

GEF-8 PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

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General Project Information

Project Title:

Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Improved Biodiversity Stewardship in the Solomon Islands

Region:

Solomon Islands

GEF Project ID:

11795

Country(ies):

Solomon Islands

Type of Project:

GBFF

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency Project ID:

754443

Anticipated Executing Entity(s):

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster
Management & Meteorology

Anticipated Executing Type:

Government

GEF Focal Area (s):

Biodiversity

Submission Date:

9/30/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Development Goals, Mainstreaming, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approach, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Private Sector, SMEs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Type of Trust Fund:

GBFF

Project Duration (Months)

48

GEF Project Financing: (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:

7,350,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
100,000.00	9,500.00
PPG total Amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
109,500.00	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	

Indicative Project Overview

To empower Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in effective management of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in select KBAs of Solomon Islands

Project Components

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

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
226,128.00	698,250.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 1.1 Improved capacities of Isabel and Western Province entities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management through collaborative and adaptive spatial planning by IPLCs in KBAs.

Project Indicators:

of institutions aligned through collaborative and adaptive spatial planning in selected KBAs by IPLC to support NBSAP targets.

of institutions with improved capacities on collaborative and adaptive spatial planning in selected KBAs by IPLC to support NBSAP targets.

of training programs conducted and awareness created on collaborative and adaptive spatial planning for biodiversity conservation and management by IPLC.

of people with improved capacities on collaborative and adaptive spatial planning for biodiversity conservation and management by IPLC.

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

Project Outputs:

Output 1.1.1. Government institutions and traditional decision-making bodies (e.g., Councils of Chiefs and Ward Development Committees^[1]) in Isabel and Western Province are aligned for collaborative and adaptive spatial planning to support the biodiversity conservation and management by IPLC in selected KBAs.

Output 1.1.2. Intersectoral coordination strengthened for collaborative and adaptive spatial planning in Isabel and Western Provinces for biodiversity conservation and management in selected KBAs by IPLC to support NBSAP targets.

[1] Ward Development Committees established in each of the Provinces through Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening and the Ministry of Rural Development. These committees will be involved as the voice of the IPLCs.

Component 1

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
203,515.00	628,425.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 1.2 Alignment in policy and institutional frameworks for strengthened IPLC driven management of OECMs.

Project Indicators:

Number of policies aligned for biodiversity conservation and management in OECMs by IPLC.

Number of policies assessed and reviewed to promote equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity to IPLCs.

Recommendations for equitable benefit sharing to promote equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity to IPLCs.

Project Outputs:

Output 1.2.1. Relevant national policies (NBSAP, NDC, and NDS^[1]) are revised and aligned to strengthen gender responsive and IPLC driven management in OECMs.

Output 1.2.2. National policies are assessed and revised to promote equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity to

IPLCs.

[1] National Development Strategy

Component 2. Collaborative land/seascape planning in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for biodiversity conservation through application of innovative tools.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
407,030.00	1,256,850.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 2.1 Biodiversity mainstreamed in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province through collaborative land/seascape planning and management by IPLC and application of innovative tools.

Project Indicators:

Strategy and action plans developed.

Number of financing plans developed.

Number of partnerships established.

Operational tool at the provincial level to support the national data collection and update.

of data support to national data collection and update. # of NBSAP targets supported by the operational provincial tools.

Project Outputs:

Output 2.1.1.

A comprehensive and gender-responsive 5- and 10-year multi-level land/seascape planning, management strategy, and action plan developed, involving IPLCs, for OECMs in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province.

Output 2.1.2. Sustainable financing plan prepared and operationalized to support community-based and women-centric pilot initiative(s) and an IPLC trust fund established.

Output 2.1.3. An integrated spatial tool developed for selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province by coordinating with available national tools and information systems to support national data collection and update.

Component 2

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
248,740.00	768,075.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 2.2 Improved land/seascape planning and management at newly established OECMs in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province to support the high-value biodiversity.

Project Indicators:

Number of OECMs identified.

Hectare of terrestrial and marine OECMs created.

Hectare of terrestrial and marine OECMs under improved practices.

GEF Core Indicator 4:

Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare).

GEF Core indicator 4.5 and 5.4: Terrestrial and Marine OECMs supported

Project Outputs:

Output 2.2.1.

