Safeguarding Marine & Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO)

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10675

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Safeguarding Marine & Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO)

Countries
Fiji

Agency(ies)
CI

Other Executing Partner(s)
Department of Environment

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy
Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Biomes, Wetlands, Coral Reefs, Sea Grasses, Mangroves, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Mainstreaming,

Certification -National Standards, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, SMEs, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Sector

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
5/4/2022

Expected Implementation Start
6/1/2022

Expected Completion Date
5/31/2027

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
652,994.00

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 sectors	GET	3,627,745.50	16,874,371.50
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	GET	3,627,745.50	16,874,371.50
		Total Project Cost($)	**7,255,491.00**	**33,748,743.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To establish new marine and terrestrial protected areas within priority areas of biodiversity and strengthen Fiji?s protected area network, improve the management of key biodiversity areas in forests and coastal ecosystems to protect Fiji?s most threatened biodiversity, and strengthen policy and financing pathways to secure ecosystem services and other benefits to island communities into the future.

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: Improvement of management and expansion of protection of terrestrial key biodiversity areas on Fiji?s two largest islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1.: Forests and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities Outcome 1.2.: KBAs and IBAs are newly designated as terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Output 1.1.1.: Baseline information and data assessed and collected to identify and define candidate freshwater KBAs within Viti Levu and Vanua Levu Output 1.1.2.: Co-management model for freshwater and forest KBAs developed and demonstrated within key sites to preserve Fiji?s biodiversity through a participatory process involving multi-level stakeholders; inclusive conservation Output 1.1.3: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods, including agricultural production, within project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu Output 1.2.1.: Fiji?s proposed Protected Area Network is updated based on KBAs/IBAs information, and PA boundaries defined for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	GET	2,771,203.00	7,100,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Establishment of new and better management of existing MPAs/LMMAs within the Fiji?s Eastern Division Establishment of new and better management of existing MPAs/LMMAs within the Fiji?s Eastern Division	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1.: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago Outcome 2.2.: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities Outcome 2.3.: Marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago are under improved management, strengthening biodiversity protection at scale and	Output 2.1.1.: Marine biodiversity assessed and new MPA boundaries defined Output 2.1.2: Management plans for each MPA developed and key actions implemented (criteria and delineation proposed through a participatory process comprised of technical and multi-level stakeholder workshops) Output 2.1.3: Protected areas in the offshore are legally designated with management guidelines established Output 2.2.1.: Biodiversity management strategy developed to harmonize management of coastal and nearshore waters in Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands Output 2.2.2.: Key actions implemented from the Lau Seascape Strategy and the Biodiversity	GET	2,133,038.00	8,600,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s Biodiversity protection needs	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework Outcome 3.2: Fiji?s key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts Outcome 3.3. Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity	Output 3.1.1: Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network Output 3.1.2: Sustainable financing plans developed for PAs (to formalize protection of key areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu) Output 3.2.1: Management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols for threatened keystone species developed or updated in accordance to the current biodiversity protection needs as an integral part of PA/MPA management plans, with key actions implemented Output 3.2.2: Fiji?s PA and MPA regulatory framework developed and shared for endorsement	GET	1,557,400.00	7,749,100.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation plans inform adaptive management	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4.1: Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management	Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed and implemented Output 4.1.2: Final report on monitoring and evaluation program completed	GET	217,665.00	4,420,500.00
Knowledge Management				GET	230,686.00	2,179,143.00
			Sub Total ($)		**6,909,992.00**	**30,048,743.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
GET	345,499.00	3,700,000.00
Sub Total($)	**345,499.00**	**3,700,000.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**7,255,491.00**	**33,748,743.00**

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Waterways	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,300,000.00
GEF Agency	Conservation International	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,279,143.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Fisheries	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,000,000.00
Other	BirdLife International	Grant	Investment mobilized	599,100.00
Other	BirdLife International	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	220,500.00
Other	National Trust of Fiji	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**33,748,743.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Grant funding is time-bound with a specific scope of work which will contribute to this project and therefore is identified as Investment mobilized. Conservation International will contribute at least 1,279,143 in in-kind co-financing towards the GEF SAMBIO project. Additional grant co-financing will be provided from BirdLife International.

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($)
CI	GET	Fiji	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	7,255,491	652,994	7,908,485.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**7,255,491.00**	**652,994.00**	**7,908,485.00**

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 ($)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

18,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
CI	GET	Fiji	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	200,000	18,000	**218,000.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**200,000.00**	**18,000.00**	**218,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
49,738.00	50,679.00	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)
49,738.00	50,679.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park TBD	**125689**	**Select**Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	49,738.00				
Akula National Park TBD	**125689**	**Select**Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		50,679.00			

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)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,761,579.00	10,761,579.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,760,000.00	10,760,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park TBC	**125689**	**Select**Others	10,760,000.00	10,760,000.00		

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,579.00	1,579.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total 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)
Akula National Park TBC	**125689**	**Select**Others	1,579.00	1,579.00					

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)
24564.00	32168.00	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)
24,564.00	32,168.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

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

Title	Submitted

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
22,500.00	22,700,000.00		

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

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

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

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

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	5764726	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?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?e (direct)		5,764,726		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2042		
Duration of accounting				

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?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	75,463	75,224		
Male	75,462	82,403		
Total	150925	157627	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

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Changes from the PIF

Changes in the Results Framework during PPG

Most of the differences in the RF are outcome and output level differences that resulted from the project consultations with the view to improve (a) the formulation of the description of outcomes and outputs, (b) the realistic delivery of results, and (c) the quality of delivery itself. The differences are mainly about fine-tuning the outcomes and outputs with the current realities in Fiji. There are no changes in the actual work proposed, or the substance and direction of the results. In terms of project sites, there is one addition of a new site, Nakorotubu, and supplemental changes to targets under 1.1 and 1.2. Some small size increases in the areas (landscape and marine habitats) are also part of the changes from what was pledged in the PIF, due largely to the inclusion of Nakorotubu as a new site under Outcome 1.1, and a reassessment of the proposed protected area boundaries for sites under Outcome 1.2. However, these changes are considered positive as they increase the project impact. In addition, based on feedback received during stakeholder consultations and in recognition of the severe impacts of COVID-19 on local and rural economies, the project has increased specific focus on livelihoods, namely through the addition of Output 1.2.5. A significant part of livelihood work will be based on approaches such as ?conservation enterprises? in order to highlight the specific links between income generation and reduction in environmentally harmful activities, which will in turn indicate the various intervention foci on value chains and livelihoods.

Last but not least, SAMBIO is now in consistency with more official legislative documents than at the PIF stage: The updated Endangered and Protected Species (Amendment) Act 2017, offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012, and the Land and Water Resource Management Bill 2016. Please refer to table 1 for a consolidated overview of the changes from the PIF.

Table 1: Changes in the RF from the PIF

	PIF	PPG	Difference (description)

Component level	Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s NBSAP	Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s Biodiversity protection needs	Better formulation of component after GEF Sec review. Component shifted specific focus from NBSAP alignment to delivery of actual Biodiversity needs of Fiji.
Outcome level	Outcome 2.1: Offshore areas and archipelagic waters critical for biodiversity are designated as MPAs in Fiji?s Eastern Division within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago	Outcome 2.1: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago	Better formulation of the outcome after consultations. No changes in substance.
	Outcome 2.2: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities	Outcome 2.2: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities	Better formulation of the outcome after consultations. No changes in substance.

	Outcome 3.1: A national sustainable financing framework is developed to fund forest, coastal and marine ecosystem protection benefitting Fiji?s entire PA and MPA network	Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework	Outcome more integrated and expressed in better programming language
	Outcome 3.3: Data management and tracking systems in place and community and government groups trained to monitor and report on resources management at scale, for delivery of key NBSAP priorities	Outcome 3.3 Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity	Outcome more targeted to the overall needs of Fiji?s biodiversity protection rather than mere NBSAP delivery.

Output level	Output 1.1.3: Improved sustainability and diversification of agricultural commodities grown by communities on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Output 1.1.3: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods, including agricultural production, within project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Output targeting livelihoods and the links of income generation vs. reduction in environmentally harmful activities rather than commodities and focuses on work at sites under the direct responsibility of the project.
	Output 1.2.1: Terrestrial biodiversity is assessed to define new protected area boundaries within KBAs/IBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Output 1.2.1.: Fiji?s proposed Protected Area Network is updated based on KBAs/IBAs information, and PA boundaries defined for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Output modified to reflect product generation based on more integrated knowledge.
	Output 1.2.2: Consultations are conducted, and landowner consent is secured or reaffirmed (to advance legal formalization of the proposed PA boundaries)	Output 1.2.2.: Stakeholder consultations are conducted and all necessary consent is secured (to advance legal formalization of Protected Areas in Fiji) for stakeholders	Better formulation of the outcome after consultations. No changes in substance.

	Output 1.2.3: Management plans are developed or updated for each new PA, including District-level co-management requirements together with landowning communities	Output 1.2.3: Management plans are developed and endorsed for each new PA, including District-level co-management requirements together with resource owners/communities	Output modified to reflect new result: Management plans are now to be endorsed. Co-management partners better defined in formulation.
	Output 1.2.4: New PAs are legally designated through partnership between landowning communities and Government, with co management guidelines in place	Output 1.2.4: New PAs are legally designated through partnership between resource owners, communities and Government, with co-management guidelines in place	Co-management partners better defined in formulation.
	-	Output 1.2.5: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods within the proposed project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	Added in response to feedback received during stakeholder consultations, and the need to increase focus on economic well-being following COVID-19.
	Output 2.2.2: District and Provincial level management plans developed for coastal and archipelagic waters delivering improved governance and coordinated management	Output 2.2.2.: Key actions implemented from the Lau Seascape Strategy and the Biodiversity Management Plans to improve governance and coordinated management of coastal and archipelagic waters	Output more targeted on the basis of specified existing policy. No changes in substance of work.

	Output 2.3.1: Integrated Management plan for the Lau Seascape is developed and approved, with key actions implemented	Output 2.3.1: Marine zonation/ delineation plans are developed and implemented for areas outside of protected areas with a focus on enforcement	Change in position (2.3.2 now 2.3.1).
	Output 2.3.2: Marine management and zonation/ delineation plans are developed for areas outside of protected areas with a focus on enforcement	Output 2.3.2: A management plan for the Lau Seascape is developed and approved, with key actions implemented.	Change in position (2.3.1 now 2.3.2).
	Output 2.3.3: Co-management monitoring system piloted? in partnership with the Fijian Navy Recommendations developed for scaling up and amplifications of the co-management model to all maritime islands	Output 2.3.3: Co-management monitoring system piloted? in partnership with the Fijian Navy recommendations and other parallel surveillance strategies developed for scaling up and amplifications of the co-management model to all maritime islands	Output now more specific in terms of result description.

