



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10769

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management

Countries

Niue

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Department of Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Sector

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Certification -National Standards, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forest, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Significant Objective 1

Land Degradation

Significant Objective 1

Submission Date

12/7/2022

Expected Implementation Start

11/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

10/31/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

332,782.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

| Objectives/Programs | Focal Area Outcomes | Trust Fund | GEF Amount(\$) | Co-Fin Amount(\$) |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| BD-1-1 | Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sector | GET | 2,224,635.00 | 8,957,467.00 |
| LD-1-1 | Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management | GET | 1,078,333.00 | 5,075,658.00 |
| LD-2-5 | Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN | GET | 200,000.00 | 2,000,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost(\$) | | | 3,502,968.00 | 16,033,125.00 |

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in Niue through the development of sustainable and biodiversity-friendly tourism and agriculture sectors

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co- Financing(\$) |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|---|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Component 1: A national governance context that ensures biodiversity and land degradation concerns are adequately recognized and taken into consideration in tourism and agriculture development . | Technical Assistance | <p>1.1 Strengthened and harmonized policies and procedures are in place and ensure biodiversity concerns and ecosystem services are fully considered in tourism and agriculture development, as indicated by:</p> <p><i>- Tourism and agriculture sectoral planning internalizing findings and lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic;</i></p> <p><i>-Improved institutional capacity for planning, management and monitoring tourism and agriculture sector operations evidenced by 20 % increase in GEF Capacity Development Scorecard.</i></p> | <p>1.1.1 Strengthened and operational cross-sectoral committee with capacity and mandate to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) across tourism and agriculture sectors, supported by improved national coordination and a strengthened regulatory framework</p> <p>1.1.2 Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, based on mainstreaming biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), updated and implementation initiated</p> | GET | 783,366.00 | 3,424,153.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|-------------------|----------------|--|---|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Targets and indicators to be confirmed during PPG. | 1.1.3 National voluntary LDN targets and monitoring framework developed and adopted | | | |
| | | GEF Project Financing | 1.1.4 | | | |
| | | BD 392,188 | Operational policies on financing solutions developed and approved to create incentives for the tourism and agriculture sectors to invest in the conservation of biodiversity and SLM | | | |
| | | LD 391,178 | | | | |
| | | = 783,366 | | | | |
| | | Confirmed Co-financing | | | | |
| | | BD 2,076,409 | | | | |
| | | LD 1,347,744 | | | | |
| | | =3,424,153 | | | | |
| | | | 1.1.5 Guidelines, increased capacities and know-how on environment impact assessment (EIA) of tourism and agriculture sector operations and investments | | | |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|--|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Component 2: Integrated model for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into tourism and agriculture | Technical Assistance | <p>2.1 Sustainable biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism and agriculture across ecologically important landscape and seascape, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tourism development and impact monitoring program supported by the National Tourism Strategy and Action Plan;</i> - <i>Sustainable BD conservation and SLM practices widely adopted across a globally significant terrestrial landscape (5,300 ha).</i> - <i>10% Increase in PA METT score (particularly for revenue, visitor management,</i> | <p>2.1.1 Population assessment of key species, comprehensive land use and vegetation cover survey and economic valuation of ecosystem services carried out to establish baseline data and indicators</p> <p>2.1.2 Training and capacity development for tourism officers, local governments, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators provided to identify, monitor and manage tourism impacts</p> <p>2.1.3 Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative practices of sustainable land/forest management to promote regenerative agriculture</p> | GET | 2,100,270.00 | 8,957,466.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|-------------------|----------------|--|---|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | <p>and community engagement) of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area;</p> <p>-Reduced pressures from unsustainable tourism and agriculture, e.g. reduced habitat degradation and land use conversion, improved waste management, no reduction in population size of key species;</p> <p>- 30 % increase of existing and all new agriculture and tourism operations that are environmentally certified/green labelled.</p> <p>- Increased revenue generation for biodiversity conservation through</p> | <p>and agroforestry, improve soil fertility, phase out toxic chemical herbicides, and move towards environmentally sound production</p> <p>2.1.4 Nature-friendly tourism and agricultural products and practices co-designed with local communities and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, reduce waste and generate livelihood benefits</p> <p>2.1.5 Demonstration of environmental certification system and other financing solutions to promote implementation</p> | | | |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|-------------------|----------------|---|---|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | <p><i>tourism user fees/ charges.</i></p> <p><i>- 20% Increase of local households deriving income from sustainable agriculture and ecotourism;</i></p> <p><i>- All developments with a major defined environmental impact during the scoping stage undergo an environmental impact assessment.</i></p> <p>Targets and indicators to be confirmed during PPG.</p> | <p>n of nature-based solutions in tourism and agriculture sectors</p> <p>2.1.6 Farmers and small business capacitated and supported in the development of business plans and revenue generation models to access and test sustainable financing solutions</p> | | | |
| | | GEF Project Financing | | | | |
| | | BD 1,432,371 | | | | |
| | | LD 667,899 | | | | |
| | | =2,100,270 | | | | |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Confirmed Co-financing | | | | |
| | | BD 4,577,297 | | | | |
| | | LD 4,380,169 | | | | |
| | | = 8,957,466 | | | | |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--|----------------------|--|--|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Component 3: Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E | Technical Assistance | <p>3.1 Improved awareness, education and knowledge management supporting upscaling to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation, as indicated by:</p> <p><i>- Improved attitudes and awareness of tourism industry, communities, and tourists (domestic and international) for the importance of biodiversity to tourism, measured by Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey;</i></p> <p><i>-At least 10 best practices and lessons learned used in upscaling, including on how gender considerations are being integrated in the shift to more sustainable use of resources that support</i></p> | <p>3.1.1 Lessons learned, guidance and tools systematized and available for optimizing the linkages between sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and the island's biodiversity, land and ecosystems</p> <p>3.1.2 Awareness and education campaign on biodiversity, SLM/LDN, ecosystem services and waste reduction targeting tourism industry, CSOs, farmers, and tourists</p> <p>3.1.3 Mobile application to encourage participation and monitoring of sustainable tourism</p> <p>3.1.4 M&E system incorporating gender</p> | GET | 452,524.00 | 2,888,024.00 |

| Project Component | Financing Type | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Confirmed Co-Financing(\$) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | <i>tourism and agriculture, and socio-cultural benefits of tourism documented for future use.</i> | mainstreaming and safeguards adopted and implemented. | | | |
| | | <i>GEF Project Financing</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>BD 294,141</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>LD 158,383</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>= 452,524</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>Confirmed Co-financing</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>BD 1,877,216</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>LD 1,010,808</i> | | | | |
| | | <i>= 2,888,024</i> | | | | |
| | | | | Sub Total (\$) | 3,336,160.00 | 15,269,643.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | | | |
| | GET | | 166,808.00 | | | 763,482.00 |
| | Sub Total(\$) | | 166,808.00 | | | 763,482.00 |
| | Total Project Cost(\$) | | 3,502,968.00 | | | 16,033,125.00 |

Please provide justification

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

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount(\$) |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Recipient Country Government | Government of Niue | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 7,000,000.00 |
| Donor Agency | European Union (GCCA + SUPA) | Grant | Investment mobilized | 200,000.00 |
| Donor Agency | NZ Agency for International Development (Tourism strategic plan) | Grant | Investment mobilized | 733,125.00 |
| Donor Agency | Australia Aid (?Waste project?) | Grant | Investment mobilized | 2,400,000.00 |
| Donor Agency | Green Climate Fund (project ?FP147?) | Grant | Investment mobilized | 5,700,000.00 |
| Total Co-Financing(\$) | | | | 16,033,125.00 |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The co-financing contributions under ?investment mobilized? are confirmed grants that support the objective of the proposed project and which will be operating during the expected lifetime of the proposed project. They exclude any recurrent expenditures. Further investment will be identified during the PPG.

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

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount(\$) | Fee(\$) | Total(\$) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| UNEP | GE T | Niue | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 2,224,635 | 211,340 | 2,435,975.00 |
| UNEP | GE T | Niue | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation | 1,278,333 | 121,442 | 1,399,775.00 |
| Total Grant Resources(\$) | | | | | 3,502,968.00 | 332,782.00 | 3,835,750.00 |

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

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

PPG Amount (\$)
150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)
14,250

| Agenc y | Trus t Fun d | Countr y | Focal Area | Programmi ng of Funds | Amount(\$) | Fee(\$) | Total(\$) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| UNEP | GET | Niue | Biodiversi ty | BD STAR Allocation | 95,000 | 9,025 | 104,025.0 0 |
| UNEP | GET | Niue | Land Degradati on | LD STAR Allocation | 55,000 | 5,225 | 60,225.00 |
| Total Project Costs(\$) | | | | | 150,000.0 0 | 14,250.0 0 | 164,250.0 0 |

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDP A ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
|----------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDP A ID | IUCN Category | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) | METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) | METT score (Achieved at MTR) | METT score (Achieved at TE) |
|---|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <div><div></div><div>Huvalu Forest CA</div></div> | <div><div></div><div>61918</div></div> | Protected Landscape/ Seascape | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | | | 36.00 | | |

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

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

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

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

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2800.00 | 2800.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

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

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2,800.00 | | | |

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2,800.00 | | | |

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 (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

| Title | Submitted |
|-------|-----------|
|-------|-----------|

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|--|----------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct) | 476098 | 435615 | 0 | 0 |
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|--|----------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct) | 476,098 | 435,615 | | |
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect) | | | | |
| Anticipated start year of accounting | 2023 | 2023 | | |
| Duration of accounting | 20 | 20 | | |

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

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|--|----------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct) | | | | |
| Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect) | | | | |
| Anticipated start year of accounting | | | | |
| Duration of accounting | | | | |

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

| | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Female | 888 | 888 | | |
| Male | 831 | 831 | | |
| Total | 1719 | 1719 | 0 | 0 |

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Biodiversity-friendly agricultural products and tourism experiences will be developed in cooperation with the local communities and private sector across 5,300 hectares (including 2,800 hectares of agricultural land and 2,500 of sustainably maintained forest (in the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area). This translates to 2,500 hectares of terrestrial protected area under improved management. Support will be provided to landowners and farmers to pilot sustainable land management practices across 2,800 hectares to rehabilitate degraded farmland and restore soil fertility. This is captured under area of landscape under improved practices (excluding protected areas). Regarding the beneficiaries, 40% (688 persons) of the people will be involved in the tourism sector (owners of/workers in the tourism enterprises, government officials) and 60% (1,031 persons) from the agricultural sector (farmers/land owners, farm workers, government officials and association members and leadership). The project will contribute to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11 and 15. The people of Niue working in the agriculture and tourism sector will at the end of the project be aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably (relates to Aichi Target (ABT) 1). Biodiversity values in Niue will be incorporated into the Niue's Tourism Strategy and Tourism Action Plan (relating to ABT 2). Landowners and stakeholders in the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area and buffer zone will use, at the end of project, use natural resources sustainably in line with ABT 4. The current rate of loss of forest in the project site will be reduced during the project (relates to ABT 5), and the application of herbicides in the area will be reduced leading to a support under ABT 8. The management of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area will be improved relating to ABT 11, and support to ABT 15 under the project is envisaged as the restoration of 2,800 hectares of agricultural land in line with combating land degradation.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Global Environmental Problem

Niue is a small nation consisting of a single island – the world’s largest uplifted coral atoll – situated in the South Pacific between Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands. Its land area is 260 square kilometers, and its population is around 1,700. Niue is self-governing in ‘free association’ with New Zealand. The GDP of Niue in 2018 was US\$ 28.6 million.[1]¹ Niue’s prosperity as a nation as well as its very existence are highly dependent on the natural environment. Tourism accounts for 41% of GDP and income from nature-based tourism had been growing until recently, bringing 10,875 visitors in 2019, as air services have doubled to two flights a week and more accommodation and other infrastructure is built.[2]² Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic put a pause on the island’s tourism industry for a period of some two years, and it is only now slowly beginning to recover. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries also play an important role in the economy, particularly for household subsistence and the local market, contributing to 18% of the GDP.[3]³ The export of agricultural products is limited with a revenue of US\$ 270,000 in 2019. Niue imports food to supplement its fishing and agriculture production.

Similar to many other island micro-states, Niue faces a set of socio, economic and environmental challenges to achieving sustainable development linked to its remoteness, small landmass, small population, narrow economic base, environmental fragility and climate vulnerability.[4]⁴ Niue’s efforts to promote sustainable growth in the tourism and agriculture sectors are reflected in its aspirations of becoming a leading global destination for ecotourism[5]⁵ and the world’s first ‘organic nation’.[6]⁶ However, a number of barriers related to mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management into its economy and, in particular, its tourism and agriculture sectors, will need to be addressed in order for the country to succeed. This project aims to address those barriers while achieving significant global benefits related to biodiversity conservation and progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

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Geographic and climatic context

Niue rests on a seamount. Ocean waters surrounding the island are as deep as 4,000m. The island consists of three terraces, suggesting that Niue was uplifted out of the ocean in stages. A lower terrace

rim averages 28m above sea level, while an upper terrace rim averages 69m above sea level. The centre of the island consists of a hollow, believed to be the remnants of a lagoon.

Niue's parent rock is coral limestone and its landscape is rough, consisting of jagged coral rocks, boulders and many crevices and holes. The coastline is especially rugged and rocky, with steep cliffs, caves, chasms and blow holes. There is no inland running water on Niue, such as streams or rivers. Rainfall filters through a thin topsoil layer, down cracks and cavities in the base rock before reaching the freshwater table located approximately 60m below the rim of the central plateau. Caves scattered around the island contain brackish pools of water, while several located in the centre of the island have pools of freshwater. The freshwater lens below the island's surface is the main source of water and is tapped for domestic and agricultural purposes via a number of artesian bores.^[7]⁷

Niue lies along the edge of the southern tropical cyclone belt and in the zone of the southeast trade winds. This area is subject to strong gale force winds, particularly between the months of April and October, including the devastating effects of cyclones. Damaging cyclones have occurred on average once every 10 years, with the most recent being cyclone Heta, which made land on 5 January 2004, classed as a Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. This cyclone, the worst in living memory, had winds of up to 300kph. It claimed two lives and caused overwhelming devastation to Niue's biodiversity, forestry/agriculture and infrastructure.^[8]⁸

The country has two distinct seasons ? a warm wet season from November to April and a cooler dry season from May to October. Average annual rainfall is approximately 2,180 mm, but this figure can vary from 810 to 3,300 mm. The bulk of rainfall is concentrated in the hot season and is often delivered in torrential downpours, which account for 68% of the total annual rainfall. The annual rainfall pattern is erratic, however, with very dry or very wet months possible at any time of the year.^[9]⁹ Niue is vulnerable to the effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), with warm events coinciding with years of below average rainfall. Severe droughts have occurred due to the El Niño and La Niña phenomena.^[10]¹⁰

Biodiversity and protected areas

Niue is located at the south-western edge of the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. The Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot includes all the islands of Micronesia, tropical Polynesia, and Fiji. Included in this enormous expanse of ocean are more than 4,500 islands, spanning 11 countries, eight territories and one U.S. state (Hawaii). Despite its large marine coverage, 2.6 times larger than the continental United States, it is one of the smallest hotspots in terms of terrestrial land area, covering only 46,315 square kilometers?about the size of Switzerland. The total population of the hotspot is approximately 3,235,250 but 65 percent of the population is found in Hawaii and Fiji.

The Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot stretches from the Mariana and Palau archipelagos in the west to Easter Island (Rapa Nui) in the east, and from the Hawaiian Islands in the north to the Cook Islands, Tonga, and Niue in the south. It qualifies as a global hotspot by virtue of its high endemism and extremely high degree of threat. The area was first identified as a global biodiversity hotspot in an analysis of biodiversity hotspots by Conservation International conducted between 1996 and 1998.^[11]¹¹ The thousands of small, isolated islands that make up the hotspot are some of the most vulnerable in the world; Oceania has one of the highest proportions of endangered species per unit land

area of any region^[12]¹² and the largest number of documented species extinctions on the planet since 1600.^[13]¹³ ^[14]¹⁴

Niue's terrestrial ecosystems do not show particularly high species diversity and have a low level of endemism, due to the island's relatively young age and small size. Among the terrestrial flora and fauna that have been recorded are 32 bird species, nine species of lizards, over 376 species of insects, one native mammal (the Tongan flying fox, *Pteropus tonganus*; IUCN Red List Category: LC^[15]¹⁵), eight species of land crabs and 175 native vascular plant species. Niue's single-country endemic species, i.e. species that are only found in Niue, include two sub-species of birds—the Niuean Polynesian triller (*Lalage maculosa whitmeei*; NE) and Polynesian starling (*Aplonis tabuensis brunnescens*; NE) and the flat-tail sea krait (*Laticauda schistorhynchus*; VU). The Tongan flying fox (or fruit bat), which is unfortunately regarded by many Niueans as a local delicacy and also suffers from deforestation, is the only species to pollinate some native trees and so is vital for their survival and the regeneration of the forest via dispersal of fruits/seeds.^[16]¹⁶ Other species of concern include the coconut crab (*Birgus latro*; VU) and the Pacific pigeon (*Ducula pacifica*; LC) — both regarded as prized foods and, as a result, overharvested — the olive small-scaled skink (*Emoia lawesi*, EN), as well as 56 endemic plant species. Other endemic species, particularly invertebrates, probably exist but have not been identified.

Niue has two terrestrial protected areas, the larger of which is the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area (IUCN Category VI; established in 1992), which has an area of 54 square kilometers and covers 23% of the island (see **Figure 1**). This area, including its buffer zone, constitutes the demonstration area for the present project.

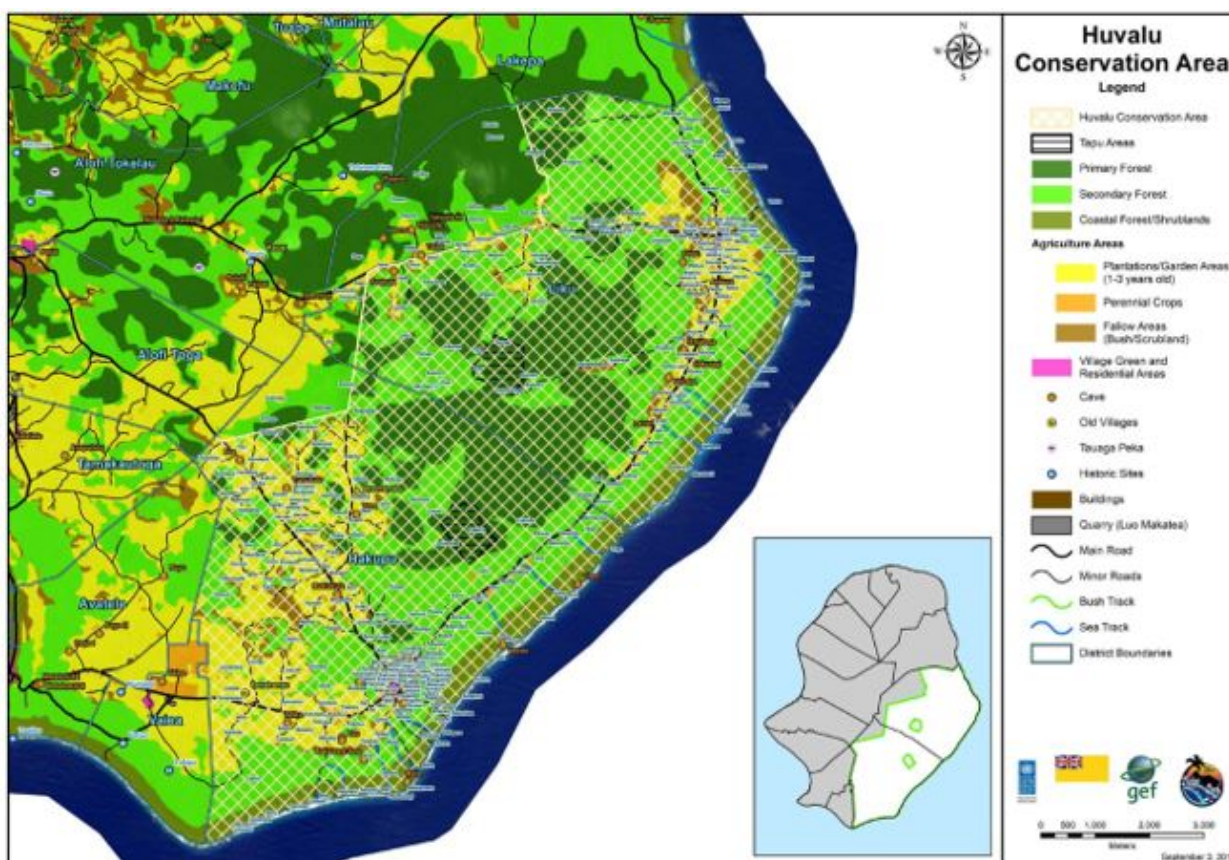


Figure 1: Map of Huvalu Conservation Area

Huvalu Conservation Area is Niue's only Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and contains most of the remaining old growth forest in the country. The conservation area is divided into three sub-areas according to local traditional practices: a core sacred area, a primary forest and a buffer zone. The core of the area (around 100 hectares in size) is tapu (taboo) and is considered a most sacred site where hunting, logging and even research are prohibited. A surrounding area of about 2,500 ha of primary forest provides some protection to the core, but is also used for hunting and other activities under the management of land-owning families and the village councils of Liku and Hakupu Villages. Outside this is a buffer zone of approximately 2,800 ha of agricultural land.