Potential OECM sites identified, demarcated, and registered from the selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province.

Output 2.2.2. Improved land/seascape planning, and management measures identified for the newly established OECMs in Western and Isabel Province

to support high-value biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

Component 3. Livelihood diversification of IPLCs in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
293,966.00	907,725.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 3.1 Empowered IPLCs contribute towards biodiversity conservation in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province.

Project Indicators:

Number of IPLC managed biodiversity conservation and management plans implemented.

Number of institutions involved.

Number of IPLCs benefitted.

Number of implemented priority actions.

Report on baseline study.

Number of proposals developed.

Project Outputs:

Output 3.1.1. Sub-national level land/seascape planning, management, and action plan are incorporated into the newly established (under this project) IPLC- managed biodiversity conservation plan; and priority actions implemented and monitored regularly.

Output 3.1.2 Baseline studies to map priority areas for biodiversity in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province is conducted and accordingly additional funding mobilized for other KBAs to scale out best practices identified in Output 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.

Component 3

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
452,255.00	1,396,500.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 3.2 Entrepreneurship and livelihood diversification initiatives are piloted in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province.

Project Indicators:

Number of IPLCs- entrepreneurial capabilities developed.

Number of women and youth involved.

Number of people benefitted.

Number of enterprises and business opportunities developed.

Number of livelihood diversification options piloted.

Project Outputs:

Output 3.2.1.

Capacities of IPLCs in select KBAs of Western and Isabel Province to develop and manage community-based biodiversity enterprises strengthened.

Output 3.2.2. IPLC and women-driven enterprises, blue-green business opportunities, and livelihood diversification^{[1]³}

piloted in select KBAs of Western and Isabel Province

^[1] Specific livelihood diversification opportunities and blue-green business options will be identified during the PPG phase based on baseline study and local community consultations in Marovo Kavachi, Roviana-Vonavona, Northwest Isabel, and San Jorge Island KBAs of Isabel and Western province. During the baseline study and local community consultations will be done based on theoretical conceptualizations and its practical applications, and accordingly IPLCs household and local community specific options will be piloted.

Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up biodiversity conservation through OECMs and IPLC involvement at national level.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
316,579.00	977,550.00

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 4.1 Scaled up good practices and dissemination of lessons learned by an established framework to accelerate learning by doing and replication.

Project Indicators:

Number of knowledge products developed and shared with local/national and global audiences.

Number of local indigenous and economic knowledge compiled and disseminated.

An operational action plan for knowledge dissemination.

GEF Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex count

Project Outputs:

Output 4.1.1. Indigenous knowledge and socio-economic assessment of benefits derived from IPLC driven OECMs compiled and disseminated for scale up and replication at the national level.

Output 4.1.2. Baseline terrestrial ecosystem services valuation^[1] of select KBAs, covering areas conserved by the Zaira community in Lupa Vangunu, Western Province^[2], conducted and disseminated.

^[1] After successful conduct of marine ESV (<https://pacific-data.sprep.org/resource/national-marine-ecosystem-service-valuation-solomon-islands-report>) terrestrial ESV will be conducted in select sites to be identified during PPG.

^[2] There are already some movements from Customary landowners from Zaira on Lupa Vangunu to protect the last old-growth rainforest on the island from commercial logging. <https://livelearn.org/stories/voices-from-zaira/>

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
113,063.00	349,125.00

Project Outcomes:

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

Project Outputs:

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 biodiversity conservation and sustainable management through collaborative and adaptive spatial planning in Isabel and Western Province.	226,128.00	698,250.00
Component 1	203,515.00	628,425.00
Component 2. Collaborative land/seascape planning in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province for biodiversity conservation through application of innovative tools.	407,030.00	1,256,850.00
Component 2	248,740.00	768,075.00
Component 3. Livelihood diversification of IPLCs in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel Province	293,966.00	907,725.00
Component 3	452,255.00	1,396,500.00
Component 4. Awareness raising and knowledge management for scaling up biodiversity conservation through OECMs and IPLC involvement at national level.	316,579.00	977,550.00
M&E	113,063.00	349,125.00
Subtotal	2,261,276.00	6,982,500.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)	113,064.00	367,500.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	2,374,340.00	7,350,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages total, including 5 pages of text maximum. Concepts longer than 7 pages will be returned. Please note the portal entry will be limited to up to 19,400 characters of text and up to two figures.).