	Output 3.1.1: Sustainable financing framework is developed and approved with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network	Output 3.1.1: Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network	Output formulation. No change in substance.
	Output 3.1.2: Sustainable financing for PAs advanced (to formalize protection of key areas on Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni)	Output 3.1.2: Sustainable financing plans developed for PAs (to formalize protection of key areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu)	Taveuni removed from this Output to align with priority sites under Outcome 1.2 on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
	Output 3.2.1: Management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols for threatened keystone species developed in alignment with Fiji?s NBSAP as an integral part of PA/MPA management plans	Output 3.2.1: Management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols for threatened keystone species developed or updated in accordance to the current biodiversity protection needs as an integral part of PA/MPA management plans, with key actions implemented	Output modified for product to address broader biodiversity goals than a single report such as NBSAP

	Output 3.2.2: Fiji?s PA and MPA Framework is updated and harmonized with the sustainable financing framework developed under outcome 3.1 (approved and endorsed by the government)	Output 3.2.2: Fiji?s PA and MPA regulatory framework developed and shared for endorsement	Changed based on discussions with the Fiji Department of Environment and suggestions to strengthen this output.
	Output 3.3.1: Data management system is set up that centralizes national PA and MPA data management and supports Fiji?s reporting to the CBD	Output 3.3.1: Data management system is established under the Department of Environment that centralizes national PA and MPA data management and supports Fiji?s reporting to the CBD	Output now more specified and focused on the work under Department of Environment.
	Output 3.3.2. Tracking system established to strengthen reporting on national commitments related to protection of biodiversity and benefits are in place	Output 3.3.2. Tracking system established to strengthen reporting on the status and trends of biodiversity and benefits	Output modified for product to serve broader biodiversity goals rather than national commitments only
	Output 3.3.3: Government capacity to support NBSAP Implementation and Reporting Framework built	Output 3.3.3: Relevant government agency capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting on Biodiversity through specific frameworks	Output modified for product to serve broader biodiversity goals rather than national commitments only

	Output 3.3.4: Community capacity to support NBSAP Implementation and Reporting Framework built	Output 3.3.4: Community and other relevant stakeholder capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting on Biodiversity through a specifically developed reporting framework	Output modified for product to serve broader biodiversity goals rather than national commitments only
	Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed	Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed and implemented	Output reformulated to reflect upgraded result after consultations.
	Output 4.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation program implemented	Output 4.1.2: Final report on monitoring and evaluation program completed	4.1.2 & 4.1.3 now merged into one.
	Output 4.1.3: Final report on monitoring and evaluation program		

Active areas	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - 49,738,00 ha; Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) - 24,564,00 ha; Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) - 22,500,00 ha; Marine Protected Areas Newly created - 10,761,000 ha; Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - 10,761,579 ha; Number of Direct beneficiaries ? 157,627,925.	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - 50,679,00 ha; Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) - 32,167,00 ha; Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) - 22,700,000 ha; Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - 10,761,579 ha; Number of Direct Beneficiaries - 157,627 people including 82,403 males and 75,224 females.	Nakorotubu was added as a new project site under Outcome 1.1, thus increasing the target area. In addition, the priority areas for MPAs and terrestrial PAs were reassessed together with the government and these figures were confirmed. Revised calculation of direct beneficiaries.

Indicator 3.1b	Hectares of forest where key sustainable financing actions are implemented to support management	Number of hectares of marine and terrestrial areas than benefit from a sustainable financing framework	Subsequent change in indicator formulation following change in Outcome 3.1
Indicator 3.2a	Number of keystone species for which national strategies, plans, and protocols developed with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented	Number of keystone species for which plans and protocols are developed in global standards with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented	More focused formulation of how the project will address indicator 3.2a.

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

Environmental problems: According to the 2013 State of Conservation in Fiji Country Report, Fiji?s unique marine and terrestrial biodiversity is under threat (SPREP, 2013). Over half (56%) of Fiji?s 258 extant endemics have been assessed as threatened, with 32% listed as critically endangered. Limited data is available for at least 50% of all endemics; however, in general the threats to endemics are the same as those impacting threatened species. Some of the key threats driving ecosystem degradation and destruction include infrastructure development, over-extraction by community stakeholders for income and subsistence, agricultural expansion, invasive species, and climate change impacts.

Degradation and loss of habitats: Loss and fragmentation of forest cover is a major contributor to biodiversity loss and extinctions of forest-dependent species and populations, and also reduces timber and other plant resources including for firewood, medicines, dyes, construction and canoe or boat building (Thaman, 2002). Forest cover, which supports the majority of terrestrial species in Fiji?roughly 90% of which is indigenous forests?has been cleared at an increasing rate over the past ten years, primarily due to agricultural expansion (for kava and root crops), logging, mining and traditional uses (GoF, 2017). Loss of forest habitat has also led to loss and damage of migratory pathways for freshwater fish, ultimately affecting the number of amphidromous fish species and the number of all fish species in mid?reaches of Fiji rivers (Jenkins et al, 2009).

Inshore coastal ecosystems, including seagrass meadows and coral reefs, are also being degraded, due to coastal residential and tourism development, inadequate disposal of solid waste, sewage pollution, coastal erosion, storm surge and flooding. Siltation of rivers and coral reefs as a result of soil erosion from inland agriculture and forestry, gravel extraction and mining are major degrading factors

(McKenzie and Yoshida, 2007). The Fiji State of the Environment Report, estimates that mangrove areas have decreased by 2,000 hectares between 1991 and 2001, caused by expansion of urban areas, tourist development, and creation of waste disposal sites (GoF, 2014). Loss of mangrove habitats is also greatly affected by climate change impacts, such as cyclones and other natural disasters and in some areas by unsustainable harvest. Mangrove loss impacts the productivity of coastal fisheries, resulting in reductions in fish, crustacean, mollusks and bird habitats, including vital pelagic fish spawning grounds, which affects both food security and income-generating opportunities for Fijians (Cameron et al, 2020).

? Greater Tomaniivi: One of the greatest drivers of habitat loss within the Greater Tomaniivi Conservation Area is uncontrolled burning and fire (CI, 2014). While fire is used as a traditional land management tool, it is often poorly controlled and can result in significant negative impact to forest health and soil fertility. Agricultural expansion is another growing threat to forest health and connectivity in the Greater Tomaniivi Area. Shifting cultivation is widely practiced as farmers move to new land after two to three cropping sequences. Slash and burn agriculture remain widely practiced even though some areas are vulnerable to fire due to extensive coverage of Talasiga grass land, especially the northeastern areas.

? Nakauvadra: During landuse planning workshops in 2012, communities identified key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Nakauvadra range, including expansion of intensive agriculture, poor animal and livestock management, and uncontrolled burning. One of the historical drivers of deforestation was sugar cane production, which was dominant across all three districts from around 1960 to 1980. This was then followed by a steady decline in production (Oxfam, 2005) mainly due to the introduction of other economically important crops such as vegetables and pulses, the high costs of transportation to the mills, soil erosion and land degradation. In addition, fires are another common driver of deforestation, largely driven by pig hunting, sugarcane burning, and unexplained burning by local communities. In some districts, this has hindered successful community-based reforestation efforts as stray fires have damaged seedlings beyond repair or establishment.

? Nakorotubu: Nakorotubu experiences similar deforestation and degradation threats to Tomaniivi and Nakauvadra, and is particularly linked with unsustainable expansion of subsistence and semi-commercial agriculture into native forest areas. One of the primary commodities driving this expansion is kava/yaqona (USP-IAS, 2009), which has experienced a significant increase in value and market demand in the last decade. Additional drivers including community harvesting of forest for local use, unsustainable extraction of non-timber forest products, and pastoral farming.

? Greater Delaikoro: Communities in the Greater Delaikoro are heavily reliant on agriculture for income and livelihoods, specifically on cultivation of kava/yaqona. With limited diversification of livelihoods, agricultural expansion is beginning to affect forest health in this area. Communities prefer to cultivate their crops in newly cleared forest areas due to the high fertility of the soil. This has resulted in increased deforestation of native forest areas coupled with the disturbance of the soil structure.

? Natewa Tunuloa: Natewa Tunuloa has suffered extensive logging over the last decade, causing patch-scale forest fragmentation and degradation within the edges of the IBA. Similar to all the other terrestrial sites, forest is being cleared for agricultural expansion, particularly extension of kava planting. This has further facilitated the introduction of invasive alien species such as mongoose and rats, which are exacerbating forest degradation and threatening biodiversity.

? Lau Seascape: Agricultural intensification within the islands is one of the largest drivers of forest and coastal habitat degradation, including use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, removal of forests and mangroves for timber, and expansion of agricultural areas. Unsustainable land-use has increased the destabilization of slope zones causing landslides and sedimentation on coastal reefs. Loss of forest habitats, low water tables and climate change are contributing to longer droughts during Fiji?s dry

season, affecting the water catchments and sources. During the wet season, increased rainfall results in erosion and siltation on the reefs.

? Kadavu: Terrestrial habitats on Kadavu have been degraded due to agricultural expansion and poor land use management and planning. Among the most prominent issues is indiscriminate and uncontrolled burning linked with agriculture and land clearing. Many landowners and resource users do not perceive burning as a problem, yet burning along steep slopes exposes top soil to severe erosion from weather events, sometimes resulting in landslides and other hazards, and affecting the health of coastal and nearshore marine ecosystems. Coastal and marine biodiversity has also been degraded by improper waste management and climate change impacts.

? The Ringgold Islands: Due to their remoteness and small land area, many of these islands are uninhabited. Only a small population of traditional village communities reside within these islands and rely on marine resources for subsistence needs. The state of marine and terrestrial resources is fragile, however planning is necessary to ensure continued health and preservation of these islands to future threats, such as extraction of marine resources for seafood. Access to the islands are mostly for fishing expeditions of licensed fishermen and tourism activities from well established tourism resorts and hotels. Kaibu Island Resort in Yacata has offered work opportunities to the communities and provided capacity building programs and environment conservation and reef programs to the communities and the resort.

Over-exploitation/unsustainable resource use: Overexploitation of fisheries resources has damaged the health of Fiji?s coastal and offshore areas, primarily extraction of seaweed, finfish, b?che-de-mer, crabs and lobsters, shellfish, corals and other marine invertebrates. In addition, with roughly 2.6% of Fiji?s EEZ under formal protection or management, and limited resources for monitoring, control and surveillance of archipelagic and offshore waters, Fiji?s offshore marine biodiversity is also under threat from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (MRAG, 2016). The main negative effect of this threat resides in the depletion of fishing stocks, which jeopardizes the food security of people in maritime islands and disrupts ecological integrity of Fiji?s waters. Lack of enforcement and poor fishing regulations in the nearshore, offshore, and archipelagic waters of Lau are contributing to this threat.

