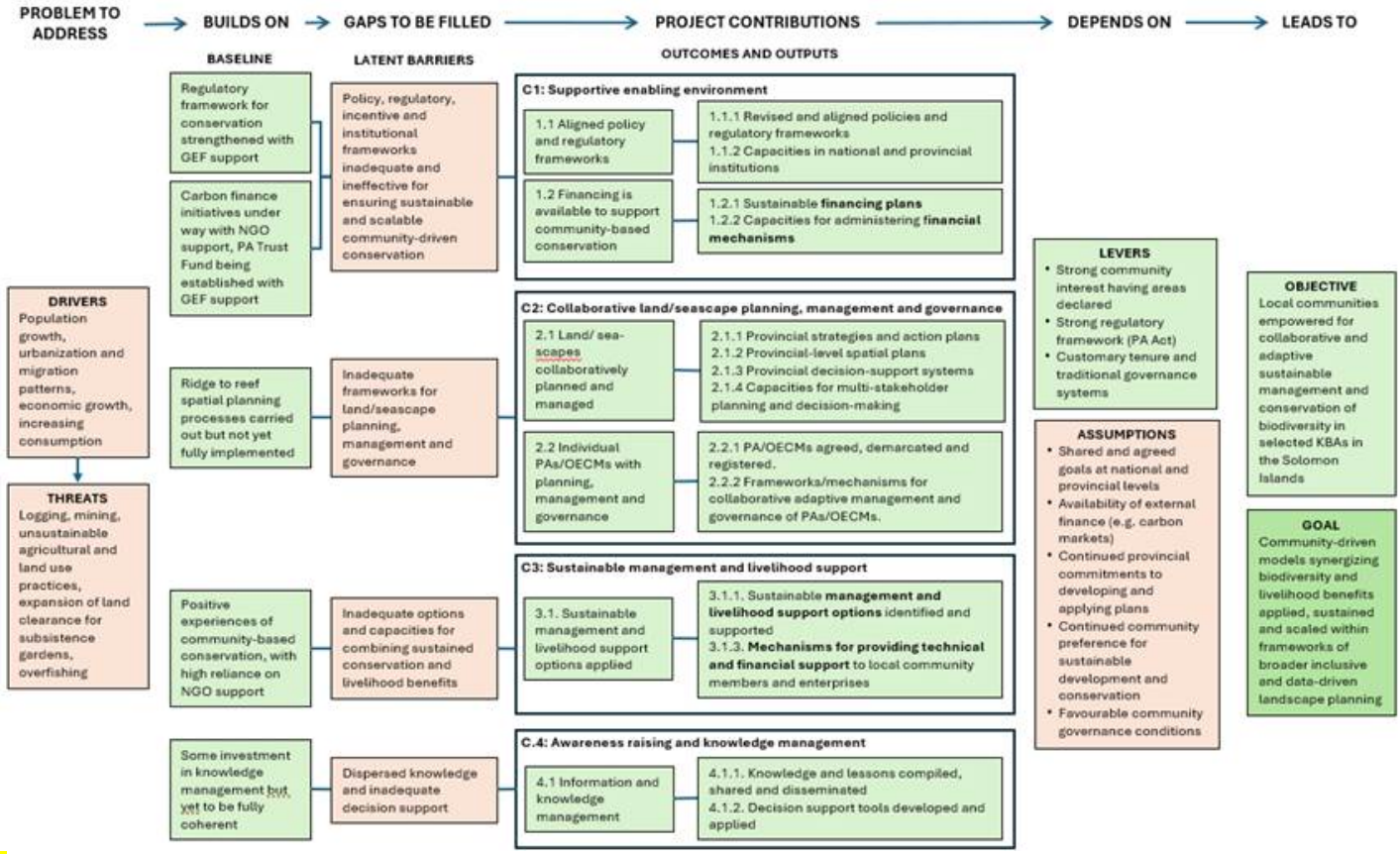
The project will adopt a number of strategies to ensure that it, and the pathways set out in the ToC, remain relevant under evolving future conditions envisaged in the narratives above, into the post-project future.

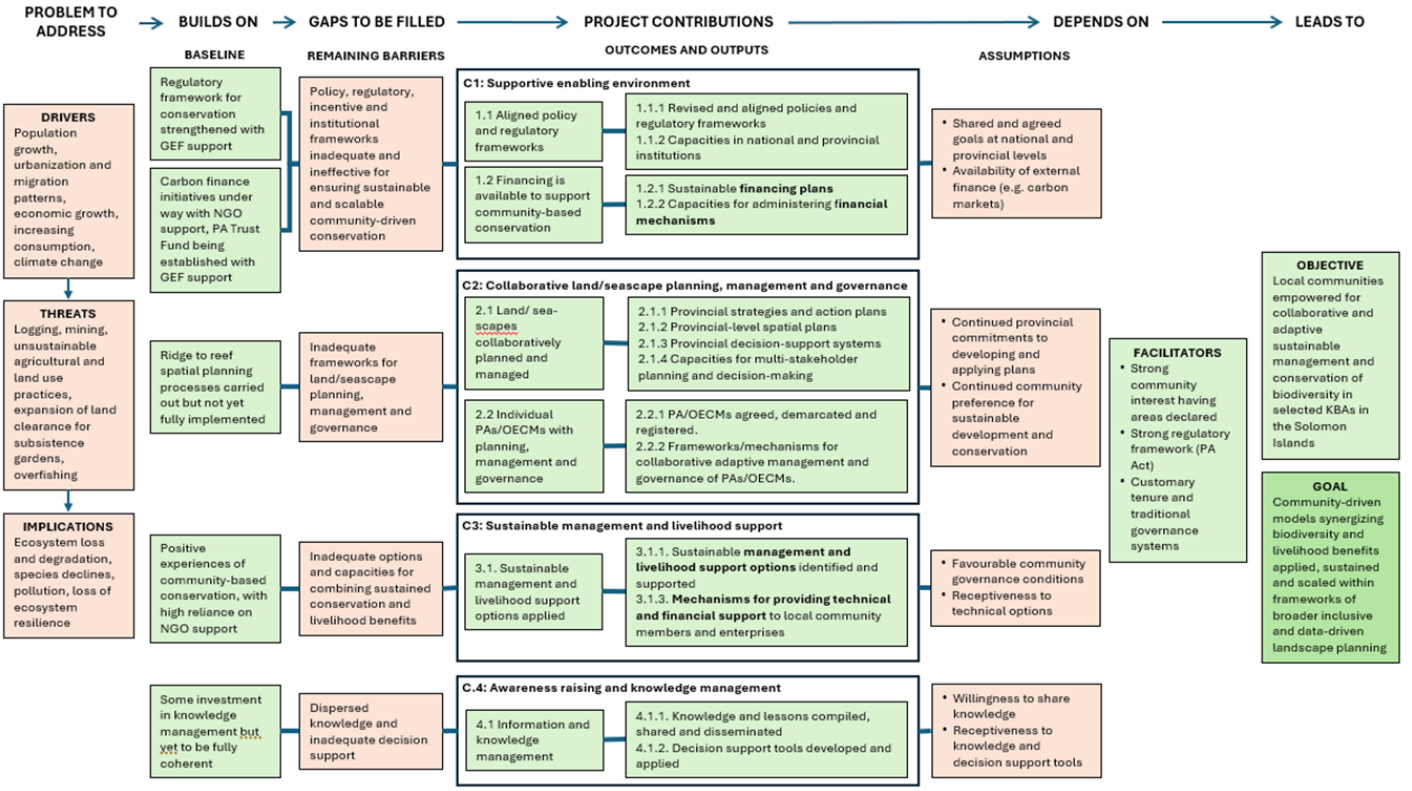
- The lasting knowledge management mechanisms proposed under Component 4 will feed information on evolving conditions to decision makers at all levels (from community through the central Government), allowing them to recognize, anticipate and adjust to changing conditions.

- Procedures and capacities will be developed at all levels (especially provincial and community) for reviewing and updating planning instruments on a regular basis, to reflect evolving trends, including the reformulation of spatial zoning maps in response to changes in sea level, isotherms, isohyets, population distribution etc.

- The project (working through NGO partners) will strengthen the capacities of local communities and their members to reflect continually on their conditions and needs as these evolve into the future, and to define how to adapt their sustainable management and livelihood support options so that these remain relevant, continuing the participatory and inclusive processes of situation and needs analyses, knowledge exchange and farmer-based experimentation supported by the project at the outset.

Figure 3 Theory of Change





6. The project will mobilize resources from the private sector to support its implementation, particularly support to women entrepreneurship through the newly established Protected Area Trust Fund. The project will also leverage the partnerships with philanthropic organizations to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and innovative conservation initiatives.

7. The R2R SAF presented the following key recommendations for R2R implementation, which will be reflected in the implementation of the GBFF project:

- Community consultation for their consent and understanding, ensuring broad participation of all members of the communities including women, youths and vulnerable groups, is vital for long term collaborations with communities, and for maintaining their interest and buy-in.
- Building community trust through clear communication and management of expectations, with transparent and accountable dealings.
- Understanding of land and sea boundary issues, tribal ownership and access to resources, in discussion with traditional leaders or organizations.
- Awareness and education, as ongoing activities, regarding the importance of the project and connections to their livelihood and the environment.
- Alternative livelihood options to support daily and domestic needs.
- Adherence to community protocols and traditional *kastom*,
- Understanding of governance mechanisms at community level, including lines of communication and authority.
- Sustainability of activities beyond project interventions, working with indigenous organizations or Government agencies through appropriate line ministries to carry on after the project ends.
- Managing community expectations, clarifying the balance of financial and other benefits and the overall objective of the project.

Target localities

8. The target localities of the project are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of project target localities

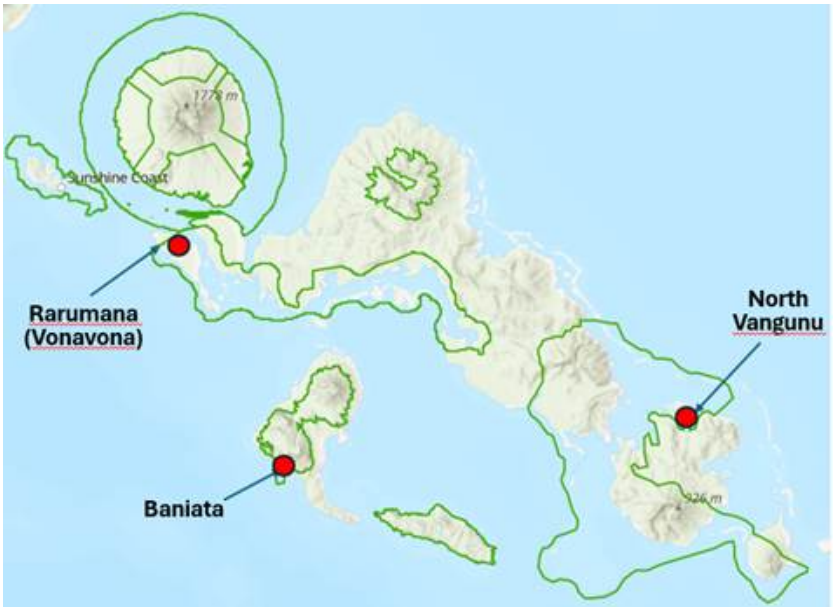
Locality	Approximate area (terrestrial and marine)	KBA
Western Province		
Vonavona island	5,000 ha	SLB28 Roviana-Vonavona (45065)
Baniata, Rendova Island	5,000 ha	SLB27 Rendova (45064)
North Vangunu	5,000 ha	SLB12 Marovo Kavachi (45052)
Isabel Province		
Barora'fa, Barora Ite, Kia and Ghaghe	20,000 ha	SLB21 North-west Isabel (45049)
Mount Sasare	5,000 ha	SLB 16 Mount Sasare Catchments (45055)
Total:	**40,000 ha**	

Note: *the precise limits and areas of the sites will be confirmed through the community-led participatory planning processes that will be supported by the project*

Western Province:

9. The specific target locations of the project in Western Province, and the KBAs with which they are associated are shown in Figure 13.

Figure 3. Project target localities and KBAs in Western Province



1) Vonavona

KBA: SLB28 Roviana-Vonavona

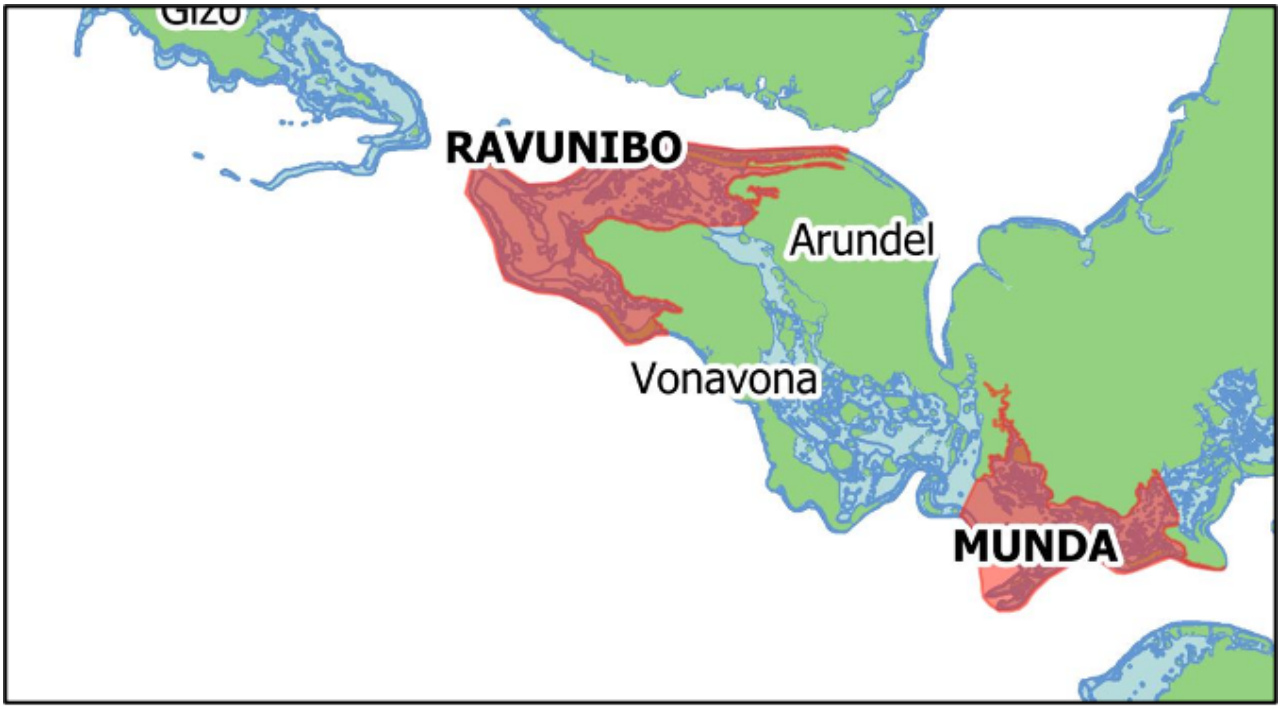
10. Vonavona Island, in the New Georgia group, forms part of the Roviana-Vonavona KBA, and borders the Kolambangara Marine KBA. The lagoon that encompasses the northern ends of Vonavona and of the neighbouring island of Kohinggo is covered by Ravukinibo Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA), which includes the localities of Rarumana, Vurana, Kololeana, Niumala and Boboe; this LMMA is currently being supported by WCS.

11. One of the largest settlements on Vonavona is Rarumana. In a consultation workshop that was held in Rarumana during the project formulation process, participants described the main threats that faced area's environment and biodiversity as logging, both on Vonavona and nearby Kohinggo, and poaching, especially by Gilbertese settlers based in the larger nearby towns of Noro and Gizo (both of these towns are located on other islands, but have easy access to the area). They also reported that Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) deployed for the community had been destroyed by outsiders. Rangers do not currently patrol the area because they lack a canoe and outboard motor.

12. The area has a Resource Management Committee (RMC), with six members. Permanent closed areas have been declared, as well as areas closed for 5 years and open for up to 2 months, which according to workshop participants are working well. The community has also formulated other rules for the area, which they consider not to be working effectively.

13. Livelihood options proposed by the community include seaweed farming, the deployment of FADs to encourage offshore fishing, the development of agricultural commodities such as cocoa, coconut, kava and chilli, and reef fish marketing. Community members consider seaweed farming to be a good income generating activity as it has a quick turn-over rate from planting to harvesting and currently has a reasonably good price; they consider that investing in this activity would support income generation and reduce reliance on the harvesting of marine resources (fishing). A similar logic applies to agricultural options that the project might support, including cocoa and chilli production.