1. Solomon Islands is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) consisting of a scattered archipelago of 994 islands, of which around 300 are inhabited. The country has six main islands, Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Makira, and is characterized by a rugged and mountainous landscape of volcanic origin. It has the second largest land area in the Pacific with a land area of 28,896 sq. km and 4,023 km coastline. The Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) is 1.34 million sq. km covering mountainous islands, low-lying coral atolls, and tuna-rich and potentially mineral-rich maritime area. The economy is driven by agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which represent ~31% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
2. The population of the country is around 721,455 (2019 census), which represents 169,930 people increase from the last census in 2009 (2.7% growth). Around 95% of the population is indigenous Melanesian: 80% of the land is owned and governed under traditional customary systems; thus, government agencies act as service providers, addressing issues upon request from communities.
3. Around 51% of the population is male and 49% is female, and around 74% of the population lives in rural areas. The country has nine provinces.
4. Solomon Islands is a Least Developed Country, with the second-lowest average per capita income in the Pacific region. In 2023, GDP was USD 1.5 billion, and this is projected to grow at 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. 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.
5. The biodiversity of the country is of global importance, and it is recognized as a "Centre of Plant Diversity". The country has the second highest terrestrial biodiversity of anywhere in the Pacific. Over 80% of the terrestrial landscapes are forested making the country one of the global 200 forest ecoregions. It has 4,500 species of plants, 3,200 of which are known to be indigenous. There is also a high diversity of animal species, and the country is an "Endemic Bird Area" (EBA) with the highest number of restricted-range species in any EBA of the world (94). There are a total of 223 bird species, of which 82% are endemic. Terrestrial insects recorded are around 14,511 species, which include 130 species (30 endemic) of butterflies and 31 cicada species.
6. The number of mammals is higher than in any other Pacific Island region and natural heritage is unique in terms of marine species. Due to the presence of a high number of coastal and marine coral species (500 coral and over 1,000 fish species) the country is included under the Bismarck Solomon Seas Ecoregion and Coral Triangle marine global biodiversity hotspot. Freshwater ecosystems include numerous rivers as well as a few lakes, of which Lake Tengano in East Rennell, the largest lake in the insular Pacific (15,500 ha) has been declared a natural UNESCO World Heritage Site.

7. The country has 92 Protected Areas (PA) reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), and no other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) as of May 2021. The country has 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) while existing PAs cover only 5.8%, and 31 KBAs have no PA coverage (Figure 1). As of 2021 (May), terrestrial PA coverage in the country is 530.4 km² (1.8%) and marine PA coverage is 1,879.4 km² (0.1%). The country contains 2 terrestrial ecoregions, 2 marine ecoregions, and 1 pelagic province. PAs and OECMs cover 0.9% (terrestrial), 1.6% (marine) of these.
8. In terms of the governance types of the existing PA, (a) 1.1% are governed by governments (by federal or national ministry or agency), (b) 1.1% are under shared governance (by collaborative governance), (c) 58.7% are under IPLC governance, and (d) 39.1% not reported with a specific governance type.

Challenges to be addressed

9. Industrial logging, development of unsustainable land use practices (oil palm, coconut and cocoa), waste and overharvesting of species, as well as the clearance of land for subsistence gardens are the major threats to terrestrial biodiversity. Poor land use practices particularly from logging and large monocrops, waste, and mining in some islands are also affecting the inland water biodiversity. Waste, increased water turbidity from logging, bycatch, and overharvesting of eatable species are the major threats to marine biodiversity. Emerging threats, such as climate change and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are increasing in magnitude.
10. Some challenges mentioned above are to be addressed by few of the baseline initiatives, such as Food System, EREPA, SAFE, and Forest Management projects. For example, the establishment of the National PA network, a standardized data repository platform, as well as coordination for terrestrial ecosystem management and restoration are considered under the EREPA project. Similarly, SAFE project will work on inter-sectoral governance, capacity and strategies to mainstream biodiversity, strengthening information management for biodiversity; IAS detection, control and management; as well as knowledge sharing tools, biodiversity information/learning centers, events and networks.
11. A workshop was organized involving key stakeholders to identify the challenges that need to be addressed under this project. It reveals that in Solomon Island there is no OECMs declared, and little emphasis placed on involving IPLCs in community-driven biodiversity conservation and management. Existing policies are not well aligned to support IPLC-driven biodiversity conservation and management through OECMs. This situation is aggravated by limited institutional and technical capacity. Those KBAs which currently have no coverage by PAs and OECMs are key areas for action, in addition to lack of spatial and land/sea use planning focusing on KBAs supporting the national level NBSAP targets; absence of data sharing from entities working at community level on biodiversity; lack of livelihood support for IPLCs; limited access to finance; and lack of baseline valuation of terrestrial ecosystem not yet addressed by the baseline initiatives mentioned in paragraph 11.
12. The proposed project will work on these aspects by focusing on selected KBAs of Isabel and Western province as indicated in Figure 1. These localities have been chosen in particular because they include KBAs that lack terrestrial protected areas; furthermore, they include IPLC community