Communities in forested areas also rely heavily on their terrestrial resources of food security and livelihoods. Forest-dwelling communities often harvest forest wood for daily subsistence, household needs, and income generation, as well as on harvest non-timber forest products for income and subsistence needs. In some areas where wood and forest products are being harvested for commercial benefit and sale, this exploitation has become unsustainable. Additional support is needed to ensure sustainability of extraction and community-level harvesting towards continuation of ecosystem-service benefits to forest communities.

? Greater Tomaniivi: Communities located in Greater Tomaniivi area still rely on the forest and its river system for their livelihood and subsistence needs. Some activities the community continue to do in the forest includes hunting feral pigs, fishing, gathering ferns and wild yams, firewood, building materials, traditional medicine and harvesting fruits and flowers. Some community members use chemicals to kill fish in freshwater systems. A 2013 biodiversity survey reported that fish were small in size and low in biodiversity. Voluntary control measures have been instigated by some villages to traditionally declare restriction of fishing in parts of their river system in an effort to restore biodiversity of fish resources. These villages include Naqelecibi, Nabalasere and Rewasau. However, there is a need to further assist them to zone, plan, monitor and evaluate the impact of such voluntary management initiatives.

? Nakauvadra: In general, nearly all the local communities living around the Nakauvadra Range make use of the forest and the services it provides to meet some of their livelihood needs. Villagers fish for prawns and eels in almost all the rivers and creeks which flow out from the Range, mainly for subsistence consumption, with extra catch being sold at local markets at a reasonable price. However, the use of derris root (Derris malacense) and weed killers to harvest prawns and fish from the rivers and creeks have resulted in destruction of rivers and streams. Forested areas on the lower to mid slopes contain many seasonal native and introduced fruit trees and wild yams. Villagers harvest and collect these for personal consumption and to sell at local markets. Forests are also a source of fuelwood or construction timber. Fuelwood is sourced from the fringes of the forest near villages, while construction timber is harvested from pine woodlots that are scattered around the periphery of the Nakauvadra Range. While most of this effort is currently sustainable in scale and impact, urban to rural migration due to COVID-19 has increased livelihoods and subsistence needs, exacerbated by growing populations across the country (Wairiu et al, 2020).

? Nakorotubu: Unsustainable harvesting of timber by communities for local use is damaging forest areas along the Nakorotubu range and contributing to forest fragmentation. Clearing of forest habitats for agricultural expansion and livestock grazing is also prevalent in Nakorotubu, which can affect freshwater health of nearby river headwaters, the Wailou, Nabavatu and Wailotua. In some instances, extraction/harvesting of non-timber forest products can contribute to forest degradation, such as when forest areas are cleared to access medicinal plants or wild crops, ferns, nuts, etc. However, there is limited concrete data regarding the contribution of these activities to forest degradation, or the extent of damage they cause relative to other forest activities.

? Greater Delaikoro: Similar to Nakorotobu, extraction of timber and non-timber forest products is a major source of income and livelihoods for communities in the Greater Delaikoro area. Surveys documented that the third highest sources of income come from selling vegetables and non-timber forest products. Current level of extractions within forest areas are largely considered sustainable, however high demand for forest resources coupled with increasing populations in communities presents a threat to ecosystem carrying capacity, which could lead to resource degradation, reduced production, poor community health and aggravated poverty.

? Natewa-Tunuloa: With limited formal employment opportunities in the area, many community members in the Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula rely heavily on extraction of forest resources for income and subsistence needs. This can include either clearing forest for agricultural land, to support themselves and their families, as well as extraction of non-timber forest products. Recent population increases have resulted in increased deforestation activities in the site area. In addition, as a result of COVID-19, households? are shifting practices back to traditional food systems and consuming more foods from their own farms/gardens, ocean area and forests (Wairiu et al, 2020). This places additional pressure on natural resources to provide for both income and food security.

? Lau Seascape: In the Lau Group, this threat is driven by the use of unsustainable fishing practices and techniques, including fish poisoning, oversized nets, night diving, use of rotenone from duva (derris roots), and overharvesting of invertebrate populations, such as sea cucumbers and giant clams, as well as poaching of turtles and fish during breeding and spawning seasons. The overharvesting of filtering invertebrates like sea cucumbers is accelerating the formation of cyanobacteria mats, which cover large areas of the seafloor, such as dead coral pavement and sandy areas in the lagoons of certain Lau Islands. The absence of sea cucumbers is extremely alarming and could cause a phase shift, or transition in the health and community structure of the reef (Bruckner et al., 2016). Additionally, invasive species are a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem health of the Lau Islands and reefs, and overfishing and unsustainable fishing methods are increasing the formation of COTs outbreaks. In localized areas, Lau?s reefs which are

impacted by COTs outbreaks have significant changes in coral composition and structure (Bruckner et al., 2016). Lack of knowledge of historical, biological, and ecological status of marine environments (including limited scientific data), lack of enforcement, lack of use of traditional methods, and lack of alternative sources of food and income are contributing to the increase of this threat. While the FLMMA has supported many communities to establish LMMAs and tabu sites, most sites lack management plans or formal site monitoring.

? Kadavu: Overexploitation of coastal fisheries, including illegal fishing methods and poaching, are one of the main drivers of marine resources degradation in Kadavu. The high demand for fish has led to overfishing and poaching from other villagers and some poachers are known to come all the way from Viti Levu to fish within the Kadavu iQoliqoli areas. This is an issue that must be addressed in order to safeguard and reinforce locally-driven conservation efforts in the Province. Another prominent issue is the use of Derris roots (traditional fish poison) to kill and catch fish for consumption (USP-IAS, 2015). On land, commercial logging is also a prevalent driver of forest degradation, which has affected the health of coastal and marine areas due to erosion and siltation.

? The Ringgolds Islands: While the reef systems around these islands are largely intact, commercial extraction of marine resources for seafood consumption has resulted in overexploitation of certain areas. Planning and management by community and provincial representatives working together is critical to ensure continued provision of ecosystem services to remote island communities. The limited reef systems that continue to meet the sustenance and provision of the communities of these small islands have managed to hold them over for generations, yet sustainable measures need to be integrated to maintain the functionality of the reefs through the challenges posed by overfishing, climate change and transformation toward a monetized society. Being small islands and having limited land space for agriculture expansion, the marine system is the main source of livelihood across these communities, hence the resource base is small in comparison to the growing population sizes. Expanding communities? fishing areas jurisdiction beyond the reef systems into the open ocean is an area to explore in order to support community livelihoods around the archipelagic waters in these marine spaces.

Pollution and erosion from agriculture: A large portion of Fiji?s population is dependent upon subsistence agriculture for food and livelihoods. Biodiversity impacts related to agriculture are not only due to the loss of habitat but are also due to other impacts related to land clearing more generally, such as increased erosion and sedimentation. The common use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture causes increases in sedimentation, runoff and eutrophication within freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems (GoF, 2020a). Interventions to address these threats focus on sustainable agricultural models, agroforestry and alternatives to agriculture to meet food and livelihood security needs.

? Greater Tomaniivi: The communities around the Greater Tomaniivi depend on agriculture for sustenance and economic wellbeing. While more farmers practice subsistence agriculture, a few farmers operate at a semi-subsistence level where they hire labor at certain times of the year to undertake land preparation or harvesting. The main root crops planted for commercial gains are taro and kava, with certain crops planted in slope areas where harvesting or removal of vegetation can cause landslides and erosion. The choice of crops is limited by soil fertility, topography and climatic condition. Though all the communities are located around the Tomaniivi forest, climatic conditions may vary between the forested areas, south of Mt. Tomaniivi and the intermediate north and northeastern areas towards the Nakauvadra Range. Due to limitations and changes in soil fertility due to overuse, there is increasing use of agricultural chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers for agriculture production.

? Nakauvadra: Commercial agricultural production (sugarcane belt) generally sweeps the coastal foreshore to the lower slopes of the Nakauvadra Range, while subsistence farming occurs predominantly from the midslopes to higher terrain. Farmers across the Nakauvadra range use chemical inputs in agricultural production, namely fertilizer and pesticides. While yaqona/kava remains one of the most lucrative cash crop grown in Fiji, sugar cane farms remain scattered along the Nakauvadra River and use these chemical inputs to increase production within poor soil conditions. As such, it is widely believed that deforestation and erosion on this side of the range is a major cause of flooding for Rakiraki Town during the cyclone season.

? Nakorotubu: As highlighted above, slash and burn agriculture is a significant issue in many areas of Fiji, including along Mount Nakorotubu. Due to this continuous cycle of monocrop cultivation followed by clearing of fields with fire, much of the soil and surrounding ecosystems in some areas of the range is degraded. As a result, pesticides and fertilizers are becoming increasingly used by communities to ensure sufficient crop growth for food consumption and income. This in turn, affects the health of river systems stemming from the Nakorotubu watershed.

? Greater Delaikoro: Intensive agricultural activities in the Greater Delaikoro area affect the health of freshwater fauna and river systems. One of the unique features of the area is the presence of spring snails (Fluviopupa spp.) that are very likely to be catchment endemic or area endemic species. A recorded ten species of spring snails are already known to be endemic to Fiji, have restricted distribution and are usually endemic to specific watersheds, inhabiting springs and small creeks or riffles (Haase et al., 2006). They almost exclusively live in springs and in the headwater of streams. These snails are specialists with very low ecological amplitude, and are affected by small changes in environmental conditions.

? An additional survey of community-based livelihoods along the Delaikoro range was conducted in 2016 and 2017. The survey documented significant declines in production and profitability of sugar farms along the Labasa side of the Delaikoro range. These issues are driven by declines in markets, smallholder profitability, increases in production costs (fertiliser and labor costs) and a lack of investment in infrastructure. Sugarcane farming in Fiji is characterized by heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides to facilitate crop production, as many areas have been heavily affected by decades of mono-crop cultivation. Soils along the Labasa side of the Delaikoro range exhibit high aluminum levels and increased erosion.

? Natewa-Tunuloa: Communities along the Natewa Tunuloa peninsula have limited income generating pathways, making agricultural production critical for both subsistence and income generation needs. Agricultural encroachment into native forest areas is a historic and ongoing threat to the forest. Similar to Nakorotubu and other areas, the loss of traditional cultivation patterns has resulted in farmers encroaching into existing forest to create new agricultural plots when the fertility of their old plots declines due to slash and burn agricultural practices. Traditionally, farmers would return to their original farm plots when vegetation returned and soil fertility improved. Now, the lack of soil fertility and compromised water quality, require farmers to use increased fertilizers to ensure successful cultivation, which is further affecting coastal health and freshwater sources.