Figure 4. Approximate location of project target area centred on Vonavona island, with Ravunibo LM



- This locality coincides wholly or partially with the following protected listed on the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA):

- Barasipo MPA (ID 555544146), area 3.53km2.
- Buni MPA (ID 555544157), area 1.43km2.
- Barivuto MPA (ID 306289), area 1.62km2.
- Grant Island, Patuparoana MPA (ID 555547890), area 14.84km2.

2) **Baniata**

KBA: SLB27 Rendova

14. Baniata is the main settlement on Rendova Island, located on its south-western coast. The centre of the island comprises the Rendova KBA, characterized by IUCN Red List species including the White-eyed Starling (*Aplonis brunneicapillus*) and Sanford's Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus sanfordi*). The black-sand beaches along the southwest coast of Rendova are important nesting grounds for the critically endangered leatherback turtle.

15. To the east of Rendova is Tetepare Island: this is the largest uninhabited island in the Pacific, and a KBA (SLB31). The project will not work directly on Tetepare to avoid duplication with the GEF SAFE project, but working on Rendova gives the opportunity to generate benefits for Tetepare indirectly: the population of Rendova includes many members of the former population of Tetepare, who retain their landownership and decision-making rights there; and in consultations during the project formulation phase, Tetepare descendants now living Rendova reported that increasing levels of fishing and harvesting by other Rendova residents were placing pressure on Tetepare.

16. WCS has been supporting marine turtle conservation on Rendova Island, focusing on the protection of hawksbill turtle nesting beaches in partnership with the Tetepare Descendants' Association and local communities. WCS has been working and consulting extensively with local people in Batiana and surrounding areas on the planning of conservation activities.

17. The original land-owning tribe of Baniata was Iruregо. However, with migration related to marriage, headhunting and religious practices, eight different tribes – constituting approximately 900 villagers – live amongst one another. Baniata has a diverse mosaic landscape made up of seven primary methods of land use. These include village settlements; mountain ranges; the sea, rivers and streams; food gardens; agroforestry (***ngali*** nut trees, (*Canarium indicum* L.)); and coconut plantations (see Figure 11). Home gardens produce roots, tubers, bananas, vegetables and fruits. Crop rotations and intercropping techniques are often practised. ***Ngali*** nut trees (*Canarium indicum*) are reported to be a significant source of both nutrition and income. Since domestication, they are planted with companion crops such as ***karuvera*** (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*, Chinese taro), yams, bean and shade-tolerant cassava. In total, 19 different crops are intercropped with ***ngali*** nut agroforestry. The nuts are also a

primary source of food for ***ghausu*** (doves), which are raised as a food source for the villagers. Coconut is planted along the shoreline of the village and used for agri-food sales, as well as consumption in forms of coconut milk and water[1][66].

3) North Vangunu

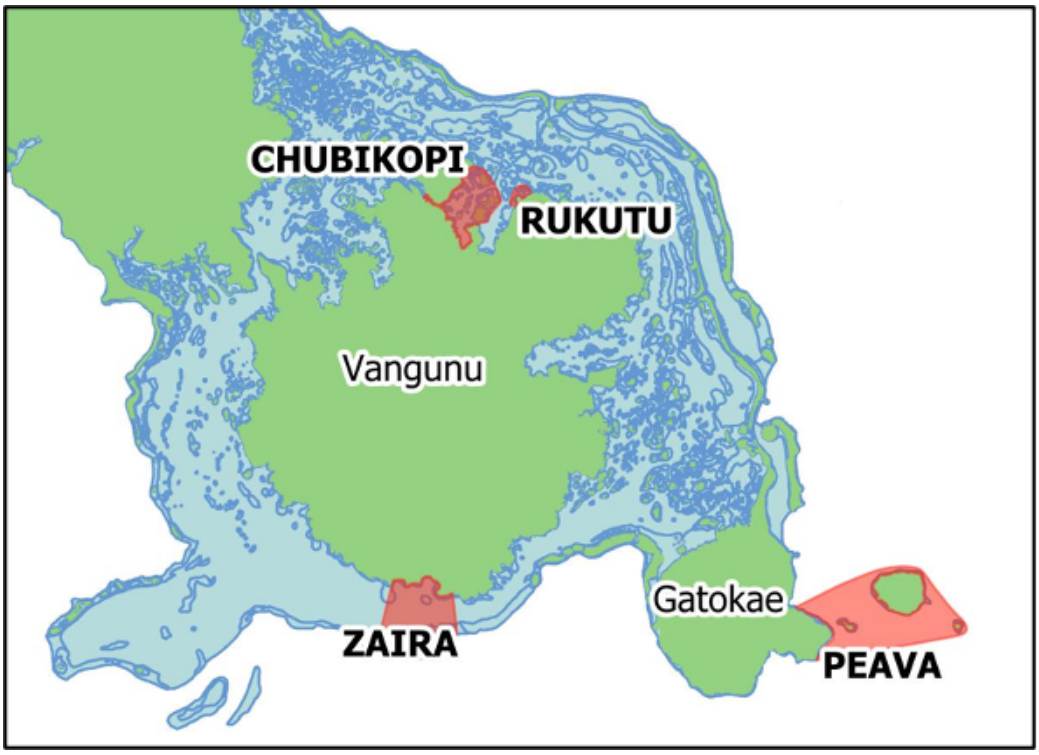
KBA: SLB12 Marovo Kavachi

18. During the PPG phase, consultations were held with community members at Zaira in the south of Vangunu island, but in order to avoid overlap with the operations of the GEFTF-funded SAFE project, it was decided in consultation with MECDM and WCS to focus instead on North Vangunu, within the same KBA.

19. In North Vangunu, with support from the Bloomberg Foundation WCS has been working extensively with local communities on LMMA governance (the Chubikopi LMMA), as well as ongoing community monitoring and the development of legally recognized management plans under the Fisheries Management Act. This pioneering process, in collaboration with MFMR, will set a national precedent for LMMA gazettement and formal recognition. This funding will end in December 2026, but in its role as OP of the GBFF project in Western Province WCS, will be able to build on this work, scaling up the legal recognition and gazettement of the community-led LMMA, strengthening inter-LMMA coordination and monitoring systems, providing institutional support for local management committees and enhancing community resilience and biodiversity conservation through integrated marine and watershed management.

20. The project will cover the whole of the gulf in the north of Vangunu island (covering both Chubikopi and Rukutu LMMAs, see Figure 15), the islands in the gulf, and the mainland watersheds surrounding the gulf (Figure 16).

Figure 5. LMMAs in Vangunu and Gatokae islands, Western Province, with approximate location of project target areas



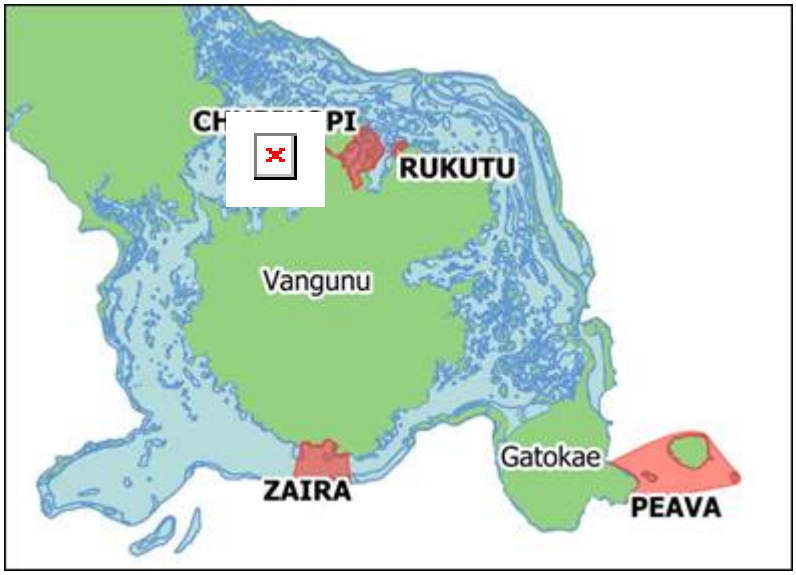
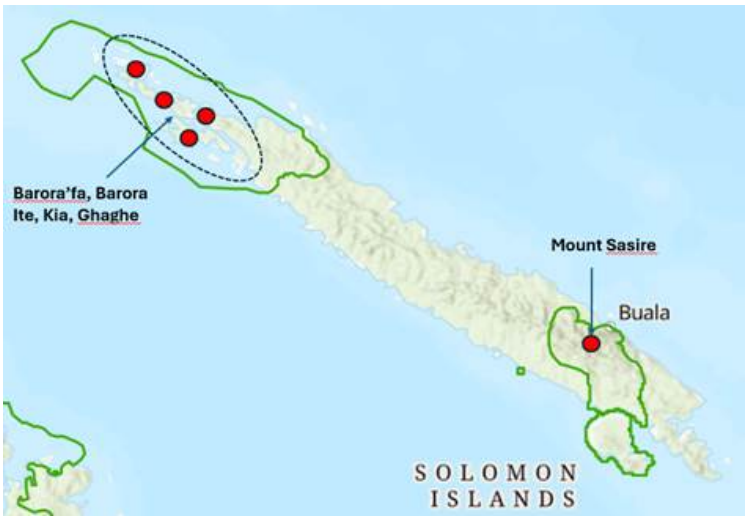


Figure 6. Approximate area of project operation in the north of Vangunu

Isabel Province:

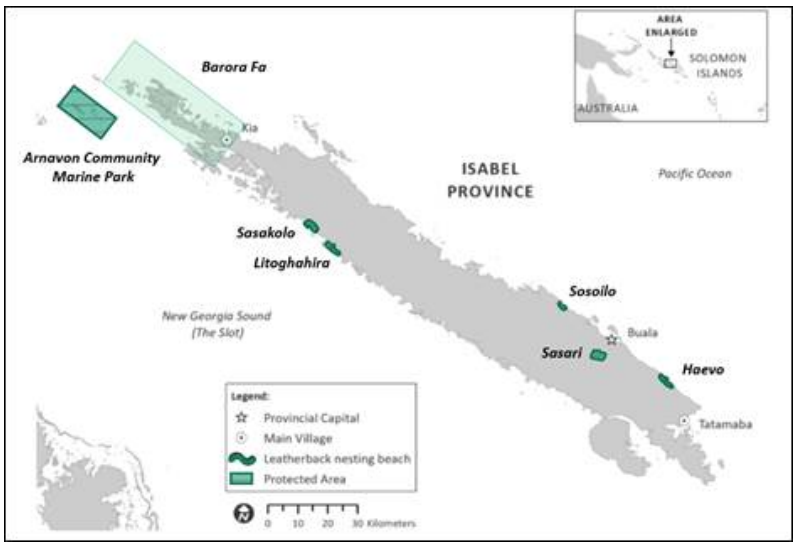
21. The specific target locations of the project in Isabel Province, and the KBAs with which they are associated, are shown in Figure 17.

Figure 7. Project target localities and KBAs in Isabel Province



22. These proposed localities coincide with the priorities identified through the participatory ridge-to-reef planning exercises supported by TNC in Isabel in 2012 (see

Figure 8. Proposed protected areas in Isabel province (source: TNC).

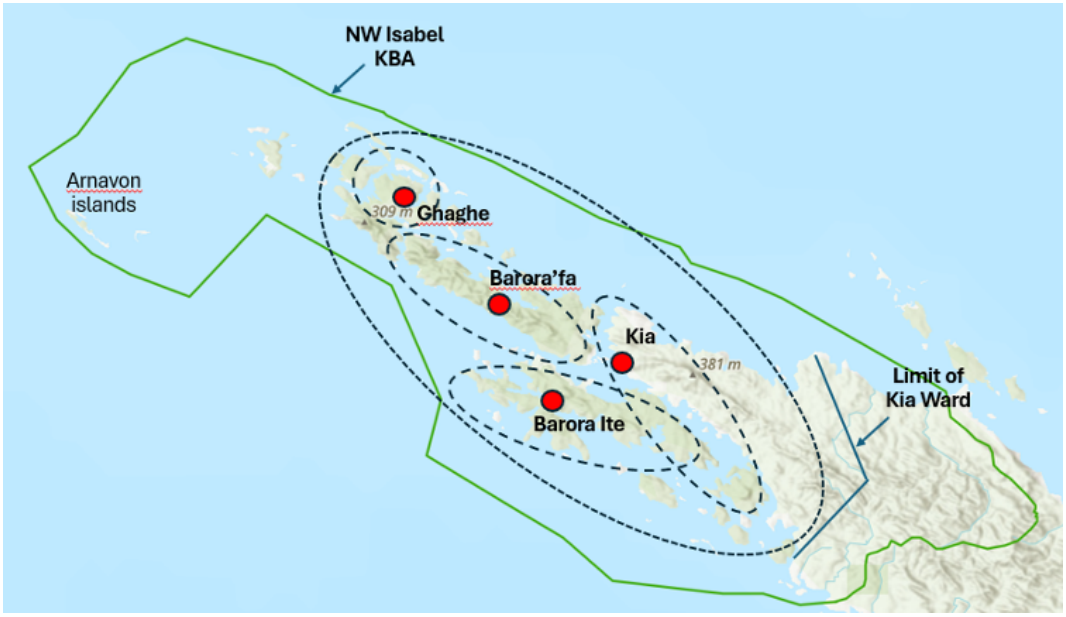


4) Barora'fa, Barora Ite, Kia and Ghaghe

KBA: SLB21 North-west Isabel.

23. In northwest Isabel, the target location of the project will encompass an entire land/seascape that comprises a number of islands and prospective community-led conservation areas: this area approximately coincides with Kia Ward, which covers around 495 km^2. This area coincides with WDPA location ID 555547898, Kia MPA, area 450.0km2.

Figure 9. Target landscape in NW Isabel



24. ***Ritamala, Tupikolo, Gagaha and Legaha*** communities are located on Gaghe island towards the northern end of Isabel Province: many of their members are related to the land-owning tribes and people of Kia, and together with Kia have ownership of lands on Barora Fa'a Island. The communities have experience of conservation through the Arnavon Community Marine Park (ACMP), which is located around the Arnavon islands in the west of the KBA and was officially established in August 1995, making it the longest-standing community based Marine Park in Solomon Islands. Community members reported that other community-based resource management areas have been established in the past, but have largely failed due to poaching (mainly by relatives and family members) and lack of enforcement.

25. Barora Fa is in one of the largest remaining intact lowland forests in Solomon Islands, which is currently at risk from logging; it contains 15% of all mangrove forests in the Solomon Islands. TNC is working with the NGO Nakau to develop a carbon project in Barora Fa Forest: the total project area is 12,833 ha, with 8,337 ha as the crediting project area. In February of 2025, TNC submitted a feasibility study which concluded that Barora Fa is viable for carbon stock trading: it is estimated

that around 2,000 people will benefit from carbon revenue, and TNC is currently reaching out to MECDM/MoFR for a government support letter and endorsement to progress into the Project Design and Development phase. TNC is starting a Protected Area consultancy with the Barora Fa tribe to develop a strong Management Plan for submission, with the aim that the area will eventually be declared as a PA. while increasing revenue capacity overtime compared to logging.

26. Community members stressed the importance of strengthening existing governance structures to address issues like poaching and overexploitation of marine resources, supporting rangers to do their enforcement work, fast-tracking the process relating to PA establishment on Barora Faa, and carbon trading. All heads of tribes (Ritamala, Tubikolo, Gagaha and Legaha communities included), which have constituted a Barora Faa Carbon Trading Taskforce. While the majority of the tribal members opted for carbon project and conservation of the Barora Fa lowland forest, a handful of opposing members are attempting commercial logging interventions, which poses critical risk to the carbon project and the biodiversity.

27. The Carbon Trading Taskforce is facing challenges with administration, including the timely sharing of information with Taskforce members and other stakeholders, lack of funds for meetings and office needs (e.g. laptop, printer, paper and solar power system), and lack of transport (canoe, outboard motors and fuel) for taskforce members and rangers. Taskforce members suggested that one of ways to fast track the protection of Barora Faa and carry out carbon trading is through a Private MPs bill.

28. Community members said that the Government-facilitated land recording project did not work well in Kia community, and the Carbon Trading Taskforce did not agree with the process: one problem encountered was recording false information regarding land boundaries, name of places etc., and they considered that the process would not work for Barora Faa.

29. As in the other localities, community members suggested alternative livelihood activities including cocoa, kava, honey, poultry farming and seaweed farming, as well as the use of FADs to reduce pressure on coastal fisheries.

30. ***Kia*** is the largest community in Northern Isabel and one of the biggest in the Province. The inhabitants of Kia also have experience with PA establishment through the ACMP, being one of the three communities that own and manage the area.