rainforest conservation efforts, such as that of the Zaira community on Lupa Vangunu in Western Province.

■ Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)
 ■ Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
 ■ Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)
■ Two targeted province of Solomon Islands under the proposed project

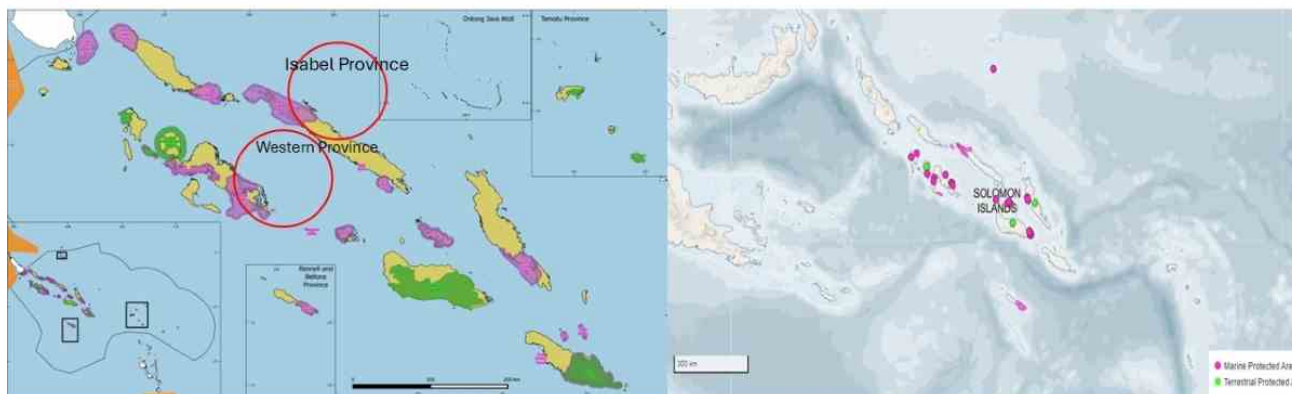


Figure 1: Key Biodiversity Areas, Protected Area coverage, and two provinces of the Solomon Islands for the project interventions.

Goal and objectives

13. This project aims to support IPLC-driven biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in selected KBAs of Isabel and Western province (Action Area 2), backed by spatial and land/sea use planning focusing on KBAs to feed national NBSAP targets (Action Area 1), and alignment of key national policies and frameworks for biodiversity conservation and management through OECMs and involving IPLCs (Action Area 3). Such an approach is needed to develop a mechanism of connecting spatial planning and intervention efforts in KBAs to the national targets to ensure effective biodiversity management by involving IPLCs. The potential OECMs site under this project, and piloting of project interventions will be in Marovo Kavachi and Roviana-Vonavona of Western Province, as well as Northwest Isabel and San Jorge Island of Isabel Province.