? Lau Seascape: Across the Lau Islands, the increasing use of chemical fertilizers by island communities has stripped soil fertility and increased nutrient blooming on the reefs. Some of the contributing factors which lead to the creation of these negative impacts reside in the lack of knowledge and skills regarding agricultural best practices, lack of sustainable agricultural regulations, lack of alternative sources of food and income, and lack of effective protection/conservation norms. From many of Lau?s communities, there is a call to decrease dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides and ?go organic? by returning to more

sustainable traditional farming practices. Additional support is needed to build skills and capacity on organic farming and accessing premium markets. There are human-related disturbances documented across the Lau seascape, the most extensive of which is for the presence of agricultural activities in ecologically and culturally important sites. The other non-human threats occur naturally and cause irreversible damage. Natural elements such as heavy rain, coastal inundation and flooding and strong winds contribute to natural changes in land in Lau Province.

? Kadavu: With few formal economic opportunities, many community members on Kadavu rely on farming and fishing as their main source of livelihood and income. Three of the most prominent cash crops grown on Kadavu include yaqona, peppers and taro (SPC, 2018). The provincial strategic priority is the creation of sustainable livelihoods at the community level. In meeting this, the certification and promotion of locally grown and sustainably harvested labelled products are being proposed for marine and organic products. There are also existing initiatives in organic bee keeping and promotion of organic products to ecotourism markets and resorts.

? The Ringgolds Islands: The majority of the population of the Ringgolds inhabit the mainland of Qamea and Yanuca Island, which reduces human pressure to these islands as they are small and are un-inhabited. Although the natural resources of Naqalelevu Island are utilized by local communities, the impact of human pressure is minimal due to low population sizes. These islands are also inhabited by marine birds and unique species of terrestrial species such as coconut crabs (Birgus latro) and diversity of marine species. The other islands of Wailagilala and associated reefs traditional custodians are currently in Kocoma Village in Qamea Island as well. These islands have limited human impact and pressure, but optimistic poachers often frequent these reefs for maximum catch and sea cucumber harvests. The community of Yacata is supported by the Vatuvara Foundation and the Kaibu Resort through community consultation and conservation awareness and even having communities to work in the resort and providing transportation needs for the community to Suva.

Invasive species: The list of invasive plants in Fiji (Meyer, 2000) is currently composed of 52 species, classified under three groups according to their degree of invasiveness, namely: 13 dominant invaders, 17 medium invaders and 22 potential invaders. Invasives are another critical threat to Fiji given that it is an island archipelago nation. Herbivores and predator species including cats, mongoose, pigs, goats, the giant invasive iguana (Iguana iguana) and the ship rat (Rattus rattus) represent a threat to endemic species, especially those already under pressure in Fiji, such as the seemingly extinct kulawai (Charmosyna amabilis). The threat from exotic invasives in the marine environment is lesser known but perhaps just as great, with thousands of new, often microscopic, alien marine organisms being introduced every year, mainly in ballast water. Such organisms lead to algal blooms, smothering of reefs, displacement of native species and the serious disruption in marine food chains. Several extremely invasive weeds, especially African tulip tree, and biological control agents have also threatened and brought to extinction several endemic species on the islands of Fiji (Thaman, 2002). Invasives are often difficult to manage and better to prevent their introduction in the first place through thorough quarantine screening.

? Greater Tomaniivi: Invasive alien species are found throughout the Greater Tomaniivi, even within the dense and intact forest areas of the Wabu Forest Reserve. While there is little documented evidence of the impact of alien invasive species on IBA habitats more broadly, there is broad understanding that the mongoose preys on bird eggs and threatens the health of endemic or native ground nesting birds. In particular, population decreases of the red-throated lorikeet are seemingly a result of the mongoose predation as well as predation by black rats.

? Greater Delaikoro: The 2014 biodiversity assessment survey noted that the Greater Delaikoro area is heavily impacted by invasive species, which were readily observed within all

surveyed areas (USP-IAS, 2014). The survey identified a total of 21 invasive species, including most of the moderate and dominant invaders as identified in previous assessments. Invasive species are more prominent in lowland areas near human habitation and farmland. Some of the most prominent invasive species include the giant reed, Arundo donax, Merremia peltate, and Clidemia hirta. As with many forest areas across Fiji, the African tulip was also observed. Areas of intact forest exhibited fewer invasive species, such as in the Waisali Reserve, where only Clidemia hirta and Mikania micrantha were observed.

? Nakauvadra: A survey of Nakauvadra Forest area indicated the small number of weedy alien species found overall in areas above 400 m elevation (Morrison, 2009). Most of the alien plants found here were deliberately recently introduced by locals and included fruit trees like Mangifera indica, Bambusa simplex, Musa x paradisica, and Artocarpus altilis, which has become naturalized. Those that are considered aboriginal introductions include Aleurites molucana, Citrus spp., Cordyline fruticosa and Codiaeum variegatum, which have become naturalized. Most of the invasive plant species encountered were observed along creek embankments and currently used traditional tracks and include some of the more serious invasive species like Spathodea campanulata, Lantana camara, Arunda donax, Mikania micrantha and Clidemia hirta.

? Nakorotubu: In a 2009 survey, a total of 64 exotic plant species were recorded during the survey in Nakorotubu Forest (USP-IAS, 2009). Six are internationally recognized invasive species and thirteen species are known to show invasive characteristics and have the tendency to grow or encroach into forest beyond where they were originally introduced. Alien or exotic herbaceous species like Clidemia hirta, Hedychium sp., Zingiber zerumbet and Crassocephalum crepidioides and shrubs like Solanum torvum, Leucaena leucocephala and Piper aduncum are the more common species in the area, especially along stream flats. Overall, the disturbed forest in the area surveyed does not have any significant alien tree invaders, whilst elsewhere in secondary forest in Fiji the African tulip-tree is a serious native forest invader.

? Tunuloa/Natewa: The Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula has experienced significant logging since the late 80?s and 90?s resulting in land degradation and the introduction of invasive plants and animals into native forest areas. Invasive rodents, cats and mongoose are among the biggest threats to the forest area that remains insufficiently managed. BirdLife International together with NatureFiji-MaraqetiViti andlocal partners have worked to manage the presence of invasive rodents, and documented their presence during a 2020 survey by setting up trapping stations across the Peninsula (Tuamoto, Tabua & Tikoca, 2021). The survey further found the presence of invasive ants that are responsible for damage and death to native plants, including the white-footed ant, Technomyermex albipes. The area is also home to two invasive geckoes that interact negatively with local herpetofauna populations in the peninsula.

? Lau Seascape: Due to their remoteness, the Lau Islands are a haven for terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Their marine environment is free of invasive species, aside from some evidence of COTs surrounding the majority of the islands. Cyanobacteria seasonal proliferations are often detrimental to the survival of live corals and the severity of impact has led to coral kills across a wide range of reef areas. This has been observed in Totoya, and Moce reefs, and presents the greatest threats to the marine environment across the Seascape. On land, community members have documented exotic bird species and introduced mammals, such as domesticated cats, dogs, cattle, horses, pigs, goats, and rats. All of these are listed as ?significant invasive species on the islands of the South Pacific? (Sherley 2000). Their presence should be of great concern because these species can cause considerable damage to native vegetation and ecosystems in both terrestrial and marine environments (Sherley 2000). Often these animals are impacting on landscapes and often extreme problems such as overgrazing, and land erosion are a result of a lack of management. The water sources are mostly affected with the extension of feeding paddocks to

the higher reaches of the islands. Wild animals such as pigs also destroy cultural remains by trampling or digging around in search of sources of food for their survival, therefore villages should ensure proper domestication of farm animals. Mynah birds have migrated to a few islands and have impacted native bird's sightings and are a nuisance to the native birds and even community peace. The Barking Pigeon (Dukula latrans), locally known as Soqe, are present in large density in Nayau Island and they have devastated agricultural crops as they crowd densely around the community copra drying shed to feed on the produce. Pine plantations are also taking up space in the little available land in Lau, and with no actual benefit from pine harvesting, there is no value in the land space covered by the pine plantations. There have been reports of infestation of beetles with coconuts and taro. There are also reports of communities cultivating the illegal marijuana plant (Cannabis sp.), which is strongly opposed by the traditional leaders and the laws of Fiji. Marijuana cultivation in Lau is part of a broader national issue and is actively being combatted by the government. One of the main concerns raised by the communities are the newly introduced taro varieties, referred to as hybrid taro varieties. The hybrid cannot resist extended duration in the soil compared to the old taro varieties that were planted by their ancestors. The hybrid cannot be stored for later use.

? The Ringgolds Islands: A survey of the marine bird population recorded the outbreak of Pacific rats (Rattus exulans), which were detrimental to the success of marine bird reproduction, as eggs were the primary targets and destroyed, as well as nesting birds at times (Jit et al, 2008). The small islands were invaded by rats, which led to an eradication plan developed by BirdLife International in 2008. In the same year, BirdLife International?s Fiji Programme conducted an eradication project around a few islands in the group. The other islands across the group are sources of continuous threat from these invasive rats, and must be fully eradicated. Goats are being left in some of these uninhabited islands and are also affecting the vegetation cover as well as the biodiversity of the island ecosystems.

? Kadavu: One of the most prevalent types of invasive species in Kadavu are domestic animals such as horses, cattle, and goats which are widespread throughout the islands. Furthermore, notable introduced species such as mongoose and cane toads are rapidly increasing around the islands. Exotic tree species such as the African tulip and Bainidakai (Jatropha curcas) are being regarded as invasives across the island. The Bainidakai was introduced to provide fences for cattle farms, but unfortunately also causes fruitless in other native or endemic fruit plants. The mono-cropping methods for scaling production of taro have facilitated the spread of the invasive taro beetle across the island. In addition, he invasive Tilapia fish (Oreochromis niloticus) dominates the river systems in Kadavu, since its introduction by the Ministry of Fisheries some years ago via aquaculture fishponds. In the marine ecosystem, the macroalgae Sargassum seaweed inhabit the back reefs, and often overgrow on the natural substratum communities, such as live corals, affecting marine transportation and access of boats.

Climate change impacts: Climate change impacts are already affecting human well-being and natural resources in Fiji (GoF, 2017a), with notably larger impact on women and marginalized groups. Rapid sea level rise is eroding coastlines and altering groundwater supply and estuaries; increasingly intense natural disasters are destroying agriculture, damaging mangroves and forests, and causing severe inundation, erosion and landslide events, and freshwater pollution (World Bank, 2016a). Fiji?s coral reefs have experienced bleaching events due to climate change (extended periods of above average sea temperatures), and severe breakages from severe tropical cyclones. The impacts on biodiversity of small islands are particularly severe in that they have small but diverse populations of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine plants and animals, that occupy limited spatial areas of important ecosystems. Islands may be separated by large stretches of ocean with limited potential for rapid replacement through inter-island dispersal. Recent increases in the frequency of the most severe categories of cyclones have caused widespread habitat/ecosystem destruction and degradation and the depletion or

extinction of rare or endangered species. For example, three species of recently described endemic Fiji hibiscus became critically endangered due to strong winds (up to 285 km per hour), flash floods and landslides associated with Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 (the strongest cyclone ever to make landfall in the Southern Hemisphere). Temporary increases or falls in sea level and sea-surface temperatures demonstrate serious impacts on coral reefs, producing widespread reef bleaching, coral deaths and breakdown in coral reef and marine ecosystems (Thaman, 2002; Brown et al, 2019).