31. Community members see this project as an opportunity to plan, establish, manage and monitor coral reefs and mangrove protected/conservation areas or tabu areas as referred to in neighbouring Babahaero; for Isabel Provincial Government to support resource owner's conservation/protected areas through a specific "OECM Ordinance"; and for support to forest and mangrove conservation through carbon trading. They also stress the importance of education, awareness-building and the engagement of young people as future leaders of the community, for example by linking the school to the ACMP, and suggested that the OECM project should support KAWAKI (the women's organization of the ACMP) in doing community conservation and resource management awareness.

32. Livelihood opportunities discussed include the farming of marine resources (seaweed and mud crab) and fish processing/marketing; agriculture related activities such as cocoa farming, kava farming, piggery and poultry; value adding of agricultural products (such as the production of chips and flour); and FAD fishing to take pressure away from coastal resources.

33. ***Babahaero*** community members also have experience in setting up community-based natural resource management areas in their customary owned areas in the past, referred to as "*tabu* areas", but again reported thay these largely failed due to poaching and a lack of enforcement. The community has a lot of experience with leatherback turtle conservation on Lithogahira and Sasakolo nesting beaches, with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

34. Community members view the GBFF project as a new opportunity to plan, establish, manage and monitor coral reefs and mangrove protected areas or *tabu* areas, and for Isabel Provincial Government to support the resource owners' tabu areas through a specific "OECM Ordinance". Babahaero *tabu* areas would benefit greatly with support from the project for rangers, fuel and the establishment of a Management Committee to which different tribes and families would report. The also saw the project as an opportunity for supporting alternative livelihood development, including seaweed farming, kava and cocoa production, mud crab farming, and fish processing and marketing. The community is interested in being part of the plan of the Provincial Government to plant 1 million trees: the landowners are willing to allow their land to be used for this programme, provided the Provincial Government pays them for each tree planted. To support livelihood development, the Babahaero community leaders and elders requested the National and Provincial Governments to undertake an Agricultural Survey in their area to identify what crops are best suited for their land/soil.

35. The project will also collaborate with (but not directly benefit) the owners of Papatura Island Resort: this resort is privately owned, but many of its workers are from nearby communities such as Baolo, Kolopakisa and Kia, with which the resort owners interact closely and regularly in activities including community-based conservation of marine resources (mainly coral reefs), seaweed farming and the establishment of a Surf Association, which has regular competitions some of the proceeds of which go toward community-based activities. Alternative livelihoods proposed to be undertaken with local communities and land-owning tribes include seaweed farming, agricultural crops such as kava and cocoa, piggery or poultry.

36. There are major opportunities for complementarity and exchange of knowledge and lessons learned between this GBFF project and other GEF projects, funded through the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF), as shown in Section B.

5) Mount Sasare outer buffer zone

KBA: SLB16 Mount Sasare Catchments

37. TNC is supporting communities and landowners of Mt Sasare Massif in southern Isabel to protect their forests, covering around 2,500 ha between 200 and 600 m above sea level. The proposed Sasare conservation area is part of the original Phosamogo tribe, which has an estimated population of 3,000; the majority of the landowning tribes are spread across the Kolomola, Gnulahage and Kubolota communities, across west Maringe district.

38. In 2018, a biological survey was conducted by the University of New Mexico and the national NGO Ecological Solutions, which laid the foundation for this conservation aspiration: three new species of sticky-toed frogs were recorded, as well as the Isabel Giant Rat, which had been considered extinct for 30 years. In 2023, TNC supported a Flora and Fauna Survey, which further cemented the tribe's interest in resource management.

39. In 2024, the first consultation meeting for Protected Area was conducted. TNC supported the Sasari Tribe to create a functional Management Committee for the Protected Area; the Sasari Thogha Tribe opted to apply for a Resource Management Area, under the Protected Area Act, and the Management Committee developed a draft Management Plan and associated budget plan with the support of TNC, Nakau, Live and Lean, IPG and MECDM. TNC and the Management Committee opted to submit the final Management Plan and apply for legal protected of the area in 2025/26. The carbon element of the initiative is facilitated by both Nakau and Live & Learn. The Sasari tribe plans to develop livelihood programs such as savings clubs and other small income generating projects linked to the protected area, to ease pressure on biodiversity.

40. The landscape between Mt Sasare and the coast includes a plateau that has recently been assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as having high agricultural potential. There is a clear opportunity for the project to complement the ongoing work on TNC on Mt Sasare itself by supporting communities located between the lower forest edge and the coast, including Mt Sasare landowners and others, to manage this landscape sustainably to reduce the risk of agricultural encroachment and to enhance the biodiversity values in the agroecosystem. This will include support to agricultural activities, but to avoid the risk of an unintentional "rebound" effect whereby this stimulates further increases in the area under agriculture, the focus will be on sustainable intensification, accompanied by the strengthening of awareness and of governance frameworks. The risk of agricultural encroachment undermining the potential for Mt Sasare landowners to receive income from voluntary carbon payments will be highlighted as a motivation for them to manage the landscape sustainably, and to influence neighbouring communities so that they do the same. Given the proximity of Mt Sasare to the provincial capital of Buala, there is also potential for the project to support sustainable eco-tourism, including hiking, birdwatching and community-managed eco-lodges.

Figure 10. Mount Sasare Catchments KBA on Isabel, with approximate location of agricultural landscape for buffer zone approach

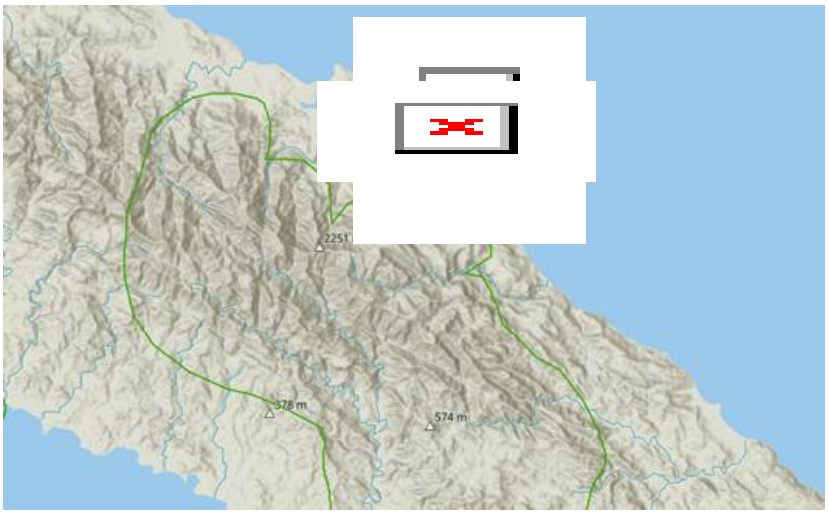


Figure 11. Mount Sasare Massif with agricultural landscape/outer buffer zone in foreground (source: Google Maps)

Complementarity with other GEF projects

41. Project design takes into account the thematic and geographic scope of other GEF projects in Solomon Islands, summarized in Table 5.

Table 7. Complementarity with other GEF projects

GBFF Outputs	EREPA (2021-2025)	IFMP (2016-2025)	SAFE (2022-2028)
Isabel, **Western**	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu	Malaita, Makira, **Western**, Choiseul, Guadalcanal.	**Western**, Choiseul, **Isabel**, Malaita, Temotu
Objective: To empower local communities for collaborative and adaptive sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity in selected KBAs in the Solomon Islands	**Objective: Effective ecosystem management** for healthy, complementary **networks of protected, productive and restored landscapes** in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu	**Objective:** Enhance the **PA network** and enhance the **management effectiveness of existing PAs …** through community participated livelihood enhancement enterprises	**Objective:** Indigenous species and ecosystems at reduced risk from invasive alien species, land degradation and unsustainable resource use as a result of effective government enabling and capacity, community participation and resilient blue/green livelihoods.
Component 1: Enabling environment for collaborative and adaptive biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province.			
Outcome 1.1 Policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and capacities adaptively supporting biodiversity conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas.			
1.1.1. Relevant policy and regulatory frameworks at national and provincial levels are revised and aligned with the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas	- Output 1.3 **Provincial Ordinances** developed or updated in the four targeted provinces to establish **a supportive framework for protected and conserved areas** and sustainable natural resource management.	- 1.2.1 Effective inter-sectoral **coordination** for PA management - 2.1.2 **Policy**, legal and regulatory frameworks for land-use change reviewed and revised as necessary - 2.1.3 Mechanism for **policy** coordination between sectors	- 1.1 **Cross-sectoral Committee** to mainstream biodiversity across sectors, - 1.2 I**mproved land use policy, regulations, multi-sector coordination** and adoption of climate smart agriculture.
			- 3.2 **National species conservation action plans** for globally significant and indigenous BD.
1.1.2 National and provincial institutions with capacities to support the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas			- 1.3 **Government stakeholders at national and provincial levels capacitated** to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS and SLM

GBFF Outputs	EREPA (2021-2025)	IFMP (2016-2025)	SAFE (2022-2028)
Isabel, **Western**	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu	Malaita, Makira, **Western**, Choiseul, Guadalcanal.	**Western**, Choiseul, **Isabel**, Malaita, Temotu
Outcome 1.2 Financing is available to support community-based conservation promoting financial inclusion			
1.2.1. Sustainable financing plans in support of community-led conservation areas 1.2.2 Capacity development programmes to MECDM, Provincial Governments and financial institutions for administering sustainable and gender-responsive financial instruments	- 2.3 A standardized **monitoring and evaluation system** - 2.5 **Business/operational plans** and **funding opportunities** for the implementation of PA management plans.	- 1.3 Sustainability of PA management improved through sustainable financing and **local income generating activities.** - 1.3.1 National Level PA **financing strategy**: PA Trust fund established - 1.3.2 Sustainable **income generating activities** in each PA - 3.1.1 carbon **MRV systems** for forests - 5.1 Increased local capacity to monitor, evaluate and manage biodiversity, land-use change and SFM	
Component 2: Collaborative land/seascape planning in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for sustainable management and biodiversity conservation			
Outcome 2.1 Land/seascapes in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province are subject to effective collaborative planning that optimizes biodiversity and social outcomes and sustainability			
2.1.1. Comprehensive and gender-responsive strategies and action plans at provincial levels in support of conservation based on community-led conservation areas			
2.1.2. Province-level spatial plans developed/updated to optimize integrated biodiversity and social outcomes	- 1.1 **Provincial level land-use forums** for decision making on land use and resolution of conflicts between natural resource protection and economic development.		
2.1.3. Decision-support systems at national and provincial levels to support gender-responsive strategic and spatial planning to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social benefits to all community members, including women.	- 1.2 **Land and ecosystem characterisation studies** (land tenure, land-use, elevation, geology, hydrography) as well as biodiversity, vegetation and ecosystem health assessments completed to identify priority sites for proposed PAs.	- 2.1.1 **Assessment of impacts** of current land-use practices on biodiversity, land degradation and the provision of other ecosystem services and identification of potential areas for improvement. - 5.1.1 **baseline** surveys of local flora and fauna, invasive species threats, genetic conservation, etc.	
2.1.4. Provincial capacity development programmes for Provincial Governments, Community-Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and traditional governance bodies on multi-stakeholder			- 1.3 **Government stakeholders at national and provincial levels capacitated** to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS and SLM

GBFF Outputs	EREPA (2021-2025)	IFMP (2016-2025)	SAFE (2022-2028)
Isabel, **Western**	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu	Malaita, Makira, **Western**, Choiseul, Guadalcanal.	**Western**, Choiseul, **Isabel**, Malaita, Temotu
collaborative gender-responsive decision-making, planning and action			
Outcome 2.2. Individual community-led conservation areas are subject to effective planning, adaptive management and governance			
2.2.1. Individual community-led conservation areas agreed, demarcated and registered.	- 2.4 **Declarations** of PAs across four provinces including **PA management plans**, through supporting communities in the PA Act process.	- 1.1 **Terrestrial PA network expanded** - Output 1.1.1: Five new terrestrial PA sites confirmed with local landowners as new PAs	
2.2.2. Frameworks and mechanisms established and implemented for the collaborative adaptive management and governance of individual community-led conservation areas.	- 3.1 Community-based and endorsed **land-use management plans at the landscape level** including delineating PAs, sustainable agricultural areas, agroforestry areas, settlement areas, and forest areas, and identifying improved livelihood activities.	- 1.2.2 Weaknesses in PA **management** identified and rectified through conservation agreements with communities and management plans Improved **METT** scores in selected PAs	- 3.1 **Integrated land/seascape management plans** with strong community governance, using traditional and other knowledge to reduce threats from IAS, land degradation and unsustainable resource use.
Component 3: Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation			
Outcome 3.1: Local people (IPLCs) are applying sustainable management and livelihood support options that are compatible with biodiversity conservation in community-led conservation areas			
3.1.1. Sustainable management and livelihood support options that contribute to biodiversity conservation and promotion of gender equality identified and supported	- 3.2 **Improved and diversified livelihoods** based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented within and outside PAs.	- 2.2.1 Sustainable **land and forest management** techniques applied in PA buffer zone - 2.2.2 **Training Programme on SLM**	- 3.3 **Smallholder farmers supported** to implement innovative agricultural practices - 3.4 Diversified resilient **livelihoods options** to support ecosystem services provision, species and habitat recovery and the emergence of new blue/green business opportunities
3.1.2. Mechanisms established to provide technical and financial support to local community members and enterprises for sustainable management and livelihood options			
Component 4: Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up community-led approaches to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation			
Outcome 4.1: Information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management supports gender-responsive decision-making, planning and scaling			
4.1.1. Systems/networks for compilation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned on community-led conservation areas and good practices that promote gender equality, with the participation and consent of local communities	- 2.1 A national **PA Network** including all PA sites and PA actors. - 2.2 A standardized **data repository platform** established, information compiled on natural systems and assets, information and its metadata integrated into existing data platforms.	- 5.3 Policymakers and the general public better **informed** about biodiversity conservation, climate change, SLM and SFM. - 5.3.1 Training, **awareness and educational** materials produced and disseminated	- Output 1.4 Strengthened **Information management** for biodiversity, IAS and LDN linked to existing integrated data portal, along with enhanced decision support

GBFF Outputs	EREPA (2021-2025)	IFMP (2016-2025)	SAFE (2022-2028)
Isabel, **Western**	Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu	Malaita, Makira, **Western**, Choiseul, Guadalcanal.	**Western**, Choiseul, **Isabel**, Malaita, Temotu
4.1.2. Decision support tools developed and applied to assess and present to policy makers and planners the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas, including on gender equality.			

Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs

Component 1. Enabling environment for collaborative and adaptive biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province

42. COMPONENT 1 of the project is focused on setting an enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management through collaborative and adaptive land/seascape spatial planning and management at the provincial level, focusing on KBAs. It will be achieved by alignment of provincial entities, including traditional leaders and decision makers, and government institutions, such as ECD of MECDM, and Forest Resource Management & Technical Service Division of Ministry of Forestry & Research. It will also support capacity building and intersectoral coordination of the institutions at provincial level focusing on KBAs; alignment and revision of selected key national policies (NBSAP, NDC, and NDS) to involve IPLCs (including women) for biodiversity conservation and management; and assessment and revision of national policies to promote equitable and gender-sensitive benefit sharing will be also the output of this component.

Outcome 1.1 Policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and capacities adaptively supporting biodiversity conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas[2][67].

Output 1.1.1. Relevant policy and regulatory frameworks at national and provincial levels are revised and aligned with the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas

43. Project resources will be used to provide facilitation and advisory support to MECDM and other sector ministries on the collaborative review of policy and regulatory frameworks of potential relevance to the project model, in particular the promotion of inclusive and gender-responsive community-led conservation to deliver biodiversity benefits, within frameworks of integrated landscape management.

44. This includes, for example, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which is currently being updated; the National Development Strategy (2016-2035); the Protected Areas, Fisheries and Forestry Acts and their respective Regulations; the National Fisheries Policy (2019–2029); the National Forest Policy[3][68]; and the national Community Based Coastal and Marine Resource Management Strategy. This will build on the work of the GEF IFM project, which is supporting the Government on the development of a national policy and/or plan for land use, and the EREPA project, which is developing a national Protected Area Network (PAN). This support will be integrated into the ongoing procedures for policy review in the country: these occur either as part of a regular cycle or in response to specific needs identified by government ministries or agencies, and allow for assessment of the effectiveness of existing policies, identification of areas for improvement, and alignment with national development goals and international obligations. Policies can be reviewed.