Justification

14. The project supports implementation of relevant NBSAP and GBFF targets by engaging IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and management, diversifying livelihoods, and fostering sustainable practices through OECMs in selected KBAs of Western and Isabel province. By ensuring capacity building, management of KBAs through OECMs, IPLCs will be empowered through biodiversity-friendly entrepreneurship, backed by sub-national level land/sea use planning, and alignment of key national policies. The project will establish demonstration sites across the selected KBAs of Marovo Kavachi and Roviana-Vonavona of Western Province, as well as Northwest Isabel and San Jorge Island of Isabel Province. These demonstration sites will serve as models for land/sea use planning at KBAs supporting the national NBSAP targets, and interventions involving IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. To achieve the desired goal, the project will address the following three barriers:
15. **Barrier 1: Complex and incoherent policy framework and limited institutional coordination at the sub-national level to mainstream IPLC driven biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in OECMs:** There is a lack of 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.
16. **Barrier 2: Insufficient measures, finance opportunities, and poor framework to enable integrated participatory spatial planning involving IPLCs in OECMs:** Due to resources and technical constraints, existing Ecoregions and KBAs are not effectively managed through PA, and as mentioned in paragraph 11, there is no OECMs, and involving IPLCs. Besides, there is a lack of data-

driven sub-national spatial planning and decision support tools for avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring cost savings to achieve the national targets related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

17. **Barrier 3: Limited awareness, data, and capacity to manage biodiversity in KBAs involving IPLCs and in OECMs:** Such kind of challenges still prevail among the national and sub-national entities to ensure the successful application and propagation of spatial and land/sea use planning to feed national NBSAP targets involving IPLCs, by capturing indigenous knowledge, and baseline valuation of terrestrial ecosystem services of Ecoregions and KBAs.

Expected results (including GEBs and GBF headline indicators)

18. The project will empower IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through creation of new OECMs in Marovo Kavachi, Roviana-Vonavona, Northwest Isabel, and San Jorge Island of Isabel and Western province (Action Area 1,2), with the use of spatial and land/sea use planning focusing on KBAs to feed national NBSAP targets (Action Area 1), that ensure alignment with select key national policies and frameworks (NBSAP, NDS, and NDC) (Action Area 3). The project will contribute to several GBF headline indicators, such as (a) percentage of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans (1.1) ; (b) coverage of PAs and OECMs (3.1); (c) number of countries integrating biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, across all sectors (14.b); and number of countries promoting equitable gender participation, and recognizing the rights of IPLC related to traditional cultures and practices (22.b).

Project Description

19. The Solomon Islands has a diverse range of ecosystems and biodiversity categorized into 37 KBAs. However, the biodiversity of the country is significantly under threat as indicated under the project challenges section. The overall project logic to overcome the barriers, deliver outputs and outcomes, and associated assumptions are presented in Figure 2. The theory of change (TOC) of the project 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 a multi-faceted, gender-responsive, and participatory process anchored on a whole-of-society approach, led by IPLCs and tailored to traditional governance and customary tenure systems. To achieve the project objective and address the barriers indicated in the TOC diagram, the project will work on 4 components. These components are structured into 7 outcomes and 15 outputs.