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, predicts that mass coral reef die-off will occur as early as 2040, which will wipe out coastal fish populations around the world (IPCC, 2018). Projections indicate that Fiji?s coastal fisheries will not be able to supply the fish needed for local consumption by 2030 (Bell et al., 2009). Recent research also indicates that global warming is expected to progressively push tuna populations from the waters of at least 10 Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Fiji, into the high seas and costing millions to island economies (Bell, J.D., et al, 2021). Fijians, including Lauans, need solutions to fish beyond the reefs and into the deep blue to capture healthy pelagic fish such as tuna.

? Greater Tomaniivi: Located on the highest point in Fiji, the Tomaniivi forest system is certainly not immune to the impact of climate change. From droughts causing the drop in water levels at the nearby Monasavu Dam to severe tropical cyclones devastating the forest system. In 2016 one of the most powerful cyclones to make landfall in the southern hemisphere was Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston, which ravaged the Ba and Ra Provinces causing damage to native forest in the Greater Tomaniivi forests including pine and mahogany plantations, with the latter being an introduced species for commercial use. It also caused the loss of several lives.

? Nakauvadra: Severe Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston made landfall in Fiji on February 19th, 2016 with Category 5 intensity. With gusts of wind reaching 325 km (200 miles) per hour, it was the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere. The Fiji government reported that TC Winston had affected over 350,000 people (or some 40 per cent of the population) across all four of Fiji?s administrative divisions, including roughly 50,000 people ? about one in 17 of all Fijians ? that were housed in evacuation centers (IFRC, 2016).

? Nakorotubu: Mount Nakorotubu is similar to the two previous sites (Tomaniivi and Nakauvadra) and located in close proximity to each other. Collectively, these three sites comprise part of the northern forest corridor on the main island of Viti Levu, these forest systems are connected and affected by the same climatic impacts. The Nakorotubu Forest was significantly damaged during the category 5 TC Winston, causing severe damage to all the communities along the Nakorotubu coast. Damage was so severe that rehabilitation took longer than other efforts in similar sites, and the damage to the native forests remains visible several years later.

? Greater Delaikoro: Communities across the Delaikoro range rely on the forest for income and livelihoods, as forest resources provide critical ecosystem service benefits. In addition to changing weather and precipitation patterns that affect crop cultivation and production, severe tropical cyclones pose significant risk to rural communities across Fiji. In December 2020, TC Yasa, a Category 5 cyclone, made landfall in Bua Province causing extensive widespread damage including parts of Macuata, Cakaudrove, Lomaiviti and Lau provinces. A month after TC Yasa another tropical cyclone TC Ana made landfall again in Vanua Levu and followed the same path as TC Yasa. It was not as strong as TC Yasa but the associated rain bands caused extensive flooding to areas already impacted by TC Yasa the previous month.

? Natewa-Tunuloa: Due to its location and as Fiji?s largest bay, impacts of tropical cyclones are magnified as strong winds are channeled into the bay causing damages to the native forests. TC Yasa and a second category 5 storm hit Fiji within a 4-year period, causing extensive damage. In early 2000,

a series of low-pressure systems developed along a trough near Fiji which formed into a Tropical depression and then formed into TC Neil causing extensive flooding in the Macuata Province. TC Ami in 2003 passed over eastern Vanua Levu causing storm surges, flooding and damage to infrastructure.

? Lau Seascape: Since 1993, Fiji has recorded a 6 millimeter (0.2 inch) increase in its sea level per year, larger than the global average (GoF, 2017a). Although Fiji lacks specific measurements for sea level rise in the Lau Islands and other outer islands, anecdotal evidence demonstrates that increasing sea level rise and temperatures are already affecting the livelihoods of the people of Lau and the natural ecosystems on which they depend. Soil erosion (as an effect of sea level rise and increased storms which produce stronger and higher waves and tides on shorelines), habitat degradation and coral bleaching are the main effects of climate change in the Lau Islands. Although the Southern Lau Group was spared from excessive devastation from the cyclone, the event serves as a reminder that enhanced preparedness and adaptive capacity of coastal communities must be prioritized and mainstreamed into community, provincial and national-level planning. At certain times, seabed eruptions cause inundation from pumice rocks agglomerating on the sea surface into the coastal systems of the small islands, which causes severe fish deaths and even mass killing of flagship species such as turtles from deoxygenated environmental conditions.

? Kadavu: Rising sea levels and extreme weather conditions have increased vulnerability of many coastal communities in the province, flagging the potential need for either relocation of communities or other interventions in the future. Global warming of ocean temperatures and ocean acidification have exacerbated environmental impacts on coral reefs, resulting in fish and marine organism deaths and coral bleaching. Increased tidal inundation has led to the construction of many seawalls along the coastlines. In addition, a common cyclone track from the northwest of Fiji often passes close to Kadavu, damaging forests, farms, island infrastructure, and reef habitats. Climate change is predicted to further increase the intensity of these storms.

? The Ringgolds Islands: The small islands and islets and the isolated reef systems across this group of islands are highly vulnerable to the climatic and changing environmental patterns. There are deep water trenches in between the reefs and islands, and they are often exposed to adverse winds and wave energy that drive across the Vatulawa Sea?s waters into these islands. The islands are critically important turtle nesting sites for Fiji and coastal inundations across the vulnerable sandy beaches have constantly changed the integrity of the coastline hence losing out on the nesting sites of these species.

Root Causes: Several root causes underly the environmental problems outlined above. These include:

Need for strengthened legislation on natural resource planning and protection: Fiji has committed to protecting at least 17% of its terrestrial area and 30% of its marine area, through establishment of an integrated network of marine and terrestrial protected areas. As of 2014, only 2.7% of Fiji?s forest area is under legal protection; similarly, only 2.6% (3,001,100 ha) of Fiji?s EEZ is under formal projection. In addition to targeted action needed to increase this level of protection, Fiji would benefit from an active and overarching guiding framework that would navigate through the existing fragmented and cross-thematic legislation to strengthen regulation related to the establishment and management of protected areas. Additional investment is needed to facilitate legal protections of high biodiversity areas.

Population growth combined with limited natural resources: The Government of Fiji estimates that 140,000 ha of Fiji?s native forests have been converted to non-forest land-use since 1967, due to agriculture as well as urban and smaller settlements linked to population growth and economic development (Mangubhai et al, 2019). Fiji?s growing human population and growth in urban centers

has also increased domestic demand for fish and other coastal resources, putting a greater strain on coastal fisheries and ecosystems that were formerly reserved for local subsistence. Most recently, unemployment and economic hardship due to COVID-19 has spurred urban to rural migration across Fiji as people return to their communities. Increased populations in coastal and rural areas are placing additional pressure on coastal resources for food and income generation (WCS Fiji & LMMA, 2020).

Unsustainable harvesting for food and economic security: Unsustainable harvesting of coastal and forest resources for food and livelihoods has led to habitat degradation within certain communities across Fiji. This has been exacerbated by increasing livelihood and food security needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, COVID-19 has brought Fiji?s tourism sector to a virtual standstill and resulted in an economic contraction of roughly 19 percent by the end of 2020 (World Bank, 2021). With roughly 52% of Fiji?s tourism sector out of work or on reduced wages with few alternative income-generating options, the pandemic has increased pressure on natural resources for income and subsistence (IFC, 2020).

Increasing economic growth and production: The root causes of habitat degradation and loss include population growth and associated economic growth and production across multiple sectors. Forests have been lost at an increasing rate over the past ten years, primarily due to agricultural expansion, logging, mining and traditional uses (GoF, 2017). The Pandemic has provided an opportunity to pause, assess growth and ensure that Fiji?s economic pathways are sustainable.

Agricultural expansion into forest areas: Agriculture remains the largest driver of forest degradation and deforestation. Specifically, increased demand for kava and other crops is leading to deforestation of native forests, including within KBAs and IBAs. Fiji?s kava industry has grown significantly in recent years, with kava export prices roughly doubling between 2012 and 2018 (PHAMA, 2018), resulting in a documented expansion of deforestation of native land. Interventions to address these threats and barriers should focus on sustainable agricultural models, agroforestry and alternatives to agriculture to meet food and livelihood security needs. Agricultural expansion, associated with habitat disturbance, is also a driver of an increase in invasive species (GoF, 2020). As Fiji?s island flora and fauna have evolved in isolation, they are less able to compete with organisms from continental areas.

Barriers to Addressing the Environmental Problems and Root Causes

Institutional Barriers: Several barriers exist to address the root causes of the environmental problems. These include:

Process for formalizing terrestrial PAs is lengthy and expensive: Costs for establishment and management of protected areas in Fiji are high. A conservation lease is one of the proven pathways to formally securing and legally protecting Fiji?s terrestrial biodiversity, and can be secured under the Native Land Trust Act (2006). This requires time and resources to navigate governmental processes, as well as lengthy but critical consultation processes with landowning clans. To secure a land lease, the lessee must obtain consent and signature approvals from 60% of the Mataqali (clan) heads. These signatures are then reviewed by the iTaukei Lands Trust Board, who assesses them for accuracy against the national registry of landowners. Once a lease is approved, initial capital is required to provide annual lease payments to landowners, including compensation for loss of income or royalty payments,

ongoing engagements, and the related administration of the lease agreement. At present, all land leases follow the same process with the exception of the conservation lease which requires a management plan for the area being protected before the lease is issued. Due to the high cost and confusing process associated with land leases, customized trainings, capacity building, and identification of alternative models, such as the ones proposed by the current project, will be critical to deliver on Fiji?s national protected areas commitments. Land leases are effective when successful, however, can be challenging to develop and are not always applicable. As such, alternative models for securing Fiji?s Protected Area network are critical to identify, trial and mainstream. Specifically, models that support community-based management of forest areas must be mainstreamed and valued to amplify the role of rural communities in management of their forests. The focus should also expand to engage, apart from the landowners, other users of the community resources in question, as they are also hand-on custodians and they should be included in the lease and protection processes. This has been trialed within certain geographies, including in the Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula, but challenges remain with the longevity of the approach, particularly without economic incentives to support community well-being and development over time.