The long-term vision developed by Liku and Hakupu Villages for Huvalu is as follows:

The Huvalu Conservation Area protects a large area of primary forest surrounded by areas of agriculture where communities live in harmony with nature. The area is intended to ensure the conservation of native plants and animals and the continued prosperity of communities through the sustainable use of natural resources and the maintenance of traditional cultural practices

With support from the GEF-7 Reef to Ridge project, a management plan for Huvalu was developed and endorsed, covering the period 2019-29. The plan identified 10 primary management concerns and associated goals, which are presented in **Figure 2** below.

| |
|---|
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 1: PROTECTION OF TAPU SITES |
| Goal: Ensure the community continues to recognize the importance and protection of tapu sites |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 2: PROTECTION OF PRIMARY FOREST (VAO UHI PAKŪ) |
| Goal: Ensure the long term protection and sustainable management of primary forest |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 3: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY FOREST (KAU ALOALO) |
| Goal: Protect, restore and sustainably manage secondary forest |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 4: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (GAHUA FONUA) |
| Goal: Encourage the adoption of sustainable agricultural management practices |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 5: SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING OF NATURAL RESOURCES |
| Goal: Ensure natural resources will be available for future generations |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 6: MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES |
| Goal: Reduce invasive species threats which negatively impact native species and sustainable agriculture |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 7: PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES (TAU TAOGA MOTU TALAHUAU) |
| Goal: Promote an understanding of cultural heritage sites and ensure appropriate protection measures where needed |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 8: PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL FOREST ZONE (KAUKAU TAHI) |
| Goal: Retain the natural and cultural features and functions of the coastal forest zone |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 9: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM |
| Goal: Manage tourism to minimize negative impacts on the environment and maximize benefits received by communities |
| HCA MANAGEMENT CONCERN 10: PROMOTION SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT |
| Goal: Manage waste following the principals of Reduce , Reuse , and Recycle to minimize negative impacts on the environment |

Figure 2: Huvalu Conservation Area Management Plan (2019-29), Management Concerns & Goals

Much of Niue's marine environment has not been extensively studied due to the island's remoteness and its lack of a safe harbour. However, existing biodiversity studies and surveys show that Niue's marine ecosystems are very rich in biodiversity. For example, Niue's marine area supports at least 43 of the 70 known coral genera in the Pacific Islands, as well as over 240 fish species, invertebrates comprising around 20 species of crabs and crayfish/lobsters, two species of giant clams, five species of beche-de-mer and others. Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; LC) are the most common whales in Niuean waters, while minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*; LC) and pilot whales (genus *Globicephala*) are also present. Three species of turtles – hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*; CR), green (*Chelonia mydas*; EN) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*; VU) – and one species of spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*; LC) are present. Marine mammals and turtles are protected in Niue. Several species of shark, including oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*; CR) and grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*; EN), are abundant in Niue's waters. A recent and first-ever comprehensive biodiversity survey of Niue's marine ecosystem revealed that densities of grey reef

sharks at Beveridge Reef are an order of magnitude higher than recorded anywhere else in the world.^[17]¹⁷

In 2020, Niue's parliament established the Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area as a Large Scale Marine Protected Area (LSMPA) covering an area of 127,000 square kilometers and encompassing 40 percent of Niue's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). At the time, it was the second largest marine protected area in the world, after Palau's.

In April 2022, the Government and people of Niue, in collaboration with Tofia Niue through the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) public-private partnership, announced bold new marine legislation, that plans to ensure sustainable use across its entire EEZ and sovereign waters (317,500 square kilometres – roughly the area of Vietnam) while also contributing to the global environment, climate action and key sustainable development goals. The Niue Nukutuluea Multiple-Use Marine Park safeguards 100 percent of Niue's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ and Territorial seas). It is split into zones, including the pristine Beveridge Reef, an uninhabited atoll 120 miles from the island where fishing is banned and only scientific studies are allowed; a three-mile zone for traditional canoe fishing, sport fishing and scuba diving; a general ocean zone for foreign commercial fishing; and a conservation zone where vessels can pass through, but not stop.

These efforts are a culmination of collective efforts over the last six years, including scientific assessment, community consultation, and cost-benefit analysis and inspired by a baseline of over one thousand years of traditional knowledge, practice and respect for the ocean. Niue now exceeds global conservation ambition and responsibilities identified in the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), Climate Change Convention and Paris Agreement, and supports the realisation of regional sustainable conservation and blue economy aspirations as espoused in the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and Pacific Oceanscape Framework.

With the EEZ-wide management plan in place, the NOW partnership, with support from Oceans 5, National Geographic Pristine Seas, Blue Nature Alliance, and other partners, is focused on building local technical support to implement the marine park and pioneering an innovative country-led sustainable financing mechanism. This includes establishing Niue's first conservation trust fund and an innovative instrument to capitalise on the fund to allow all stakeholders to contribute and participate in the ocean conservation effort.

Those caught breaching Niue's marine park laws and fishing illegally can have their vessel and catch seized, and receive a fine of up to NZ\$500,000 (≈\$255,000). If the government believes the crime should face a harsher penalty, it can prosecute using the 2013 Maritime Zones Act or the 1996 Territorial Sea and Economic Zones Act.^[18]¹⁸

Local people will monitor the marine park with the help of a satellite surveillance company, [Global Fishing Watch](#). As Niue has no navy, its 1,700 inhabitants will rely on other countries to police their waters. Neighbouring Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands carry out annual surveillance operations and the New Zealand air force flies over the protected zone twice a year to look for signs of illegal fishing.

Soils, land and land cover

As a single upraised coral atoll, Niue has fragile soils with limited soil fertility. The island's soils are poor, with a limited minimal depth to baserock. In addition, makatea outcrops and surface boulders are common, with rock outcrops covering 10 – 60% of land surface. Soils are further characterized by low water holding capacity, a moderately to highly alkaline pH, high levels of phosphorous retention, an

abundance of calcium and magnesium, a moderate to high zinc deficiency depending on location and low to very low potassium reserves. Prior to the 1950s, evidence suggest that Niue was well forested, with up to 90% forest cover.[19]¹⁹

Eighty percent of households in Niue actively partake in agricultural activities, including subsistence farming and selling surplus at local markets, and the important cultural tradition of gift-giving to family and friends is reliant on agriculture. While subsistence agriculture is still predominant, in recent years there has been an increase in the production of crops for export, including taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), vanilla (*Vanilla sp.*) and nonu (*Morinda citrifolia*). However, revenue from agricultural exports is highly variable from year to year.[20]²⁰ The public sector drives and supports most commercial agricultural activity by providing guidance, incentivizing agricultural products and servicing farms.

Niue's main food crops are taro, kumara, yams, cassava, watermelon and other local varieties of vegetables, e.g., Niue spinach. Taro, at least 70 varieties of which are grown on the island, is the main staple; a number of these varieties are native to the island and are resistant to pests. Taro is the only exportable root crop, with New Zealand being the main export market. Although the demand for Niue taro in New Zealand is high, volumes are low due to low production capacity. Most farmers cultivate one or both of the two main taro varieties that are exported, with only a few continuing to grow other varieties. The Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePACT) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) holds 21 of Niue's taro varieties. Conservation of Niue's varieties of taro is important for future food security.[21]²¹

Some varieties of local food crops such as wild yams (*ufi lei*) were traditionally harvested during times of famine due to droughts, so are potentially resilient to climate change. However, traditional knowledge and skills related to harvesting and preparation of these and other local food crops are gradually being lost, which may have a negative impact on future food security.[22]²²

Land use and degradation

Land degradation in Niue has been well documented and has been particularly prevalent over the previous half a century, during which period there has also been substantial deforestation, despite a decline in the island's population. Environmental problems associated with land and forest uses have stemmed from increased land clearing and deforestation, increased reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, reduced fallow, with resulting impacts on soil structure, soil depletion and reduced populations of local wildlife. (UNCCD 2004 ACTION PLAN)

Destructive land use practices have included: (i) reductions in the fallow period, (ii) clearance and conversion to agriculture of primary forest and less fertile areas of the island[23]²³; (iii) reliance on fertilizer to improve crop production, (iv) increased use of trash burning, and (v) use of herbicide in lieu of manual clearing and mulching techniques (UNCCD 2004 ACTION PLAN).

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Tourism

Niue offers visitors a number of unique nature-driven experiences including some of the clearest ocean water in the world, providing for excellent snorkeling, diving and fishing, as well as beautiful forest and scenic walks and many small coves offering safe swimming. Diving and snorkelling on the various reef systems along Niue's coast line are considered 'spectacular' due to the richness of marine life with visibility rated 'amongst the best in the world'.^[24]²⁴

The value of Niue's unique and unspoiled environment is increasingly recognized. In 2017, the country was listed among the top ten fastest growing tourism destinations by the UN World Tourism Organization, with visitor numbers increasing by 25.4 percent in that year. The increase in the number of visitors has been driven primarily by non-Niuean tourists (78% in 2019) in search of the country's unspoiled nature.

Pre-pandemic tourism receipts amounted to about a third of annual gross domestic product. However, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on Niue's tourism industry. Borders were effectively closed from March 2020 to June 2022, with only a limited number of passenger flights allowed entry to bring in essential freight and medical supplies, returning residents and essential workers. Tourists from New Zealand, who represented about 80% of arrivals prior to the pandemic, fell to a total of only 61 during April-December 2020 from more than 6,000 during the same period of 2019.^[25]²⁵

The impacts of COVID-19 on Niue's economy and society, particularly its tourism and agriculture sectors, have been substantial. Up until early 2020, tourism was arguably the development sector that offered Niue the best opportunities to overcome barriers and constraints and grow into a leading economic sector. However, as noted above, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a complete collapse of Niue's tourism industry, while exposing the fragility of a narrow-based economy where one single sector contributes to much of the GDP. Up until early 2022, with severe travel restrictions in place, Niue had not registered any positive COVID-19 case within its territory. However, Niue's tourism revenue has dropped nearly 100% as a result of COVID-19. By October 2020, 82% of business had reported a significant decline in revenue, and 41% of business had either temporarily or permanently closed.

The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines in June 2021 was a critical milestone that has opened a potential path toward safely reopening the tourism-based economy. Niue's small population of only about 1,700 allows for a rapid vaccine rollout: In a period of about five weeks ending in early July 2021, Niue was able to vaccinate 97% of the population aged 16 and above.^[26]²⁶ In addition, Niue's quarantine-free travel bubble with Aotearoa began with resumption of weekly passenger flights on June 27 2022. The hope was that further reopening to neighbors in the Pacific and Oceania would follow. Gradual but safe reopening is believed to be the key to restarting Niue's tourism sector, underpinning sustainable economic recovery and regaining lost progress and momentum toward longer-term development outcomes.^[27]²⁷ However, the above goals remain in jeopardy, given that, in addition to initial batches of tourists, the resumption of flights also brought in Niue's first cases of COVID-19.

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Agriculture

Eighty percent of households in Niue actively partake in agricultural activities, including subsistence farming and selling surplus at local markets, and the important cultural tradition of gift-giving to family and friends is reliant on agriculture. While subsistence agriculture is still predominant, in recent years there has been an increase in the production of crops for export, including taro (*Colocasia esculenta*),

vanilla (*Vanilla sp.*) and nonu (*Morinda citrifolia*) but revenue from exporting agricultural products is highly variable from year to year.[28]²⁸ The public sector drives and supports most of the commercial agricultural activity by providing guidance, incentivizing agricultural products and servicing farms.

Social and land tenure context

There are two land categories in Niue ? Niuean Land (comprising 95% by area) and Crown Land (of which 1% is Government Land and 4% is held under lease in perpetuity by the Crown). For all land in Niue, custom prevails and land cannot be bought or sold, except by the government for public purposes, and then only subject to the consent of the titleholders. Multiple ownership is derived through the principle of *magafaoa*[29]²⁹ descent group, derived from a *tupuna* (known ancestor) or the original source of the land. All relatives and family branches have a claim, therefore any piece of land might be ?owned? by up to hundreds of people representing one or more descent groups. Absentee landowners cause considerable tension in some families[30]³⁰. The land tenure system does promote subsistence farming due to the constraining effects it has on commercial farming, due to investment cost.

Landscape of Intervention

The area along the Huvalu Conservation Area (HCA) boundary would be marked as a buffer area which will provide a transition area between agriculture and conservation on sustainable maintained forest. Sustainable practices would be demonstrated as agriculture farmers practice shifting agriculture would be a target for rehabilitation on fallowed areas. The landscape for intervention would be a pilot demonstration for future replication and upscaling if deemed successful.

Threats, impacts and underlying causes

Agriculture: Agricultural development during the last decades has had various negative impacts on Niue?s biodiversity and land resources. The main root cause is a shift from traditional farming techniques, which tended to promote conservation and management, towards unsustainable high-input farming, associated with a lack of awareness among farmers of the consequences of current farming practices on biodiversity and ecosystem services. This shift has been characterized by: (i) the adoption of intensive farming practices, such as the use of monocultures and shorter fallow periods, leading to loss of soil fertility and pushing farmers to access new fertile soils by converting forests into arable land; (ii) the replacement of traditional cultivars with higher-yielding crops; and (iii) the use of agrochemicals (herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers), with adverse impacts on fauna and flora, including soil microbiota.

Forest clearance for farming reduced the island?s overall forest cover from an estimated 86% in the 1980s to 64% in 1994, and was the main cause of habitat loss and degradation, reduced resilience to natural disasters such as cyclones and wildfires, and higher susceptibility to invasion by weeds and other pests.[31]³¹ The rate of deforestation slowed down after 1999 when a government incentive that had encouraged land clearing for agriculture was discontinued, coupled with a steep population exodus. Nevertheless, a 2008 recent vegetation cover survey shows that forest clearing still outpaces reforestation in most of the country (see **Figure 3**). Because of the long period of human habitation and modifications made during shifting agriculture, and more recently by timber companies, most of the mature forest has been removed and replaced by secondary forest.

Traditionally, agricultural land was left fallow for over ten years after cropping, a practice which helped to sustain the soil. In recent years, however, land has been left fallow for much shorter periods.

Clearance by repeated burning, the use of bulldozers and herbicides, a program of disc-ploughing in the 1960s and increased use of fertilizers, have combined to reduce the organic matter in the soil, altering its chemical balance and reducing its water retention capacity. In some areas, the soil can now support little more than ferns. In addition, the use of agrochemicals to increase production levels has encouraged a further reduction in fallow periods to 3-5 years, further increasing the pressure on the already fragile soils and leading to further soil depletion and increased dependence on synthetic agrochemicals.[32]³² This includes the widespread use of paraquat,[33]³³ a herbicide that is highly toxic to mammals and birds.

Recently, organic farming practices for nonu (*Morinda citrifolia*) have attracted the interest of farmers who wish to capture the high-value international market for organic produce. Biodiversity-friendly management practices to support organic farming in Niue include the use of western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) to support pollination and an organic-waste collection system to produce compost for use as organic fertilizer.[34]³⁴ The government is also encouraging production of fruits and vegetables through provision of seeds, planting materials and technical advice, as well as the use of nitrogen-fixing crops as green manure/mulch to improve soil quality.

Land Degradation: Land degradation in Niue has been well documented and has been particularly prevalent over the previous half a century, during which period there has also been substantial deforestation, despite a decline in the island's population. Environmental problems associated with land and forest uses have stemmed from increased land clearing and deforestation, increased reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, reduced fallow, with resulting impacts on soil structure, soil depletion and reduced populations of local wildlife.[35]³⁵

According to Niue's Third National Communication to the UNCCD, the northern part of the island is where the majority of relatively fertile land is located, while the island's southern portion has been more heavily affected by clearing, cultivation and soil depletion. Areas of extensive soil depletion are known as 'fernlands', or desert areas and can be attributed to a combination of fragile soils, deforestation and land clearance, and unsustainable agricultural practices.[36]³⁶

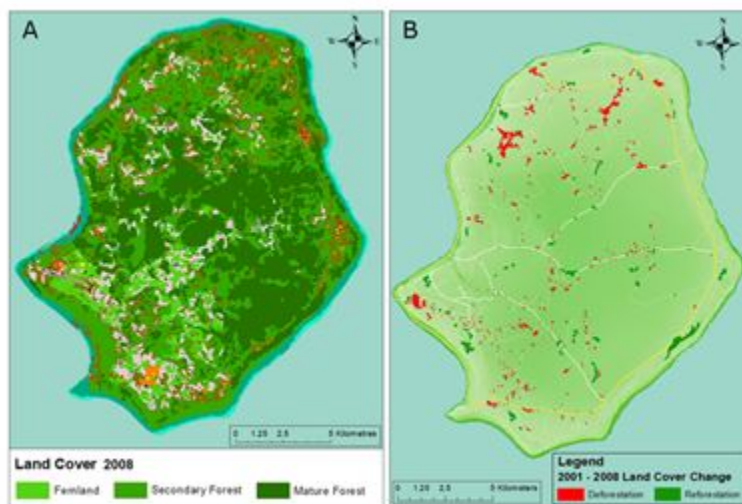


Figure 3. Niue's land cover (A) in 2008 and land cover change (B) from 2001 to 2008 showing that deforestation (red) has outpaced reforestation (dark green) (source: SPREP country profile).

Due to limited access to sustainable agricultural practices, combined with the promise of immediate returns offered by unsustainable practices and lack of understanding of the consequences to soil fertility and human health, many farmers have yet to adopt nature-based solutions or invest in more sustainable practices. As a result, farmers often find themselves in a cycle of land degradation characterized by loss of soil fertility and erosion coupled with shifting agriculture and continuing deforestation. The challenge in improving or maintaining crop production is how to maintain levels of nutrients in the soil. Unless sustainable land management (SLM) practices are promoted, Niuean farmers will continue to face land degradation.[37]37

Recognizing that natural resources are its single most valuable asset towards sustainability, Niue is faced with the challenge of how to develop tourism in such a way that is not detrimental to its environment, but rather makes it a catalyst for biodiversity conservation and SLM.

In terms of agriculture, given that farming systems in Niue are essentially controlled by households themselves, the pandemic has had limited direct negative impact on Niue's capacity to produce food. In fact, the opposite is observed, in Niue and other Pacific Island Countries (PICs), with an increase in small-scale agricultural activities by people who have lost their jobs in tourism and turned to agriculture to meet their needs for food and cash. The current interest in subsistence and cash crops may thus be contributing to land conversion in Niue and other PICs.[38]38 While agriculture is providing some much-needed immediate food security and economic relief to families affected by the economic downturn, this type of agriculture, which is unplanned and done with little know-how or technological input, does not offer a sustainable path to long-term development and, instead, puts environmentally sensitive areas at increased risk.

Land-based activities and impacts on coral reefs: The modernisation of traditional villages via transition from semi-subsistence to commercial-oriented activities is often associated with the increased and unregulated use of pesticides and other farming chemicals, such as fertilisers, along with land clearing, changes in land use, introduced trees, and infrastructure construction, which increase sediment and nutrient runoff into coastal waters thereby causing coral reef decline. Agriculture runoff threatens approximately 25% of the global reef area with further increases projected for the coming decades.[39]39 Increased sedimentation can negatively affect corals through direct burial, which depletes oxygen and leaves corals in darkness, abrasion and by reducing light penetration, which is essential for photosynthesis by zooxanthellae. This results in reduced skeletal growth rates, species diversity, and recruitment, and reproductive impairment. Increased sediment runoff may also expose corals to a variety of other contaminants, such as nutrients and heavy metals, which interfere with coral fertilisation, larvae development and cause coral bleaching. Poor agricultural land-use practices have resulted in serious erosion of topsoil in many agricultural areas, leading to increased sedimentation in coral reef areas.

The factors damaging coral reefs in Niue include pollution and sedimentation from land-based sources, inadequate waste management and contamination of water sources with agricultural chemicals. There are accounts of poor agricultural activities, damage from the use of heavy machinery, poor use of herbicides and pesticides, impacts from the construction of 'bush roads', loss of soils and land clearing and deforestation, that can lead/could have led to increased sedimentation and pollution of adjacent waters. Pollution and contamination of some water sources from inadequate septic tanks and piggeries

have also been reported. Additionally, concerns have also been raised about the disposal of municipal waste with inadequate landfills and the potential for coastal fills to contaminate coastal waters.[40]⁴⁰

Climate Change and Climate Variability: The following climatic changes are expected to face Niue and neighbouring Pacific islands in coming years, according to projections prepared by the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative[41]⁴¹:

? Surface air temperature and sea-surface temperature are projected to continue to increase over the course of the 21st century. There is very high confidence in this direction of change because warming is physical consistent with rising greenhouse gas concentrations.

? Rainfall: Annual mean and wet season rainfall are projected to increase, consistent with a projected likely increase in the intensity of the South Pacific Convergence Zone. There is moderate confidence in this projection due to the wide model range.

? Tropical Cyclones: While changes in tropical cyclones are not known with high confidence, there is some evidence from that the frequency of tropical cyclones in the South Pacific will decrease, but that the proportion of very intense cyclones will increase.

? Mean Sea Level and Ocean Acidification are projected to continue to rise over the course of the 21st century with a very high confidence.

The dominant cause of interannual climate variability in the Pacific is El Nino ? Southern Oscillation (ENSO). ENSO is a natural climate cycle with two extreme phases: El Nino and La Nina. The extent and timing of the ENSO varies across countries and affects the year-to-year risk of droughts, floods, tropical cyclones, extreme sea levels and coral bleaching. El Ni?o and La Ni?a events have distinct impacts on rainfall and can cause large-scale shifts in rainfall patterns due to changes in sea-surface temperature and winds[42]⁴². The impacts of El Ni?o on Niue are periods of dry spells including drought and more frequent and intense cyclones, while La Ni?a leads to increased surface flooding due to intense periods of rainfall. The frequency of extreme El Ni?o events is projected to double to one event every 10 years under global warming in the period 1991 ? 2090[43]⁴³.

The likely impacts of climate change include:

? Niue?s agriculture is sensitive to drought and cyclones. Climate change is adversely impacting agriculture. Interannual climate variability has a large influence on agricultural production, and droughts have a high impact. Tropical cyclones can cause significant losses in agricultural production. Droughts and more frequent and intense cyclones are associated with the El Nino events in Niue. Other impacts include tropical depressions that pass through the area with salt sprays from rough seas impacting village gardens, coastal forests and agriculture crops where winds often carry salt spray further inland to farming areas.

- The key impacts of rising sea-surface temperatures currently being observed and projected to continue include coral bleaching, shifts in the ranges and population abundances of fish and other marine species^[44]⁴⁴. Coral death and bleaching threaten marine biodiversity, diminish the attractiveness of reefs to tourists, reduce fish supplies and affect the ranges of pelagic fish. Other effects include impacts on the underground water aquifer.

- Climate change can impact the tourism industry ?by changing the attractiveness of the climate of tourism destinations, by reducing the value of attractions at destinations, and by altering the relative climate of the home countries of tourists?.^[45]⁴⁵ Climate change can also directly impact environmental resources that serve as tourist attractions^[46]⁴⁶. Widespread resource degradation such as beach erosion and coral bleaching is likely to negatively affect the perception of destination attractiveness. A study commissioned by the Asian Development Bank predicted that global warming will lessen the Pacific Island region as a tourism attraction and reduce tourism revenues by around 30% for the Pacific region as a whole, under all climate scenarios.^[47]⁴⁷

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Barriers

Despite the baseline interventions described below, a number of fundamental barriers are expected to remain that will prevent achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and halting the loss of Niue's biodiversity.