45. The GBFF project will also give continuity to the work of the IFM project in support of the regulation and operationalization of the Protected Areas Trust Fund (see Output 1.2.1), focusing in particular on options for it to support diverse modalities of conservation ranging from formally declared areas through to areas where communities prefer to rely on traditional governance rather than declaration; it will also collaborate in the processes of supporting policy development and establishing a technical working group for Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) mechanisms, which is supported by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) with funding from New Zealand and Australian Governments.

46. Project support will help ensure that in the medium/long term (post-project), these frameworks are applied in an adaptive manner in response to emerging conditions and issues, informed by ongoing monitoring of policy impacts led by MECDM.

47. The project will provide similar facilitation and advisory support to the collaborative review of policy and regulatory frameworks at provincial level, in the process strengthening the capacities of provincial governments for the monitoring of the impacts and effectiveness of policy and regulatory frameworks, and their corresponding adaptive application. As suggested by the Provincial Government (PG) of Western Province, the project will for example support the review and updating of the existing Environmental Policy of the PG; it will support the formulation of a Provincial-level Ordinances on customary area-based conservation (OECM ordinances) to give resource owners (including women) more control over the management of their resources; and it will support the review of other ordinances as needed, such as the Simbo Megapod Ordinance and the Simbo Organic Island Ordinance in Western Province. This work will learn from that of the EREPA project in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces, on the development or updating of Provincial Ordinances in partnership with communities (including women) to establish a supportive framework for protected and conserved areas and sustainable natural resource management.

48. The project will also provide advisory and facilitation support to the clarification of the categories available for defining and formalizing community-led conservation initiatives, with the aim that these confer increased enforcement support and access to finance, provide for adequate consultation and safeguards, and minimize complexity as far as possible: these will include categories already provided for in existing legislation including the PA Act (see Table 1) and the Fisheries Act, as well as OECM models that rely on other instruments such as property law or customary rules. The project will also support central and provincial Government, as well as traditional authorities where relevant, in maintaining formal registers of the areas defined through any of these options.

49. Project actions in support of this output will take advantage of, complement and build on the activities of the UNDP/GEF SAFE project, including support to the establishment and functioning of a cross-sectoral committee to mainstream biodiversity across sectors, improvement to land use policy, regulations, multi-sector coordination and adoption of climate smart agriculture, and the development of national species conservation action plans for globally significant and indigenous BD (SAFE Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 3.2). SAFE is specifically focused on addressing threats from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) but there is much potential for synergies and co-benefits between the two projects.

Output 1.1.2 National and provincial institutions with capacities to support the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas

50. The project will invest in capacity development support to institutions at national and provincial level with mandates of relevance to the project model of biodiversity conservation based on inclusive community-led conservation areas. This will include the development of capacities in MECDM and other sector ministries and provincial governments for the effective long-term adaptive application of relevant policy and regulatory frameworks in response to lessons learned and emerging conditions, including the application of tools for policy and regulatory impact analysis; it will also develop the capacities of provincial governments for coordinating the formulation, updating and adaptive implementation of land/seascape management plans and biodiversity conservation plans and strategies, which will be among their support functions in the long term. This will also complement the support provided by the SAFE project in capacitating Government stakeholders at national level to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS and SLM (SAFE Output 1.3).

51. It will also provide facilitation, advisory and capacity development support to MECDM and other sector ministries to promote effective intersectoral collaboration, in order to address the current inconsistencies and conflicts between their respective actions, such as the granting of logging and mining concessions by the Ministries of Forestry and of Mining in environmentally sensitive areas. This will be achieved through the establishment and facilitation of coordination platforms (regular and/or *ad hoc*); the definition of improved processes for taking decisions on the issuance of concessions and permits, requiring environmental considerations to be taken into account; and the enhancement of information flows and analyses to support these determinations, such as natural capital accounting and targeted scenario analysis. The capacities of provincial governments to oversee such decision-making will be strengthened, within the framework of provincial spatial planning instruments.

52. The work of project under Outcome 2.2, in supporting the identification, design, declaration and registration of community-led conservation areas, will be backed up by the strengthening of the capacities of MECDM and provincial Governments to continue these tasks in the long term, including capacities for providing advice and information to communities (on issues such as inclusive collaborative decision-making and conflict management), and for monitoring the effectiveness of the provincial portfolios of community-led conservation areas in contributing the provincial and national conservation goals.

53. Capacity development for each of the targeted institutions will respond to the results of detailed gender-disaggregated capacity development needs analyses (CDNAs) of each, to be carried out in the first year of the project. Subject to the recommendations emerging from the CDNAs, approaches to capacity development will include:

- Specific “classroom style” training sessions, where possible on a collective basis to allow group discussion and cost-effectiveness

- On the job training, with technical specialists of the project and/or service providers working with personnel of the target institutions as they carry out their functions, to advise them and facilitate their personal experiential learning processes

- Joint design and production of manuals for the staff of the target institutions, for reference when carrying out their functions

- Design and establishment of lasting systems and procedures in the target institutions, in collaboration between their personnel and technical specialists or service providers of the project.

Outcome 1.2 Financing is available to support community-based conservation promoting financial inclusion

54. Support to sustainable financing will complement and build on the work of the GEF EREPA and IFM projects, including the development of business/operational plans and funding opportunities for the implementation of PA management plans (EREPA Output 2.5), the formulation of a National Level PA financing strategy, the establishment of a PA Trust fund, the promotion of sustainable income generating activities in PAs, and the development of carbon MRV systems for forests (IFM project outputs 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 3.1.1)

Output 1.2.1. Sustainable financing plan(s) in support of community-led conservation areas

55. Community-led conservation incurs a number of different kinds of costs, which need to be covered sustainably if the conservation itself is to be sustainable. These include the investment and recurring costs of monitoring and enforcement (boats, outboard motors, fuel, rations and allowances), planning and management activities (e.g. office equipment and consumables, transport to meetings and food/allowances for meetings), on-the-ground conservation activities (such as ecosystem restoration), infrastructure for community-led conservation areas (e.g. signage and visitor facilities), and undertaking productive and management options that deliver inclusive and gender-responsive conservation/livelihood synergies (e.g. equipment, agricultural materials and planting stock, and facilities for processing and value adding).

56. The project will support the formulation of plans at national, provincial levels and site-specific levels for the sustainable financing of community-led conservation areas. These plans will include:

- Assessments of the current financial status of the national PA/OECM estate in terms of the magnitude, nature and sustainability of sources of income

- Assessments of the types and scale of finance needed to effect change and generate impact in terms of conservation outcomes

- Estimations of current and future overall needs for finance to ensure effective, inclusive and sustainable conservation, taking into account assessments of projections of the growth of the estate, in terms of number and area of PA/OECMs and corresponding stakeholder numbers

- Definition of a menu of financing options to meet different kinds of financial needs in different circumstances, taking into account the needs of diverse stakeholders including women-

Definition of functions, strategies and actions required on the part of different institutional actors, to progress towards financial sustainability.

57. The identification of financing options will build on the baseline initiatives described in Section B; the options to be considered will include the following:

1) The Protected Areas Trust Fund (PATF)

58. The establishment of the PATF is provided for in the 2010 PA Act. Its regulations are currently (mid-2025) being drafted with support from the GEF-7 IFM project, and are awaiting legal opinion from the Solicitor General. It is foreseen that the PATF will potentially be able to support both areas that have been formally declared under the PA Act and those that are still in process towards declaration (*de facto* OECMs). The project will give continuity under Output 1.1.1 to the ongoing work in formulating and officializing the regulations for the PATF; it will also seek to support the roll-out of the PATF in its target communities. In this process the project will consider other mechanisms and experiences throughout the region and globally such as the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

59. The project will also carry out studies and consultations to assess the potential applicability in its target locations of site-specific trust fund mechanisms similar to that established in 2010 by TNC in the Arnavon Community Marine Park. A key consideration, which is likely to limit the replication of this model, is the magnitude of the initial seed capital that is required to generate sufficient recurring income from interest to cover PA/OECM needs.

2) Carbon finance

60. A number of Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) initiatives are being supported in the Solomon Islands (for example by the NGO Nakau, as described in Section B). To qualify for VCM schemes, areas have to be declared as PAs under the PA Act so that they have the required security to ensure long term delivery of carbon benefits (all of the existing terrestrial PAs in the country are linked to VCM initiatives); "OECMs" (areas not formally designated as PAs) are therefore excluded.

61. In the cases of target communities that aspire to being declared under the PA Act (Zaira-Oloana and Tetepare in Western Province and Ritamala, Tupikolo, Gagaha and Legaha for the Barora Fa Island in Isabel), the project will provide support so that they can participate in VCM schemes once they are eventually declared: this will involve initial planning, and (if declaration occurs during the life of the project) grant funding of the work that is required prior to VCM certification, including threats/additionality analyses, biodiversity and social baseline studies, monitoring mechanisms, negotiations, and the identification of NGO partners to support the communities on the ground[4][69]. In parallel, the project will analyse alternative options, such as the PATF, for covering these one-off up-front costs of pre-certification work in other community-led conservation areas that may be declared in the future.

3) Local income generation options

62. The project will assess and, where judged viable, support collective community-based income generation initiatives that are able to generate income for participating community members, including women, as well as surpluses that can be used both for reinvestment in the initiatives themselves, and to fund community conservation activities such as signage, monitoring and enforcement: these may include, for example, nature-based tourism and diving (see Component 3). The project will provide grant funding for some of the up-front investment costs that these may require, as well as identifying alternative funding sources such as the PATF, the private finance sector (national banks and savings and loan cooperatives, including through mobile-based e-finance) and inclusive village-level savings mechanisms (see below).

63. The project will also support production and resource management options to be implemented at individual (family) level under Component 3: if adequately selected and managed (with project support), these have the potential to be financially sustainable in their own right, and in some cases to generate surpluses that can be reinvested in further inputs, equipment, infrastructure and farm restoration, but it is unlikely that individual families will invest their income from these in community-level conservation initiatives.

4) Formal finance sector

64. The formal finance sector in Solomon Islands has limited coverage, mostly limited to Honiara and the more developed parts of other main islands[5][70]. The Government's National Financial Inclusion Strategy II aims to include women, youth and rural adults as fully engaged participants in the national financial sector, by promoting a national drive for rural savings, including financial literacy, savings clubs and mobile money, focused on women, youth and families. In accordance with this Strategy, Strongim Bisnis is working on expanding the agency banking network in rural areas through increased liquidity and financial management training, and mobile money products: the project will collaborate with Strongim Bisnis to link the target communities to these products. It will also analyse how to match the conditions of community-level beneficiaries, including women, with the eligibility criteria of loan options in the financial sector.

5) Village savings clubs

65. The National Financial Inclusion Strategy II also aims to build financial resilience in households and communities, by consolidating and expanding a national model of semi-formal savings clubs as a behavioural bridge from the pre-cash economy towards formal finance. In 2018 there were an estimated the 11,000 members of village-level savings clubs, 89% of whom were women. The project will build on the rural finance initiatives undertaken to date by a range of NGOs across the country, including World Vision, ACOM, WARA, ADRA and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). These savings clubs have particular potential in relation to small-scale productive ventures, especially those involving women, for example the production of alternative cash crops such as spices and non-timber forest products, as well as small-scale livestock ventures. Where possible, the project will work with these existing mechanisms in its target localities, as well as learning from and replicating their models where opportunities for direct collaboration do not exist.

6) Leverage of partner project finance

66. Under its Component 3, the AIM-N project will fund investments in resilient agri-food systems in Western Province. The GBFF project will collaborate with AIM-N to leverage financing to BD-friendly/positive options in the target localities.

Output 1.2.2. Capacity development programmes to MECDM, Provincial Governments and financial institutions for administering sustainable and gender responsive financial instruments

67. The project will provide advisory support to MECDM, Provincial Governments and financial institutions on the design of financial instruments and the definition of institutional roles for their application, and capacity development support for administering and overseeing their application in the long term. It will also provide capacity development support to local financial institutions for managing funds for inclusive BD-friendly/positive initiatives and channelling them to local stakeholders and community-led conservation areas. At local level, the project (working through the NGO partners TNC and WCS) will develop the capacities of village-level enterprises to access and manage finance during and beyond the life of the project.

Component 2. Collaborative land/seascape planning, management and governance in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management

68. Under COMPONENT 2, the project will support the development of instruments and capacities as frameworks for the landscape/seascape-wide dimensions of the proposed conservation model, together with associated inclusive mechanisms for landscape/seascape governance mechanisms: at provincial level under Outcome 2.1 and at the level of individual conservation areas/communities under Outcome 2.2.

Outcome 2.1. Land/seascapes in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province are subject to effective collaborative planning that optimizes biodiversity and social outcomes and sustainability

69. The project will build on the work of the GEF IFM project in Western, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul and Guadalcanal Provinces, which, as the basis for planning, has carried out baseline assessments of the impacts of current land-use practices on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as biodiversity surveys and the identification and assessment of threats to local ecosystems including invasive species. It will also learn from the work of the EREPA project in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces, which includes land and ecosystem characterisation studies (land tenure, land-use, elevation, geology, hydrography) as well as biodiversity, vegetation and ecosystem health assessments to identify priority sites for proposed protected areas, and the development of community-based and endorsed land-use management plans at the landscape level, including the delineation of PAs, sustainable agricultural areas, agroforestry areas, settlement areas, and forest areas, and the identification of improved inclusive livelihood activities.

70. The proposed planning processes to be supported by the project will be linked to rural land use planning (in accordance with the National Rural Land Use Policy) and multi-sector in nature, involving the Ministries of Lands, Agriculture and Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Mines (the only two formal spatial categories for land use planning that exist at present are logging concessions and mining titles).

71. Through facilitation and advisory support, the project will ensure the engagement of local entities (Councils of Chiefs, churches and civil society organizations) and community members, including women and young people, in these planning processes, and the strengthening of their capacities of to represent and express the needs, priorities and proposals of diverse local stakeholders. Learning from the experiences of TNC in Isabel Provinces, the inclusiveness of these processes will extend to all of those involved in the environmental issues to be addressed, including for example mining companies.

Output 2.1.1. Comprehensive and gender-responsive strategies and action plans at provincial levels in support of conservation based on community-led conservation areas

72. In Western and Isabel, the project will support multi-stakeholder provincial level processes for planning biodiversity conservation over the medium term (5-10 years), and aligning and integrating this with the social and economic development plans of the provincial Governments. These processes will be based on science and the best available information, guided and informed by the decision-support tools proposed under Output 2.1.3; and they will involve multiple stakeholders, including organizations representing the interests of women and young people supported by the collaborative decision-making and planning tools proposed under Output 2.1.4.

73. This will in addition complement and learn from the work under the EREPA project, in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces, in support of provincial level land-use forums for decision making on land use and resolution of conflicts between natural resource protection and economic development (EREPA Output 1.1).

Output 2.1.2. Province-level spatial plans developed/updated to optimize integrated biodiversity and social outcomes

74. The GBFF project will build on a strong baseline of spatial planning in the two targe provinces, as described in Section B, especially the work of The Nature Conservancy on Ridge to Reef planning (R2R) in Isabel which aimed to provide the basis for an Isabel Protected Area Network (IPAN); and that of WWF, CEPF and Ecological Solutions on a R2R plan for Gizo and

Kolombangara. It will also seek opportunities for coordination with the ongoing support by the Government of New Zealand and IUCN to Marine Spatial Planning.

75. The project will work through TNC to update and further progress the Isabel R2R plan, considering in particular how multiple conservation modalities (ranging from areas declared under the PA Act to OECMs relying on traditional governance mechanisms) can contribute to landscape-level conservation goals. This process will help to guide the management planning of these different modalities (under Outcome 2.2) so that they respond adequately to the biological, social and productive/extractive dynamics of the landscapes thay surround them, with a biogeography perspective. A similar approach will be applied in Western Province, but there spatial planning will start from a lower baseline: the original R2R plan only focused on Gizo and Kolombangara so the processes applied there will need to be extended (and adjusted as needed) to the rest of the province.

Output 2.1.3. Decision-support systems at national and provincial levels to support gender-responsive strategic and spatial planning to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social benefits to all community members, including women.

76. The strategic and spatial planning processes proposed above will be guided by decision-support systems that will provide them with reliable and objective information on biophysical and socioeconomic conditions, trends and projections, including those that relate to the status of women This information will include, for example:

- The presence, range, location, vulnerability and trends, and ecological characteristics of biodiversity elements of global conservation importance
- Current classes of, and trends in, vegetation cover and land use
- Soil types
- Population (broken down by gender and age), including projections
- Current and proposed protected areas and other forms of management categories, such as LMMAs
- Development, production and extraction initiatives, including logging permits and mining concessions.