Lack of formal planning and structured data for management of KBAs and IBAs, including monitoring and enforcement capacity: According to the State of Conservation in Fiji Country Report 2013, there are 258 extant Fijian endemics. Over half (56%) of these endemics have been assessed as threatened, with 32% listed as critically endangered, however, limited data is available for at least 50% of all endemics. In addition, there is a lack of specific species management and action plans to protect endangered and critically endangered species. Fiji also lacks detailed freshwater biodiversity and valuation analysis at the national scale to identify priority sites for protection and management, and to identify which freshwater systems are most at risk from development activities, such as gravel extraction. A freshwater KBA assessment is needed to understand the current ecological health and functioning of Fiji?s freshwater environment. There is no dedicated database for the collection, analysis and management of Fiji?s biodiversity data, which is critical for long term biodiversity monitoring and reporting on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), (GoF, 2020).

Socio-economic Barriers:

Lack of livelihood alternatives with lower resource impact: Both in coastal and rural terrestrial areas, there is a lack of diversified or value-added livelihood options to address cash economy needs for island communities, resulting in the overharvesting of resources, loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services. Evidence also demonstrates that the combined impacts of climate change and COVID-19 have a disproportionate impact on women, including increased incidence of violence against women and girls (GoF, 2020b). In addition, urban to rural migration sparked by the Pandemic is placing additional strain on natural resources, and accelerating agricultural drivers of degradation. With few economic alternatives, many communities are planting kava and other cash crops with future lucrative pay-offs (e.g. three years of cultivation for high value kava), which is spurring agricultural encroachment into native forest areas. Alternative and innovative financing pathways will be critical to effectively diversify existing livelihoods schemes and address drivers of degradation.

Ripple effects of global economic and climate shocks: In Fiji?s coastal areas, recent assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on coastal communities in Fiji have documented increases in fishing activity,

both for subsistence as well as for income. The survey documented increased community concerns related to financial stress, livelihood loss and food availability over time. These concerns are exacerbated by climate impacts such as increasingly intense and destructive Tropical Cyclones. Since March 2020, Fiji has experienced five tropical cyclones, including two Category Five events. These cyclones severely impacted Fiji?s Eastern and Northern Divisions and left many communities without adequate means to economically recover. COVID-19 has also brought Fiji?s tourism sector to a virtual standstill, resulting in an economic contraction of roughly 19 percent by the end of 2020. In recent months, Fiji?s unemployment rate had risen to 35 percent ? the most severe contraction in Fiji?s history. As of the FY21/22 financial year, the Government of Fiji had a total outstanding debt of FJ$7.7 billion, which equates to 79.80% of its GDP (GOF, 2021). Significant investment is needed to support sustainable local livelihoods that are grounded in preservation of nature, as natural resources have proved to be critical for food security, income generation, and in urban areas, a source of recreation during the Pandemic and Fiji?s COVID-19 outbreak.

Limited pathways for formal establishment of Protected Areas (in conjunction with Finance Barriers): To date, the most successful method for establishment of PAs in Fiji has been through a land lease. This requires significant up-front capital for lease payments, as well as additional funding to provide sustainable livelihoods and community development support to local and indigenous Fijians. In addition, the differing conservation and social objectives of each PA, as well as the geographic location of a specific PA can affect community interest in participating in a lease agreement. For example, the composition, remoteness and spread of the local population can affect the impact of PA establishment on local economies. In some cases, the establishment of PAs may affect the potential for income generation, such as from a more lucrative land leasing opportunity from a private sector operator.

Legal Barriers:

Coordination and active collaboration between policies and legislation on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)/ Protected Areas (PAs): Another barrier is the complicated legal process for establishment of protected areas. On the terrestrial side alone with cross-thematic legislation for protected areas management, over 26 different laws have been passed mandating more than 15 government authorities for the protection of the environment, each having different values and levels of legal status or protection. To date, only 2.7 % of forest areas have been legally designated as conservation areas, through both conservation lease agreements and gazettal under the Forest Decree of 1992 by the Ministry of Forestry. There is currently an elaborate yet outdated proposal for a policy framework for developing PAs and MPAs in Fiji. If updated and adopted by the government, this framework has the potential to streamline and accelerate the establishment of new PAs and MPAs in Fiji. There is also currently no mechanism for establishment of Seascapes as large multi-use managed areas that integrate both sustainable and ocean protection through marine-spatial planning. Additional investment is needed to advance PA and MPA legislation, as well as to provide training to government agencies, NGOs, private sector and community representatives on these new processes. As of 2014, only 2.7% of Fiji?s forest area is under legal protection; similarly, only 2.6% (3,001,100 ha) of Fiji?s EEZ is under formal projection.

Limited framework on establishment of sustainable financing for PAs and MPAs: There is a need to strengthen and improve the existing framework to guide the establishment of sustainable financing for

PAs and MPAs in Fiji. In order to establish Conservation Trust Funds, and other conservation finance arrangements, practitioners must better understand available sustainable financing pathways to deliver PA and MPA financing.

Finance Barriers in management of PAN and establishment of new PAs and MPAs:

Lack of funding available for management of existing and new MPAs : Multiple government ministries have roles in management and protection of Fiji?s oceans. At present, agencies directly responsible for the monitoring and surveillance across Fiji?s EEZ, including SUMAs and EBSAs may not have sufficient funds to do so. This includes the Ministry of Environment and Waterways and the Ministry of Fisheries. Without specific resourcing for MPA management and protection across the EEZ, it will be challenging to effectively gazette and manage any additional MPAs. Fiji has committed to the establishment of 30% of its MPAs by 2030, however additional financial support for MPA management must be identified prior to this designation.

Costs associated with establishment of new PAs and MPAs: Establishment of PAs and MPAs, including development of sustainable financing has been demonstrated for a handful of PAs and MPAs through collaborative partnerships among CSOs, NGOs and government or statutory bodies, however, this has not been achieved at scale. In addition to their lengthy duration, the establishment of PAs and MPAs incurs significant expense. Certain costs which may not be calculated include the stakeholder engagement considerations with landowning groups (mataqali) or owners of the rights to customary fishing areas (iQoliqoli). Costs must consider the time and technical expertise required for collection of signatures, support for and facilitation of collective decision-making processes and the necessary technical documentation. In addition, prior to securing terrestrial PA leases, the lessee must have at least 5 years of funding in-hand for the lease payment and compensation for loss of income or royalty payments. Specific lease rental fees per hectare are not static, but negotiated on a case by case basis. Additional factors that affect the cost of management and establishment of PAs and MPAs includes:

? The size of the terrestrial areas to be protected. The size of an area is recognized as the main determinant of cost: the larger the protected area, the lower the cost per hectare. Globally-speaking, any single area set aside for protection in Fiji is relatively small. This limits the extent to which Fiji?s terrestrial areas can benefit from economies of scale.

? The large size and remoteness of the marine areas to be protected. In contrast, there are economies of scale to be achieved through the size of future MPAs. However, the costs and complexities of monitoring, surveillance, and enforcement increase significantly with distance and remoteness the MPA. In addition, conservation practitioners recommend streamlining the management of each MPA to ensure that costs are shared among ministries or administrative bodies where possible.

? Differences in the conservation and social objectives of each protected area. The estimated cost of management and protection per hectare or square km varies enormously by area. . The type and categorization of a protected area (e.g. no-take zone or sustainable use zone) further affects its funding needs, as it determines the type of infrastructure, compensation, monitoring, rehabilitation, and enforcement needed for effective management. For example, strict no-go or no-

take zones may have low establishment costs, but high monitoring and enforcement costs. Natural monuments may have high establishment costs as infrastructure is built for tourism, but lower operational costs, and can also generate revenue.

? The geographic location of a proposed protected area also influences cost. The size and spread of the local population, the distance to main roads and urban centers, and the ecosystem type and exposure to invasive species, will all impact the cost and scale of consultation and negotiation, as well as levels of monitoring, rehabilitation, and enforcement.

? Core legal, administrative and coordination costs. For example, including boundary surveys, mapping of all commercial/non commercial activities within the area, biodiversity baseline surveys, and consultations. These costs will depend on the complexity of each site and the network more broadly.

2. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline Programs

Baseline of biodiversity protection in Fiji: At present, Fiji?s proposed network of terrestrial protected areas includes 43 sites, selected because of their designation as KBAs and IBAs, the majority of which are located on iTaukei-owned land (see Appendix VII, Table of existing PAs in Fiji). In recent years, Fiji has taken significant steps to assess and identify areas of biodiversity significance, and has identified a total of 32 KBAs, including 10 marine IBAs, as well as four EBSAs. Priority areas for terrestrial protection were identified through a national process led by the Fiji Protected Areas Committee (PAC), established by Fiji?s National Environment Council, comprised of both government and civil society partners that advance key issues in partnership with the Fiji Ministry of Environment, as well as the Marine Working Group, established under the Protected Areas Committee and the Marine Technical Working Group that focuses on establishment of MPAs, under the Ministry of Fisheries. This includes development of a 10-step strategy and action plan to fulfil the development of the national Terrestrial PA network in Fiji. Five (5) steps of the 14-step process are completed such as the identification of priority areas through gap analysis and other forms of assessment, based on the presence of KBAs and IBAs.

At the national scale, Fiji has made efforts to strengthen management of its KBAs and IBAs through site-based initiatives by government, civil society organizations (CSO) and NGO-led processes, driven in partnership with traditional management by communities and resource users. More than 50% of Fiji?s people are iTaukei (indigenous), and possess customary rights to lands and resources, with roughly 89.75%% of Fiji?s land under customary tenure (TLTB, 2017). More attention to inclusiveness in Fiji, including engaging customary owners as well as resource users in protected areas management, has the potential to generate significant opportunities for enhanced management and better coherence across the different layers of conservation in terms of geography, legal status, and policies.

Complex pathways for legalization will continue to result in limited establishment of PAs and loss of biodiversity: Despite these significant efforts, only a select few terrestrial and marine protected areas have been formally gazetted and designated across Fiji. These include a few sites of biodiversity and cultural heritage significance managed by the Ministry of Forestry, the National Trust of Fiji, or other local institutions that represent only 2.7% of Fiji?s landmass. Without targeted support to advance legal

designation of additional protected areas in Fiji, biodiverse areas of Fiji will remain unprotected against threats. In addition, given the expensive and complex nature of establishing terrestrial protected areas through lease agreements, alternative models for sustainable management of these areas that engage indigenous peoples and landowners, resource users, and local communities must be documented and mainstreamed. While community-based management models have been trialed by international and local organizations, they have achieved varying success. Best practice recommendations from these interventions must be documented, shared with and adopted by government agencies to achieve scale and alignment with existing national approaches to legal designation. Without investment to identify, document and share these alternative approaches, Fiji?s biodiverse forest areas will remain at risk from current and future threats.