Lack of policy coherence, limited mainstreaming of biodiversity and SLM into tourism and agriculture and weak cross-sectoral planning: The transformative changes needed to achieve sustainability in Niue must be based on effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services across the tourism and agriculture sectors. Currently, management of environmental issues is disconnected from sectoral development, with responsibilities spread across several government agencies. There is no coordinating body and a lack of sufficiently well-trained staff to address issues in a systematic and coordinated manner.

Gaps and inconsistencies in legislation and capacities are preventing effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant regulations. There is thus a need to mainstream biodiversity and sustainable land management into relevant legislation and policies in order to ensure coherent planning of the tourism and agriculture sectors, as well as to strengthen institutional capacity to prevent further degradation of natural assets.

The institutional framework is currently inadequate to provide oversight and enforcement of tourism and agricultural operations due to a lack of oversight, agreed procedures, coordination and capacity to evaluate and monitor impacts. Niue's legislation foresees the need for assessing environmental impacts?through an EIA?prior to decision making. However, there are no impact assessors or monitoring specialists within the government or in the private sector (e.g. national consultants) who can support decision making and enforcement to ensure that developments in the tourism and agriculture sectors do not cause adverse impacts on the environment and society.

Attempts to promote the agriculture and tourism sectors have largely been pursued separately and policy and institutions have not been geared toward fostering positive linkages. The challenge is to adjust this approach in order to create linkages and synergies through coherent policy and implementation. However, the potential benefits of doing so are not widely understood. Furthermore, examples of positive linkages and approaches being used regionally to promote such linkages have not been well documented and are likewise poorly known.

Presently, the coordination of sustainable vision objectives and strategies with the policies, strategies and work programs of other relevant government entities are inadequate. As a result, sectoral plans have not effectively internalized the multiple benefits achievable through an integrated approach to natural resource management. Biodiversity conservation, agriculture and tourism fall under the sole responsibility of Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries and the Tourism Authority, respectively. The multiple benefits of integrated natural resource management have not been maximized through policies and participatory implementation plans that mainstream biodiversity conservation and incorporate integrated approaches to landscape and seascape management.

The Government of Niue has promoted tourism and commercial agriculture for the past decades, but only tourism has received consistent and predictable support and, as a result, sustained progress with the exception of the COVID-19 period). There is a lack of policies that would enable actions that could motivate interest in developing and sustaining the country's agriculture sector, and in particular policies regarding the development of financial/fiscal incentives that would encourage private sector investment in sustainable agricultural projects. The few economic incentives in place are not enough to attract people to agriculture, enable landowners to overcome the burden to restore degraded land, engage in SLM practices and move towards sustainable agricultural production.

Niue's Environment Act 2015 and Environment Regulations 2017 contain extensive provisions relating to the need for EIAs prior to decision making and consent regarding any developments that may negatively impact the environment. However, due to lack of capacity, both in and outside the government, the regulations are poorly implemented. Moreover, there is limited capacity among government agencies to monitor operations in the tourism and agriculture sectors in order to enable a transition to sustainable practices and prevent further negative impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Limited knowledge of, and incentives for, upscaling conservation and SLM practices and difficult access to technologies to increase or maintain soil fertility and improve crop production: Resources and information materials prepared specifically for Niue's local conditions are very limited, and the few available materials are often written in non-native languages and not easily accessible. Government-led extension services are limited and mostly ineffective in convincing farmers to switch to sustainable land and environment management practices in order to reduce pollution and improve their health and income.

The only farmers' association, the Niue Island Organic Farming Association, is promoting organic vanilla and nonu farming for export as a viable economic alternative to other farming that uses agrochemicals. Even though the association plays a key role in outreach and capacity development and has made significant progress towards introducing sustainable agricultural practices, substantial knowledge and other capacity gaps are preventing their upscaling. Experience with other aspects of SLM is entirely missing and experience with land rehabilitation is likewise lacking.

New pressures from an increasingly cash-based economy have led to the replacement of traditional knowledge of nature, farming and conservation by more modern, and less sustainable, practices.

According to Niue's Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2015-2019),^[48] work is needed to determine alternative ways of improving soil conditions while at the same time protecting the fragile environment and improving agricultural production. Innovative sustainable land management techniques, combined with traditional knowledge and revitalization of traditional cultivars, e.g., taro, Polynesian tomato, etc., would improve local food security and livelihoods, support biodiversity conservation and sustain ecosystem services.

Niue's rather weak private sector is not able to support linkages between sustainable tourism and SLM. Agrotourism and food tourism are not being fully exploited as opportunities to enhance the overall tourism experience. For example, bringing visitors to the Huvalu Conservation Area offers an excellent opportunity to promote Niue's tourism experience and, at the same time, provide benefits to community conservation by promoting the forest and traditional agriculture as well as bringing economic value to the local communities. Although the government has tried to promote the Huvalu Conservation Area as a way to up-scale the co-benefits from tourism and agriculture, the resources in that area are under-utilized for tourism purposes.[49]⁴⁹ Credit is a barrier to landowners and farmers wanting to start enterprises or invest in new technologies in Niue due to land tenure system as land cannot be used as collateral. Appropriate financing solutions and economic incentives to support sustainable agricultural and tourism development are needed to attract private sector investment.

Further, monitoring of the impacts of agriculture and tourism is hampered by the lack of reliable, quantitative baseline data. Only a small number of the plant and animal species present in Niue has been properly assessed and the number of species that are, or may be, affected by tourism and agriculture is likely to be underestimated.

Limited opportunities and knowledge to enable scaling-up linkages between tourism and agriculture as a means to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services, diversify the economy, improve food security and build resilience to downturns and shocks: Knowledge and best lessons on how linkages between sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture have been established and upscaled in similar contexts are not readily available or properly disseminated. Tourism operators, civil society organizations, farmers and visitors have limited awareness of how their actions impact biodiversity and ecosystem services. Moreover, local communities, who have a major role to play in conserving biodiversity and managing the land, do not fully recognize the benefits of conservation actions for their lives and livelihoods. Marine and coastal areas, in particular, have received less attention from participatory conservation efforts. Biodiversity and cultural values are not well documented, gender-sensitive livelihood strategies linking tourism and agriculture are lacking, and gender dynamics are not fully accounted for in a way that would promote holistic and integrated management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline projects

A number of government and donor-funded initiatives define the baseline and will contribute to co-financing GEF incremental support. Baseline projects on biodiversity, sustainable land management, agriculture and associated thematic fields are described below.

The estimated resources allocated from the government's budget to **environment-related activities total US\$3.0 million**, the majority of which is allocated annually through the Department of Environment and the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (DAFF), with some funds being channelled through the Department of Community Affairs. Most of this budget is spent on recurrent expenditures, such as salaries, while a significant amount of the investment mobilized is received in development project funds from international and bilateral donors. The Government of Niue has also initiated a mid-term review of the Niue Integrated Strategic Plan (2016-2026) to ensure its alignment with sector plans and to identify which areas require additional support.

The Government, specifically the Tourism Authority, is managing an additional US\$3,000,000, in funds provided by the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) through the **‘Taoga’ Cultural Initiative Project**, which is aimed at the development and promotion of cultural and nature tourism. The incremental activities of the present project will complement these plans, and support their implementation.

During the project period, the Department of Environment will have parallel projects being implemented both directly and indirectly in support of the project. These projects are designed to strengthen environmental governance by building capacity, improving processes and ensuring a robust development consent process for/from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applications. Other areas include support for waste management processes and operations in an overall programme to improve waste management on Niue, ensuring tourism and waste does not become a problem. Invasive species management, eradication and research will also be implemented during the project period, as invasive plants encroach into conservation areas and invasive organisms continue to affect wide areas of coral reefs on Niue. The Department will work in collaboration with the Project Management & Coordination Unit (PMCU) for alignment and oversight of activities.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) will continue to provide technical support to local farmers on Niue, working with the Niue Growers Association (NGA) and all affiliate groups to the Association. The Government of Niue, through DAFF, also supports exporters of agriculture-based products who have had to supplement income due to the impacts of Covid-19 on the tourism industry. With the uncertainties in border restrictions, and various potential direct and indirect medium- and long-term impacts, many Niuean households have returned to the land and sea as food security and subsistence farming have proven crucial to maintaining a social safety net.

The Tourism Authority Board will continue to support tourism-related businesses and to promote Niue, with different stakeholders involved in establishing systems to ensure long-term sustainability of the sector. The Niue Tourism Authority is continuing to support the industry through various support packages while border restrictions remain in place, including with implementation of the Sustainable Tourism sector plan.

With funding from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, Niue’s new recycling facility will soon become operational, first to process glass bottles and PET plastic bottles, before expanding to other types of materials, including aluminium cans, paper and cardboard, e-waste, used oil, batteries, and scrap metal. Moreover, with funds from the European Union (EU), the **‘Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme’**^[50] (‘PacWastePlus’; EUR 16.5 million; 2018 – 2023) will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices. Priority waste streams that the PacWastePlus program will focus on include hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste), solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and water impacted by solid waste (note this is not wastewater or referring to any liquid waste).

The **‘Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation’** ^[51] (GCCA+ SUPA; 2019-2023; EUR 14.89 million) project aims to scale up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building in ten countries in the Pacific. The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans. Component 3 of the project supports the establishment of the Climate Change Framework for Niue and also directly funds water security through the provision of rainwater harvesting systems (rainwater tanks). The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with

the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP).^[52]⁵²

The UNEP-implemented GCF project for **Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for Resilience in 5 Island Countries of the Pacific Ocean** is providing \$7.82 million in project co-financing. This project is addressing gaps in national institutional settings, policies and coordination mechanisms for effective climate information services and multi-hazard early warning in Niue and four other Pacific Ocean SIDS. It will strengthen and modernize Niue's national meteorological and hydrological services, including their ability to base climate adaptation planning and decision-making on the best possible climate data and information. It will enhance social resilience to climate change and building national response capability to multiple climate-related hazards. Finally, it will establish a regional multi-country hub with related ICT infrastructure and will organize learning events to ensure optimal knowledge management including best practices and lessons learned.

Finally, a portion of an NZAID project (Airport project) is providing \$2.5 million in co-financing, which is being made available for resealing the airport runway in order to meet international standards for larger aircraft to land in Niue as well as potentially to increase the number of flights. Both could have a significant impact on levels of tourist visitation.

Linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions

The project will be well coordinated with the ongoing projects funded by the GEF and other donors, as well as with projects implemented by UNEP. During the inception phase, opportunities for coordination will be explored with a view to maximize the use of resources from the project and avoid duplication of efforts. This may be done, for example, by integrating/coordinating cross-cutting activities such as surveys, community consultations, M&E, audits, etc. with other ongoing projects. The following initiatives and organizations will offer opportunities for coordination and synergies with the present project.

The newly-completed, GEF-funded project **Application of the Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Services and Cultural Heritage in Niue**^[53]⁵³ (Niue R2R; GEF US\$ 4,194,862 and co-financing US\$ 11,068,600; 2016 – 2021) was designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected sites from a site-centric approach to a holistic 'ridge to reef' approach designed to enhance Niue's capacity to create and manage protected areas for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and safeguarding of ecosystem services. Through this approach, activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas are managed to reduce threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services stemming from key production activities, e.g. tourism and agriculture. The project focuses on the expansion of its protected estate on land and on its marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas and government-led protected areas. Additionally, the project also introduced the concept of connectivity between landscape and seascape in Niue. Terrestrial protected areas include a landscape that links strictly protected community areas (tapu) to each other to enhance their integrity and to form a functional ecological corridor between them. Similarly, the creation of a Marine Protected Area at Beveridge Reef in 2020 supports the integrated and holistic approach promoted by the project by recognizing the link that is thought to exist between the Reef and mainland Niue through which the former serves as a source of recruitment for clams and other marine species that make up Niue's coral reefs. The project is being implemented by UNDP in partnership with Niue's Ministry Natural Resources.

The regional GEF-funded project **Strengthening National and Regional Capacities to Reduce the Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Pacific**^[54]⁵⁴ (GEF 9410; US\$ 6,252,489 from GEFTF and US\$ 22,177,157 in co-financing; 2020 – 2024) aims at reducing the threats from invasive alien species (IAS) to terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity in the Pacific by developing and implementing comprehensive national and regional IAS management frameworks. The project is being executed by SPREP in partnership with the governments of Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu. The project established a regional support service (PRISMSS) in partnership with key stakeholders (BirdLife, Island Conservation, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, NZ Department of Conservation) to define and tailor service to each country's needs. The implementation of the IAS project will overlap with the current proposed project. Preliminary discussions on the complementarity between the two projects have taken place to ensure maximum cooperation and will resume during the PPG phase. Possible areas of cooperation include community and stakeholder consultations; mitigating threats to Protected Natural Areas (e.g. Huvalu Conservation Area) including IAS; shared learning materials and lessons learned; biodiversity surveys, etc.

The project will also be closely coordinated with the GEF-funded **Pacific I2I Program: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent** in the Pacific to help build synergies, share lessons and good practices on the implementation of a holistic approach to deliver the objective of this project. Relevant interventions that are cross-cutting to the two projects, such as applying green/blue economy principles, building capacity of government agencies and private sector, raising awareness, and promoting participatory conservation are potential areas of coordination.

The global SIDS GEF-funded program **Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS** (ISLANDS; GEF ID 10185; US\$ 66,000,000 from GEFTF; concept approved) ISLANDS program aims to build a sustainable model for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in order for SIDS to continue to sustainably develop without a build-up of toxic and hazardous substances in their territories. This will be achieved through harmonizing, among other things, procurement practices, standards and labelling and capacity building which can only be accomplished at the global/regional level in the context of SIDS. The program will also create and support long term cooperation among SIDS to achieve this goal.

The project will also coordinate closely with relevant projects and teams at SPREP to ensure efficient use of resources and maximization of results. In particular, coordination will take place with the GEF 9410 regional project on invasive alien species, which is implemented by UNEP and in which Niue is one of the four participating countries, and opportunities will be evaluated during the project design phase for implementing some activities jointly among the two projects (e.g. surveys, community consultations, biodiversity assessments, joint meetings of the Steering Committee, etc). Coordination will also take place with the PacwastePlus project on relevant activities.

Niue is also part of the regional GEF-7 project under the International Waters Focal Area entitled **Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC**^[55]⁵⁵ (GEF 10394; US\$ 10,000,000; concept approved) which objective is to implement the 2019 Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Living Oceanic Resources by the Pacific SIDS to address the primary and emerging threats, particularly climate change.

Finally, the project will analyze the lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the **R2R Regional Program** and the **Niue R2R**, in particular on what worked and what did not work in creating synergies across tourism and agriculture. During the design of the project benefit will also be drawn from a thorough analysis of the stakeholder consultations done under the Niue R2R. The proposed

interventions will be based on the participatory conservation Management Plan for the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area that was developed under the Niue R2R project (see **Figure 2** above, for example).

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The project objective is to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in Niue through the development of sustainable and biodiversity-friendly tourism and agriculture sectors, and it will be achieved through (i) strengthened and harmonized policies and procedures are in place and ensure biodiversity concerns and ecosystem services are fully considered in tourism and agriculture development; (ii) sustainable biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism and agriculture across ecologically important landscapes and seascapes; and (iii) improved awareness, education and knowledge management supporting upscaling actions to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation. The objective of the project will be achieved through the following three components with related outcomes and outputs.

Component 1 will operate at the national level to address barriers related to the enabling policy and regulatory framework and mechanisms to encourage and monitor uptake of sustainable and biodiversity-compatible behavior across the tourism and agriculture sectors.

Component 2 will evaluate and test options for creating linkages and synergies between tourism and agriculture, piloting financing solutions, improving value chains, engaging communities and the private sector, including farmers, tour operators and hoteliers through seven outputs. Ultimately, the Component will pilot interventions that through upscaling (Component 3) can halt biodiversity and land degradation.

Component 3 will focus on establishing a knowledge exchange system for sharing lessons learned, guidance and tools, and for replication and upscaling of best practices across Niue (Output 3.1.1). Project best practices and lessons learned will be identified, documented and disseminated across the Pacific region and with other relevant GEF-financed projects supporting sustainable tourism and land management.

Project components and expected results

Component 1: A national governance context that ensures biodiversity and land degradation concerns are adequately recognized and taken into consideration in tourism and agriculture development

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and harmonized policies and procedures are in place and ensure biodiversity concerns and ecosystem services are fully considered in tourism and agriculture development

1. Work under Component 1 will address barriers to the full and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and land degradation concerns into governance and operations of the tourism and agriculture sectors.

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Output 1.1.1: Strengthened and operational cross-sectoral committee with capacity and mandate to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) across tourism and agriculture sectors, supported by improved national coordination and a strengthened regulatory framework

2. An inter-sectoral committee will have oversight for the implementation of Niue's NBSAP and Sustainable Tourism Action Plan and will help to identify resilient, diversified nature-based investment opportunities in the tourism and agriculture sectors. To this end, memorandums of understanding (MOUs) will be established between relevant agencies (including those involved in land use planning and climate change) and sectoral partners. This will be complemented by improved coordination with, and among, Niue's fourteen districts and strengthened implementation of Niue's existing regulatory framework. Representatives of the private sector, farmers' association and village council representatives will also participate, as appropriate.

3. Specific activities include:

Activity 1.1.1.1: Establish cross sectoral committee, ensuring full central and local representation

Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize quarterly meetings of the committee to develop and oversee implementation of relevant regulations, policies and action plans

Activity 1.1.1.3: Provide technical support, capacity building, policy analysis and reporting to the Committee for enhanced effectiveness of policies and regulations, including a policy coherence gap analysis

Activity 1.1.1.4: Support the coordinated development of policies that mainstream biodiversity and SLM into the tourism and agricultural sectors and into Niue's broader strategy for green recovery (with reference to valuation findings of 2.1.1.3)

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Output 1.1.2 Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, based on mainstreaming biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), updated and implementation initiated

4. Under Output 1.1.2, the project will update Niue's Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (STSAP) to provide overall vision and promote sustainable growth, while avoiding the detrimental effects of tourism on terrestrial and marine ecosystems. In parallel, a Sustainable Tourism Action Plan will be developed and integrated into the revised Strategy to provide clear policy guidance and direction for how to promote Niue's tourism in a sustainable manner and help identify and phase-out any unsustainable tourism operations. The development of the sustainable tourism plan will be led by a cross-sector working team representing a range of disciplines working together with local communities to identify needs and to outline roles and responsibilities. The strategy and plan will assist in building a

more sustainable tourism sector and will play a part in the green recovery of Niue post-COVID. Careful attention will be paid to lessons learned from the Mid-term Review of Niue's Strategic Plan (2016-2026). The strategy and plan will not only have long-term benefits to terrestrial biodiversity, but will benefit marine biodiversity, as many tourist activities e.g. fishing and diving, have impacts on biodiversity.

5. Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.2.1: Under a participatory, future scenario planning exercise to build consensus re. the role of tourism in Niue's future development

Activity 1.1.2.2: Undertake a climate and disaster vulnerability assessment, with emphasis on agriculture and tourism sectors

Activity 1.1.2.3: Based on the scenario planning exercise and other assessments, finalize and adopt a revised Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (STSAP), including updated visitor guidelines

Activity 1.1.2.4: Initiate implementation of revised STSAP

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Output 1.1.3: National voluntary LDN targets and monitoring framework developed and adopted

6. The inter-sectoral committee being supported under Output 1.1.1 will oversee the development, and will monitor the implementation, of Niue's integrated National Voluntary LDN Targets. Finally, it will be responsible for ensuring key interlinkages among the various sectors and stakeholders needed to achieve its targets.

7. The cross-sector committee for sustainable tourism and agricultural development will benefit from lessons learned from, and coordination with, the national invasive species committee responsible for the implementation of Niue's National Invasive Species Action Plan.

8. Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.3.1: Conduct participatory assessment of land degradation trends and drivers, sustainability of baseline land use systems, hotspots identification and functionality of ecosystem services

Activity 1.1.3.2: Establish and begin implementation of a framework for monitoring progress in achieving LDN targets related to, e.g., land cover, land productivity, soil carbon content, etc., including periodic data collection processes and knowledge sharing protocols

Activity 1.1.3.3: Develop and adopt gender-sensitive LDN indicators and targets based on consultation with agriculture and tourism sector and other stakeholders

Activity 1.1.3.4: Ensure mainstreaming of LDN indicators and targets in national plans, strategies and targets related to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, disaster management, SDG plans, etc.

Output 1.1.4: Operational policies on financing solutions developed and approved to create incentives for the tourism and agriculture sectors to invest in the conservation of biodiversity and SLM

9. Under this Output, the project will develop policies and mechanisms to implement financing solutions and economic incentives to support agricultural and tourism development, improve value chains, scale-up and build resilience to downturns and shocks, while conserving biological diversity and ecosystem services. The output will also lead to increase resilience in the agricultural and tourism sectors in the green recovery of Niue post-COVID.

10. The project will build on the results of previous studies into financial instruments and resource mobilization for conservation and several identified opportunities to support the conservation business plan, including a study centered on ideas to generate sustainable financing in ecotourism.[1] Possible options to be developed and adopted by the Cabinet include user fees, environmental management charges, credits, subsidies, microloans, certification and tourism and agriculture fund. Mechanisms designed for sustainable financing developed through the GEF-5 'Ridge to Reef' project including the Tofia Niue on Ocean Credit[2] will also be explored. Financing solutions will be selected and demonstrated under Component 2.

11. Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.4.1: Prioritize financing and incentive options and select those to be supported by the project under Output 2.1.5, including risk-sharing mechanisms to foster private sector participation in the financing of sustainable tourism development

Activity 1.1.4.2: Identify and implement policies and regulatory changes needed to remove barriers to implementation of selected financing options

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Output 1.1.5: Guidelines, increased capacities and know-how on environment impact assessment (EIA) of tourism and agriculture sector operations and investments

12. Under this Output, the project will develop EIA guidelines to operationalize the Environment Regulations (2017) with respect to the need for EIAs prior to decision making regarding any developments that may negatively impact the environment. These guidelines will establish a framework for assessing and monitoring the potential impacts of tourism and agricultural operations and will thereby support decision-making, monitoring and enforcement processes. Criteria, service standards and protocols will be developed for the assessment of impacts and drafting of recommendations regarding the evaluation of permit applications in the tourism and agriculture sectors to ensure standardized operations and service offerings that respect and benefit local communities, and follow a standardized approval, licensing and authorization process.