77. This will incorporate lessons learned from the work of the EREPA and IFM projects in carrying out land and ecosystem characterisation studies (land tenure, land-use, elevation, geology, hydrography) as well as biodiversity, vegetation and ecosystem health assessments, assessments of the impacts of current land-use practices on biodiversity, land degradation and the provision of other ecosystem services and identification of potential areas for improvement (EREPA Outcome 1.2 and Output 2.1.1), and baseline surveys of local flora and fauna, invasive species threats, genetic conservation, etc. (IFM project Output 5.1.1).

Output 2.1.4. Provincial capacity development programmes for provincial governments, community-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations and traditional governance bodies on multi-stakeholder collaborative gender-responsive decision-making, planning and action

78. The GBFF project will replicate in Western and Isabel Provinces the model of provincial level land-use fora supported by the EREPA project in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu, with particular emphasis on the engagement of traditional governance bodies and systems, (with provisions for the representation and involvement of women and young people) the work of SAFE in capacitating Government stakeholders at provincial levels to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS and SLM (SAFE Output 1.3).

79. Capacity development will respond to the results of detailed capacity development needs analyses (CDNAs) of each participating entity, to be carried out in the first year of the project; the approaches to capacity development will mirror those proposed at national level, as presented under Output 1.1.2 above.

Outcome 2.2 Individual community-led conservation areas are subject to effective planning, adaptive management and governance

Output 2.2.1. Individual community-led conservation areas agreed, demarcated and registered.

80. The project will support the identification of candidate community-led conservation areas, with the aim that these will constitute elements of a landscape/province-wide portfolio of different conservation modalities, responding to biodiversity values, dynamics and threats at landscape as well as local levels. In practice, to date community-led conservation areas have largely been proposed on *ad hoc*, bottom-up basis on the initiative of the local communities themselves; the customary nature of most land tenure in the country, including the target provinces, would make it difficult for a prescriptive approach to be applied to the identification of candidate sites, but there is potential for support by central and provincial Government to be prioritized on the basis of these landscape-level factors, and the project will support this through the landscape level planning proposed under Output 2.1.2 and the decision-support mechanisms proposed under Output 2.1.3.

81. This prioritization process may start with the participatory and inclusive formulation and submission by local communities of Expressions of Interest (EOI) in establishing community-led conservation areas, using a template that requires applicants to consider in a structured way the values, objectives and management options of the proposed areas (communities interested in local conservation initiatives currently send letters of interest to MECDM, which maintains a database).

82. The project will also advise on appropriate categories for each proposed area (e.g. Resource Management Area under the PA Act, LMMA under the Fisheries Act, or non-declared OECM) on the basis of environmental values, threats, socioeconomic conditions, productive activities and community aspirations; it will then support the collaborative design of the areas (including their extent, internal zoning and management approaches for each zone), aimed at optimizing the combined and synergistic delivery of biodiversity benefits and gender-responsive livelihood and socio-cultural benefits for local communities.

83. Once candidate areas are identified and prioritized for support, the project will support community members, including women, in going through declaration and registration processes in accordance with the legislation that applies to each category (in accordance with the categories and systems to be supported under Output 1.1.1). Under Output 1.1.2, it will also provide capacity development support to MECDM and provincial Governments to allow them to assume effectively their roles in assessing, registering and supporting community-led conservation areas.

84. As proposed in the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier for Solomon Islands, the project will support the completion of gender responsive governance and equity assessments for its target sites, establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. Examples of existing tools and methodologies include: Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (Franks & Brooker, 2018), Social Assessment of Protected Areas (Franks et al 2018), and Site-level assessment of governance and equity (IIED, 2020). As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

85. This will complement and build on the work of the EREPA project, which aims to achieve the declaration of at least 50,000ha of protected areas across Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces, including the development of PA management plans through supporting consenting communities in the PA Act process; and of the GEF IFM project, which aims to expand the terrestrial protected area network in Western, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul and Guadalcanal provinces by an additional 143,000ha, covering key biodiversity hotspots.

Output 2.2.2. Frameworks and mechanisms established and implemented for the inclusive, collaborative and adaptive management and governance of individual community-led conservation areas.

86. The project will capitalize on and strengthen existing governance models in the targeted communities, the structures of which vary between localities. In the Munda and Rarumana sites in Western Province, for example, the current governance structure in regards to efforts to conserve marine resources involves Chiefs overseeing Resource Management Committees (RMCs), who in turn oversee the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs); in Tetepare, the structure involves the the Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA) Board overseeing operations staff (manager, finance, rangers); and in Zaira community the Head Chief and tribal chiefs oversee the RMC.

87. At provincial level, through the Environmental office, links will be strengthened between the community leadership and provincial Governments. This will allow for greater involvement of the province with the communities and vice versa, and greater cooperation in supporting the conservation efforts. For example, communities can suggest bylaws to become ordinances. These links will be supported by project staff, and an association of members established as a "council/committee of leaders" chosen from each of the communities involved in this project (each for Western and Isabel): this could meet periodically (potentially twice a year) with the provincial coordinator and the NGO to report progress of activities or propose new plans/ideas.

88. The project will support collaborative decision-making on natural resource management and conservation, and the avoidance, management or resolution of conflicts, at landscape level. It will:

- Provide advisory support to MECDM, the Ministry of Provincial Government, the Ministry of Rural Development and/or the Ministry of Traditional Governance in developing national guidelines on inclusive collaborative decision-making and conflict management in relation to natural resource management and conservation, strengthening their capacities to provide guidance and oversight on these issues in the long term.

- Support the review of regulations and processes for environmental decision-making, including the establishment and facilitation of an inter-ministry platform for harmonized environmental decision-making (including MECDM, the Ministries of Forestry, Fisheries and Mines, and Provincial Governments) on issues such as the consideration of environmental and biodiversity issues in the issuance of development permits and concessions for logging and mining.

- Strengthen the capacities of PGs for overseeing and facilitating inclusive collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes in the long term, including their technical capacities for managing and supplying reliable information in support of these processes.

89. At local level, working through NGO partners, the project will:

- Strengthen the capacities of Councils of Chiefs, (including organizations representing the interests of women and young people) churches and CSOs for participating in landscape-level collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes, through training and "handholding", to prepare them for their long-term roles as co-facilitators of these processes in the future, taking into account the specific context of each community.

- Strengthen the capacities of community organizations for participating in landscape/seascape-level inclusive collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes, through training and handholding, to prepare them to be able to represent the interests of community members (including women and young people)in these processes in the long term.

- Provide advisory and handholding support directly to local community members (including women and young people) to allow them to participate effectively in landscape/seascape-level collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes.

90. The project will also provide support to inclusive collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes at more local level, within individual local communities. Working through its NGO partners, it will:

- Strengthen the capacities of clan chiefs for facilitating and adjudicating collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes, through training and long-term accompaniment of processes

- Strengthen the capacities of community organizations for representing stakeholder interests in collaborative decision-making and conflict management at local level, through training and handholding.

- Provide advisory and accompaniment support to community members to participate in collaborative decision-making processes.

91. The project will support local communities in developing participatory and invlusive management plans for their conservation areas, building on the progress made by the GEF IFM project which by mid-2025 had resulted in the completion of seven management plans in Western, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul and Guadalcanal Provinces, with another eleven under preparation. This will be complemented by the participatory and inclusive definition of indicators of management effectiveness of the conservation areas, formulated in such a way that they can be monitored by local stakeholders and their results used to guide the adaptive application of the management plans, and accompanied by strengthening of the capacities of the local communities to apply them. These may include easily measurable direct or proxy indicators of ecosystem health and the status of key species, as well as measures of changes in behaviour and management practices among community members (such as reductions in the occurrence of damaging practices).

92. It will also provide advisory and capacity development support to logging and mining companies, as relevant, to enable them to engage effectively and transparently with communities to arrive at negotiated outcomes that address the interests and concerns of different stakeholder groups and reduce the risk of conflicts

93. The project will provide advisory and capacity development support to PGs for the creation and facilitation of a network of knowledge and experiences on collaborative decision-making and conflict management processes, at levels ranging from landscape through to individual communities.

94. The project will support effective community-level enforcement of rules on resource use, through:

- Provision of capacity development (training) on monitoring and enforcement to members of the Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA).

- Facilitation of the development of an institutional and financial sustainability strategy for SIRA.

95. Working through its NGO partners at local level, the project will also provide advisory and capacity development support to clan chiefs for the adjudication and sanctioning of infractions, and to community resource governance organizations and community rangers for the monitoring of infractions.

96. As a complement to community level enforcement when this is not sufficient or effective, the project will support State enforcement of rules on resource use, through:

- Advisory and capacity development support to MECDM and PGs on monitoring and enforcement

- Awareness raising of community resource governance organizations on environmental legislation and judicial processes, thereby increasing their ability to monitor and report infractions to the police or the judiciary.

- Training of the police and judiciary on environmental legislation and how to relate this to customary governance systems related to natural resource management.

Component 3. Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation areas

97. COMPONENT 3 will work on the development, implementation and monitoring of conservation and sustainable management plans by IPLCs; the development of the entrepreneurial capabilities of IPLCs, including women; and the piloting of enterprises, blue-green business opportunities, and livelihood diversification initiatives by IPLCs, including women and young people

Outcome 3.1. Local people (IPLCs) are applying sustainable management and livelihood support options that are compatible with biodiversity conservation and gender responsive in community-led conservation areas

Output 3.1.1. Sustainable management and livelihood support options that contribute to biodiversity conservation and promotion of gender equality identified and supported

98. The project, working through NGO partners, will provide direct technical assistance to local communities (including women and young people) for the identification and application of the options for production and resource management that have the potential directly or indirectly to promote the effective and sustainable conservation of biodiversity, in combination and synergy with the delivery of gender responsive livelihood benefits, incl climate change adaptation. Options will be promoted that have potential to result in income generation, and thereby to reduce communities' reliance for income on extractive activities that in some cases place unsustainable pressures on natural resources such as fisheries and forests; this approach also has the potential to enhance communities' interest in and buy-in overall to packages of support, that alongside the income-generation options themselves include other elements specifically focused on delivering biodiversity benefits (such as set-aside areas, restoration and norms on resource use). Particular emphasis will be placed on options that provide opportunities for empowerment and income generation by women in the production and/or value chain stages. With technical advisory support from the project, all of the options to be promoted will be assessed to ensure that they are at least BD-neutral (without negative direct or indirect impacts).

99. All of the options will be promoted within the framework of integrated farming systems, sustainable livelihoods and circular economies and gender equity, and in accordance with principles of agroecology, for example through the use of crop residues or cover crops as livestock feed and the use of livestock manure for crop production, crop diversification, and the use of integrated pest and nutrient management.

100. Options to be considered for support, as suggested by community members during PPG consultations, include cocoa, coconut, kava, honey and chilli production, seaweed farming, mud crab farming, piggeries, poultry, diving and tourism. Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) also have potential to generate income, while diverting fishing pressures away from coastal resources. Experiences to date with these options, under baseline projects, are presented in Section B.

101. Working through NGO partners, the project will emphasize the collaborative definition of these kinds of sustainable management and livelihood support options with local community members, (including women and young people) using participatory and inclusive processes of situation and needs analyses, (considering environmental, productive and social dimensions including gender, equity, vulnerabilities and power relations, and how these are evolving over time), knowledge exchange and farmer-based experimentation, based on the farmer field school model (with separate spaces for women as needed) and complemented by facilitation and technical inputs from project technicians and Government extension agents. This approach has been shown to help ensure the social and cultural relevance of the production and management models, and to increase levels of adoption and sustainability.

102. Support to sustainable production support will be backed up, as relevant, by support to the development of associated small businesses, value-adding, value chain development, and financial mechanisms, with particular emphasis on opportunities for promoting the engagement and empowerment of women in productive and value-adding actions.

103. The project will also help to ensure that communities are able to continue receiving appropriate support of this kind in the long term, by providing orientation, capacity development and associated guidance documents to extension agents in MAL and local community-based organizations (CBOs) including those led by women, in relation to options for BD friendly/positive production, and by supporting the formation and strengthening of networks of community conservation associations as lasting platforms for the exchange of knowledge on BD-friendly/positive production and management, and for the leverage of support from external sources.

Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up community-led approaches to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation

104. Component 4 will focus on assessment, compilation, and dissemination of local indigenous and economic knowledge, including those held by women. ; development of an action plan and documentation of lessons learned for scaling up and replication; and assessment and dissemination of baseline terrestrial ecosystem valuation and associated contribution of IPLCs.

Outcome 4.1. Information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management supports gender-responsive decision-making, planning and scaling.

105. The sharing of knowledge and lessons learned on best practices with biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation and sustainable management is critical to support decision making, adaptive management and scaling, and can also help to craft rules and management approaches that can be implemented by local people. Many of the current practices used in conservation efforts by local communities where full PA status has not been attained reflect OECM ideas. Additionally, traditional knowledge offers potential for better understanding of biodiversity issues and their management. Knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively, to rural communities and nationally, through different entities responsible for information and knowledge dissemination.

Output 4.1.1. Systems/networks for compilation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned on community-led conservation areas and good practices that promote gender equality, with the participation and consent of local communities

106. There is a large and growing number of areas currently or potentially included in the national PA estate, as well as others under other legislative instruments (such as MMAs and LMMAs), and those that communities do not wish to declare formally. This has generated a large volume of valuable information and lessons, which is currently dispersed; the project will support the establishment of a national network of community-led conservation initiatives, spanning all of the kinds of modalities summarized above, to compile, share and disseminate this knowledge in such a way that it guides ongoing and future initiatives.

107. The project will build on and continue the work of the EREPA project, which aims to establish a standardized data repository platform, compile information on natural systems and assets, and integrate its information and metadata into existing data platforms, as well as the production and dissemination of training, awareness and educational materials through the Solomon Islands National University (in partnership with the Indigenous Knowledge Institute[6][71]), Regional Training Centres, and relevant Government Ministries and NGOs. The project will also explore options for working with culturally appropriate platform, such as Guardian Connector, which was developed in the Solomon Islands, is guided by Principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and enables Indigenous community organizations to control, connect and protect their data.

108. Approaches and mechanisms for knowledge management and decision support to be promoted in this project will include the following:

- Documentation and dissemination of knowledge management products to increase awareness and capacity related to OECMs, such as guidance documents, tools and manuals
- Technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products (including in local languages and accessible to local communities) and aimed at both men and women
- Sub-national workshops/meetings to facilitate dissemination of information on OECMs at local, provincial and national levels.
- Incorporation of messages on community-led conservation and lessons learned into the school curriculum supported through the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, the Solomon Islands National University through its relevant Faculty, Schools and Centres.
- Policy notes based on project tested approaches that could facilitate future replication
- End of project national seminar on outcomes of the project and options for the future.

Output 4.1.2. Decision support tools developed and applied, to assess and present to policymakers and planners the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas, including on gender equality

109. Under this output, the project will strengthen the flow of information to decision-makers at all levels (ranging from the policy work supported under Outcome 1.1, through the provincial level strategic and spatial planning under Outcome 2.1, to community level under Outcome 2.2) on socioeconomic and environmental variables, and will support the application of tools for managing and interpreting the information in support of decision making. This will allow stakeholders at all levels (men and women) to assess in an objective and evidence-based manner the implications of

alternative policies, strategies, assumptions and values. Tools to be used will include, for example, targeted scenario analysis (TSA), natural capital accounting (NCA) and ecosystem service valuation (ESV).

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[1] FAO and Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. 2021. Indigenous Peoples' food systems: Insights on sustainability and resilience in the front line of climate change. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5131en. Chapter 4. From the ocean to the mountains: storytelling in the Pacific Islands. Fishing and agroforestry food system of the Melanesians.

[2] As explained in section B, in the Solomon Islands context it is difficult to distinguish some categories of PAs clearly from OECMs; the modalities and localities to be targeted by the project will be generically referred to as "community-led conservation areas" in the description of the components in this section.

[3] https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sol214268.pdf

[4] Nakau works in target communities with local NGOs such as Live & Learn, the NRDF on Choiseul, and Save the Children, which interact in practice with the local communities: the costs of these NGOs are covered through the carbon credits..

[5] Alliance for Financial Inclusion. 2023. The Role Regulators Play in Closing the Financial Inclusion Gender Gap: A Case Study of the Solomon Islands

[6] https://www.linkedin.com/company/islands-knowledge/?originalSubdomain=sb

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

1. The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECDM) 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 (OPA) signed with FAO. The MECDM will retain full programmatic control of project activities and will chair the project PSC.