Lack of livelihoods alternatives will continue to facilitate biodiversity loss due to agricultural extension and unsustainable practices: Fiji?s KBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are also in a state of decline (SPREP, 2013), as forest loss increases, causing equally devastating impacts to freshwater habitats and ecosystems. With increases in demand for kava in both domestic and international markets (PHAMA, 2018), farmers are seeking more area coverage and more fertile land for farming, with specific interest in native forest areas. Slope agriculture and use of chemical additives such as pesticides and fertilizers are also common practice, resulting in landslides and sedimentation of coral reefs. If alternatives for sustainable agriculture and value-addition are not delivered in partnership with local landowners and the respective resource users, the impact of agricultural encroachment into native forest areas will result in a significant loss of Fiji?s native forest area, as well as irreparable damage to freshwater biodiversity resulting from erosion, sedimentation and runoff. The loss of forest area will lead to the eventual loss of Fiji?s many unique endemic species. To name a few, these include the Fiji Long-legged Warbler, the Fijian Blossom-bat and the Polynesian-Sheath-tail bat, as well as the Fijian Tree Frog and Green Tree Skink (BirdLife, 2020).

Limited investment in MPA establishment will continue to result in loss of biodiversity: In the marine realm, Fiji has only protected 2.6% of its marine environment. This largely encompasses traditional coastal management efforts supported by the FLMMA network, while Fiji?s archipelagic and offshore waters remain unprotected. With support from the Protected Areas Committee under the National Environment Council, is supporting the Government of Fiji has also developed a zero-draft map of candidate NTZ MPAs that cover 31.6% of Fiji?s EEZ, to which the Eastern Division (including Lau and Kadavu) will include MPAs that cover 8.26% of Fiji?s EEZ. However, these areas are not yet formally established and limited measures are in place to ensure their sufficient management, monitoring and surveillance. Without investment and targeted support, legal designation of Fiji?s MPA network across 30% of its EEZ will not be achieved, leaving high biodiversity marine areas unprotected, including SUMAs, EBSAs and other ecologically representative areas. Similarly, this lack of protection will affect the health and population status of marine migratory species that navigate Fiji?s waters, including whales, dolphins, manta rays and sharks, etc.

Lack of sufficient and innovative monitoring and enforcement will continue to allow overextraction of fisheries resources and ecosystem degradation: In tandem, the lack of protection of Fiji?s offshore and archipelagic waters threatens the long-term viability of its marine fisheries and resources, that provide food security benefits to island communities. Encroachment of traditional fishing grounds from

offshore fishers and industrial vessels contribute to food insecurity and threaten local livelihoods. Nationally, 75% of the country?s domestic tuna fleet stopped operating between 2010 to 2015 as increasing competition from foreign fleets compromised the economic viability of the domestic fleet, most of which were catching less than 50% of the volume of fish needed to break even (Gillett, 2014). If marine protection and management is not strengthened in both coastal and offshore areas in Fiji?s Eastern Division, under the current business-as-usual scenario, coastal and nearshore fisheries will be insufficient to meet national food security needs. Fiji was identified as one of 11 Pacific Island countries and territories where coastal fisheries will not be sufficient to supply the fish needed for food security, which will be amplified by an increasing need to earn income to reduce hardship related to the impacts of climate change (Bell et al., 2009).

Lack of marine protection will increasingly exacerbate climate change impacts on marine species and ecosystems: The Lau, Kadavu and Ringgold Island archipelagos are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, specifically the increasingly intense and unpredictable weather events, such as cyclones. Despite significant biological diversity, important fisheries and community readiness, their remote locations have resulted in varying levels of support from and investment by government and civil society. Across both geographies, the increasing use of unsustainable and destructive fishing practices among communities are impacting fish abundance and coral health. For example, overharvesting of invertebrate populations, such as sea cucumbers and giant clams, has caused ecological imbalances and increased algal cyanobacteria blooming on the reefs (Bruckner et al, 2016). When combined with the impacts of climate change on reef health and productivity, the continuation of current fishing and harvesting in both Kadavu and Lau will result in a reduction in coastal fisheries productivity, which will impact the health and livelihoods of island communities, as well as the degradation and destruction of globally significant biodiversity within the Lau and Kadavu EBSA.

In addition, without resourcing and support for protection, the globally significant biodiversity of the Lau and Kadavu archipelagos becomes increasingly degraded, driven by unsustainable fishing in both the coastal areas and IUU fishing in archipelagic waters and offshore marine areas, leading to a loss of ecosystem services within coastal ecosystems. The islands of the Lau and Kadavu archipelagos will become increasingly uninhabitable as impacts increase and significant ecosystem services deteriorate due to the degradation of the fishing grounds.

Inability to meet global targets and commitments: Fiji features cross-thematic legislation on protected areas. As such, practitioners must navigate a complex web of options to formally and legally designate both terrestrial and marine protected areas. Without clarity and strengthening of existing legislation, or a cohesive framework to guide practitioners on how to establish MPAs and PAs using existing legislation, Fiji will not designate new PAs and MPAs in a timely manner. Over time, this will leave Fiji unable to meet its Aichii commitments to protect 17% of its landmass (even retro-actively) and the targets outlined in Fiji?s NBSAP, as well as its Sustainable Development Goal commitments to protect 30% and manage 100% of its EEZ. The project will focus on opportunities to enhance regulations under existing legislation such as the Environment Management Act 2005.

Economic impacts and loss of revenue in the tourism sector due to biodiversity loss over time: Broadly speaking, the loss of marine biodiversity and ecosystem health will eventually affect Fiji?s economy, particularly in tourism. Surveys have demonstrated that the majority of tourists are drawn to Fiji due its

pristine marine and terrestrial environment, including healthy coral reefs, invigorating shark dives, and most recently, trekking and adventure tourism within Fiji?s highlands, spurred by the 2019 ?World?s Toughest Race: Eco-Challenge Fiji.? Prior to the Pandemic, tourism was Fiji?s main revenue earner, contributing to almost 40% of the country?s GDP and employing 40,000 Fijians directly and nearly 100,000 indirectly, through spending in local supply chains including agriculture, building and construction, cultural industries, etc. (FTUC, 2020). While large hotels act as anchor investments in destinations, the majority of services are provided by small businesses that depend on tourism for their main source of revenue.

The immense social and economic impacts of COVID-19 have brought Fiji?s tourism sector to a virtual standstill, which has been exacerbated by a staggering five tropical cyclones in the past fourteen months; including two severe Category Five events. These external shocks have resulted in an economic contraction of 19 percent in 2020, and significant increases in unemployment (World Bank, 2021). Without protection and management of Fiji?s natural resources, tourism interest will decline and revenue from tourism will decrease. This will affect national GDP as well as local livelihoods within the sector.

Degraded ecosystem result in loss of ecosystem services over time, affecting health and livelihoods of rural communities: The Fiji State of the Environment (SPREP, 2014) report highlights that while Fiji?s forest cover and freshwater ecosystems are in ?fair? condition, they demonstrate significant deteriorating trends. These trends must be arrested and addressed with actions at site and national level. Similarly, the health of Fiji?s marine migratory species is in ?fair? condition, but demonstrates deteriorating trends, exacerbated by significant pressures and threats. While ocean and coral reef health appear to be in somewhat better condition, however, given the fragility and the low ecosystem resilience of these reef systems, if active protection and management are not strengthened, additional repercussions are likely. Fiji will continue to suffer loss or degradation of critical native forest habitat and marine areas, as well as loss of endemic and native species of global biodiversity significance.

Without formal protection and management, ecosystem service benefits provided by marine and forest habitats will decline, affecting the capacity of both ecosystems and humans to adapt to a changing climate. This will further affect human health and local livelihoods. The Pandemic has demonstrated the necessity of maintaining ecosystem service benefits to buffer the spillover effects of viruses and air-borne diseases that have been increasingly prevalent in the last two years. Without these investments, human health and livelihoods will suffer, as ecosystem services are degraded over time.

In addition, loss of ecosystem service benefits and increased climate change impacts are documented to affect women and girls most significantly (ADB, 2016). Studies have found that women and girls are 14 times more likely to die or be injured than men due to a natural disaster. They are subject to a number of secondary impacts, including gender-based violence, loss of economic opportunities and increased workloads (UN Women, 2022). This combined with the impacts of COVID-19, will result in poor gender outcomes and increased vulnerability of women and girls.

Lack of investment into community-based management will result in further degradation of coastal resources, and loss of food security: The FLMMA network has demonstrated that community managed areas can have a positive impact in maintaining and revitalizing invertebrate populations that are

critical for ecosystem health and functioning. While the FLMMA network has supported many communities to establish LMMAs and ?tabu? (protected) sites, most sites lack management plans or formal site monitoring. In some sites, this has resulted in lack of management action, such as addressing increases in invasive species. As noted by Bruckner et al, 2016, COTS outbreaks are thought to be one of the main factors contributing to observed changes in coral composition and structure. Invasive species pose a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem health across Fiji, including in the Kadavu and Lau Islands and reefs. Although Fiji is currently implementing a GEF project on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), it does not focus on addressing marine invasives and other species that contribute to coral system degradation (please refer to table 17 for further information about this project). If action is not taken, the impact of COTS outbreaks will significantly damage coastal health and ecology.

Without sustainable financing pathways, PAs and MPAs will not be established, or if they are established will lack effective management: Models estimate that it will cost approximately US$1.36 million (FJD 28.2 million) to establish terrestrial PAs that meet the commitment to protect 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas, and approximately US$23.46 million (FJD 49.5 million) to meet the 30% commitment. To operate these protected areas it is estimated that it will cost US$3.50 million (FJD 7.4 million) per year for the terrestrial network, and US$8.91 million (FJD 18.8 million) for the 30% target. Without sufficient investment to identify the suites of options for sustainable financing, MPAs and PAs will not be established, and those that are established, will not have sufficient resources for management.

Poor tracking, monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity health will further biodiversity loss: There is no dedicated database for the collection, analysis and management of Fiji?s biodiversity data, which is critical for long term biodiversity monitoring and reporting on the NBSAP as a minimum commitment but also on the dynamic environment of actual biodiversity needs in terms of current status and trends from a global perspective. Without a centralized database within DOE as the coordination agency, on biodiversity data and management, biodiversity loss will occur without effective understanding or documentation of the drivers and extent of loss. In addition, if collaboration among ministries, the competent authorities and data tracking systems are not improved, there will be no knowledge base for informed decision-making, lack of coordination, poor and non-scientific decision-making, and lack of effective network of PAs or MPAs.

In summary, without project interventions, the fragmentation of the island habitats and degradation caused by the range of threats identified above will not only continue but will most likely accelerate as human populations and economic pressures, including tourism, are expected to increase. There will be insufficient investment in protected area management, resulting in the loss of unique biodiversity with significant costs and detriment to Fiji?s national economy.