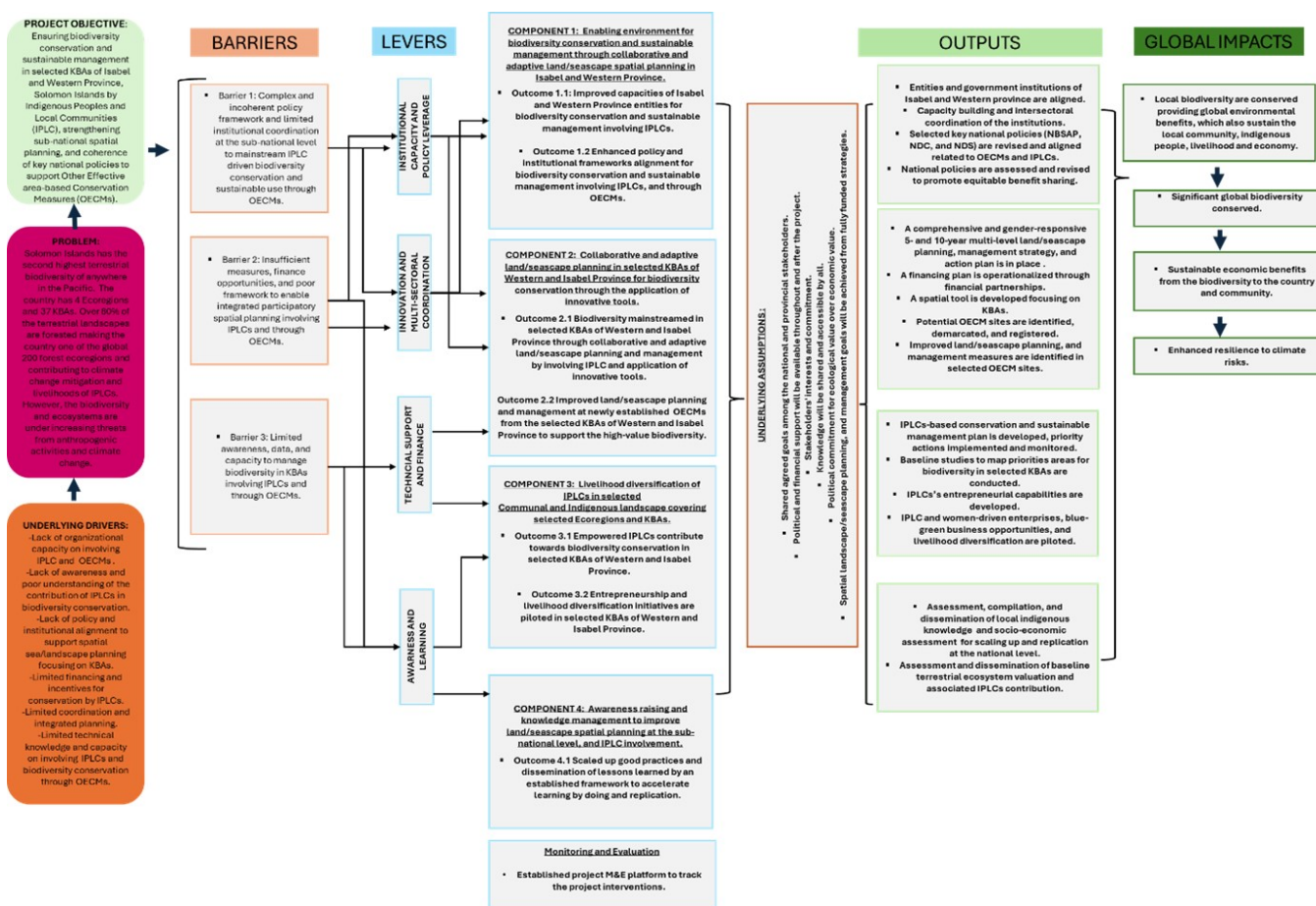


Fig: Project Theory of Change

20. The project aims to ensure sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in the Solomon Islands by involving IPLC, site and sub-national spatial planning, and aligning key national policies. The accomplishment and sustainability of the project rely on the assumptions mentioned in TOC diagram.

21. 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. Besides, 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 for biodiversity conservation and management through OECMs; and assessment and revision of national policies to promote equitable benefit sharing will be also the output of this component.

COMPONENT 2 will deliver a comprehensive and gender-responsive 5- and 10-year multi-level land/seascape planning, management strategy, and action plan; a sustainable financing plan through financial partnerships, and by establishing an IPLC trust fund; a provincial-level integrated spatial tool focusing on KBAs to support the national data collection and update; identification and demarcation of OECM sites; and improved **management** in selected OECM sites. **COMPONENT 3** will work on a IPLCs-based conservation and sustainable management plan development, implementation and monitoring; IPLCs' entrepreneurial capabilities development; and piloting of IPLC and women-driven enterprises, blue-green business opportunities, and livelihood diversification. Finally, **COMPONENT 4** will focus on assessment, compilation, and dissemination of local indigenous and economic knowledge; 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 IPLCs contribution.

22. The project will work in synergy with other baseline investments including Food System, EREPA, SAFE, and Forest Management projects. During PPG phase in-depth analysis will be conducted to avoid duplication, capitalizing the lessons learners, and exploring implementation of joint/synergistic activities with the baseline projects.

Stakeholders

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping will be conducted during the PPG phase. It will identify the role of the IPLCs in the project activities and outcomes. There will be in-depth engagement with the local communities, particularly in the context of land tenure. They will actively participate in project preparation, participating in problem analysis, offering solutions, and suggesting action plans. The project will embrace an inclusive approach during design, implementation, and monitoring to address existing barriers in all its dimensions and ensure the inclusion of marginalized populations. This will specifically target women, and youth.