2. Selected activities in the target provinces will also be executed by the NGOs Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in Western and Isabel Provinces respectively. Subject to confirmation at project start, one of the two NGOs will be engaged through an OPA and will sub-contract the other, under the overall leadership of MECDM (the use of an OPA to engage the lead NGO, rather than a sub-contract with MECDM, is due to the Significant Risk micro-assessment rating of MECDM for contracting, which precludes sub-contracting).

3. As OPs of the project, MECDM and the lead NGO will be responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the respective 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 (OPAs encompass are used for funding amounts of more than USD 500,000, and involve comprehensive guidelines for authorized activities such as sub-contracting and procurement).

4. Additional national and sub-national government authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) will execute project activities through Letters of Agreement (LoA) with FAO (LoAs are typically used for smaller funding amounts, and some activities such as sub-contracting and procurement are generally restricted_.

5. The Government will designate a staff member of the Environment and Conservation Directorate (ECD) of MECDM as the National Project Director (NPD). Located in the MECDM/ECD, the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. The NPD will be responsible for supervising and guiding the National Technical Coordinator (see below) on Government policies and priorities.

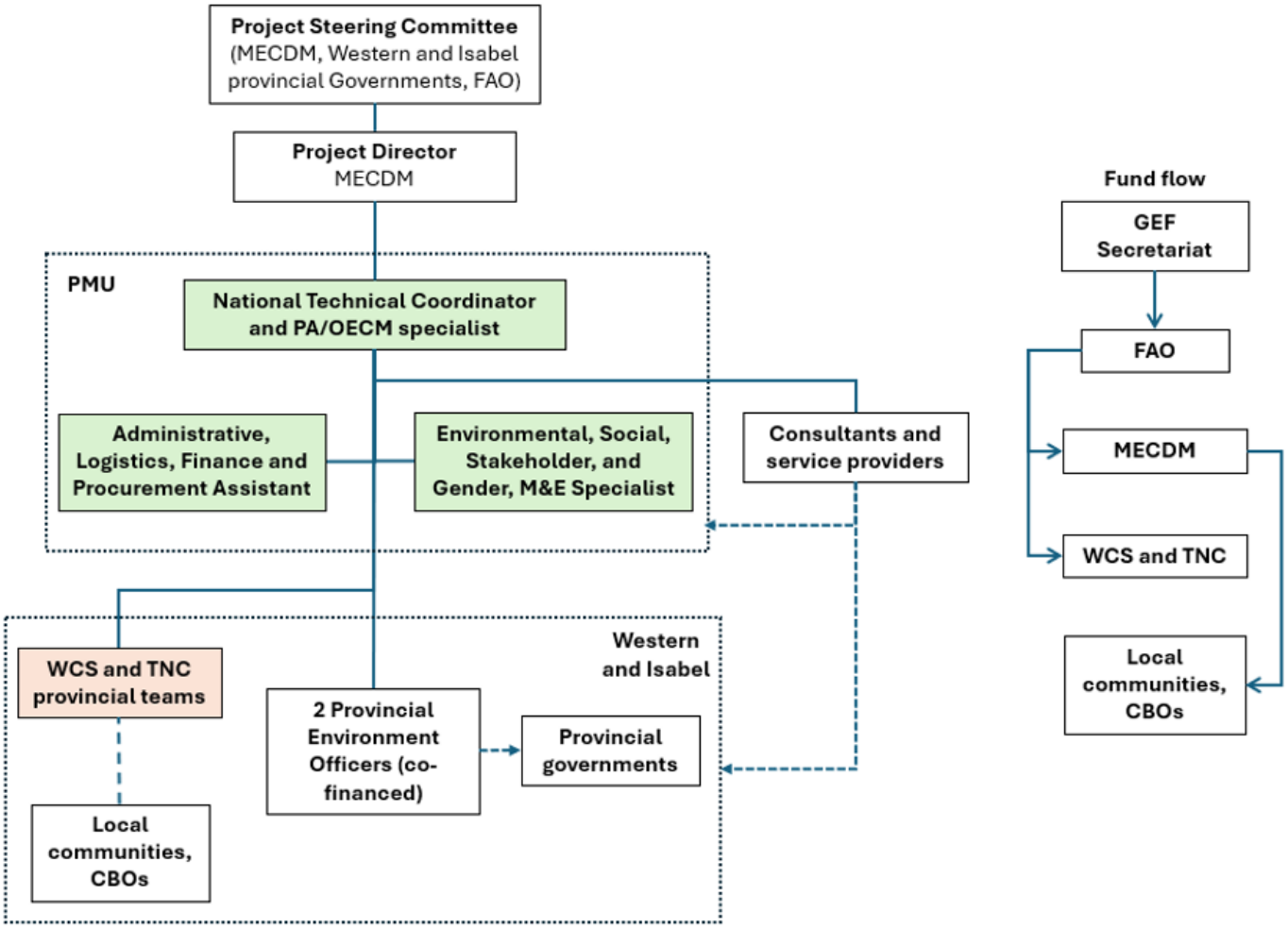
6. The MECDM will establish, host, and chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC) at national level to govern the project and provide technical and policy guidance. The PSC will meet at least twice a year and organize ad hoc meetings if required. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Unit (PMU) and to executing partners. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from MECDM/ECD, the Provincial Governments of Isabel and Western Provinces, and FAO. Representatives from other institutions, for example NGOs, CSOs,

women's networks and cooperatives, research institutions and technical advisory groups may be invited by the chair to participate in the PSC as observers, or to provide technical inputs, on an as needed basis.

7. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. 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 cofinancing to the project.

8. The project organization structure is shown in Figure 22.

Figure 12. Organizational structure



9. FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex M for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution.
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.
- The GEF Technical Officers (GTO) and Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

10. 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
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress.
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

n/a. The GEF Implementing Agency will play no role in its execution, apart from the assurance activities. The project will be implemented through the Operational Partner Implementation Modality (OPIM).

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

There are important opportunities for synergy and lessons learned with the following related projects:

- The GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Programme (FSIP) project "Revitalizing and transforming Solomon Islands' food system through sustainable agriculture and livestock production for enhanced environmental and community benefits". It is expected that the FSIP project will overlap timewise with the entire duration of the GBFF. There is no spatial overlap between the GBFF project (which targets Western and Isabel Provinces) and the FSIP project (in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira), but the FSIP project will generate valuable technical knowledge on options for sustainable production and integrated farm and landscape management, which will be applicable in the similar conditions that exist in the GBFF target areas; there will also be opportunities for the GBFF project to benefit the FSIP project by sharing knowledge on how to enhance the biodiversity outcomes of the options that it support. The FSIP project will also support the capacities of MAL to deliver support on sustainable integrated farming systems and will pilot the model of working with Rural Training Centres to support knowledge generation, both of which will benefit this project.

- The LDCF project "Resilient rural economic growth and food security". The LDCF project, which is currently in its formulation phase, will promote climate resilience in vulnerable communities in five target provinces (Malaita, Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Temotu and Rennell/Bellona), supporting them in developing and applying options for stimulating the resilient development of subsistence and commercial agriculture and rural livelihoods, reducing the exposure of agrifood production (through e.g. diversification, integrated soil, water and nutrient management, and resilient crops), and enhancing adaptive capacity (through e.g. integrated livelihood and landscape planning). As with the FSIP project, there will be opportunities for knowledge exchange with the GBFF project on integrating biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainability, nutrition and food security in the technical options that the two projects support.

Advantage will also be taken of opportunities for synergies between the GBFF project and the IFAD-funded AIM-N project, which coincides with the GBFF project in Western Province and also fully overlaps timewise. The development objective of AIM-N is improved food security, nutrition and household income through empowerment and resilient farming systems in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu rural communities; synergies may include knowledge exchange regarding the integration of biodiversity and nutrition considerations into

farming systems, but also where possible through on the ground collaboration such as joint training events and dissemination materials.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines.

As per the GBFF Programming Directions, the GBFF performance will be monitored using the GEF Trust Fund Core Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and all their sub indicators as well as 9 and sub-indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming Directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from the project in other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

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)
10000	20000	0	0

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)
10,000.00	20,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

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)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Baniata, Rendova Island, Western Province	555544146		2,500.00		
Barora'fa, Barora Ite, Kia and Ghaghe, Isabel Province	555544157		10,000.00		

Mount Sasare, Isabel Province	306289		2,500.00		
North Vangunu, Western Province	555547890		2,500.00		
Vonavona island, Western Province	555547898		2,500.00		

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	20,000.00		

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Baniata, Rendova Island, Western Province	555544146		2,500.00		
Barora'fa, Barora Ite, Kia and Ghaghe, Isabel Province	555544157		10,000.00		
Mount Sasare, Isabel Province	306289		2,500.00		
North Vangunu, Western Province	555547890		2,500.00		
Vonavona island, Western Province	555547898		2,500.00		

Indicator 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.3 Hydrochloroflurocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.7 Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.8 Avoided residual plastic waste

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	15,000	7,500		
Male	15,000	7,500		
Total	**30,000**	**15,000**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The target for Core Indicator 4 corresponds to the terrestrial area of the target OECMs: this comprises 20,000 ha under sub-indicator 4.5, all of which falls under improved management to benefit biodiversity (sub-indicator 4.1).

The total extent of the community-led conservation areas to be supported by the project is approximately 40,000 ha; their precise limits and sizes will be confirmed through the community-led participatory planning processes that will be supported by the project. It is estimated that 50% of this area will be terrestrial (Core Indicator 4.5) and 50% marine (Core Indicator 5.3).

Locality	Approximate area (terrestrial and marine)
Vonavona island, Western Province	5,000 ha
Baniata, Rendova Island, Western Province	5,000 ha
North Vangunu, Western Province	5,000 ha
Barora'fa, Barora Ite, Kia and Ghaghe, Isabel Province	20,000 ha
Mount Sasare, Isabel Province	5,000 ha
Total:	40,000 ha

The target landscapes coincide wholly or partially with the following localities listed on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the same has been entered in the portal.

- Barasipo MPA (ID 555544146), area 3.53km2.
- Buni MPA (ID 555544157), area 1.43km2.
- Barivuto MPA (ID 306289), area 1.62km2.
- Grant Island, Patuparoana MPA (ID 555547890), area 14.84km2.
- Kia MPA (ID 555547898), area 450.0km2

The target figure for Core Indicator 11 is based on the experiences of previous projects and the size of the total populations in the Wards (the smallest administrative division) in which the target localities are sited.

No METT assessments have been carried out to date for protected areas in Solomon Islands, and none of the specific localities targeted by the project have yet been declared as protected areas under the PA Act. METT assessments will be carried out during the project for any of the target areas that become declared under the PA Act.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	In the areas targeted by the project, observed climate hazards (cyclones, sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification and sea level rise) in the present are likely to intensify and increase in frequency into the future under a high emission scenario (SSP5-8.5). As a result, vulnerable socioeconomic groups (rural smallholder farmers and women) are expected to be increasingly exposed to and affected by intensified extreme weather events. Land and seascape planning in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) will be informed by spatial climate projections, including hazard hotspots and seasonal variability, to guide the siting of community-led conservation areas and nature-based solutions. Livelihood strategies and blue-green enterprises will adopt agroclimatic forecasts. Knowledge platforms must capture and disseminate IPLC-led adaptation practices, Indigenous knowledge systems, and climate-resilient innovations to strengthen national planning and regional exchange. The climate risk screening is presented in ESS annex F.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Moderate risks identified are as follows: • ESS 1.3 Could the project include any activity on the ground related to agroforestry, forest plantation, harvesting, or management of forest resources (native or planted) for timber and non-timber forest products uses (e.g. seeds collection, spices, honey, mushrooms, bush meat)? Yes: the project will adhere to existing national forest policies, forest programmes or equivalent strategies and the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests, avoiding the use of monocultures or invasive alien species. • ESS 1.4 Could the project implement aquaculture activities? Yes: There is a limited possibility of the project supporting inland aquaculture, but this will avoid the use of invasive alien species and measures will be taken to avoid runoff impacts. • ESS 2.4 Could the project directly or indirectly lead to the use and/or management of pesticides? This also includes activities related to management or disposal of waste pesticides, obsolete pesticides or pesticide contaminated waste materials. Yes: there is a small possibility (unlikely) that beneficiaries will use pesticides in their agricultural operations, but the project will promote organic or low external input agriculture where possible and provide training where needed on safe storage, handling and disposal of pesticides. • ESS 3.1 Could the project activities negatively affect communities not targeted by the project that rely on the same natural resources? E.g. a community that depends on the same river downstream. Yes: it is possible that strengthened governance in target communities will limit the opportunities of members of neighbouring communities to use their resources for livelihood support, but the risks and implications this will be minimized by inter-

		community dialogue and landscape-wide planning. • ESS 8.4 Could the project negatively affect Indigenous Peoples', ethnic groups', or minorities' access to resources upon which their livelihoods depend ('economic displacement')? Yes: see ESS 3.1 above; in addition members of the target communities may be affected, but restrictions will defined through participatory processes and livelihood alternatives will be promoted.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Solomon Islands has experienced political instability and serious ethnic conflicts in the past, but this is not foreseen with the current ruling government, at this stage. Overlapping responsibilities and mandates among government agencies, local authorities, and community groups can lead to inefficiencies in functioning. The project has an elaborate stakeholder engagement plan which outlines the roles and responsibilities of respective stakeholders in the project and ensures inclusive governance that takes into consideration the ethnic diversity, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Provincial and ward level institutions may not possess the relevant technical expertise or the required resources and experience in handling complex and multisectoral projects and adapting to policy changes in a timely manner. This could bring about delays, misalignment of goals, and difficulties in meeting project results. Local institutions and stakeholders will be empowered through targeted training programs, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to ensure ownership of the project activities and seamless transition
Technological	Low	The technologies promoted in the project are low risk with local expertise available to handle associated potential risks. They will be co-identified and co-developed with local communities to ensure that they are technically appropriate, and that the materials and maintenance requirements are obtainable in remote rural settings
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The financial system in Solomon Islands is weak: the Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI) may have limited willingness and capacity to take on additional financial obligations, and rural communities have limited access to the formal banking system. There are a number of initiatives, with positive experiences, in developing community-level savings systems, and the private banking sector is increasingly investing in mobile-based banking. The project will support the Government in financial strategizing and developing appropriate financial instruments, and strengthen capacities of producer organizations to obtain and manage finances, adapting to emerging opportunities.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	There are several related ongoing donor-funded initiatives in Solomon Islands that have contributed to increased capacity of the executing partner. Yet, there are a number of gaps in technical, administrative and operational capacities, particularly at the provincial and wards levels. It will also take time for the communities to understand the details of the project. The project has built in mechanisms to provide training and capacity building of partners and stakeholders in project execution at all levels

Fiduciary	Moderate	Delayed disbursement of funds is a common setback due to lack of proper mechanisms for smooth fund flow. Such delays may push project implementation back and minimize the scope of activities. Further, projects that operate in remote geographically scattered places complicate their implementation. High transportation cost, lack of infrastructure, and difficulties to access the target community increase operational challenges. The Solomon Islands Government has established financial mechanisms in place under the Public Finance Management Act and Public Finance Audit Act. In line with these national frameworks regular audits and spot-checks will be conducted to identify bottlenecks. Recommendations will be provided to strengthen fiduciary management. Accordingly, trainings and workshops on financial management for delivery partners will be provided.
Stakeholder	Low	There is high interest in and support for this project amongst stakeholders. The main project stakeholders and execution partners are committed to the project, as indicated during the stakeholder consultation process. To ensure effective and ethical interactions with stakeholders, stakeholder engagement has been guided by the six universally recognized principles and best practices: commitment, integrity, respect, transparency, inclusiveness and trust. Relevant policies of FAO and GEF on stakeholder engagement will be applied to this project. On initiating project activities, stakeholder consultations will be conducted to ensure that cultural and societal structures that can impact the level of engagement across different groups or stakeholders are addressed
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The likelihood of the project interventions being disrupted is not insignificant, as Solomon Islands is an LDC and SIDS that faces specific and unique risks and challenges such as climate change, limited resources and land and fragile ecosystems. Therefore, the development gains through the project and related initiatives could potentially suffer setback, for example, in the event of a natural disaster, climate change impacts, or instability in the political and governance structures leading to institutional and policy changes.