13. With technical support from the Samoa-based Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the project will support institutionalizing EIA through a capacity development program for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM within tourism and agriculture planning, monitoring and surveillance. Building in-country capacity to carry out EIA of new permit applications for tourism and agricultural operations will reduce the dependency on external expertise, bring consistency with national policies and strategies, and improve coordination among government agencies

and private sectors. Support will include a training program on EIA to support the approval, licensing and authorization process in these sectors. The training will target technical staff in government agencies, as well as independent consultants, involved in natural resources and development to build in-country capacity to plan, support and monitor tourism and agriculture developments that respect and promote biodiversity conservation and enhance ecosystem services. Capacity to assess and monitor environmental impacts will be developed and strengthened to evaluate the impacts of projects interventions, support the certification system and evaluate wider permit applications for new operations in the tourism and agriculture sectors.

14. Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.5.1: Develop EIA guidelines in line with Environment Regulations (2017) including procedures for addressing biodiversity and SLM considerations within any EIAs of required for tourism and agricultural developments

Activity 1.1.5.2: Increase government capacities to approve, license, authorize and monitor agricultural projects / investments, in line with above EIA guidelines and procedures, including: (i) integrating land functionality assessments based on soil testing and interpretation; (ii) conducting environmental economic analysis; (iii) evaluating permit applications, (iv) communicating / disseminating results and related information

Activity 1.1.5.3: Increase government capacities to approve, license, authorize and monitor tourism projects / investments, in line with above EIA guidelines and procedures, including: (i) integrating land functionality assessments based on soil testing and interpretation; (ii) conducting environmental economic analysis; (iii) evaluating permit applications, (iv) communicating / disseminating results and related information

Component 2: Integrated model for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into tourism and agriculture

Outcome 2.1 Sustainable biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism and agriculture across ecologically important landscape and seascape

15. Component 2 relies on the fact that marine resources are the main reason why tourists come to Niue but, once there, visitors also wish to explore nature-based activities on land, including hiking and birdwatching, as well as cultural activities, including visiting local villages, seeing traditional farming methods and experiencing the local food. The component is based on a participatory model where the local community is actively involved in the processes of tourism and agricultural development to support the local culture, tradition, knowledge and skills that serve to create innovative products in either sector. This model is based on careful implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) approaches. The implementation of successful participatory conservation models is seen as the best, if not the only, way to achieve a balance between soil and biodiversity conservation vs. the demands of production, improve farmers' health and improve sustainable livelihoods.

16. The approach will evaluate and test options for creating linkages and synergies between tourism and agriculture, piloting financing solutions, improving value chains, engaging communities and the

private sector, including farmers, tour operators and hoteliers through six outputs. Ultimately, the Component will pilot interventions that through upscaling (Component 3) can halt biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Output 2.1.1: Population assessment of key species and comprehensive land use and vegetation cover survey

17. Under Output 2.1.1, a population assessment of key terrestrial species at risk (Bristle-thighed curlew, Niuean Polynesian triller, Polynesian starling, coconut crabs, flying foxes, and Pacific imperial pigeon), and a comprehensive land use and vegetation cover survey will be carried out across the country to establish baseline data and indicators for EIA, monitoring and enforcement. The population assessment will also enable updating of the list of globally threatened and endangered terrestrial species that are present in Niue. Moreover, an economic valuation of ecosystem services across Niue's terrestrial and marine ecosystems will be carried out to enable the integration of results into national development planning and promote intersectoral planning approaches. The economic valuation of ecosystem services will include a spatially-explicit assessment to identify key ecological assets that may be impacted by tourism and agriculture development, and will inform the development and implementation of sustainable tourism and agriculture standards and impact monitoring.

18. Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.1.1: Conduct population assessments of threatened and other ecologically important species

Activity 2.1.1.2: Develop comprehensive land use and vegetation survey

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Output 2.1.2: Training and capacity development for tourism officers, local governments, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators provided to identify, monitor and manage tourism impacts

19. Output 2.1.2 will focus on training and capacity development for tourism officers, local government, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators to identify, monitor and minimize the negative impacts of tourism on biodiversity and ecosystems (marine and terrestrial), including, but not limited, to: (i) increased harvesting of endemic trees for tourist carvings, (ii) unsustainable fishing practices to supply resorts and hotels, (iii) clearing of forests for the construction of tourist accommodations and nearby housing for staff, and (iv) introduction and spread of weeds and invasive alien species into and within the country due to higher tourist influx and use of trails in biodiversity sensitive areas. Project activities under this output will target both water-based (dive, snorkeling, fishing, whale watching, etc.) and land-based activities (hiking, village visits, cultural experience, etc) and will engage several tourism enterprises and local tourism operators, as well as tourist accommodations and restaurants.

20. Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.2.1: Assess existing capacity and skills for mainstreaming biodiversity and SLM goals and targets into tourism sector operations and oversight

Activity 2.1.2.2: Build awareness and capacity, including knowledge of policy and regulatory requirements, to encourage stakeholders to comply with, and champion, biodiversity conservation and SLM objectives in tourism sector enterprises and local communities

Activity 2.1.2.3: Build capacity within communities to raise visitor awareness and understanding regarding Niuean traditional knowledge of land use and resource management, through storytelling, cultural interpretation and visits to cultural heritage sites

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Output 2.1.3: Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative practices of sustainable land/forest management to promote regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, improve soil fertility, phase out toxic chemical herbicides, and move towards environmentally sound production

21. Output 2.1.3 of the project will support landowners and farmers to pilot SLM practices to rehabilitate degraded farmland and restore soil fertility in the buffer zone (2,800 hectares) of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area to improve soil fertility, increase sustainable crop production and avoid clearing of the adjacent forest. In collaboration with farmers and landowners, the project will introduce innovative sustainable land management practices that will be tested and evaluated with a view to moving towards sustainable environmentally sound crop production. The techniques will include, for example, mulching, introduction of nitrogen-fixing intercrops, continuous soil cover using cover crops as natural alternatives to toxic herbicides such as the widely used paraquat, crop rotation, optimization of nutrient use, drip-irrigation, recycling compost and other natural fertilizers for soil enrichment, and bio-intensive integrated weed, disease and integrated pest management (e.g. through natural pest and predator controls). The activities will have a positive effect on the adjacent marine environment, in particular coral reefs as explained earlier in the PIF. The project will also pilot techniques to improve production, for example, through testing of crops resistant to drought, and protection methods to withstand cyclone-force winds. As part of this output, a training for trainers will be undertaken to address the knowledge and capacity gaps among government and farmers' association staff in order to assist farmers with adopting these SLM practices.

22. Specific activities include:

Activity 2.1.3.1: Enhance capacities for land rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystem functionality via a practical and participatory approach and effective extension methods

Activity 2.1.3.2: Assess costs and benefits of alternative land and soil rehabilitation methods in order to help identify approaches for dealing with specific LD hotspots (ref. 1.1.4.3 above)

Activity 2.1.3.3: Pilot, and encourage uptake of, land- and soil-friendly agricultural methods, where possible based on traditional knowledge and techniques (e.g. kai Niue?), within buffer zone of Huvalu Forest Conservation Area. Methods will include: (i) large-scale mulching / composting, (ii) intercropping, (iii) organic farming, (iv) improved fallow management, (v) crop rotation, (vi)

development and marketing of native, economically viable and agriculturally sustainable crops, and (vii) other methods of improving soil organic content and microbial activity.

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Output 2.1.4. Nature-friendly tourism and agricultural products and practices co-designed with local communities and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, reduce waste and generate livelihood benefits

23. Under this output, biodiversity-friendly agricultural products and tourism experiences will be developed in cooperation with the local communities and private sector, and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management and generate livelihood and gender-sensitive benefits. In addition, gender-sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies will be emphasized, developed and implemented to promote sustainable tourism and agriculture.

24. The project will work with local communities within the buffer zone of Huvalu Forest Conservation Area to identify and develop agricultural and tourism products that support biodiversity and ecosystem services; are community-based and reflect local cultures; strengthen local social enterprises; and help local communities to promote and market their products and experiences. These will include: (i) identification and development of products and experiences that are compatible with conservation efforts, community-based and reflect local cultures (e.g. no impact human-cetacean interaction, locally produced food, cultural immersion); (ii) strengthening of local social enterprises to develop and manage environmentally sustainable tourism and sustainable agricultural practices; (iii) improving waste management practices and systems in connection to agriculture and tourism activities to reduce waste streams on land and in the ocean, including coastal runoff and pollution; (iv) value chain strengthening, promotion and marketing of biodiversity-friendly agricultural products and tourism experiences.

25. Interventions under this output will take place on 5,300 hectares of the Huvalu Forest (including 2,800 hectares of agricultural land and 2,500 hectares of sustainably maintained forest). Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 will lead to more resilience in the agricultural sector, include livelihood benefits and green jobs, and food security, as part of Niue's post-COVID green recovery.

26. Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.4.1: Implement cross-sector value chain development by bringing together communities and private sector to expand the diversity and quality of tourism experiences, products and services including, e.g., local food producers, creative and cultural representatives

Activity 2.1.4.2: Build practical linkages between sustainable agriculture and tourism sectors, including: (i) Conducting market research to establish the size and characteristics of the market for fresh and processed produce in the tourist markets; (ii) Establishing platforms to encourage producer linkage with hoteliers; (iii) Identify strategies opportunities to promote local foods in restaurant and hotel kitchen menus.

Activity 2.1.4.3: Establish and foster links / partnerships between larger tourism operators/ accommodation providers and community based/micro enterprises to ensure that benefits from tourism sector are reaching local communities. This may include, e.g., capacity development and hiring of local tour guides, and the design of a tourism offer that ensures that environmental impacts are minimized, e.g. by ensuring avoidance of tapu areas.

Output 2.1.5. Demonstration of financing solutions to promote implementation of nature-based solutions in tourism and agriculture sectors

27. Financing solutions will be demonstrated under Output 2.1.5 to promote nature-based solutions in the green/blue economies by integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management into the tourism and agriculture sectors. The work will support and strengthen sustainability of tourism and agriculture and create financial incentives for tourism operators and farmers to adopt biodiversity-compatible practices. Possible financing options to be explored include user fees, environmental management charges, credits, subsidies, microloans and establishment of a tourism and agriculture fund. Where possible, financing institutions such as the Niue Development Bank will be involved in the implementation of the financing solution options.

28. Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.5.1: Strengthen public sector capacities to assess and promote nature-friendly and land conserving agricultural and tourism sector investments

Activity 2.1.5.2: Selection and pre-feasibility assessment of a financing solution, e.g. fee system for tour groups with revenues to PA management, microlending and/or development of a tourism and agriculture fund?shortlist to be finalized during inception phase

Activity 2.1.5.3: Identify potential public-private partnerships that would bring financial resources for nature-based tourism and agricultural infrastructure investments

Output 2.1.6. Farmers and small business capacitated and supported in the development of business plans and revenue generation models to access and test sustainable financing solutions

29. Under output 2.1.6, farmers and small businesses will be capacitated and supported to develop and pilot business plans and revenue generation models to access and test the sustainable financing solutions developed under Component 1. Lessons learned will be recorded and shared for scaling-up. This will lead to resilience in the sector and form part of the green recovery of Niue post-COVID.

30. Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.6.1: Design of capacity building program to raise skills among farmers and small businesses

Activity 2.1.6.2: Technical support to farmers and small businesses for development of business plans / financial proposals

Component 3. Knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and M&E

Outcome 3.1: Improved awareness, education and knowledge management supporting upscaling to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation

Output 3.1.1: Lessons learned, guidance and tools systematized and available for optimizing the linkages between sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and the island's biodiversity, land and ecosystems

31. Under this Output, a knowledge exchange system will be established through the project for sharing lessons learned, guidance and tools, and for replication and upscaling of best practices across Niue. Project best practices and lessons learned will be identified, documented and disseminated across the Pacific region and with other relevant GEF-financed projects supporting sustainable tourism and land management.

32. Specific activities include:

Activity 3.1.1.1: Assess opportunities for adaptation and replication of lessons learned by previous national and regional projects and opportunities for generating new lessons from innovations by the present project

Activity 3.1.1.2: Ongoing capture of lessons learned during project implementation, including lessons learned locally as well as latest regional lessons learned and associated tools and methodologies

Activity 3.1.1.3: Establish and maintain open lines of two-way communication with key sectoral and regional institutional actors involved with sustainable tourism and agriculture

Activity 3.1.1.4: Develop, disseminate and ensure national- and regional-level uptake of lessons learned, guidance materials and tools developed or adapted by the project

Output 3.1.2: Awareness and education campaign on biodiversity, SLM/LDN, ecosystem services and waste reduction targeting tourism industry, CSOs, farmers, and tourists

33. Under Output 3.1.2, the project will increase public awareness of environment and sustainable development principles through outreach and education campaigns that will target communities, tourism operators, farmers, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists. This effort will seek to raise awareness among those involved with the agricultural and tourism sectors regarding the importance of considering/respecting/protecting biodiversity and of practical tools to support this including those developed by the project. Key themes will include the potential negative impacts of tourism and agriculture, practices that do not negatively impact biodiversity or lead to land degradation, and win-win strategies aimed at securing benefits for biodiversity conservation and local communities.

34. The project will also support the implementation of the Forest Protected Area Communication Strategy[3] developed by the Department of Environment to 'communicate, educate and provide awareness to people locally and abroad about the importance of conservation and protected areas to their livelihood and the future generations'. This will include actively engaging primary and secondary schools in the project activities, the development of curricula and the planning and implementation of outreach and awareness raising activities, including through student and tourist participation in citizen science and biodiversity monitoring initiatives (e.g. iNaturalist)[4].

35. Specific activities include:

Activity 3.1.2.1: Develop, and disseminate amongst key stakeholders, the environmental economic case for adopting best practices in Niue's tourism and agriculture sectors, based in large part on lessons learned by the project and captured under Output 3.1.1

Activity 3.1.2.2: Support implementation of the Forest Protected Area Communication Strategy, including development, production and dissemination of awareness raising materials to encourage visitors to HCA

Activity 3.1.2.3: Design and enable school curricula and outreach aimed at encouraging participation, raising awareness and building knowledge and understanding, among primary and secondary school children and their teachers

Output 3.1.3: *M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards adopted and implemented.*

36. The project will establish an effective participatory monitoring & evaluation system that adheres to GEF and UNEP requirements, and enables effective evaluation of project progress and impact. The M&E system will incorporate gender mainstreaming and safeguards will be developed and implemented for adaptive project management. Monitoring and reporting tools developed by Trends Earth[5] to assist countries to fulfil their obligation under UNCCD will be used.

37. Specific activities will include:

Activity 3.1.3.1: Implement gender action plan (see Appendix 18), including gender-sensitive indicators that have been mainstreamed into project results framework

Activity 3.1.3.2: Develop systems to monitor, publicly report on and respond to, visitor surveys regarding the quality and sustainability of the tourism experience

Activity 3.1.3.3: Mid-term and final project evaluations

Activity 3.1.3.4: Monitoring of all project safeguards

[1] Niue Chamber of Commerce (2015).

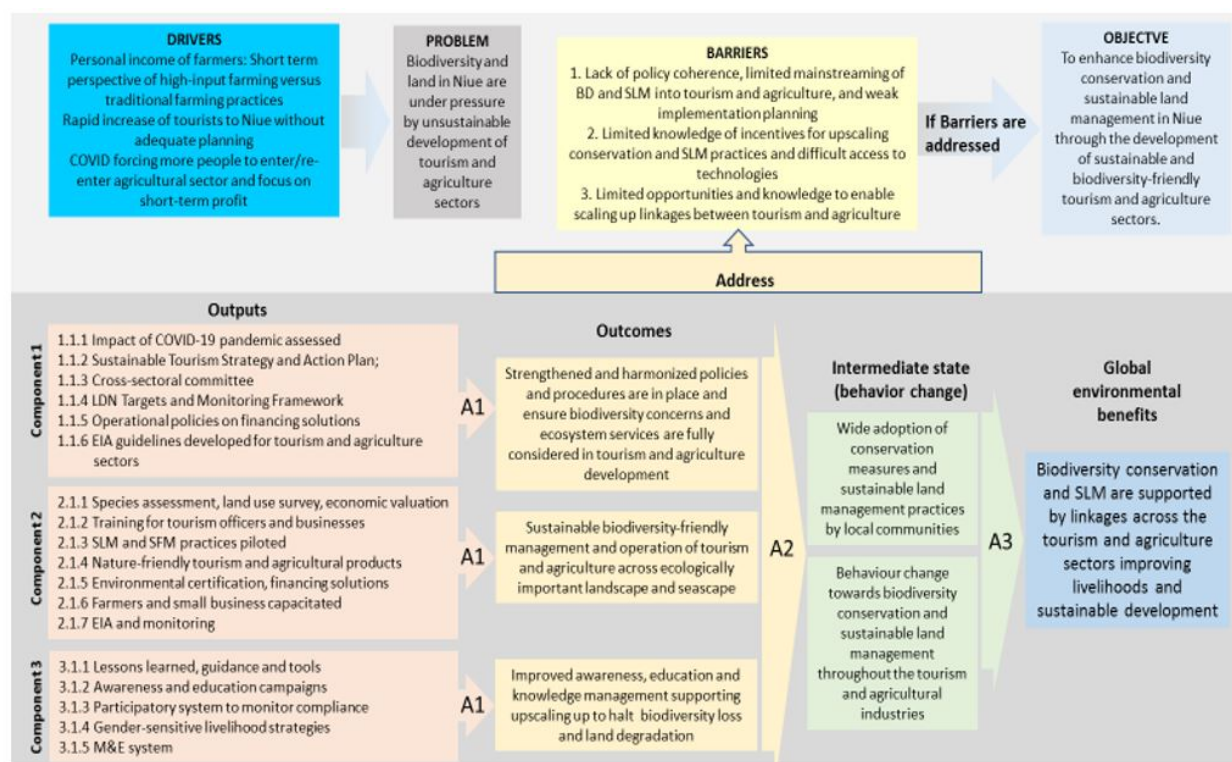
[2] See www.niueoceanwide.com/

[3] Department of Environment (2014)

[4] See: www.inaturalist.org.

[5] See <https://docs.trends.earth/en/latest/>

Figure 4: Theory of change



Assumptions:

A1: Lessons learnt from COVID experience and from a policy coherence gap analysis are integrated into Tourism Strategy and Action Plan; Tourism Action Plan is implemented; Cross-sectoral committee able to result in cross-sector work; Training contains necessary information for sectors to make shift to sustainability; If income is increased through conservation enterprises, then participants will discontinue environmentally unsustainable activities, leading to reductions to threats to the environment, Trainees make changes in practices after capacity enhanced; Incentives and finance solutions sufficient to scale approaches.

A2: Policies and procedures force wider sustainable practices in tourism and agricultural sectors; Biodiversity-friendly tourism and agriculture enterprises are proven profitable and accepted by sectors as the long-term sustainable solutions; Awareness and knowledge of sustainability by trainees is translated to a sector-wide behaviour change.

A3: Tourism and agriculture remain the main economic sectors in Niue.

The Project is aligned with Objective 1 of the GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area (BD 1-1: Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority areas). The three project components will support integrating and mainstreaming biodiversity into planning and development of the tourism and agriculture sectors. The proposed project is also aligned with Objective 1 (?Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN?) and Objective 2 (?Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation) of the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy.

The three objectives will be simultaneously supported through the delivery of the following outputs:

- (a) 1.1.1. Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management and Land Degradation Neutrality mainstreamed into the revised Niue's Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Tourism Action Plan and implemented to avoid detrimental effects of tourism on terrestrial and marine ecosystems;
- (b) 1.1.2. Cross-sectoral committee operationalized/ strengthened to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) across tourism and agriculture sectors, supported by blue/green economy strategy, improved national coordination and strengthened regulatory framework;
- (c) 1.1.4. Operational policies on financing solutions developed and approved to create incentives for the tourism and agriculture sectors to invest in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management;
- (d) 1.1.5. Guidelines on environment impact assessment (EIA) developed for tourism and agriculture sector operations, and capacity and know-how enhanced in government agencies and relevant stakeholders to conduct/review EIA to support decision-making monitoring and enforcement;
- (e) 2.1.1. Comprehensive biodiversity assessment, survey of vegetation cover and soil quality, and economic valuation of ecosystem services carried out in Huvalu Forest Conservation Area to establish baseline data and indicators;
- (f) 2.1.4. Nature-friendly tourism and agricultural products and practices co-designed with local communities and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, reduce waste and generate livelihood benefits;
- (g) 2.1.5. Environmental certification system and other financing solutions for tourism and agriculture sectors demonstrated (e.g. user fees, environmental management charges, credits, subsidies, microloans, biodiversity offsets, and tourism development fund) to promote nature-based solutions and green/blue economies and ready for upscaling;
- (h) 2.1.6. Farmers and small business capacitated and supported in the development of business plans and revenue generation models to access and test sustainable financing solutions;
- (i) 3.1.1. Lessons learned, guidance and tools systematized for the scaling-up the linkages between sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture and the biodiversity, productive soil and ecosystems that the sectors depend on;
- (j) 3.1.4. M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards adopted and implemented.

The following outputs will contribute more specifically to Objective 1 of the Biodiversity Focal Area:

- (a) 2.1.2. Training and capacity development for tourism officers, local governments, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators to identify, monitor and manage tourism impacts;
- (b) 3.1.2. Targeted awareness and education campaign on biodiversity, ecosystem services and waste reduction delivered to tourism industry, CSOs, farmers, and tourists;

The following output will contribute more specifically to Objective 1 of the Land Degradation Focal Area:

- (a) 2.1.3. Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative practices of sustainable land/forest management to promote regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, improve soil fertility, phase out toxic chemical herbicides, and move towards environmentally sound production;

Finally the following output will contribute more specifically to Objective 2 of the Land Degradation Focal Area:

(a) 1.1.4. Integrated National Voluntary LDN Targets and monitoring framework designed for Niue aligned with cross-sectoral committee.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

A schematic comparison between the business as usual scenario and the alternative scenario is shown in **Figure 5**. The incremental cost reasoning, including expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing are presented in **Table 1** below.