The MECMD- Environment and Conservation Division, will oversee project execution, with support from FAO, the GEF Agency. A dedicated Project Management Unit under the ECD will oversee day-to-day project delivery. A multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee will provide strategic oversight to the project. PSC will be composed of government officials, FAO representatives, organization representatives, IPLC representatives, NGOs, and women's associations from Isabel and Western province (not exhaustive).

Alignment with GBFF Action Areas: The project is aligned with the following GBFF Actions Areas and KMGBF Targets. Action Area 1 linked to KMGBF target 1 and Target 3; Action Area 2 linked to KMGBF target 1, 3; and Target 22. Action Area 3 linked to KMGBF target 14. The project will also support KMGBF target 21 and Target 23.

GBFF Criteria:

Global environmental benefits (GEBs) and GBFF Results Indicators *Global environmental benefits (GEBs):* 20,000 ha of land and sea scapes will be under improved practices and/or new OECMs created in selected KBAs of Isabel and Western province. The project will benefit around 30,000 people, of which 50 % will be women. In depth baseline study and stakeholder analysis will be conducted during PPG phase to identify specific geographical locations for project interventions. The project will focus on Marovo Kavachi, Roviana-Vonavona, Northwest Isabel, and San Jorge Island KBAs of Isabel and Western province.

GBFF Results Indicators: The project will support the GBFF results indicators: (a) percent of land and seas covered by biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans; and (b) services provided by ecosystems.

National and regional priorities: The project supports the implementation of the NBSAP of Solomon Island, which is under revision now to ensure alignment with the KMGBF objectives and targets. The project is linked to Priority 1,2,3,5, and 14 of the NBSAP 2016-2020. It is also in line with Objective 4, Medium Term Strategy 11, and Strategic Development Goal 15 of National Development Strategy (2016-2035). Goal 1 and 2 of the first strategy of the National Forestry Policy 2020 are directly correlated with the project. The proposed project is also aligned with priorities 1.1, 3.3, and 3.5 of the Pacific Action Plan for Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (2024-2030).

Policy coherence and coordination across multiple entities: The project aims to promote an elevated policy coherence and institutional coordination across various stakeholders at sub-national level (in provinces and wards) and connecting with the national actors, including government agencies, IPLCs, local NGOs, and women's associations.

Private sector and philanthropies: The project will mobilize resources from the private sector, particularly for support to women entrepreneurship through the newly established IPLC trust fund. The project will leverage partnerships with philanthropic organizations to support capacity building, knowledge exchange, and innovative conservation initiatives. During PPG phase more specific modes of partnership with private sector and philanthropic organizations will be explored.

Support to IPLCs: IPLCs will be the main stakeholders of the project and will play an active role in project preparation, problem analysis, proposing solutions, and developing action plans. The project will ensure their meaningful engagement on decisions related to land and resource use and in identification of OECMs.

Core Indicators

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	0	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			

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)

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			

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)

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			
Male	15,000			
Total	30,000	0	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)

20,000 ha of land and sea scapes will be under improved practices and/or new OECMs created in selected KBAs of Isabel and Western province. The project will benefit around 30,000 people, of which 50 % will be women. In depth baseline study and stakeholder analysis will be conducted during PPG phase to identify specific geographical locations for project interventions. The project will focus on Marovo Kavachi, Roviana-Vonavona, Northwest Isabel, and San Jorge Island KBAs of Isabel and Western province.

ANNEX A: PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)

FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	805,970.00	69,924.00	875,894.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	996,391.00	106,014.00	1,102,405.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 3	571,979.00	49,624.00	621,603.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)					2,374,340.00	225,562.00	2,599,902.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

100000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

9500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG (\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	31,000.00	2,945.00	33,945.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	47,000.00	4,465.00	51,465.00
FAO	GBFF	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 3	Grant	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 Country Star Allocation

(Only for Multi-Trust Fund projects where GEF TF is included)

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

Indicative Action Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	805,970.00	2,278,500.00
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	996,391.00	3,454,500.00
GBFF Action Area 3	GBFF	571,979.00	1,617,000.00
Total Project Cost		2,374,340.00	7,350,000.00

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

Amount
746,221.00

Indicative Co-financing

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	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Donor Agency	Solomon Islands GCF Multi-year Readiness Project	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,000,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Total Co-financing				7,350,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

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	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Jeffrey Griffin	9/30/2024	Lianchawii Chhakchuak		jeffrey.griffin@fao.org

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

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