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the GEF-8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

1. The project is aligned with GBFF Action Areas and corresponding GBF Targets as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Project alignment with GBFF Action Areas and GBF Targets

GBFF Action Areas	GBF Targets	Project contributions/alignment
One: Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning	1, 2, and 3	Support to on the ground actions in selected localities aimed at conserving biodiversity, restoring coastal and terrestrial ecosystem; support to spatial land use planning and conservation planning at provincial and community levels (Component 3)
Two: Support to IPLC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters	1,2, 3, and 22	Specific focus on community-led conservation initiatives, within enhanced (inclusive, gender-responsive, informed and empowered) traditional customary frameworks of stewardship, governance and tenure (Component 3)
Three: Policy alignment and development	14	Work with national and provincial governments in aligning policy frameworks and ordinances in support of community-led conservation (Outcome 1.1)
Four: Resource mobilization	19	Support to the definition and application of financial mechanisms in support of community-led conservation
Five: Sustainable use of biodiversity	5 and 9	Support to local communities in managing and harvesting wild species and ecosystems, such as reef fauna and flora (Component 3)
Six: Biodiversity mainstreaming in production sectors	10	Support to sustainable management of agriculture and fisheries and the application of biodiversity-friendly practices such as sustainable intensification and agroecological approaches (Component 3).
	21	Support to knowledge management, especially regarding sustainable BD-friendly practices (Outcome 4.1) in accordance (as relevant) with principles of free, prior and informed consent.
	23	Application of a gender-responsive and where possible gender-responsive approach, including by recognizing rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity (cross-cutting).

2. The objectives of the NBSAP to which the project will contribute most significantly are shown in Table 7.

Table 9. Alignment with NBSAP themes and objectives

Theme	Objective
1. Mainstreaming biodiversity	1. To ensure biodiversity conservation and management are properly legislated at the national and provincial government levels and integrated into sectoral plans, policies and programs
2. Species conservation	1. To ensure that management measures for indigenous, unique, threatened and endangered species are in place and supported by scientific data 3. To ensure resources are available to support conservation activities
3. Protected area system	4. To develop sustainable financing mechanisms for protected area management 6. Establish sustainable livelihood alternatives
6. Financial resources	. To ensure that work plans and activities are fully funded and that funds are effectively disseminated and managed

Alignment with FAO Strategic Framework

3. The project is relevant to and aligned with the following Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022 – 2031[1][72]:

- **Better Production:**
    - **BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production:** Sustainable crop, livestock and forestry production systems that are productive, resilient, innovative and competitive, and create integrated entrepreneurial and business opportunities, inclusive of small scale and vulnerable producers, supported through enabling technologies and policies.
    - **BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources**: Enhanced equitable access of small-scale producers and family farmers to economic and natural resources, markets, services, information, education and technologies ensured through improved policies, strategies and programmes.
- **Better Nutrition:**
    - **BN1: Healthy diets for all**: The right to adequate food established and transition towards healthy diets for national populations prioritized in integrated institutional, policy and legal environments that ensure and incentivize engagement of consumers and the private sector.
    - **BN5: Transparent markets and trade**: Improved market transparency and equitable participation in markets, global value chains and international trade achieved through policy coordination and human and institutional capacities for evidence-based decision-making.
- **Better Environment:**
    - **BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agri-food systems**: Transformation and resilience of agri-food systems to achieve sustainability and Paris Agreement goals enabled through the establishment and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices, policies and programmes.
    - **BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture**: Biodiversity for food and agriculture maintained and sustainable use, conservation and restoration of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and their services promoted through adoption of targeted policies and practices.
- **Better Life:**
    - **BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment:** Women's equal rights, access to, and control over resources, services, technologies, institutions, economic opportunities and decision-making ensured, and discriminatory laws and practices eliminated, through gender-responsive policies, strategies, programmes and legal frameworks
    - **BL2: Inclusive rural transformation**: Inclusive rural transformation and revitalization of rural areas ensuring equal participation of, and benefits to poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups accelerated through implementation of targeted policies, strategies and programmes.

Alignment with Solomon Islands FAO Country Programming Framework[2][73]

4. The project will contribute in particular to Outcome 1 of the Multi-Country Programming Framework as it applies to the Solomon Islands: "By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored,", and especially CPF Sub-output PL 1.2.1 "Strengthened community- and ecosystem-based integrated natural resource management, and sustainable utilization".

Contribution to SDGs:

5. The project contributes most directly to SDG 15 (Life on Land), and in particular Target 15.1 (By 2030, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services) and Target 15.2 (By 2030, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally).

6. It will also contribute less directly to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by supporting local communities in carrying out alternative livelihood activities, production and natural resource management practices that generate income, enhance their resilience and contribute to their food security and nutrition while at the same time contributing to biodiversity conservation; and to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting gender-responsive livelihood support activities and women's participation in planning, decision-making and governance.

Lessons learned from past projects

7. Learnings that have emerged from previous experiences in the Solomon Islands include the following:

- Clarification of roles and responsibilities: clear governance frameworks and fostering collaboration among stakeholders will improve coordination and reduce inefficiencies. Early alignment of policies and objectives is the key to avoiding delays and conflicts.
- Inclusive participation: meaningful engagement with local communities from the very beginning is essential. The inclusion of community members in the decision-making process and the adoption of their traditional knowledge can lead to trust building, relevance, and sustainability of projects.
- Cultural sensitivity and respect for local traditions: aligning project goals and ways of working with community values and practices will help overcome resistance and foster support.
- Climate resilience as an integral component of design: nature-based and dual-purpose measures for climate resilience, such mangrove restoration or climate-smart agriculture, can deliver environmental benefits, enhance community resilience and ensure long-term sustainability of project outcomes.
- Environmental and social conditions are dynamic, in particular in vulnerable localities: projects should closely monitor, assess, and adapt their implementation to take into consideration arising threats and opportunities.
- Strengthening of financial systems: on-time fund disbursement through efficient financial systems is essential for project success; well-defined, understandable, and auditable mechanisms can further win the trust and confidence of its stakeholders, enabling them to deploy resources properly.
- Collaboration among other development partners, governments, and private sector actors can make resource mobilization easier and also reduce dependency on a single source of funding. Co-financing and shared expertise can amplify the impact and help in long-term sustainability.
- Strong engagement of Government at all levels: many previous initiatives led by development NGOs have tended to operate in isolation from Government, failing to build lasting capacities or achieve systemic influence.

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[1] FAO Strategic Framework 2022 – 2031, p. 17 – 19.

[2]FAO Multi-Country Programmic Framework for the Pacific Islands 2023-2027

E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please 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; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B), and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

Amount ($) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	746,221.00	1,154,870.00

If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:

This figure is calculated as the total of the budget items under project Outcome 2.2 (Individual community-led conservation areas are subject to effective planning, adaptive management and governance) and Component 3 (Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation areas), with the exception of the pro rata costs of project technical staff assigned to these project elements.

Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?

Yes

Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?

Yes

Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?

Yes

Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?

No

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section C project description?

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

1. **As set out in Section C, the simultaneous and synergistic generation of environmental and socio-economic benefits is fundamental to the logic of the project. Specific options for production and resource management with potential to deliver socioeconomic benefits in synergy with biodiversity benefits are set out in the explanation of Output 3.1.1. The project will support the integration of biodiversity-friendly, environmentally sustainable practices into diversified and well managed livelihood and landscape systems, thereby contributing to the resilience of the livelihoods of project beneficiaries to climatic and economic shocks and trends, and to the reliable and equitable access among all members of community members (including women and youth) to on- and off-farm income, diverse goods and products, and nutrition.**

Decent rural employment

The project will promote decent rural employment by specifically focusing on the following entry points:

Pillar 1 **Employment creation and enterprise development**	**Pillar 2** **Social protection**	**Pillar 3** **Standards and rights at work**	**Pillar 4** **Governance and social dialogue**
Support to biodiversity-friendly livelihood diversification and employment generation options	Supporting labour-saving practices for rural households to reduce women's domestic and care tasks	Supporting socially responsible livelihood support options that provide opportunities for women and youth	Supporting the participation of people living in poverty in local decision-making and governance mechanisms, including the empowerment of rural women and youth

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Total GEF Financing Table

Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	821,650.00	78,055.00	899,705.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	457,638.00	43,476.00	501,114.00

FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 3	Grant	89,888.00	8,539.00	98,427.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 4	Grant	89,888.00	8,539.00	98,427.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 5	Grant	457,638.00	43,476.00	501,114.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 6	Grant	457,638.00	43,477.00	501,115.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**2,374,340.00**	**225,562.00**	**2,599,902.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

100,000.00

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9,500.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	31,000.00	2,945.00	33,945.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	47,000.00	4,465.00	51,465.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 3	22,000.00	2,090.00	24,090.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**100,000.00**	**9,500.00**	**109,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	821,650.00	2,636,929.00
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	457,638.00	1,468,705.00
GBFF Action Area 3	GBFF	89,888.00	288,478.00
GBFF Action Area 4	GBFF	89,888.00	288,478.00
GBFF Action Area 5	GBFF	457,638.00	1,468,705.00
GBFF Action Area 6	GBFF	457,638.00	1,468,705.00
Total Project Cost		**2,374,340.00**	**7,620,000.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,500,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Total Co-financing				**7,620,000.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The investment mobilized was identified to support the capacity building and improved access to information and tools to improve biodiversity conservation; financial support for enhanced management effectiveness of by involving local communities; maintenance and improvement of livelihoods and support for other effective area based conservation mechanisms (OECMs) that focus on community conservation mechanisms to increase the resilience of local communities to any climate change shock.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
	9/5/2025	Jeffrey Griffin		jeffrey.griffin@fao.org
	9/5/2025	Lianchawii Chhakchhuak		lianchawii.chhakchhuak@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Chanel Iroi	Deputy Secretary, Technical and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	9/30/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective and indicators targets: To empower local communities for collaborative and adaptive sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity in selected KBAs in the Solomon Islands							
Component 1: Enabling environment for collaborative and adaptive biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province							
Outcome 1.1: Policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and capacities adaptively supporting biodiversity conservation strategies based on	National and provincial institutions effectively and adaptively implementing policy and regulatory frameworks and	Policy and regulatory frameworks not effectively or consistently applied by national and provincial institutions in	MECDM, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Isabel and Western Provincial Governments (PGs) with	MECDM, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Isabel and Western PGs effectively and consistently applying policy and regulatory	Interviews, review of plans and reports of target institutions	Institutional commitment to community-led conservation	National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
community-led conservation areas.	associated plans in support of conservation based on community-led conservation areas.	support of community-led conservation	improved application of policy and regulatory frameworks in support of community-led conservation	frameworks in support of community-led conservation			
Output 1.1.1. Relevant policy and regulatory frameworks at national and provincial levels are revised and aligned with the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas	Number of national policy, regulatory and planning instruments updated in alignment with the model	N/A	Policy and regulatory frameworks explicitly referring to community-led conservation under formulation	NBSAP, PA Act 2010 & PA regulation 2012; National Environment Management Strategy 2020-2023; Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998; Fisheries Management Act 2015; Community Based Coastal and Marine Resources Management 2021-2025; Environmental Ordinances at provincial level	Review of policy, regulatory and planning instruments		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
	Number of provinces with specific policies and ordinances supporting community-led conservation areas	No provincial policies and ordinances specifically referring to community-based conservation	Policies and ordinances under discussion and formulation in Western and Isabel	One policy and one ordinance fully formulated and under application in Western and Isabel	Interviews, review of policies and ordinances		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
Output 1.1.2 National and provincial institutions with capacities to support the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas	Number of national institutions and provincial Governments with capacities for supporting the model of biodiversity conservation based on community-led conservation areas	Limited human and technical capacities in national and provincial institutions, including for adaptive application of policies, cross-sectoral coordination and harmonized decision-making.	Capacity development of men and women under way in the specified thematic areas	Three national institutions (MECDM, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Fisheries) and two PGs with mechanisms and systems in place and personnel (men and women) trained[1][74].	Interviews, capacity assessment tool (questionnaire with rating scale)		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
Outcome 1.2 Financing is available to support conservation community-based conservation promoting financial inclusion	Number of **gender responsive** financial mechanisms functioning in support of community-led conservation areas	PA Trust Fund under development and VCM schemes being applied, but solely focused on declared PAs. Advantage is not taken of Rural	Mechanisms being developed/ adapted for application to community-led conservation areas:	Mechanisms fully functioning in support of community-led conservation areas: - PA Trust Fund	Interviews, review of reports and levels of disbursement	Institutional commitment Favourable governance conditions Community capacities to meet finance	National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		Constituency Development Funds (RCDF) or PG discretionary funds	- PA Trust Fund - Carbon finance - National banking/ cooperative sector	- Carbon finance - National banking/ cooperative sector - RCDF and PG discretionary funds		eligibility criteria	
	Numbers of institutions effectively administering or overseeing the application of relevant **gender responsive** financ ial instruments	PGs have limited roles in administering or overseeing the application of financial instruments	MECDM and Isabel and Western PGs of committed to overseeing application	MECDM and Isabel and Western PGs effectively administering or overseeing their application	Interviews, review of reports		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
Output 1.2.1. Sustainable financing plans in support of community-led conservation areas	Number of financing plans operationalised in support of community-led conservation areas	None	National and provincial plans under formulation	One national plan Two provincial plans (Western and Isabel)	Review of financing plans		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
Output 1.2.2. Capacity development programmes to MECDM, Provincial Governments and financial institutions for administering sustainable and gender responsive financing instruments in support of community-led PA/OECMs	Number of institutions with increased capacities for administering sustainable gender-responsive financ ing instruments in support of community-led PA/OECMs	Limited capacities in MECDM, PGs and financial institutions for administering sustainable gender responsive financing instruments in support of community-led PA/OECMs	Capacity development underway in MECDM, two PGs, and local financial institutions in two provinces	One national institution (MECDM), two PGs, and local financial institutions in two provinces with mechanisms, procedures, operational manuals and staff trained	Interviews, capacity assessment tool (questionnaire with rating scale)		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist
Component 2: Collaborative planning and management of land/seascapes in KBAs in Isabel and Western Province							
Outcome 2.1 Land/seascapes in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province are subject to effective collaborative planning and management that optimizes biodiversity and social outcomes and sustainability	% of targets set in province-level action plans met over the project lifetime	N/A	100% targets set for project mid-term point are met	100% of targets set for project end point are met	Interviews, review of progress reports	Commitment to BD and community-led conservation in provincial Governments	Provincial Environment Officers
Output 2.1.1. Comprehensive and gender-responsive strategies and action plans at provincial	Number of province-level strategies and action plans in support of	None	Fully inclusive multi-stakeholder processes under way to develop plans in Western	Strategies and action plans developed and under implementation in	Interviews, review of strategies and plans		Provincial Environment Officers

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
levels in support of conservation based on community-led conservation areas	conservation based on community-led conservation areas developed in collaboration among sector institutions, Provincial Governments, CBOs, NGOs and traditional governance entities		and Isabel Provinces	Western and Isabel Provinces			
Output 2.1.2. Province-level spatial plans developed/updated to optimize integrated biodiversity and social outcomes	Number of provinces with spatial plans developed/ updated to optimize BD and social outcomes, including benefits for women, in collaboration between sector institutions, Provincial Governments, CBOs, NGOs and traditional governance entities	Isabel: spatial plan developed in 2012 Western: R2R plan developed for Gizo and Kolombangara in 2018	Updating/ expansion of plans in Isabel and Western underway with full local participation	Isabel: spatial plan reviewed and updated Western: spatial plan updated, extended to whole province, and agreed	Interviews, review of plan documents		Provincial Environment Officers
Output 2.1.3. Decision-support systems at national and provincial levels to support gender responsive strategic and spatial planning to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social benefits to all community members, including women.	Number of provinces effectively applying gender responsive decisi on-support systems	No specific decision-support capacities exist at provincial level at present to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social benefits	Decision-support capacities under development in two PGs	Two provinces (Western and Isabel) effectively applying decision-support systems to support strategic and spatial planning to optimize delivery of biodiversity and social outcomes, including benefits for women	Interviews, review of design plans, instruments and functioning of decision-support systems		Provincial Environment Officers
Output 2.1.4. Provincial capacity development programmes for Provincial Governments, Community-Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and traditional governance bodies on multi-stakeholder collaborative gender responsive decision-	Number of entities with increased capacities for participating in inclusive multi-stakeholder collaborative decision-making, planning and action in target provinces in relation to community-led conservation	No specific capacities in PGs for inclusive multi-stakeholder collaborative decision-making, planning and action in relation to community-led conservation	Inclusive and gender responsive capacity development underway in PGs, CBOs, NGOs and traditional governance bodies for inclusive multi-stakeholder collaborative decision-making, planning and action	PGs, CBOs, NGOs and traditional governance bodies in target provinces are effectively participating in inclusive multi-stakeholder collaborative decision-making, planning and action with full participation of women and representation of their interests.	Interviews, capacity assessment tool (questionnaire with rating scale – to be developed)		Provincial Environment Officers