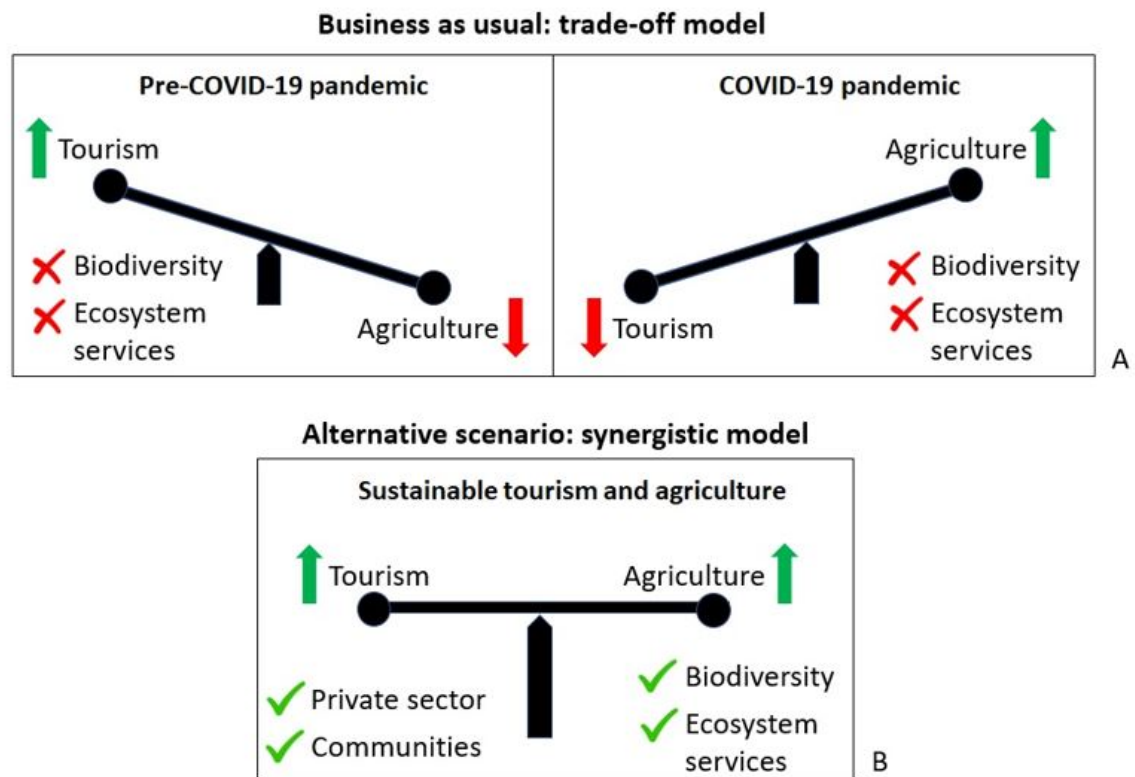


Figure 5. Comparison between (A) the baseline scenario where tourism and agriculture sectors function mostly on the basis of a trade-off model and (B) the alternative scenario where sustainable tourism and agriculture are supported by biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as by a strong private sector.

Table 1. Baseline, alternative scenario and increment.

| Baseline (a) | Alternative scenario (b) | Increment (b - a) |
|---|---|---|
| <p>The business as usual baseline is characterized by development in the tourism and agriculture sectors happening disjointly on the basis of a trade-off model, where development in one sector happens at the detriment of the other. Neither agriculture nor tourism supports biodiversity and ecosystem services in a meaningful way.</p> <p>In the baseline scenario, the society, economy and environment are very vulnerable to external shocks and natural disasters. The risk of relying heavily on a single productive sector (i.e. tourism) was exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic causing the loss of nearly half of the country's GDP.</p> <p>Integrated planning and development of sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors is prevented by lack of coherent policies, and limited mainstreaming of biodiversity and SLM across sectoral implementation plans.</p> <p>Lack of capacity among farmers to adopt SLM approaches, limited access to innovative technologies, and poor financial incentives prevent sustainable development of the agriculture sector, put pressure on the land and lead to degradation and land conversion.</p> <p>Upscaling towards the Niue's sustainability aspirations remains out of reach due to limited public awareness on biodiversity and land degradation, weak private sector, narrow-based economy and lack of long-term financial incentives.</p> | <p>The alternative scenario brought by the GEF intervention will lead to improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management supported by linkages across the tourism and agriculture sectors as the means to diversify Niue's economy and achieve sustainable livelihoods and long-term economic development in Niue.</p> <p>In the alternative scenario, through the mainstreaming of biodiversity and SLM, as well as support for a stronger private sector, sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors will develop on the basis of a synergistic model underpinned by long-term planning and coherent policies. In the alternative scenario, the sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture sectors will be better equipped to absorb shocks and withstand economic downturns caused by, e.g., natural disasters and economic shocks (Figure 3).</p> <p>Through improved and integrated planning, testing of innovative solutions and knowledge sharing, the project will lay the basis for upscaling sustainable tourism and agriculture as means to protect biodiversity and improve ecosystem services.</p> <p>Communities will work together with tourism businesses to decide how to integrate tourism on the land they own, alongside agriculture, hunting and other activities of importance for their livelihoods. This will strengthen linkages and create synergies between tourism and agriculture to help harness the tourist dollar to achieve the objectives of sustained and equitable growth.</p> | <p>Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) will be mainstreamed across the tourism and agriculture sectors.</p> <p>Development of sustainable tourism operations will be guided by the Tourism Action Plan and supported improved coordination among government agencies.</p> <p>Incentives for the tourism and agriculture sectors to invest in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management will be created;</p> <p>Decision-making, monitoring and enforcement will be supported by enhanced capacity and know-how among government agencies and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The environmental impacts of tourism will be identified, monitored, avoided and mitigated, while benefiting conservation efforts.</p> <p>Viable SLM technologies will be tested and financial incentive mechanisms to overcome barriers for SLM will be put in place and ready for upscaling.</p> <p>Communities will engage in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, waste reduction.</p> |

| Baseline (a) | Alternative scenario (b) | Increment (b - a) |
|---|---|---|
| BASELINE COST ? TOTAL: US\$ 7,995,588 | ALTERNATIVE COST ? GEF: US\$ 3,502,968 ? Co-financing: US\$ 16,033,125 ? Baseline: US\$ 7,995,588 ? TOTAL: US\$ 27,531,681 | INCREMENTAL COST ? GEF: US\$ 3,502,968 ? Co-financing: US\$ 16,033,125 ? TOTAL: US\$ 19,536,093 |

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will build on the baseline and use GEF resources to ensure that Niue's global environmental values are enhanced through the implementation of the three project components. Primarily, the project seeks to strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable land management through integrated national and community actions. The proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit, albeit on a small scale. The project will employ a comprehensive approach to managing key resources, both on land and at sea, contributing to improving Niue's resilience and sustainable development.

The project will enhance the long term institutional capacity of Niue at both central government and village and community levels, together with the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land, water and reef use. This will lead to the sustainability of natural productivity and conservation of the habitats of a number of plant and animal species and valuable ecosystems. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved and valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded.

The Huvalu Forest Conservation Area is classified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area^[6] and Niue falls within the WWF's globally important 'Ecoregions under Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests' under the South Pacific Islands Forests, and within the Micronesia-Polynesia Hotspot as delineated by Conservation International.

The project will help preserve the extraordinary value of Niue's natural environment, which is highly vulnerable to both human and natural impacts, including fishing activity, storm events and climate change. The project will help raise Niue's global profile as a pristine ecotourism destination, as will its contribution to global marine conservation.

The direct global environment benefits of the project's actions will include the conservation of the globally threatened species listed in table 3 and their habitats. Additional global benefits will be from reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and from reduced loss and degradation of forests and reefs. The restored and rehabilitated productive landscape will result in increased soil fertility that translates to increased crop productivity and therefore less pressure on forested areas, reduced forest degradation and mitigation of the greenhouse gas emissions. The area will also experience less soil erosion and reduced levels of herbicides use, which will mitigate the impact on coral reefs due to reduced levels of runoff.

The project sites cover 5,400 hectares, which is 20.8 per cent of the total terrestrial land area of Niue.

Table 2. Non-exhaustive list of Niue's globally relevant biodiversity.

| Common name | Species | IUCN Red List Status | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Mammals | | | |
| Tongan flying fox | <i>Pteropus tonganus</i> | LC | Endemic to the Pacific; only species known to pollinate some native Niuean trees |
| Birds | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| Bristle-thighed Curlew | <i>Numenius tahitiensis</i> | EN | |
| Niuean Polynesian triller | <i>Lalage maculosa whitmeei</i> | NE | Single-country endemic sub-species |
| Polynesian starling | <i>Aplonis tabuensis brunnescens</i> | NE | Single-country endemic sub-species |
| Pacific Imperial pigeon | <i>Ducula pacifica</i> | LC | Endemic to the Pacific; hunted for food throughout its range |
| Reptiles | | | |
| Hawksbill turtle | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | CR | |
| Green turtle | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | EN | |
| Olive small-scaled skink | <i>Emoia lawesi</i> | EN | Range limited to Polynesia |
| Loggerhead turtle | <i>Caretta caretta</i> | VU | |
| Fish | | | |
| Oceanic Whitetip shark | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> | CR | |
| Grey Reef Shark | <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> | EN | |
| Flat-tail sea krait | <i>Laticauda schistorhynchus</i> | VU | Single-country endemic |
| Silky Shark | <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> | VU | |
| Whitetip Reef Shark | <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> | NT | |
| Yellowfin Tuna | <i>Thunnus albacares</i> | NT | |
| Striped Marlin | <i>Kajikia audax</i> | NT | |
| Invertebrates | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----|--|
| Pineapple Sea Cucumber | <i>Thelenota ananas</i> | EN | |
| Coconut crab | <i>Birgus latro</i> | VU | |
| Small Giant Clam | <i>Tridacna maxima</i> | NT | |

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The innovative nature of the proposed project lies in the identification and implementation of combined biodiversity and SLM practices within the planning and sustainable development of tourism and agriculture in Niue. The project will introduce and test innovative solutions in financing, sustainable land management, market access and value chain. It will create a participatory environment for the creation of products and experiences that create a strong link between tourism and agriculture sectors, such as culinary tourism experiences and cultural immersion. The project will also pilot the use of open-source mobile apps (e.g. iNaturalist and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)^[7]) for recording and sharing information about sightings of key species and illegal activities (e.g. harvesting of coral, littering, hunting of coconut crabs, flying fox, and Pacific imperial pigeon, etc), which can in turn be used to direct enforcement and/or awareness raising efforts. The project will also provide the means for different government agencies to work together, which is also expected to contribute to institutional innovation in the country. The experiences of the project will be documented and shared widely within the region.

Sustainability: The project will be designed to engage various stakeholders, with particular emphasis on local communities and the private sector. Improving coordination among different government agencies will also be a priority and will further ensure sustainability. The project will demonstrate the value of healthy biodiversity and landscapes to tourism and food production and the role and positive impact that communities and private sector bring to the equation. As the project builds strongly on community and private sector interest and is focused on building their capacities for long term conservation, the actions proposed are expected to be sustainable.

The long-term success of conservation efforts requires time, patience and a respectful approach to communities ? the speed of implementing change, and their sustainability, are largely determined by the interest and willingness of the community itself. The interest of the community will come from both men and women as gender sensitive/responsive projects are more sustainable. Apart from addressing environmental challenges, it also helps to nurture and enhance social/communal/familial stability that will contribute to foster economic prosperity. The project will play an important role in catalyzing change, building capacity and providing resources, but the ownership of the project outcomes needs to rest with local people and be supported by the Government. The project will recognize these issues and focus on actions that will most likely enable longer term changes.

The project will build on lessons learned in the region to ensure that proper consultation and tenure clarification are undertaken. For example, success stories such as the 'Wakatu Fiji' campaign, which is based on a concept well understood by local people and uses state of the art social media tools to reach audiences and engages a wide range of government and non-government actors provides a valuable lesson on how to engage customary land owners and the general public for similar projects that are seeking to raise awareness and build networks of support across multiple sectors. The project will be developed on the interests of local communities expressed during the PPG phase.

The project will pay particular attention to the issue of sustainability of its capacity building efforts. The strategy for doing so will include the following elements: (i) ensuring that capacity building efforts align with local needs and priorities; (ii) where possible, adopting a train-the-trainer programs to build local capacity and ensure that the knowledge and skills gained through the project are passed on, and; (iii) developing partnerships and networks that will continue to support and sustain the training efforts beyond the life of the project.

Potential for scaling up: Aligning project design to the current and potential capacity of stakeholders will help build confidence for upscaling and sustainability after the project concludes. Furthermore, all project outputs will be developed based on their life beyond the project lifespan. This includes a focus on systems, sustainable, long-term involvement of the private sector in sustainable agriculture and tourism, and stimulating access to finance in the future.

Scaling minimal ecological impact will guide future development of the tourism and agriculture sectors. Demonstrating that ecological resources such as intact coral reefs and forests, clear coastal waters and pristine beaches have long-term economic value will help to reinforce the 'win-win' relationship between ecological sustainability and sustainable livelihoods.

[1] Niue Chamber of Commerce (2015).

[2] See www.niueoceanwide.com/

[3] Department of Environment (2014)

[4] See: www.inaturalist.org.

[5] See <https://docs.trends.earth/en/latest/>

[6] Birdlife International (<https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programme-additional-info/important-bird-and-biodiversity-areas-ibas>).

[7] iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org>; SMART: <https://smartconservationtools.org>.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

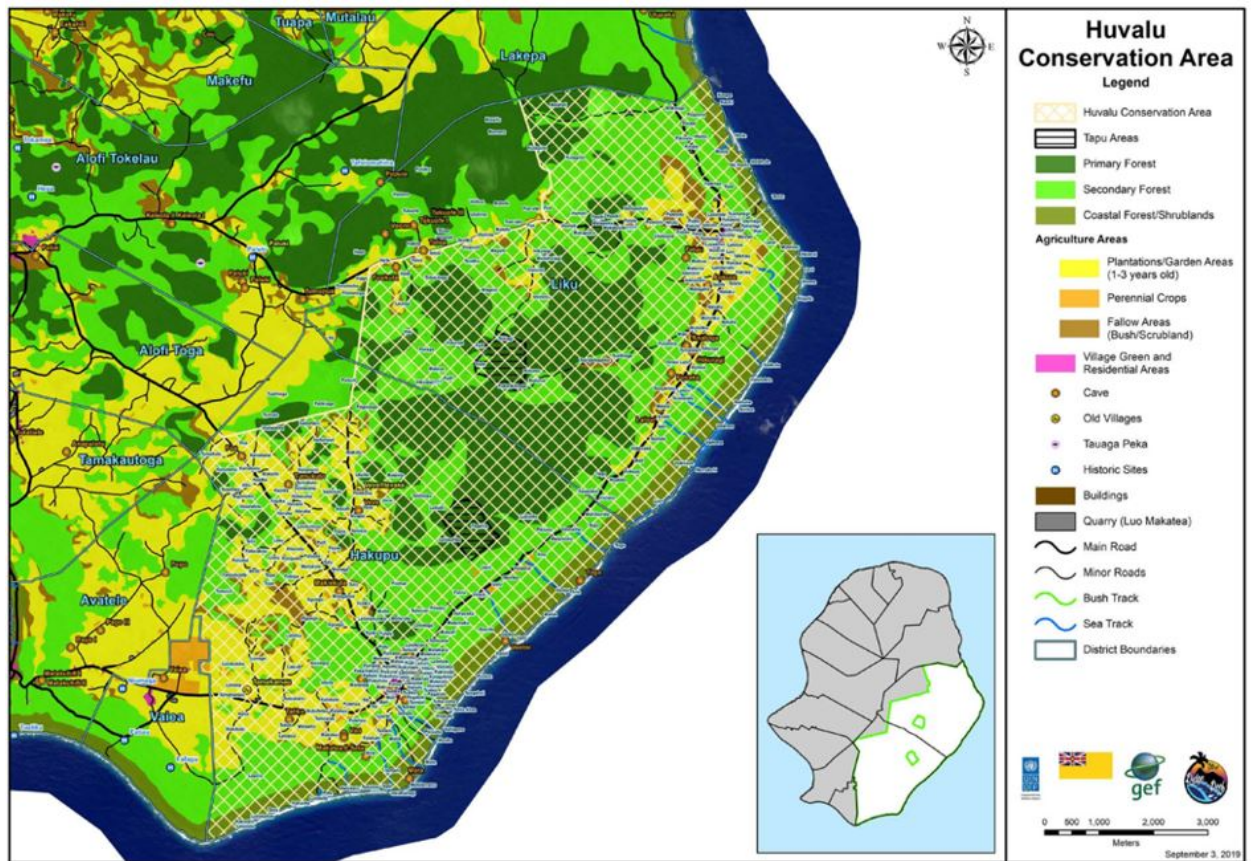


Figure 6. The Huvalu Forest Conservation Area (IUCN Category VI; coordinates: 19°4'47"S, -169°49'19"W).

1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

To support the achievement of its outcomes, the project will adopt a partnership involving government agencies, NGOs, private sector, and research and training organizations in the coordinated delivery of project activities. The main project stakeholders and their expected role in the project are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Key stakeholders and their role in the project

| Stakeholder | Expected role in the project |
|---|--|
| <i>National level</i> | |
| Department of Environment, Ministry for Natural Resources (MNR) | This Department will be the lead agency for the implementation of this project. The Department of Environment will be the executing agency of the project and lead project activities, as well as chair the project steering committee. As Executing Agency, the Department of Environment will provide technical advice on matters pertaining to operationalizing the project. The DoE will be a member of the of the PSC and will house the PMU. |
| Project Management & Coordination Unit (PMCU) | The PMCU will be a co-executing partner and a member of the PSC. It will help to ensure collaboration among key stakeholders along with the project's alignment with other ongoing donor programs, i.e., cofinancing. |
| Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MNR) | The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be a co-executing partner and a member of the project steering committee. The Department will be involved in the testing and piloting SLM practices and tourism products (village immersion, hiking trails, birdwatching stations, etc) in the Huvalu Forest and in the demonstration of SLM techniques within Huvalu's buffer zone. |
| Niue Tourism & Tourism Authority Board | The Tourism Authority Board will be a co-executing partner and a member of the project steering committee. It will play a significant role as a project partner in the planning and delivery of outputs aimed at creating opportunities to link the tourism and agriculture sectors. It will also play a significant role in engaging the private sector. |
| Niue Chamber of Commerce | The Chamber of Commerce will be a co-executing partner and a member of the project steering committee. It will participate in the planning and rolling out of the financial incentives. |

| Stakeholder | Expected role in the project |
|--|--|
| Department of Education (MOSS) | The Department of Education will be co-executing partner and will be a member of the project steering committee. It will provide advice and support to outreach activities, especially those involving schools. The DoE will lead in ensuring that the school curriculum in both primary and secondary schools include modules on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism that are tailored for Niuean context to raise awareness and to build environment management as one option for future career development of Niuean students. The DoE will also help engage and mobilize youth in relevant conservation actions. |
| Department of Taoga Niue | The Culture and Heritage Department will be a member of the project steering committee. It will be responsible for ensuring nature related traditional cultural knowledge, traditions and sites are identified and documented. The project will work closely with the Department to ensure that conservation activities complement cultural heritage sites management ? particularly around identified traditional village areas, which have been abandoned. |
| Department of Health (MOSS) | The department will be consulted and invited to engage in project activities on a regular basis throughout the project implementation. It will be involved in, and advise on, prevention opportunities presented by improved local agriculture. |
| Ministry of Finance (Treasury) | The Ministry will be engaged in developing incentives and financing solutions to stimulate uptake of sustainable agricultural and tourism enterprises with PMCU and stakeholders. The Ministry will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis as all funds are channelled through Treasury. |
| Crown Law Office | The Crown Law Office will support policy development and enforcement of environmental offences. The Crown Law Office will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis. |
| Department of Community Affairs | The department will be a member of the project steering committee and will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis. The department will support the development of tourism and agriculture products and experiences at the village level. |
| Department of Justice, Lands and Survey | The department will provide GIS capabilities and expertise for the land use and vegetation cover survey. It will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis. |
| Village Councils | The Village Councils will support work with the communities to facilitate project implementation at the local level. The Councils will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis. |
| Farmers, farmer groups and local food vendors | Farmers, farmer groups and local vendors will actively participate in implementation of the project. They will be involved in the identification of problems and in the design and delivery of solutions to support the use of SLM practices, establish organic waste collection and composting methods, improve supply of local produce, enhance agro-processing capability and promote market access to local produce. The farmers, farmer groups and local vendors are the key partners in the project and will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis throughout the project period. They are also the key beneficiaries of the project. Representatives will be part of the project steering committee. |
| Hotels, airlines, local tour operators, tourist shipping | The tourism sector will be actively targeted during the implementation of the projects to win support for border biosecurity, early detection, awareness raising, and if possible restoration projects. The tourism sector is a key stakeholder in the project and will be consulted by project staff on a regular basis throughout the project duration. Representatives will be part of the project steering committees, and employees/owners will partake in capacity building trainings. |

| Stakeholder | Expected role in the project |
|---|--|
| Niue Island United Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NIUANGO) ? including National Women?s Council and Youth Council | Niue has a number of NGOs and all are affiliated with NIUANGO. Some of the more active NGOs in Niue include the National Women?s Council, which has been actively promoting women?s economic empowerment, and the Youth Council has been promoting youth involvement in spiritual and other development. The Association and its members can provide technical support to local communities and for different project activities ? including surveys, monitoring and awareness raising. The Association will be co-executing partner and will be a member of the project steering committee. |
| Niue Island Organic Farming Association | The Niue Island Organic Farming Association promotes organic farming of vanilla and noni for export as a viable economic alternative to other farming that uses agrochemicals. In the project, the Association will support the identification and piloting of SLM practices. NIOFA will also support piloting of alternatives to replace the herbicide paraquat. The Association will be co-executing partner and will be a member of the project steering committee. |
| Financial Institutions | Financial institutions will be involved in the project through providing microloans and credit facilities to stimulate the uptake of sustainable tourism and agricultural enterprises. Project staff will engage with financial institutions on the development of innovative financing models. |
| <i>Regional-level</i> | |
| SPREP | SPREP will play a role in knowledge sharing and exchange of lessons learned from previous projects, as well as facilitating cooperation with relevant ongoing projects. SPREP will be consulted on a regular basis by project staff. |
| New Zealand Aid Programme | Private-sector-led growth will be an area of cooperation in the project. The New Zealand Aid Programme will be consulted on a regular basis by project staff. |
| Landcare Research NZ Ltd | As a continued partner in biodiversity conservation and forest management, Landcare Research New Zealand ? Manaaki Whenua, will continue to work with the Department of Environment in the project to undertake relevant, effective and efficient biodiversity monitoring of the Huvalu Forest. Landcare Research New Zealand will be consulted on a regular basis by project staff. |

The Department of Environment had initial consultations with all the main stakeholders. This includes the agriculture sector as well as the tourism sector. The Department of Agriculture has been part of the development of the concept and a number of meetings were held between the two departments. Joint discussion with the farmers in the target area was held and the proposal shared verbally with the farmer representatives. Further, Department of Environment held detailed discussions with the Niue Tourism Authority and with a few selected hotel owners and managers. Preliminary discussions were held with NGOs, and these were intensified during the PPG.

During the PPG phase, stakeholders in Tourism, DAFF, Department of Environment including the Niue Chamber of Commerce, Niue Growers Association (NGA) were kept updated on developments and provided feedback on the project and its proposed activities. Covid-19 presented various challenges related to timelines, budgets and village-level consultations, However, despite Covid-19 still undergoing community transmission, the DOE were able to take precautions and adapt to the circumstances. This included conducting activities involving all groups in the communities from the

women, men, those with disabilities, youth and the next generation of children. Food security and Tourism including sustaining terrestrial ecosystems is crucial in trying to recover from Covid-19 and is a priority of Government. Despite the concerns with Government, borders are now open for consultants to come in and opportunities for Niueans in NZ and Australia to return.

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

Goal, timing and means of engagement during full project phase

The goal of the stakeholder engagement is to enhance project acceptance and ownership and strengthens the social and environmental sustainability and benefits of the project activities. Stakeholder engagement supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are critical for sound design of the project, as well as its implementation.

Timing of engagement will vary according to the project workplan (see Appendix 5). Stakeholders will be engaged during the project inception phase and again in advance of the scheduled implementation of activities relevant to them, in order to ensure their full participation.

Given Niue's small population and area, means of engagement and information dissemination will be straightforward and direct. With COVID restrictions having largely been lifted, there should be few if any limitations to in-person discussions. Members of the key targeted communities in and around Huvalu Forest Conservation Area will be among those most directly and frequently engaged, with PCU members expected to reach out on a very frequent basis. Community members can thus be expected to participate closely in the elaboration of project activities.

Resource requirements associated with stakeholder consultations are described in the project budget and range from funding an inception workshop to funding for workshops and stakeholder meetings to develop land use planning processes, collect information, conduct participatory scenario analyses, and prepare land use plans.

Roles and responsibilities in stakeholder engagement

The Project Management & Coordination Unit (PMCU) and the Department of Environment will play crucial roles during the project inception and implementation period and will together ensure engagement of key stakeholders involved in the project. Different activities have different stakeholders but the project's engagement strategy will play an important role in ensuring Government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and Village councils are informed and included to ensure project cohesion. Lessons learnt from previous GEF projects and enabling activities will ensure project success.

Members of the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be consulting and updating the different stakeholders, layers of Government and communities throughout the project in order to keep them informed of activities, developments and implementation status. The project management team and steering committee will facilitate and ensure that lead agencies keep all stakeholders informed, updated and involved throughout project implementation. This will help to ensure community and stakeholder buy-in through the life cycle of the project. Taoga Niue, Community Affairs Department, PMCU and other Government Agencies all represent key linkage points with the community and will ensure that Civil Society, including local communities, the Private Sector and Non-Government Organisations have a role in the management and implementation of the project. Different activities will include different layers of stakeholders and their involvement will be crucial during implementation to ensure project success.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

According to Niue's population census of 2017, 56.7% of the women in working age, as opposed to 72.5% of men, are involved in paid employment.[1] Women and men in Niue have both differentiated and overlapping roles in various areas such as agriculture, tourism, biodiversity management and preservation, education and within households. Gender relations play a key role in the access to and use of biological resources, as well as their management within protected areas and in production landscapes. Reflecting the key role played by Niuean women in natural resource use and management, previous experience in Niue has shown that women in project target villages play a more active role in consultations than men.[2]

The project adopts participatory processes to facilitate effective participation of all stakeholders at the national and community levels in project activities, with a particular focus on the participation of women. The project will support the engagement of women in an inclusive and adaptable labor market that not only meets the demands of a growing and diversifying private sector but also provides opportunities for better quality of life. The activities of the project will be undertaken under a gender-responsive approach to ensure opportunities are equally available to men and women, paying particular attention to supporting groups that have a key role in bringing income to families and/or whose involvement on particular activities could boost their potential for future work engagements. Women and youth groups will be involved whenever possible into all project activities on capacity building, implementation at project sites, monitoring and evaluation to ensure sustainability of invariable recurrent costs and /or return of investment.

The project will ensure that women and youth are involved in organizing/owning the project implementation at local level and will receive the necessary training/capacity development required to empower them to act in these roles. The Project Management Unit and relevant stakeholders will be trained on gender mainstreaming in project activities so women, youth and other vulnerable groups are included as much as possible.

Gender considerations will also be integrated into policy development. It is not expected this will present a major issue because Niue has a strong gender policy and women well placed in senior environment management roles.

Together with the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders, the project will create and capitalize on market opportunities that are specifically aimed at women and business growth. At the project management level, gender considerations will also be taken into account in the process of recruitment of project personnel and consultants, trying whenever possible to balance between male and female. Recruitment procedures will strictly comply with Niue's gender equality policy and will ensure that

equal opportunities are afforded to men and women. Consultations during the PPG phase with UN Women in Niue will be carried out to identify best practice for gender equality in the Government sectors.

The project includes specific gender indicators included in its logframe, as well as indicators that reflect the quality of outputs as it relates to gender. It will also collect disaggregated information with respect to gender in its reporting and ensure that project implementation considers gender equality.

The knowledge management and sharing system put in place through Component 3 includes sex disaggregated data on women and youth participation in project activities and outputs. Finally, to ensure formally recording lessons learned and to provide a qualitative assessment, the monitoring review and terminal evaluation will include specific questions related to gender integration. Lessons learned and recommendations from evaluation reports and other reporting will be widely disseminated to assist future work in this area.

A full Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan is presented as Appendix 18 of the UNEP project document. The gender action plan (Table 18.1 of prodoc) describes how gender perspectives and a gender-based approach have been integrated into each project output. These include:

| Project Output | Gender actions to be mainstreamed |
|--|---|
| Output 1.1.1: Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management and Land Degradation Neutrality mainstreamed into the revised Niue's Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Tourism Action Plan developed and implemented to avoid detrimental effects of tourism on terrestrial and marine ecosystems; | Enable full participation by women in STSAP updating and implementation |
| Output 1.1.2: Cross-sectoral committee operationalized/ strengthened to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) across tourism and agriculture sectors, supported by improved national coordination and strengthened regulatory framework | Ensure adequate level of participation by women in cross-sectoral committee |
| Output 1.1.3: Integrated National Voluntary LDN Targets and monitoring framework designed for Niue closely aligned with cross-sectoral committee | Women's differentiated role in agriculture is identified, along with targeted, gender-based solutions |
| Output 1.1.4: Operational policies on financing solutions developed and approved to create incentives for the tourism and agriculture sectors to invest in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management | Women's access to finance and abilities to benefit from incentives do not face gender-specific barriers |

| Project Output | Gender actions to be mainstreamed |
|--|--|
| Output 1.1.5: Guidelines on environment impact assessment (EIA) developed for tourism and agriculture sector operations, and capacity and know-how enhanced in government agencies and relevant stakeholders to conduct/review EIA to support decision-making, monitoring and enforcement. | Women benefit fully from capacity building and enhanced know how efforts, including through gender-specific training as needed |
| Output 2.1.1: Population assessment of key species, comprehensive land use and vegetation cover survey and economic valuation of ecosystem services carried out to establish baseline data and indicators; | Women ecologists are participating in the assessments |
| Output 2.1.2: Training and capacity development for tourism officers, local governments, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators provided to identify, monitor and manage tourism impacts | Women benefit fully from capacity building and enhanced know how efforts, including through gender-specific training as needed |
| Output 2.1.3: Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative practices of sustainable land/forest management to promote regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, improve soil fertility, phase out toxic chemical herbicides, and move towards environmentally sound production | Women's differentiated role in agriculture is identified, along with targeted, gender-based solutions |
| Output 2.1.4. Nature-friendly tourism and agricultural products and practices co-designed with local communities and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, reduce waste and generate livelihood benefits | Women's differentiated role and skills related to agriculture and tourism is identified, along with targeted, gender-based support to their entrepreneurial skills |
| Output 2.1.5. Environmental financing solutions for tourism and agriculture sectors demonstrated to promote nature-based solutions and ready for upscaling. | Women's access to finance and abilities to benefit from incentives do not face gender-specific barriers |

| Project Output | Gender actions to be mainstreamed |
|--|--|
| Output 2.1.6. Farmers and small business capacitated and supported in the development of business plans and revenue generation models to access and test sustainable financing solutions | Women's differentiated role and skills related to agriculture and tourism is identified, along with targeted, gender-based support to their entrepreneurial skills |
| Output 3.1.1: Lessons learned, guidance and tools systematized for the scaling-up the linkages between sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture and the biodiversity, productive soil and ecosystems that the sectors depend on | Gender-differentiated lessons will be developed, as appropriate |
| Output 3.1.2. Targeted awareness and education campaign on biodiversity, ecosystem services and waste reduction delivered to tourism industry, CSOs, farmers, and tourists; | Gender-differentiated awareness and educational campaign will be developed and delivered |
| Output 3.1.3 Participatory system of communities and citizens established to monitor compliance with environmental regulations in tourism and agriculture | Women's participation will be encouraged |
| Output 3.1.4: M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards adopted and implemented. | Effective implementation of the present gender action plan will be ensured |

[1] Niue Household and Population Sensus 2017. Available at:
<https://niue.prism.spc.int/census/population-housing>.

[2] Final Evaluation of GEF project 'Forestry and Protected Area Management in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Niue' <<https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/articles/i8574en.pdf>>. Accessed on 21 February 2021.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The proposed project has a strong focus on strengthening Niue's small private sector as a means to diversify its economy and generate co-benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Engagement with the private sector in Niue has the potential to contribute significantly to the wider outcomes during the term of the project and beyond.

The design and implementation of the project will be guided by the seventh pillar of Niue's National Strategic Plan which aims at 'building a prosperous and skilled island nation, underpinned by a thriving and entrepreneurial private sector'. Strengthening engagement and relationships with the public and private sector will be key to achieving this goal.

The Government of Niue already has experience in engaging the private sector in environmental issues, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism and waste management. For example, this includes engagement with the single airline providing an air service to the country (Air New Zealand) to advocate biosecurity with its in-flight video and flight magazine, the biodiversity assessment of the area around the Beveridge Reef which was carried out by National Geographic Pristine Seas, and its existing cooperation with the tourism sector including the construction of Niue's main resort (Matavai Resort). The project will build and expand on such partnerships to support scaling up and sustainability of results by broadening engagement in mainstreaming biodiversity and land conservation into private sector and ensuring awareness across multiple sectors. The project will identify win-win scenarios where private sector entities are able to achieve financial gains and help advance the project objective.

The project will also support the development of a skilled and responsive labour force through enhancing access to capacity building and technical assistance to enhance the country's entrepreneurial culture. The project will ensure that small and medium enterprises in the tourism and agriculture sectors have an available supply of relevant skills to enable them to operate and expand in a sustainable manner, promoting not only economic but also social and environmental gains. There will be a focus on capacitating women-led or -owned enterprises. This will also aim to ensure a safe and healthy environment for not only visitors to Niue but to the resident population as well. Moreover, the project will build the in-country capacity of service providers to perform EIA and monitoring.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

The following social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project implementation were identified. (Risks related to climate change are presented in a separate table below.)

Table 4: Risks and mitigating measures

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|--|--------------|--|
| Low population and low capacities for project implementation | Medium | <p>Negative population growth as a result of emigration,^[1] particularly to New Zealand, is a serious problem in Niue, which struggles to maintain a viable economy and infrastructure despite a diminishing labor force.</p> <p>The tourism sector is something of an exception here and the project has been designed to capitalize on Niue's comparative advantage in this sector, including by making good use of existing human resources developed under the Ridge to Reef management, AREAN Project, PACC Projects and other projects which have built the capacity of key personnel.</p> |
| Drought, cyclones and other climate events | Medium | <p>Cyclones are common in Niue and can have significant impact on biodiversity and infrastructure. Drought is also another significant natural disaster against which proper preparedness needs to be implemented.</p> <p>The increased resilience of ecosystems brought by the project's interventions are expected to provide an overall increased level of protection to weather and climate events and to speed up recovery time in the aftermath of such events. In addition, the project will promote the use of crops that are resistant to strong winds, prolonged droughts and climate change. It will also introduce techniques to increase the soil's moisture holding capacity to minimize the effects of drought.</p> <p>Based on lessons learned from other projects, the project will raise awareness of communities on how to improve their resilience and adaptation to natural disasters, for example by not clearing the forests in shore areas, not hunting flying foxes and pigeons, and refraining from harvesting coral reefs, as key to minimizing impact and speeding up recovery.</p> <p>Further, extreme climate events, including droughts and cyclones could destroy SLM measures implemented at the project sites. Extreme rainfall during cyclones results in erosion which might negate the efforts of the project on establishing SLM practices. Drought causes water stress to plants. Drainage management of agricultural fields, selection of fields on level ground and water harvesting and storage have been identified as measures to mitigate these risks.</p> <p>These and other measures will also increase the resilience against climate change. For example, SLM practices increase the organic matter in soils that increase infiltration of water during heavy rainfall resulting in less runoff. SLM measures include erosion prevention approaches, so erosion will already be mitigated by applying SLM techniques. Similarly for drought, with increased soil organic matter and vegetation cover versus conventional farming techniques, water stress on plants will be reduced and effects of drought mitigated (will not be the case in extreme droughts though).</p> |

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|---|--------|---|
| COVID-19 related travel bans extend till after the start of implementation and/or tourists do not come back | Medium | The inception phase of the project will focus on strengthening the enabling environment and laying the basis for interventions on the ground. This will allow some buffer time for tourism to resume after the start of the project. |
| COVID-19 economic impacts lead to diminished contribution of co-financing commitments | Low | Project co-financing comes from other projects which are likely to continue even if COVID-19 is still having an impact at the start of the project. Nevertheless, PSC meetings will regularly review co-financing contributions and identify priorities in case the government's ability to contribute co-financing diminishes. |
| COVID-19 outbreak's impact on project implementation | Medium | <p>To achieve the project objective, the project management unit will apply the necessary measures to adapt to COVID19 restrictions as appropriate. Following the experience gained since the outbreak of the pandemic, in order to protect human health and also for cost-saving reasons, national stakeholders' meetings will be undertaken with necessary preventive measures if the situation continues and any international expertise on the development or implementation of the project will be provided through written means and/or online meetings via the internet.</p> <p>The project design also incorporates a recognition that resilience is linked to the diversity of land uses and livelihoods and that over-dependence on any one option brings risks (as demonstrated currently in terms of tourism during the pandemic). The project will form an integral part of the 'green recovery' post-COVID and increase the resilience of the island country against future pandemic outbreaks.</p> |
| Threat of zoonosis | Low | Given the economic, social and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge of possible threats to human health caused by zoonosis, the links between sustainable wildlife and ecosystem management, tourism activities and how these may prevent threats to human health will be carefully considered in all relevant activities. |
| Socio-political risks leading to lack of support, e.g. among absentee landowners, for proposed policies (e.g. land of interest in formally adopting tourism strategy and action plan) | Medium | The project will be presented in a politically neutral way and build upon the emerging interest in <i>Taoga Niue</i> as an example of strong and positive socio-political change. The project's communications strategy will articulate the economic benefits of sustainable tourism over short, medium and long term. |

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|--|-------|--|
| Biodiversity gains off-set by growing tourism and agricultural development | Low | <p>Tourism and agriculture, if not implemented in a sustainable manner, can lead to environmental degradation. The project will implement an integrated approach to plan, assess, monitor and enforce that tourism and agriculture operations do not cause any adverse impact on the environment.</p> <p>The project interventions will carry out consultative and participatory processes in ways that enable local communities to choose interventions that best suit their interests and are most likely to achieve a conservation outcome as a key to success. The project will also support the development of coherent policies for sustainable development which capitalize on synergies among the different sectors and minimize trade-offs.</p> |

Mitigating actions to counter all management risks are internalized in project design through their inclusion in the project's activity plans, specific allocation of responsibilities and definition of timeframes in the workplan, and the allocation of dedicated resources in the project budget. The management strategy addressing social risks builds on a step-by-step engagement with the local community, followed by transparent participatory planning procedures, coupled with a strong grievance redress mechanism to address emerging conflicts early on. Organizational and management risks are mitigated by promoting cross-sectoral collaboration, including in a formalized manner. Political risks are mitigated by raising awareness of policy makers and through maintaining transparent processes of beneficiary selection. Economic risks are mitigated by a bundle of economic incentives made available through the Project, as well as by careful budgeting.

Risks related to climate change

The following climate risk screening intends to ensure that the Project will be resilient to shocks, and that GEBs can be secured and made sustainable despite projected climate change impacts. Projected impacts of climate change were summarized above in Section 2.1 (see especially paras. 40-42). **Table 5** below describes climate-related risks and mitigating measures that have been built into the project design.

Table 5: Climate-related risks and mitigating measures

| Risk | Rating | Mitigation Strategy |
|--|----------|--|
| Insufficient knowledge of projected climate parameters and expected climate change impacts | Moderate | The Project will remain up-to-date on climate and disaster risk relevant information on the Project landscape. In addition, the Climate and Disaster Vulnerability Assessment (Activity 2.1.2.2) at the start of project implementation will provide a more detailed climate change baseline. |
| Limited technical and institutional capacities to strengthen resilience and to implement adaptation measures | Moderate | The Project will ensure that all capacity building mainstreams climate change through the appropriate recognition of projected changes in climate parameters, their impacts, as well as adaptation, and mitigation actions in various training contents. These include nature-based solutions for SLM to secure ecosystem services, deliver carbon sequestration, and support food security and livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture, and increased resilience of restored landscapes. Training contents will include discussion of options for increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. |
| Project outcomes are vulnerable to climate change | Moderate | A Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Activity 2.1.2.2) will provide an improved baseline for use in anticipating climate change impacts on project investments and so that the latter can be adaptively designed to maximize resilience. The Project is expected to substantially contribute to long-term climate resilience through landscape restoration, conservation of biodiversity, and the reduction of threats from land degradation, thereby contributing to adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. |
| Resilience practices and measures are insufficient | Low | Landscapes under degradation due to unsustainable land use and subject to biodiversity loss show increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The Project will reduce these threats and increase resilience by delivering Outputs that are commensurate with predicted climate change impacts so that the GEBs can be sustained. A key objective is to restore landscapes and conserve biodiversity benefits for increased resilience. |

[1] Estimated 20,000 Niueans are living overseas.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

The project's management structure is informed by experience of previous bilateral and multilateral initiatives that have taken place in Niue. This includes projects funded and/or executed by FAO, UNEP, SPREP and others. For example, like UNDP-GEF's recent AREAN project (GEF 9752), the project assigns an important role to Niue's Project Management Coordination Unit (PMCU), a government department operating under the Premier's office, which will help to ensure collaboration among key stakeholders along

with the project's alignment with other ongoing donor programs. Involvement of SPREP will further ensure continuity with, and learning from, past implementation experience.

Niue's Department of Environment, as the lead government agency for biodiversity conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources, will be the Executing Agency for this project in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the Tourism Authority Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

A cross-sector committee for sustainable tourism and agricultural development will be operationalized, with the aim to coordinate resource use planning and management, oversee mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services across sectors and support decision making processes (output 1.1.3). The project will also rely on a high level of coordination between private sector and communities.

The proposed project will be well coordinated with the ongoing projects funded by the GEF and other donors, as well as with projects implemented by UNEP. During the project development phase opportunities for coordination will be thoroughly explored with a view to maximize the use of resources from the project and avoid duplication of efforts. This may be done, for example, by integrating/coordinating cross-cutting activities such as surveys, community consultations, M&E, audits, etc. with other ongoing projects. The following initiatives and organizations will offer opportunities for coordination and synergies with the proposed project.

The proposed project will analyze the lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the R2R Regional Program and the Niue R2R, in particular on what worked and what did not work in creating synergies across tourism and agriculture. During the design of the proposed project benefit will also be drawn from a thorough analysis of the stakeholder consultations done under the Niue R2R. The proposed interventions will be based on the participatory conservation Management Plan for the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area that was developed under the Niue R2R project.

The design and implementation of the proposed project will also be closely coordinated with the GEF-funded 'Pacific I2I Program: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent' in the Pacific to help build synergies, share lessons and good practices on the implementation of a holistic approach to deliver the objective of this project. Relevant interventions that are cross-cutting to the two projects, such as applying green/blue economy principles, building capacity of government agencies and private sector, raising awareness, and promoting participatory conservation are potential areas of coordination.

Moreover, the proposed project will coordinate closely with relevant projects and teams at SPREP to ensure efficient use of resources and maximization of results. In particular, coordination will take place with the GEF 9410 regional project on invasive alien species, which is implemented by UNEP and in which Niue is one of the four participating countries, and opportunities will be evaluated during the project design phase for implementing some activities jointly among the two projects (e.g. surveys, community consultations, biodiversity assessments, joint meetings of the Steering Committee, etc). Coordination will also take place with the PacwastePlus project on relevant activities.

The project will also coordinate with the regional UNEP office, UNCT in Samoa, UN Women, SPC and other regional partners to support the achievement of the project outcomes and avoid duplication of efforts.

The project will further coordinate with NZ Aid as one of the major donors and supporters of the tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue.

During the PPG, the following Governmental bodies have been confirmed as co-executing partners (see **Table 3** above):

- ? The Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU)
- ? The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- ? Niue Tourism and Tourism Authority Board
- ? Niue Chamber of Commerce
- ? Department of Education (MOSS).

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The tourism and agriculture are major contributors to Niue's economy and regarded as catalysts for economic development. Mainstreaming of biodiversity within the tourism and agricultural sectors is a priority for the Government of Niue and is being promoted vigorously through different initiatives, including promoting ecotourism to target a niche market and organic farming to enhance biodiversity while increasing productivity and employment potential. Niue has national development policies which prioritize both the tourism and agriculture sectors as key productive sectors for economic growth. In Niue, agriculture (inclusive of fishing and forestry) continues to be important for livelihoods and food security. The government plays a leading role in tourism development and the pursuit of tourism aligns with the national vision for a prosperous country.