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
making, planning and action in relation to community-led conservation							
Outcome 2.2 Individual community-led conservation areas established and subject to effective planning, adaptive management and governance	Area of community-led conservation areas in target provinces with reductions in threats to globally important biodiversity	TBD (*threats to globally important biodiversity in target localities to be assessed through baseline studies in PY1*)	Management measures identified to counter threats to globally important biodiversity in all target localities	Community-led conservation areas, covering 40,000 ha (20,000 ha terrestrial and 20,000 marine), with reductions in threat ratings	*Rating system for management effectiveness in community-managed conservation to be defined in PY1*	Governance conditions and commitment in target communities Threats to BD remain within the coping ranges of the proposed strategies	Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)
Output 2.2.1. Individual community-led conservation areas agreed, demarcated and registered.	Area of terrestrial and marine community-led conservation areas in target provinces newly agreed, demarcated and registered (GEF Core indicators 4.5 and 5.3), reflecting the priorities of local stakeholders including women	- One declared PA (Arnavon Islands, 169 ha). - Five LMMAs in Western (Ravukonibo, Munda, Chubikopi, Peava and Dokoso) - LMMAs existing or proposed in Babahaero, Kia, Ritamala, Tubikolo, Gagaha and Legaha	Inclusive planning and declaration processes under way in proposed new community-led conservation areas covering 40,000 ha (TBC)	New community-led conservation areas agreed, demarcated and registered covering around 40,000 ha (TBC), of which around 20,000 ha terrestrial and 20,000 ha marine	Interviews with community members (men and women) ECD/provincial Government registries		Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)
Output 2.2.2. Frameworks and mechanisms established and implemented for the inclusive collaborative adaptive management and governance of individual community-led conservation areas.	Area of target community-led conservation areas in provinces with frameworks and mechanisms for inclusive collaborative adaptive management and governance	None of the target community-led conservation areas have effective frameworks and mechanisms for inclusive collaborative adaptive management and governance	Frameworks and mechanisms for inclusive collaborative adaptive management and governance under development over 40,000 ha of community-led conservation areas in the target provinces	40,000 ha of community-led conservation areas in the target provinces with effective frameworks and mechanisms for inclusive collaborative adaptive management	Interviews with community members (men and women) *Rating system for management effectiveness in community-managed conservation to be defined in PY1*		Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Component 3: Sustainable management and livelihood support activities in community-led sustainable management and conservation areas							
Outcome 3.1. Local people (IPLCs) are applying sustainable management and livelihood support options that are gender-responsive and compatible with biodiversity conservation in community-led conservation areas	Number of people (disaggregated by sex) in communities with community-led conservation areas engaging in and benefiting from sustainable management and livelihood support options (GEF Core Indicator 11)	Detailed baseline characterizations of livelihood support and NRM practices TBD at project start	7,500 people of which 50% are women	15,000 people[2][75] of which 50% are women	Surveys and questionnaires in target communities	Community interest and commitment Technical and social feasibility of options proposed Favourable input and value chains	Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)
	Area of community-led conservation areas under BD-friendly/positive management	TBD at project start	7,500 ha	20,000 ha[3][76]	Surveys, questionnaires and field visits in target communities		Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)
Output 3.1.1. Sustainable management and livelihood support options that contribute to biodiversity conservation and promotion of gender equality identified and supported	Area of community-led conservation areas with sustainable and gender responsive management and livelihood support options identified	TBD through detailed community-level baseline studies at project start	Sustainable and gender responsive management and livelihood support options have been identified in community-led conservation areas covering 40,000 ha	Sustainable and gender responsive management and livelihood support options are being supported in community-led conservation areas covering 40,000 ha	Interviews with community members (men and women)		Provincial Project Coordinators (NGO OPs)
Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up community-led approaches to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation							
Outcome 4.1 Information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management supports gender-responsive decision-making, planning and scaling	Number of institutions reflecting information and knowledge on community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management in decision-making and planning	Decision-making and planning do not reflect information and knowledge on **inclusive** community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management	ECD and provincial Governments committing to reflect information and knowledge on inclusive community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management	ECD and provincial Governments reflecting information and knowledge on inclusive community-led approaches to conservation and sustainable management in **gender responsive** decision-making and planning	Interviews with institutional actors	Institutional interest and commitment to BD conservation	
Output 4.1.1. Systems/networks for compilation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and	Number of systems established at national and provincial levels	No system or network in place	One national system/network under development	One national system/network One system/ network in each target province	Interviews, review of systems		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
lessons learned on community-led conservation areas, and good practices that promote gender equality with the participation and consent of local communities, incl women			One system/ network under development in each target province				Provincial Environment Officers
Output 4.1.2. Decision support tools developed and applied, to assess and present to policy makers and planners the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of conservation strategies based on community-led conservation areas, including on gender equality	Number of national and provincial institutions accessing and using the Information management and analysis tools	No information management or analysis tools of specific relevance to community-led conservation	Information management and analysis tools under development at national and provincial levels	MECDM and provincial Governments of Isabel and Western applying Information management and analysis tools	Interviews, review of tools		National Technical Coordinator and M&E Specialist Provincial Environment Officers

[1] On application and adaptation of policy/regulatory frameworks in response to lessons learned and emerging conditions, guiding and overseeing collaborative decision-making and conflict management, and harmonized environmental decision-making on e.g. the granting of development permits and timber concessions

[2] The total population of the wards in which the target areas are located was 16,580 in 2019.

[3] Estimated 1ha/person

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed

PPG consultants (Intl. project design expert, National PPG coordinator and biodiversity expert, Finance and operation expert, and Gender and environmental safeguard expert)	39,271.00	34,532.00	4,739.00
Contract (HACT assessment)	7,000.00	4,750.00	2,250.00
Travel (local)	30,000.00	15,250.00	234.00
Travel (international)		14,516.00	
Meeting and workshop (inception workshop, local consultation, and validation workshop)	23,729.00	23,729.00	0.00
Total	**100,000.00**	**92,777.00**	**7,223.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vonavona	-8.2186	157.0652	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Baniata	-8.63400	157.2634	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
North Vangunu	-8.5257	158.0162	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Barora'fa	-7.4992	158.3073	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Barora Ite	-7.5940	158.3775	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kia	-7.5632	158.4413	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ghaghe	-7.4140	158.2514	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

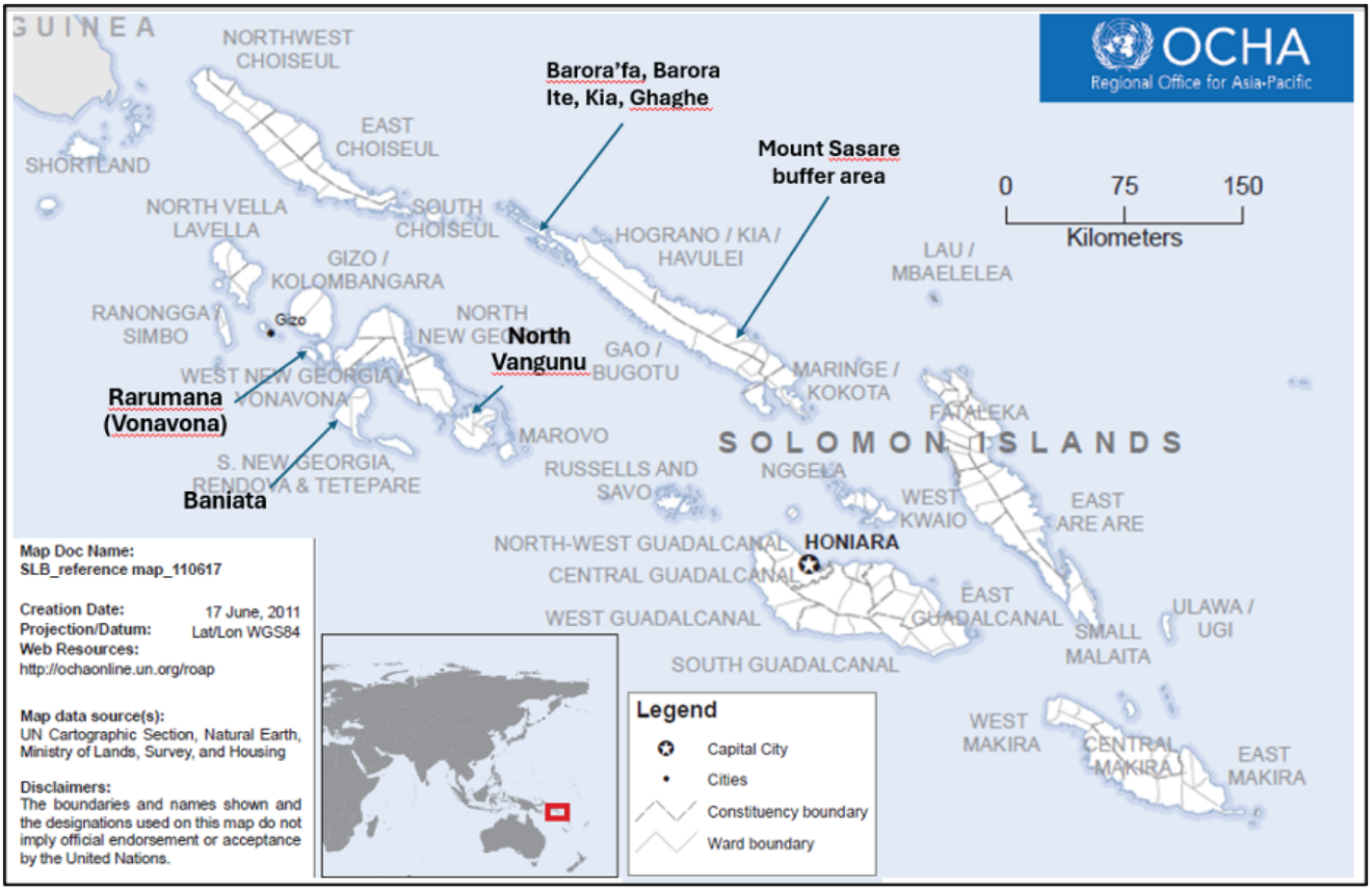
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mount Sasare	-8.1175	159.5346	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Support to the establishment and management of community-led conservation areas

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



Project localities

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Oracle Code and Description	Total C1	Total C2	Total C3	Total C4	M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Executing Partner
5013 Consultants								
National consultants								
National Project Coordinator and PA/OECM specialist	24,000	47,700	55,500	24,000		16,800	**168,000**	MECDM
Gender, stakeholder and KM/M&E specialist	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500	10,000		**120,000**	MECDM
Administrative, Logistics, Finance and Procurement Assistant (PMU)						48,000	**48,000**	MECDM
NGO Technical Direction and Oversight (2 NGOs)		16,000	40,000				**56,000**	TNC/WCS
NGO Provincial Coordinators (2 NGOs)		20,000	100,000				**120,000**	TNC/WCS
NGO administration, logistics and procurement support (2 NGOs)						32,000	**32,000**	TNC/WCS
Sub-total national consultants	**51,500**	**111,200**	**223,000**	**51,500**	**10,000**	**96,800**	**544,000**	
5013 Sub-total consultants	**51,500**	**111,200**	**223,000**	**51,500**	**10,000**	**96,800**	**544,000**	
5021 Travel								
National travel								
NPC and PA/OECM specialist travel to target provinces, including flight/ferry and DSA	5,900	5,900	2,360				**14,160**	MECDM
Travel of consultant to provinces for review of provincial policy and regulatory frameworks	3,360						**3,360**	MECDM
Travel of provincial participants to BD planning workshops		3,000	-				**3,000**	MECDM
Travel of provincial participants for R2R planning workshops		3,000	-				**3,000**	MECDM
Tickets for consultant to travel to provinces to advise on DSS		3,360	-				**3,360**	MECDM
Travel of participants to participatory workshops		20,000	14,000				**34,000**	TNC/WCS
Travel of farmers between provinces (10 exchanges, 5 farmers in each visit) + DSA			30,000				**30,000**	TNC/WCS
Sub-total national travel	**9,260**	**35,260**	**46,360**				**90,880**	
5021 Sub-total travel	**9,260**	**35,260**	**46,360**				**90,880**	
5023 Training & workshops								
Contract for organizing and facilitating national workshops on policy and regulatory review	16,000						**16,000**	MECDM
Contract for organizing and facilitating provincial workshops on policy and regulatory review	4,000						**4,000**	MECDM
Contract for organizing and facilitating national workshops for defining conservation area categories	16,000						**16,000**	MECDM

Contract for organizing and facilitating meetings of coordination platforms	4,000						**4,000**	MECDM
Contract for organizing and facilitating provincial workshops on BD conservation planning		12,000					**12,000**	MECDM
Contract for organizing and facilitating provincial workshops on R2R planning		12,000					**12,000**	MECDM
Contracts for organizing and facilitating national workshops to set up knowledge sharing network				16,000			**16,000**	MECDM
Contract for organizing and facilitating provincial workshops to set up knowledge sharing networks				8,000			**8,000**	MECDM
Inception and final workshop					16,000		**16,000**	FAO
Annual PSC meetings and review workshop					6,000		**6,000**	FAO
Participatory workshops at community level		8,000	4,000				**12,000**	TNC/WCS
Training of leader farmers and farmer field school facilitators			12,000				**12,000**	TNC/WCS
Farmer to farmer knowledge exchange and awareness raising materials			50,000				**50,000**	TNC/WCS
Planning/training workshops with extension agents on options for sustainable production and management			24,000				**24,000**	TNC/WCS
Meetings of networks of community-based conservation organizations			1,600				**1,600**	TNC/WCS
5023 Sub-total training	**40,000**	**32,000**	**91,600**	**24,000**	**22,000**		**209,600**	
5024 Expendable procurement								
IT equipment for provincial Governments		20,000					**20,000**	MECDM
Inputs (e.g. planting materials, equipment) for Farmer Field Schools and leader farmers			190,000				**190,000**	TNC/WCS
Establishment of community grants for productive and value adding activities			156,870				**156,870**	TNC/WCS
Demonstration facilities in MAL extension centres			10,000				**10,000**	TNC/WCS
Grants to Rural Training Centres for demonstrations of options based on sustainable production			47,073				**47,073**	TNC/WCS
Inputs (e.g. equipment) for sustainability-based businesses			80,000				**80,000**	TNC/WCS
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement		20,000	483943				**503943**	
5650 Contracts								
Individual contracts								
Facilitation and advisory support to MECDM and other sector ministries on the collaborative review of policy and regulatory frameworks	4,000						**4,000**	MECDM
Facilitation and advisory support to the collaborative review of policy and regulatory frameworks at provincial level	4,000						**4,000**	MECDM
Advisory and facilitation support to the clarification of the categories available for defining and formalizing community-led conservation initiatives	4,000						**4,000**	MECDM
Contracts with companies/service providers								
Detailed capacity development needs analyses (CDNAs) of national and provincial institutions	8,000						**8,000**	MECDM
Formulation of plans at national, provincial levels and site-specific levels for the sustainable financing of community-led PAs/OECMs	27,000						**27,000**	MECDM

Advising on and facilitating the updating and expansion of R2R plans in Isabel and Western		20,000					**20,000**	MECDM
Establishment of decision-support systems		5,000		5,000			**10,000**	MECDM
Support the completion of governance and equity assessments for its target sites, establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement.		8,000					**8,000**	TNC/WCS
Advisory/facilitation support from service providers (e.g. local NGOs) on developing and promoting sustainable and resilient farming systems			473,400				**473,400**	TNC/WCS
Advisory/facilitation support for strengthening of village-based businesses			109,671				**109,671**	TNC/WCS
Baseline survey of project indicators					14,000		**14,000**	MECDM
Indicator monitoring					8,000		**8,000**	MECDM
Independent mid-term review					33,275		**33,275**	FAO
Independent Terminal Evaluation					43,275		**43,275**	FAO
OP - annual audit						48,552	**48,552**	FAO
OP - spot checks						34,784	**34,784**	FAO
5650 Sub-total Contracts	**47,000**	**33,000**	**583,071**	**5,000**	**94,550**	**83,336**	**849,957**	
6300 GOE budget								
Fuel for boats and cars		20,000	50,000				**70,000**	TNC/WCS
Tablets		1,300	3,900				**5,200**	TNC/WCS
Boat and car hire		20,000	50,000				**70,000**	TNC/WCS
Office consumables						4,800	**12,000**	MECDM
Office equipment (computers, cameras, printers etc.)						7,960	**19,899**	MECDM
NGO Office consumables						5,000	**12,532**	TNC/WCS
NGO Office equipment (computers, printers etc.)						8,000	**6,000**	TNC/WCS
6300 Sub-total GOE budget		**41,300**	**123,900**			**64,431**	**229,631**	
TOTAL	**147,760**	**277,760**	**1,531,874**	**80,500**	**130,550**	**205,896**	**2,374,340**	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.