The **Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026** will serve as guiding beacon for the development of the proposed project and will provide the strategic guidance throughout project implementation. The Strategic Plan is a high level roadmap setting out the Niue Government's direction and priorities. It focuses on creating wealth using Niue's rich natural resources through investments in our sovereign assets including tourism and agriculture. The Strategic Plan has a strong focus on sustainability, determining that tourism is one of the key industries which can develop sustainably, utilizing and protecting the pristine environment and aligning with social and cultural values. It also recognizes that subsistence crops are important for food security and will support tourism but at the same time, fauna and flora must be protected so that they sustain us in the long term and therefore they must be managed in a manner that will enable them to thrive just as much as people are allowed to thrive.

Niue regards itself as 'an environmentally friendly nation in which conservation and the sustainable management of resources is an integral part of the lifestyle of the people'.^[1] Accordingly, Niue has ratified the three Rio Conventions and its commitment to sustain and effectively manage its environment was reflected in the development of the **National Environment Management Strategy** in 1992, the first **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** in 2001, and the second NBSAP in 2015 with the goal 'to retain and enhance existing biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity'. This project is consistent with the NBSAP's Theme 1 - Conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial habitats, which has particularly noted the need for forest conservation, as well as Theme 2 - Conservation of terrestrial species, such as the flying fox, and Theme 3 - Coastal, inshore and marine biodiversity. Furthermore, Niue's **Sixth**

National Report to the CBD emphasizes the importance of biodiversity to the economy of Niue, noting that about a fifth of its GDP coming from the agriculture, fishery, forestry and hunting sectors, and as the basis for subsistence lifestyles. The report also emphasizes the cultural significance of biodiversity to Niueans.

The project is aligned to **Niue's National Action Plan Addressing Land Degradation and the Effects of Drought under the Auspices of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?** (2004) particularly to the key thematic areas of Soil Rehabilitation (including the following activities: large scale mulching/composting, comparative performance analysis of various green manure crops, improved fallow management), Sustainable Cropping Management Practices (including the following activities: improvement of organic content/microbial activity of soils, active encouragement of organic farming, encouragement of intercropping, assist the development and marketing of indigenous economically viable and agriculturally sustainable crops), Education and Awareness (including the development of new and innovative methods of sharing and disseminating information coordinated by the Department of Environment) and Capacity Building Requirements (including training of agriculture extension officers and land users/farmers). Further, Niue has committed to set LDN Targets, but has yet to finalise the targets. The proposed project will assist in finalizing the process of setting targets and will establish a monitoring framework for its implementation.

The project is linked to the Niue's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC, 2015) in that the comprehensive land use and vegetation survey and economic valuation of ecosystem services that the project will undertake for the terrestrial area of Niue will contribute to the action **'Advance land use change accounting through acquisition of recent, multi-spectral satellite imagery and relevant processing and verification'** mentioned in the INDC.

Niue's **Agriculture Sector Plan 2015-2019** sets out the strategic direction for agricultural development in Niue. The guiding principles of the plan include recognizing food security as an important issue, recognizing that the agriculture sector should be the engine for economic growth, recognizing the importance of the sector to social and cultural values, valuing environmental sustainability, and promoting private sector partnerships to work with the government in advancing agricultural development.

Other national strategies and plans that will provide guidance to the implementation of the proposed project include the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (under revision by GEF project 9410) and the National Integrated Waste Management Strategy.

[1] Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/nu/nu-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>)

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The project will generate gender-sensitive knowledge products to support implementation processes and improvement of its performance. These will also be disseminated to inform policy making and South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the sharing of knowledge and cross-fertilization of ideas between Niue and other countries, in particular SIDS. Many of the knowledge products will be generated through Components 2 and 3 which will produce training modules, develop strategy and plans, guidelines and protocols for both the private and public sector on community-based conservation, sustainable tourism and sustainable agriculture.

The documentation of approaches for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management will support a variety of stakeholders such as village communities, NGOs and universities in disseminating and replicating best practices and tools in Niue and throughout the Pacific Island Countries.

The documentation will also include success stories, and where possible focus on gender integration, for example highlight examples of specific women-owned/-led businesses that have done well after getting support from the project.

Learning products from the project will be documented and disseminated through different media and target a range of stakeholders and project beneficiaries. The knowledge materials to be generated under the project and opportunities to enhance knowledge sharing (e.g. country visits) will be defined during PPG phase.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

| Type of M&E and Reporting Activity | Responsible Parties | GEF Budget (US\$) | Co-finance (US\$) | Time Frame |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| M&E and reporting activities included in staff and consultant expenses | | | | |
| Inception Report | ? NPM | 1,000 | 0 | 1 month after Inception Workshop |
| UNEP Semi-annual progress reporting | ? NPM | 5,000 | 0 | Within 1 month of the end of reporting period (Jan 31 st / July 31 st). |
| UNEP Quarterly Financial Report (with notes) | ? NPM ? Adm & Finance Assistant | 5,000 | 0 | Quarterly on or before 30 April 30 th , July 31 st , Oct 31 st , Jan 31 st |
| UNEP Annual non-expendable material purchase report | ? NPM ? Adm & Finance Assistant | 2,500 | 0 | Annually, by Jan 31 st |
| GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) | ? NPD ? NPM | 7,500 | 0 | Annually, by July 15 th |
| Procurement plan (goods & services) | ? DOE (PMU: NPM, Adm & Finance assistant) | 1,500 | 0 | Update Procurement Plan prepared during PPG within the Inception Phase |
| Co-financing report | ? Project Partners ? NPD ? NPM | 1,000 | 0 | Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e., on or before July 31 st |
| Cash Advance request and details of anticipated disbursements | ? DOE (PMU: NPM, Adm & Finance Assistant) | 1,000 | 0 | Quarterly, or when required |
| Final inventory of non-expendable equipment | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) | 1,000 | 0 | Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure |

| Type of M&E and Reporting Activity | Responsible Parties | GEF Budget (US\$) | Co-finance (US\$) | Time Frame |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Equipment transfer letter | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) | 500 | 0 | Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure |
| Final expenditure statement | ? DOE (PMU: NPM Adm & Finance Assistant) | 1,000 | 0 | Within 3 months of the project technical completion/closure |
| Project Final Report | ? DOE (NPD, PMU: NPM) | 4,000 | 0 | Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure |
| Grievance report | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) | 2,500 | 0 | Quarterly, review annually |
| Tracking of project indicators (outcome, output indicators, GEF Core Indicators) including baseline data collection | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) ? Project Partners | 10,000 | 0 | Outcome/Output Indicators: as per schedule defined in Appendix 4 |
| Monitoring database | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) | 3,500 | 0 | Continuously |
| Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant | ? PSC ? DOE (NPD, PMU: NPM) ? Project Partners | 4,000 | 0 | Quarterly by PMU, semi-annually by PSC & Partners |
| Monitoring of project management risks and updating of risk log | ? DOE (NPD, PMU: NPM) ? PSC | 2,500 | 0 | Quarterly, or when needed |
| Stakeholder Engagement Plan implementation monitoring | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) ? Project Partners | 5,000 | 0 | Annually |
| Gender Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Report, including tracking of Gender Action Plan (GAP) Indicators | ? DOE (PMU: NPM) ? Project Partners | 5,500 | 0 | Throughout Project, as defined in GAP GAP Indicators: annually, as part of GAP implementation review) |
| Monitoring of Community Plan implementation | ? NPM | 1,000 | 0 | Quarterly, or when needed |
| Subtotal of M&E Costs staff & consultant costs | | 65,000 | 0 | |
| M&E and reporting activities beyond staff and consultant expenses | | | | |
| Inception Workshop | ? DOE (PMU: NPM & CTA) ? UNEP ? Partners | 3,000 | 15,000 | Within 3 months of project start |

| Type of M&E and Reporting Activity | Responsible Parties | GEF Budget (US\$) | Co-finance (US\$) | Time Frame |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Biannual Project Steering Committee Meetings | ? DOE (PMU: NPM & CTA) | 6,000 | 25,000 | Twice annually, upon preparation of AWP & budget, and upon preparation of draft PIR. |
| Quarterly Technical Advisory Committee meetings | ? TAC | 6,000 | 40,000 | Quarterly |
| Annual review meetings | ? DOE (PMU: NPM & CTA) ? Project Partners | 10,000 | 41,538 | Annual review meetings, conducted as part of Annual Work Plan & Budget preparations |
| Surveys for impact indicator monitoring | ? NPM | 10,000 | 0 | Prior to MTR and to TE |
| Surveys for safeguards and project management risk monitoring | ? NPM | 10,000 | 0 | |
| Mid-Term Review/Evaluation | ? DOE (NPD, PMU: NPM & CTA) ? Project Partners ? UNEP | 25,000 | 0 | After two years of project implementation |
| Terminal Evaluation | ? DOE (NPD, PMU: NPM & CTA) ? Project Partners ? UNEP | 30,000 | 0 | Within 6 months of end of project implementation |
| UNEP Annual Project Oversight missions | ? UNEP | Agency fee | 0 | Annually |
| UNEP Project Supervision Plan | ? UNEP PM | Agency fee | 0 | Continuously |
| Subtotal of M&E and reporting excluding staff & consultant time | | 100,000 | 121,538 | |
| Total M&E Plan cost | | 165,000 | 121,538 | |

Project revisions may affect the evaluation costs. The main features that increase the costs are, generally, changes in the technical scope of the project, additional results, the geographic spread, or the language needs (linked to geographic spread). Where a project revision relates to such issues, the evaluation budget needs to be reviewed and possibly revised.

The implementation of the Project's monitoring plan is the mandate of the Department of Environment as the responsible Executing Agency, which deputizes most tasks to the PMU. Additionally, Project Partners, UNEP, and local stakeholders share partial monitoring responsibilities:

? UNEP as the GEF Agency responsible for: participation in Inception Workshop; conducting Supervision Missions; reporting through Project Implementation Reviews on progress towards project targets, financial

disbursement, risks, safeguards, gender, communication, and partnerships, reporting on Core Indicators, co-financing, commissioning independent Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation.

? The Department of Environment as the Executing Agency responsible through the PMU for: organization of Inception Workshop and Annual Review and Planning Workshops; collecting information tracking logframe indicators and preparation of monitoring reports including PIRs, Quarterly Financial Reports, Half Annual Project Implementation Reports, Annual non-expendable material purchase reports, GEF Core Indicator Worksheets; conducting Annual Review Meetings to review project progress together with Partners and stakeholders; preparing and organizing the logistics for Midterm and Terminal Evaluations; monitoring of the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Gender Action Plan, the Project Communication Plan, project management risks and social and environmental safeguards.

? Project Partners: Partners are key stakeholders with distinct responsibilities in project execution. They will take part in the implementation of the monitoring plan by participating in the Inception Workshop; collecting and collating information and forwarding them to DOE for tracking of project progress, including through logframe indicators, GEF Core Indicators, etc.; participating in Annual Review Meetings to allow participatory monitoring of project progress; participating in the two evaluation of the Project; providing information for the annual cofinancing reports; and monitoring progress on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, environmental and social safeguards and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

? PSC: The PSC will contribute to the monitoring plan by the annual review of environmental and social safeguards, and by reviewing progress towards logframe indicator targets.

? TAC: The TAC will review technical implementation of the project, including quality control of methodologies, reports, plans, etc. on a quarterly basis.

? Local stakeholders: Local stakeholders will engage in participatory monitoring, primarily focusing on the success of implementing SLM and SFM technologies.

Project evaluations

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point.

All GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet

accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

Special Monitoring Provisions

Monitoring stakeholder engagement: Progress and challenges in stakeholder engagement will be monitored through the monitoring of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including by monitoring the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism, as identified in Workplan Activity 3.1.4.5. The monitoring of the SEP is straightforward, as it contains an explicit action plan on stakeholder specific engagement tools, the timing and frequency of their application, concerned responsibilities and budgets. In addition, capacities and skill development will be monitored through dedicated logframe indicators (Indicators 1.1.2). The monitoring of gender-responsive measures will also be conducted through the dedicated monitoring of the Gender Action Plan (Activity 3.1.4.1) as well as by monitoring gender-specific or gender-disaggregated logframe indicators (Indicator 4). The monitoring of progress related to knowledge management and communication contents will be carried out through the dedicated Workplan Activity 3.1.4.4, which amongst others will ensure the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Project's Communication Strategy & Plan, as well as by monitoring dedicated logframe indicators (Indicator 3.1.2).

Monitoring project management and environmental and social safeguard risks and assumptions made for the Project's Theory of Change: The Project contains a specific Workplan Activity that focuses on the review of the Project's risk log, social and environmental safeguard risks and assumptions (Activity 3.1.4.4). Project management risks will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and the risk log will be updated if needed. Furthermore, management risks will be reported in the PIRs, including the mitigating actions taken to address specific risks. Social and environmental safeguard risks and the assumptions underlying the Project's Theory of Change will be reviewed bi-annually preceding the biannual PSC meetings. The implementation of mitigating measures will be monitored quarterly in the case of the Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism.

PIMS and donor reporting: The responsibility of reporting on project milestones in the Project Information and Management System (PIMS) on a six-monthly basis rests with the concerned UNEP Programme Manager, Ecosystems Division, supported by the UNEP Programme Associate, Ecosystems Division. Donor reporting requirements will be met through the annual PIRs.

10. Benefits

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

Residents of Liku and Hakup Villages, which are located within the primary forest and buffer zone areas of Huvalu Conservation Area, will be the most direct beneficiaries of project activities. While quantitative estimates of income benefits are difficult under the circumstances, particularly given the substantial exogenous risks to the tourism sector in particular associated with COVID, it nevertheless seems clear that in both the short and the long term, residents of these villages will benefit substantially from the better practices being demonstrated and disseminated. Given the small, compact population of Niue, there is also little doubt that these practices will diffuse throughout the island in short order. Emphasis on removing financial barriers and creating incentives will help to ensure that these benefits prove sustainable.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|
| Medium/Moderate | Low | | |

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The following social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project implementation were identified. (Risks related to climate change are presented in a separate table below.)

Table 4: Risks and mitigating measures

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|--|--------|--|
| Low population and low capacities for project implementation | Medium | <p>Negative population growth as a result of emigration,[1] particularly to New Zealand, is a serious problem in Niue, which struggles to maintain a viable economy and infrastructure despite a diminishing labor force.</p> <p>The tourism sector is something of an exception here and the project has been designed to capitalize on Niue's comparative advantage in this sector, including by making good use of existing human resources developed under the Ridge to Reef management, AREAN Project, PACC Projects and other projects which have built the capacity of key personnel.</p> |
| Drought, cyclones and other climate events | Medium | <p>Cyclones are common in Niue and can have significant impact on biodiversity and infrastructure. Drought is also another significant natural disaster against which proper preparedness needs to be implemented.</p> <p>The increased resilience of ecosystems brought by the project's interventions are expected to provide an overall increased level of protection to weather and climate events and to speed up recovery time in the aftermath of such events. In addition, the project will promote the use of crops that are resistant to strong winds, prolonged droughts and climate change. It will also introduce techniques to increase the soil's moisture holding capacity to minimize the effects of drought.</p> <p>Based on lessons learned from other projects, the project will raise awareness of communities on how to improve their resilience and adaptation to natural disasters, for example by not clearing the forests in shore areas, not hunting flying foxes and pigeons, and refraining from harvesting coral reefs, as key to minimizing impact and speeding up recovery.</p> <p>Further, extreme climate events, including droughts and cyclones could destroy SLM measures implemented at the project sites. Extreme rainfall during cyclones results in erosion which might negate the efforts of the project on establishing SLM practices. Drought causes water stress to plants. Drainage management of agricultural fields, selection of fields on level ground and water harvesting and storage have been identified as measures to mitigate these risks.</p> <p>These and other measures will also increase the resilience against climate change. For example, SLM practices increase the organic matter in soils that increase infiltration of water during heavy rainfall resulting in less runoff. SLM measures include erosion prevention approaches, so erosion will already be mitigated by applying SLM techniques. Similarly for drought, with increased soil organic matter and vegetation cover versus conventional farming techniques, water stress on plants will be reduced and effects of drought mitigated (will not be the case in extreme droughts though).</p> |

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|---|--------|---|
| COVID-19 related travel bans extend till after the start of implementation and/or tourists do not come back | Medium | <p>The inception phase of the project will focus on strengthening the enabling environment and laying the basis for interventions on the ground. This will allow some buffer time for tourism to resume after the start of the project.</p> <p>The project will assess the socio, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 in Niue (ref. Output 1.1.1) to draw lessons which will be disseminated to guide policy development and measures to mitigate the effects of future economic shocks and speed up recovery.</p> |
| COVID-19 economic impacts lead to diminished contribution of co-financing commitments | Low | <p>Project co-financing comes from other projects which are likely to continue even if COVID-19 is still having an impact at the start of the project. Nevertheless, PSC meetings will regularly review co-financing contributions and identify priorities in case the government's ability to contribute co-financing diminishes.</p> |
| COVID-19 outbreak's impact on project implementation | Medium | <p>To achieve the project objective, the project management unit will apply the necessary measures to adapt to COVID19 restrictions as appropriate. Following the experience gained since the outbreak of the pandemic, in order to protect human health and also for cost-saving reasons, national stakeholders' meetings will be undertaken with necessary preventive measures if the situation continues and any international expertise on the development or implementation of the project will be provided through written means and/or online meetings via the internet.</p> <p>The project design also incorporates a recognition that resilience is linked to the diversity of land uses and livelihoods and that over-dependence on any one option brings risks (as demonstrated currently in terms of tourism during the pandemic). The project will form an integral part of the 'green recovery' post-COVID and increase the resilience of the island country against future pandemic outbreaks.</p> |
| Socio-political risks leading to lack of support, e.g. among absentee landowners, for proposed policies (e.g. land of interest in formally adopting tourism strategy and action plan) | Medium | <p>The project will be presented in a politically neutral way and build upon the emerging interest in <i>Taoga Niue</i> as an example of strong and positive socio-political change. The project's communications strategy will articulate the economic benefits of sustainable tourism over short, medium and long term.</p> |

| Risks | Level | Mitigation measures |
|--|-------|--|
| Biodiversity gains off-set by growing tourism and agricultural development | Low | <p>Tourism and agriculture, if not implemented in a sustainable manner, can lead to environmental degradation. The project will implement an integrated approach to plan, assess, monitor and enforce that tourism and agriculture operations do not cause any adverse impact on the environment.</p> <p>The project interventions will carry out consultative and participatory processes in ways that enable local communities to choose interventions that best suit their interests and are most likely to achieve a conservation outcome as a key to success. The project will also support the development of coherent policies for sustainable development which capitalize on synergies among the different sectors and minimize trade-offs.</p> |

Mitigating actions to counter all management risks are internalized in project design through their inclusion in the project's activity plans, specific allocation of responsibilities and definition of timeframes in the workplan, and the allocation of dedicated resources in the project budget. The management strategy addressing social risks builds on a step-by-step engagement with the local community, followed by transparent participatory planning procedures, coupled with a strong grievance redress mechanism to address emerging conflicts early on. Organizational and management risks are mitigated by promoting cross-sectoral collaboration, including in a formalized manner. Political risks are mitigated by raising awareness of policy makers and through maintaining transparent processes of beneficiary selection. Economic risks are mitigated by a bundle of economic incentives made available through the Project, as well as by careful budgeting.

Risks related to climate change

The following climate risk screening intends to ensure that the Project will be resilient to shocks, and that GEBs can be secured and made sustainable despite projected climate change impacts. Projected impacts of climate change were summarized above in Section 2.1 (see especially paras. 40-42). **Table 5** below describes climate-related risks and mitigating measures that have been built into the project design.

Table 5: Climate-related risks and mitigating measures

| Risk | Rating | Mitigation Strategy |
|--|----------|--|
| Insufficient knowledge of projected climate parameters and expected climate change impacts | Low | The Project will remain up-to-date on climate and disaster risk relevant information on the Project landscape. In addition, the Climate and Disaster Vulnerability Assessment (Activity 2.1.2.2) at the start of project implementation will provide a more detailed climate change baseline. |
| Limited technical and institutional capacities to strengthen resilience and to implement adaptation measures | Moderate | The Project will ensure that all capacity building mainstreams climate change through the appropriate recognition of projected changes in climate parameters, their impacts, as well as adaptation, and mitigation actions in various training contents. These include nature-based solutions for SLM to secure ecosystem services, deliver carbon sequestration, and support food security and livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture, and increased resilience of restored landscapes. Training contents will include discussion of options for increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. |
| Project outcomes are vulnerable to climate change | Low | A Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Activity 2.1.2.2) will provide an improved baseline for use in anticipating climate change impacts on project investments and so that the latter can be adaptively designed to maximize resilience. The Project is expected to substantially contribute to long-term climate resilience through landscape restoration, conservation of biodiversity, and the reduction of threats from land degradation, thereby contributing to adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. |
| Resilience practices and measures are insufficient | Low | Landscapes under degradation due to unsustainable land use and subject to biodiversity loss show increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The Project will reduce these threats and increase resilience by delivering Outputs that are commensurate with predicted climate change impacts so that the GEBs can be sustained. A key objective is to restore landscapes and conserve biodiversity benefits for increased resilience. |

[1] Estimated 20,000 Niueans are living overseas.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

| Title | Module | Submitted |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| NIUE-SRIF_FINAL | Project PIF ESS | |

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

Annex A: Project Results Framework

| Project Objective | Objective level Indicators | Baseline | Targets and Monitoring Milestones | Means of Verification | Assumptions & Risks | UNEP MTS reference |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in Niue through the development of sustainable and biodiversity-friendly tourism and agriculture sectors. | Indicator 1: Contribution to national LDN targets: % of national SLM target | LDN targets not yet established | Amount TBD, depending on LDN targets established | Project survey | Government maintains commitment towards integrated landscape management including SLM and SFM, improved environmental monitoring and enforcement | UNEP PoW 2022-2025 (Subprogramme) Living in harmony with nature Outcome 2.3. Productive land- and seascapes and fresh water are sustainably managed |
| | Indicator 2: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (= Core indicator #4) | 0 | 2,800 ha | Project reports | Increased use value of forest areas to tourists leads to enhanced long-term protection | Outcome 2.7. Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably managed |
| | Indicator 3: Carbon sequestration benefits attributed to the Project (= Core indicator #6) | 0 | 435,615 mt CO ₂ e | EX-ACT calculations | EX-ACT tool is accurately capturing national conditions | |

[illegible]

| Project Objective | Objective level Indicators | Baseline | Targets and Monitoring Milestones | Means of Verification | Assumptions & Risks | UNEP MTS reference |
|--|---|---|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 2 - Sustainable biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism and agriculture across ecologically important landscape and seascape | Indicator 2.1.1: Tourism development and impact monitoring program supported by a National Tourism Strategy and Action Plan | To be determined during project inception | Adoption of NTSAP | Project report | Tourism industry recovers from COVID-19 | |
| | Indicator 2.1.2: Adoption of BD conservation and SLM practices | To be determined during project inception | BD conservation and SLM practices adopted across a majority of globally significant 5,300 ha terrestrial landscape | Project survey | Biodiversity is sufficiently resilient, including in face of climate change | |
| | Indicator 2.1.3: Management effectiveness of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area (= Core indicator #1, 2,500 ha) | 36 | 40 (targeting increases in revenue, visitor management, and community engagement) | Completed METT | Multiple conservation and sustainable use objectives of Huvalu conservation area are being well balanced | |

| Project Objective | Objective level Indicators | Baseline | Targets and Monitoring Milestones | Means of Verification | Assumptions & Risks | UNEP MTS reference |
|-------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Indicator 2.1.4: Reduced pressures from unsustainable tourism and agriculture, e.g. reduced habitat degradation and land use conversion, improved waste management, no reduction in population size of key species; | To be determined during project inception | 30 % increase of existing and new agriculture and tourism operations are environmentally certified/green labelled. | Project survey | Reduced per unit pressures not overwhelmed by growth over long term | |
| | Indicator 2.1.5: Increased revenue generation for biodiversity conservation through tourism user fees/ charges. | 0 | 20% increase of local households deriving income from sustainable agriculture and / or ecotourism, including 50% of female-headed households | Project survey | Revenues are carefully allocated and sufficient to incentivize improved conservation actions | |
| | Indicator 2.1.6: Frequency of EIAs undertaken for tourism and agriculture projects | | By last two years of project, 100% of developments with a significant defined environmental impact during the scoping stage are undergoing an environmental impact assessment. | Official Government records | EIAs are conducted professionally and objectively | |

| Project Objective | Objective level Indicators | Baseline | Targets and Monitoring Milestones | Means of Verification | Assumptions & Risks | UNEP MTS reference |
|--|--|----------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| <p>Corresponding Outputs:</p> <p>2.1.1. Population assessment of key species and comprehensive land use and vegetation cover survey</p> <p>2.1.2. Training and capacity development for tourism officers, local governments, community-based tourism enterprises and local tourism operators provided to identify, monitor and manage tourism impacts</p> <p>2.1.3. Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative practices of sustainable land/forest management to promote regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, improve soil fertility, phase out toxic chemical herbicides, and move towards environmentally sound production</p> <p>2.1.4. Nature-friendly tourism and agricultural products and practices co-designed with local communities and piloted in project sites to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, reduce waste and generate livelihood benefits</p> <p>2.1.5. Demonstration of environmental certification system and other financing solutions to promote implementation of nature-based solutions in tourism and agriculture sectors</p> <p>2.1.6. Farmers and small business capacitated and supported in the development of business plans and revenue generation models to access and test sustainable financing solutions</p> | | | | | | |
| 3 - Improved awareness, education and knowledge management supporting upscaling to halt biodiversity loss and | Indicator 3.1.1 Improved attitudes and awareness of tourism industry, communities, and tourists (domestic and international) for the importance of biodiversity to tourism | TBD | At least 30% increase from baseline | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey | Attitudes and awareness are reflected in actions and decision-making | |

[illegible]

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

| Comments from GEFSec | |
|--|---|
| Comment | Response |
| <p>2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?</p> <p>During PPG, for 1.1.1 we would like the language to be more clear that the GEF is not financing the whole thing but rather ensuring that adequate attention is given to environmental considerations and plans for recovery are aligned with this project. We believe that some flexibility is also needed as the timing may influence whether this is a logical activity. These type of activities could also take place as part of PPG.</p> | <p>Given the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided to omit Output 1.1.1 from the project</p> |
| <p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?</p> <p>We look forward to more details on consultations at CEO Endorsement.</p> | <p>Section 2 of the present document, together with Appendix 17 of the ProDoc, provide a summary of stakeholder consultations to date and an outline of expected roles of each key stakeholder in the project implementation. The appendix also describes a grievance mechanism.</p> |
| <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> <p>Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?</p> <p>We encourage consideration of this issue throughout PPG to ensure that quality of participation and involvement is measured. At times, this may mean using less quantifiable indicators (such as surveys) but this can help guide this and other projects in being more gender responsive over the long term.</p> | <p>The issue of gender was carefully considered during the PPG. Section 3 of the present document, together with Appendix 18 of the Prodoc, provide an overview of the importance of gender mainstreaming, a gender analysis (including descriptions of the legal and institutional framework) and a gender action plan identifying mainstreaming actions associated with each project output. Finally, two gender-disaggregated indicators have been included in the results matrix.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Knowledge Management</p> <p>Is the proposed ?knowledge management (KM) approach? in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project?s/program?s overall impact and sustainability?</p> <p>At the PPG stage we recommend to also consider how the project will utilize existing knowledge from related/similar projects in Niue and in the region should also be included in the KM plan.</p> | <p>The project will take advantage of a range of lessons generated by national and regional projects in Niue and across the region. This idea is embedded in Activity 3.1.1.1: ?Assess opportunities for adaptation and replication of lessons learned by previous national and regional projects and opportunities for generating new lessons from innovations by the present project.?</p> |
| <p>Comments from Council members</p> | |
| <p>Comment</p> <p><u>Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:</u></p> <p>? Given the economic, social and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge of possible threats to human health caused by zoonosis, the project may contribute to alleviating these impacts. To enhance the effectiveness of the project, the links between sustainable wildlife and ecosystem management, tourism activities and how these may prevent threats to human health should be made more explicit.</p> <p>? Indicators for environmental impact assessment are to be developed and economic valuation of ecosystem services are to be carried out. Currently, it is not entirely clear how the project is going to use these tools for project implementation. GER would like to suggest that the usage of these important tools is clearly included in project implementation.</p> | <p>Response</p> <p>The concern expressed here has been included in the tTable 4, Risks, to ensure that relevant project activities take this issue into account.</p> <p>EIA guidelines and procedures being developed under Output 1.1.6 are designed to be utilized by Government in approving, licensing, authorizing and monitoring projects and investments in the agricultural and tourism sectors. Specific cases where the guidelines may be applied will depend on what projects / investments are up for approval at the time the guidelines are finalized.</p> <p>Findings of economic valuation work being supported under Output 2.1.1 will help to identify market failures / externalities for remediation through policies and regulatory or economic instruments being developed under Output 1.1.1</p> |

Response to GEFSec review of 6 March 2023

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Part 1 ? Project information</p> <p>1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?</p> <p>No, there are some elements of this project that are not eligible for funding under the biodiversity focal area strategy.</p> <p>1.1.1 ? This activity is not eligible for support under the GEF biodiversity strategy. Specifically, it is not the GEF's role to support such an assessment especially on economic and social components. By the time the project actually starts, it should be well past the acute phase of the COVID pandemic. A forward-looking planning and assessment exercise might be more appropriate. However, in any such planning, the GEF increment should be focused on reducing environmental impact and not broader subjects</p> | <p>Indeed, as the COVID situation has continued to ease, this output no longer appears necessary. It has been deleted accordingly.</p> <p>A single activity from 1.1.1, ?Guide the development of policies that mainstream biodiversity and SLM into the tourism and agriculture sectors and into Niue's broader strategy for green recovery?, has been reworded slightly and has replaced former Activity 1.1.2.4 (now 1.1.1.4.</p> | <p>Prodoc p. 34; CEO doc p. 1, 24</p> |
| <p>4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?</p> <p>No, please explain how the airport project is cofinancing. Also, we typically expect for an IA to mobilize some co-financing. In addition, please correct the text underneath to not talk about PPG in the future</p> | <p>As mentioned in the cofinancing letter, Niue's international airport provides an essential infrastructural link enabling tourism, with regular flights to / from New Zealand. Safety and security of this link requires investment in surfaces and lighting. A conservative figure of 25% of the total investment has been used to calculate cofinancing.</p> <p>UNEP will ?</p> <p>Text has been corrected.</p> <p>Finally, some errors have been corrected in Table 1C, causing the total cofinancing amount to be reduced from \$20.2 million to \$18.4 million.</p> | <p>CEO doc, Table 1C</p> |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|--|---|--|
| <p>7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?</p> <p>No, please include the METT score for the PA and the ExACT spreadsheet or other calculations for CO2. Also, please include GEBs related to sub-indicator 4.3, given the size of the LD allocation of the project.</p> <p>In addition, if indigenous peoples are included in the project please include them in the taxonomy.</p> | <p>METT scores and ExAct calculations have been included in Annex F. Complete analyses are included in Appendices 14 and 15 of the Prodoc</p> <p>The previous version of the CEO doc. had assigned 2,800 ha to sub-indicator 3.1 and 0 ha to sub-indicator 4.3. This has now been corrected to show these 2,800 ha against 4.3, as per the PIF</p> <p>The indigenous people's box has been ticked in the Annex G taxonomy</p> | <p>Prodoc Appendices 14 and 15</p> <p>CEO doc - Annex F, G</p> |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Part II ? Project Justification</p> <p>3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?</p> <p>No. Overall, there seems to be confusion at points about outcomes, outputs, and activities. For example, 1.1.2.4 is more of an outcome than an activity. We're concerned that some of the activities described may not be feasible or haven't been considered for what they will require.</p> <p>Please address the following issues:</p> <p>1.1.5 ? Will there be support to actually remove the barriers identified?</p> <p>1.1.6 ? In this activity and throughout the project, working with regional organizations should be emphasized. Niue's limited number of people (and accompanying capacities) means that establishing mechanisms and relationships are important for long term support. While various consultancies may be necessary, we would like to encourage working with SPREP, SPC, or other similar institutions as a first choice. Obviously hiring national or regional consultants is also preferred.</p> <p>1.1.2.4 ? This is another activity that is an output at a minimum or should be described more concretely.</p> <p>Component 2 ? This component would be benefit from <u>a close review of the theory of change for the specific activities identified</u> ? the connection to biodiversity conservation is tenuous at points. USAID has done helpful work on conservation enterprise that would provide a good model for such an analysis. There are a wide variety of activities described under this component and often complicated and challenging endeavors are given just a single line of an activity. It is important to make sure that sufficient time, resources and focus are given to any set of activities to have real impact rather than a scattershot of capacity building and work that has little lasting result. We would encourage focusing on a smaller number of endeavors to ensure lasting impact.</p> <p>2.1.1.3 ? How will the project support integrating these values into decision making and policy proposals rather than an abstract big number?</p> <p>2.1.2 ? This seems to place a lot of faith in awareness raising as a solution to these problems. Is there support for implementation?</p> | <p>These issues have been addressed, as described below.</p> <p>Activity 1.1.4.3 (new number) will address identified barriers. It reads: ?Identify and implement policies and regulatory changes needed to <u>remove barriers</u> to implementation of selected financing options?</p> <p>Output 1.1.5 (new number) now refers to SPREP, which will provide technical support here.</p> <p>Wording of 1.1.1.4 (new number) has been revised to describe an activity rather than an output.</p> <p>Component 2 activities have been reviewed and revised as per changes shown below.</p> | <p>Prodoc, p.36; CEO doc p. 26</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 37; CEO doc p. 26</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 34; CEO doc p. 24</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 37-41; CEO doc p. 27-30</p> |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|--|---|--|
| <p>2.1.2.2 ? This activity is not eligible for GEF STAR resources. Please remove.</p> <p>2.1.2.4 ? This has limited relation to biodiversity conservation and basically sounds like tourism product enhancement.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 ? It is a bit odd to see FPIC separated out in this way. Will there be opportunities for communities to co-design or select activities?</p> <p>2.1.3.6 ? This seems oddly phrased. Is this meant as a review of various practices to inform the other activities here?</p> <p>2.1.4.3 ? The description of this is a bit fuzzy. However, it will be important to consider undesired or unintended consequences. For example, publicizing tapu areas could have the opposite effect of that which is intended as tourists will actually want to visit something ?forbidden?. In a number of cases with sensitive natural sites, locations are kept secret to avoid damage.</p> <p>2.1.5 ? The activities described below seem to have very little relationship to certifications or what is in this output. Certifications are often rather challenging and expensive to implement and are not a financial solution. STAP has provided guidance on certifications and their advice would be good to incorporate if that is the direction the project would like to take. Where is agriculture in the activities? Please clarify.</p> <p>2.1.5.1 ? Please clarify what this means.</p> <p>2.1.5.2 ? This is another example where it is not an activity but more of an output. How will this be done?</p> <p>2.1.5.3 ? The GEF can only support this work if these funds do not go to the general treasury but are ringfenced for PA management.</p> | <p>The wording of Activity 2.1.1.3 has been revised to emphasize the issue of externalities, while Activity 1.1.1.4 has been revised to make explicit the connection between valuation, external costs and policy response</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2.2 (new number) has been revised to include reference to policy and regulatory requirements, which link to awareness (and enforcement) in order to deliver compliance</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2.2 (old number), related to preparation of a climate and disaster vulnerability assessment, has been deleted</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2.3 (new number) was envisaged primarily to engender pride amongst local communities in their own traditional knowledge systems of land and resource management and governance by raising the profile of these issues. Tourism provides an opportunity to do this and the benefit to the sector should be considered as a by-product (?win-win?).</p> | <p>Prodoc, p. 34, 38; CEO doc p. 24, 27</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 39; CEO doc p. 28</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 39; CEO doc p. 28</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 39; CEO doc p. 28</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 40; CEO doc p. 27</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 39, 29</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 40; CEO doc p. 29</p> |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|--|---|---|
| <p>3.1.2 ? This seems like an awareness campaign covering most everything for everyone which seems hard to do effectively. It would be good to focus and make sure these are serving the other activities.</p> <p>3.1.2.1 ? This is confusing and sounds circular. Please rephrase and focus without the assumption that change will happen simply with more information.</p> <p>3.1.3 ? It is difficult to see the GEBs or the path to GEBs for this app. It is not the GEF's role to promote tourism. Good apps are likely significantly more expensive than what is budgeted here and require significant on-going maintenance. All of this especially true if there is the expectation that people will put in payment information. This should likely be removed from this project.</p> | <p>The wording of the activity has been slightly revised to focus on the communities' capacities.</p> <p>FPIC is no longer shown as an activity but instead is referenced within the Output 2.1 description. Community co-design is explicitly highlighted under Output 2.1.4 and is implied elsewhere, in conjunction with FPIC</p> <p>The wording of this activity (renumbered as 2.1.3.5) has been revised for clarity. Like Activity 2.1.2.3 above, this is meant to help revitalize key positive aspects of traditional land management systems and practices.</p> <p>The wording of Activity 2.1.4.3 has been revised to enhance clarity. The decision on how best to ensure protection of <i>tapu</i> areas has been deferred.</p> <p>Following further consultation with government, it has been decided to remove the reference to certification and to focus on some of the financing solutions identified under this output.</p> <p>Agriculture is included in all three revised</p> | <p>Prodoc, p. 41; CEO doc p. 29</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 41; CEO doc p. 30</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 41; CEO doc p. 30</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 42; CEO doc p. 31</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 42; CEO doc p. 31</p> <p>Prodoc, p. 42; CEO doc p. 31</p> |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
|---------|--|---------------------|
| | <p>activities under Output 2.1.5</p> <p>Activities 2.1.5.1 ? 2.1.5.3 have been rewritten, in light of the comments</p> <p>The output and activity descriptions under Output 3.1.2 have been rephrased to clarify their focus. However, it also bears mentioning that the small size of the island and target population mean that an unusually large segment of the population can be reached by these and other activities</p> <p>The wording of Activity 3.1.2.1 has been revised to eliminate the circularity. The output remains focused on awareness and education, while connecting to incentives elsewhere in the project</p> <p>In order to maintain the project's focus and feasibility with available budget and to enhance emphasis on GEBs, Output 3.1.3 has been removed from the project</p> | |

| Comment | Response | Location of changes |
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| <p>7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?</p> <p>No, given the particular challenges of Niue's small population in developing and maintaining capacities, please focus on this issue for sustainability</p> | <p>The issue of sustainability of capacity building has been elaborated in the sustainability section of the CEO doc.</p> | <p>CEO doc, p.38</p> |
| <p>Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?</p> <p>No, please include a map showing the areas where the project will work in the Portal</p> | <p>A more detailed map, including geo-referenced information, is provided in the relevant section of the CEO document and has also been uploaded</p> | <p>CEO doc, p. 39</p> |
| <p>Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?</p> <p>No, it seems unlikely that climate risks to the project are generally low. While the project may increase resilience, it is important to account for climate change impacts in the design and implementation plan. For example, how are adaptive management systems built in or timelines designed for the case of a cyclone?</p> | <p>Two of the project's climate related risks are now identified as ?Moderate? and the importance of developing adaptive management strategies is highlighted</p> | <p>Prodoc p. 48</p> |
| <p>Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?</p> <p>No, it would be good to talk about ongoing and past initiatives by FAO, UNDP, SPREP and others to learn from</p> | <p>A paragraph has been added to the section on implementation arrangements.</p> | <p>Prodoc, p. 55</p> |
| <p>Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</p> <p>Yes. However, we would like to ensure that grievance mechanisms will seek to use traditional decision making and dispute resolution mechanisms first.</p> | <p>A statement to this effect has been included in the description of the project's grievance mechanism</p> | <p>Prodoc, Appendix 17</p> |
| <p>Council comments</p> <p>No, please provide better responses to the comments and how they were incorporated into the project. If there were difficulties or reasons that something didn't make sense, please include that information.</p> | <p>Responses to all Secretariat and Council comments have been reviewed and strengthened</p> | <p>CEO doc, Annex B, p. 59-60</p> |

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:

| PPG Grant Approved at PIF: | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i> | <i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i> | | |
| | <i>Budgeted Amount</i> | <i>Amount Spent Todate</i> | <i>Amount Committed</i> |
| Personnel Component | | | |
| Recruitment Design Expert/Team Leader | 60,000 | 60,000 | 0 |
| National Expert (Land management/Tourism) | 25,000 | 0 | 25,000 |
| National Expert (Biodiversity) | 25,000 | 8,000 | 17,000 |
| Training Component | | | |
| Meetings/Conferences | | | |
| Inception, Technical Design & Validation Workshop | 20,000 | 5,000 | 15,000 |
| Stakeholders consultations & Surveys | 20,000 | 5,000 | 15,000 |
| | | | |
| Total | 150,000 | 78,000 | 72,000 |

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

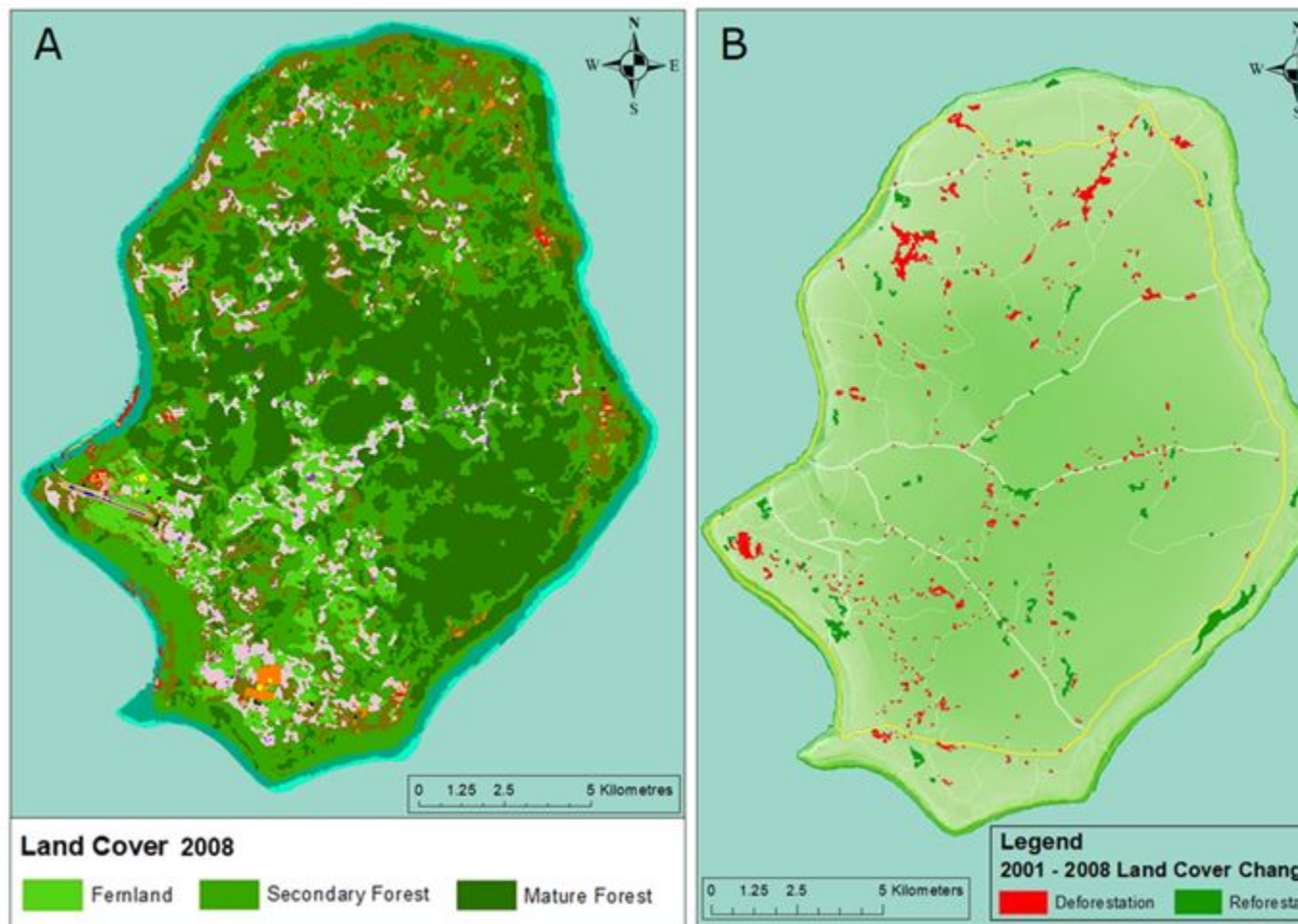


Figure 6. The Huvalu Forest Conservation Area (IUCN Category VI; coordinates: 19°4'47"S, -169°49'19"W). Source: Protected Planet website (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/61918>; accessed on 6 March 2021).

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).