Associated Baseline Projects

Table 2: Associated Baseline Projects

Project Name	Years (Start-End)	Budget (US$)	Donor(s)	Brief description on links to this GEF project
Implementation of restoration activities in Fiji	2018-2022	500,000	BMU/IKI (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety?Germany)/ International Climate Initiative)	Participatory planning and pilot landscape plans will be implemented on Mamanuca and Yasawa in Fiji and the conditions for effective Forest Landscape Restoration -FLR (local coordination, nurseries, capacity building and development of economic alternatives) will be set up.
Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme	2019 - 2023	45,000,000	European Union; The Pacific Community	The program?s overall objective is to: Improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 Pacific African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states (PACPs) arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. The specific objective (outcome) is to: Support sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity. Project investments in Fiji will align with outcome 2.2 in the Results Framework.

Building consultative and transparent decision-making processes to increase sustainable fisheries management and marine protected areas for food security and biodiversity protect?on	2020 - 2023	1,200,000	Bloomberg Foundation Vibrant Oceans Fund	This project aligns with delivery of Outcome 2.2 under the project, to strengthen community-based fisheries management in the Lau Seascape and other sites through improvements in coastal management, including mainstreaming women in fisheries management.
Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN I; BIOFIN II)	2012-2022	1,000,000	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Set of bilateral donors	The project maps the impact of economic sectors on biodiversity, identifies the main financing mechanisms being used and reviews which subsidies have an impact on biodiversity. It also reviews the overall financing architecture for biodiversity in the country and generates specific recommendations for an improved institutional framework.
Kiwa Initiative	2020 ? 2025	EUR 41 million	Donor consortium (see right)	The Kiwa Initiative, launched in March 2020 with an EUR 41M budget*, is the product of a unique commitment driven by France (?18 million) and the European Union (?13.9 million) gathering Canada (?6.8 million), Australia (?0.68 million) and New Zealand (?1.8 million). The Kiwa Initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, economies and communities in Oceania by supporting projects that promote nature-based solutions via grants and technical assistance.

Fiji Emissions Reductions Program Agreement	2021 ? 2025	12,500,000	World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	The ERPA will unlock up to US$12.5 million (approx. FJ$26 million) in results-based payments for increasing carbon sequestration and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Fiji is the first small island developing state to sign an ERPA with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The five-year agreement will reward efforts to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation under Fiji?s ambitious emission reductions program.
BIOPAMA	2017 ? 2023	EUR 60,000,000	EU 11th European Development Fund (EDF)	The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme contributes to improving the long term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance. BIOPAMA is an initiative of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States financed by the European Union?s 11th European Development Fund.

3. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and com onents of the project

The SAMBIO project aims to establish new marine and terrestrial protected areas within priority areas of biodiversity and strengthen Fiji?s protected area network, improve the management of key

biodiversity areas in forests and coastal ecosystems to protect Fiji?s most threatened biodiversity, and strengthen policy and financing pathways to secure ecosystem services and other benefits to island communities into the future. The project is designed to build well on the existing technical, institutional, and policy baseline, has identified the gaps and the next steps and picks up from where other initiatives left off.

The geographical focus includes biodiverse island systems in Fiji that are not formally protected, but house globally important key species and habitats that are critical, as stipulated in Fiji?s NBSAP and other documentation. The specific target sites may, perhaps, not seem as homogeneous geographical units for protection and management, from a project administration and coordination perspective, but were selected based on their biodiversity significance as KBAs and IBAs (terrestrial sites), as well as EBSAs and SUMAs (marine sites), possessing globally significant or representative biological diversity, special or important endemic species, threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats, and biological productivity or naturalness.

The SAMBIO project will reduce biodiversity threats and their underlying causes by addressing the gaps in the existing legislative frameworks in the establishment of marine and terrestrial protected areas in Fiji. The SAMBIO project aims to expand protection and better manage Fiji?s globally significant and locally economically and environmentally vital biodiversity by significantly advancing the formal network of marine and terrestrial protected areas, as well as improve the sustainable management of Fiji?s KBAs and IBAs within forest and freshwater ecosystems. This will be achieved through a holistic intervention, which considers community engagement and stewardship, establishment of sustainable financing pathways and frameworks for PAs and MPAs, improved legal frameworks and guidelines for legal establishment of PAs and MPAs, as well as delivery of on-ground action towards designation with community and government stakeholders. The project will essentially demonstrate and mainstream sustainable financing for protected areas, while delivering and demonstrating the legal and policy frameworks necessary for establishment and management of Fiji?s Protected Area network. The project will also deliver innovative area-based conservation approaches through a seascape approach that combines MPAs and marine managed areas (MMAs) within the same approach. Through integrated efforts, the project will significantly advance Fiji?s protection targets under the NBSAP and commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but will also address the dynamic and evolving biodiversity needs of the country in general in terms of current status and trends also from a global perspective.

The project will aim to establish formal terrestrial protected areas covering 50,679 ha of the most critical and threatened biodiversity, and secure improved management of 32,168 ha of non-protected KBAs and IBAs, by addressing the most pressing drivers of ecosystem degradation and deforestation. Primarily, this will build on the efforts of previous interventions to formally designate protected areas using effective and proven models, such as the model demonstrated by the Sovi Basin Protected Area (Naitasiri Province, Viti Levu) and the Kilaka Forest Conservation Area (Bua Province, Vanua Levu) and other any other effective models that are applicable to Fiji. The project will also deliver an alternative model to improve management of high biodiversity areas that are not formally protected, achieved through dynamic co-management (inclusive conservation) between government and

communities. These efforts will take place within a selection of critically significant terrestrial KBAs and IBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

In both newly established protected areas and community managed areas, the project will invest in identification and delivery of sustainable livelihood pathways for forest-dwelling communities. Among other options, this will include upscaling sustainable agricultural livelihoods that don?t contribute to ecosystem degradation and deforestation. SAMBIO will look into the application of conservation enterprises approach in order to cast light on the natural capital ? livelihoods nexus and identify specific links and intervention points. This could include investing in demonstrating and upscaling more sustainable approaches to kava farming practices, such as organic or shade-grown kava, that reduce agricultural encroachment into native and pristine forest areas. The project will ensure that livelihoods is a cornerstone of the establishment and management of protected areas across Fiji, in recognition of the impacts of COVID-19 on all Fijian communities, and will endeavor to substantiate the links between income generation and environmentally harmful activities in a sustainable livelihoods context.

Similarly, the project will work to establish offshore MPAs across 10,760,000 ha of ocean within Fiji's Eastern Division. These MPAs will align with the placement and typology recommendations determined through Fiji?s national marine spatial planning and consultation processes being facilitated by the PAC appointed by the National Environment Council (legislated under the Environment Management Act in 2005). This will further include development of management and monitoring plans for these MPAs, and identifying innovative approaches to management that can be scaled up nationally. The offshore MPAs established will collectively account for more than eight percent of the marine seascape of Fiji.

The project will also work with local communities in the Lau Seascape, Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands to strengthen management of roughly 1,579 ha of priority coastal areas, that are also SUMAs and EBSAs. This work will aim to support local leaders and communities to improve community management at scale, bringing together stakeholders to develop and implement Seascape-scale planning. In Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands, the project will bring together traditional leaders, resource users, private sector, and community representatives to develop strategies for improved management of land and coastal biodiversity, including through integrated coastal management. These strategies will be collectively developed and ideally endorsed by traditional leadership in each geography, to ensure local ownership for implementation. As a key aspect of this work, the project will strengthen sustainable livelihoods of maritime island communities with a specific focus on coastal fisheries. This will include looking closely at coastal fisheries supply chains and value addition opportunities, to ensure sustainability and improve income-generation of communities without increasing catch or effort. For this to be achieved, SAMBIO will approach the subject matter through a conservation enterprises lens to highlight the links between income increase and discontinuation of environmentally harmful activities, with the understanding that the systematic data is still rather insufficient.

Advocacy must first come from within the community. Therefore, a crucial ingredient here, is the community?s deep sense of ownership over their marine resources leading to greater responsibility from them and ultimately sustainable practices. Community leaders need to be fully prepared and

trained to ensure leadership integrity and a clear plan of succession of sustainable management and conservation actions. Lastly, the Fijian culture is already rich with traditional ideas that promote sustainable practices and eco-conscious behavior towards the environment. This is an opportune time for the government and NGOs to explore ways in which ancient and traditional ideas can be integrated with modern practices of conservation to truly achieve better food security, improved fisheries management and revive ecologically important cultural norms.

In addition, working at a seascape scale, the project will deliver improved management of 22.7 million ha of marine habitat outside of protected areas. This will be achieved in the Lau Seascape through sustainable management of the entire area, including both MPAs and managed areas, which will be captured in a Lau Seascape Management Plan. The project will also support formal designation and acknowledgement of the Lau Seascape as a marine managed area in Fiji. The project will trial innovative co-management approaches to monitoring and surveillance of the Lau Seascape through a partnership between the Fiji DoE, MoF, Navy and local communities, who will serve as watch dogs and surveillance officers to detect and report any Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported fishing activity in or around their islands.

At the national level, the project will work closely with the Department of Environment to advance sustainable financing necessary to support establishment and management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network. In addition, the project will strengthen and facilitate formal endorsement of Fiji?s PA and MPA framework, including clarifying the legal pathways and options for establishment of PAs and MPAs in Fiji.

Finally, the project will establish protocols and enabling conditions for improved data collection and management for reporting and delivery beyond mere alignment to Fiji?s NBSAP, tending to actual biodiversity needs in alignment, where possible, with existing global standards. The project will improve data collection and management of Fiji?s globally significant biodiversity, including gathering critical baseline data about terrestrial and freshwater KBAs within Fiji?s Viti Levu and Vanua Levu landscapes. This will be achieved first, through information gathering and improving available baseline data for priority project sites, and second, by developing a comprehensive database and information tracking system for protected area data in Fiji. A broad training program will be implemented to ensure understanding and use of this system by government, NGOs, community and private sector stakeholders who are gathering and analyzing biodiversity data in Fiji. When centrally located, improved information gathering will further strengthen management and sustainable use of resources in areas that are not formally protected.

In total, the project will secure marine and terrestrial ecosystem services for at least?157,627 people and provide direct livelihood benefits to at least 2,000 community members.

Theory of Change

Improving the management and expanding protection of terrestrial KBAs will deliver improved protection and management of critical forest and freshwater habitats. These efforts will be facilitated by practicing inclusive conservation together with local communities, traditional leaders, resource owners/custodians, resource users, private sector groups, government agencies, NGO/SCO partners,

and academic institutions both through development of co-management approaches as well as legal establishment of protected areas.

Similarly, formal establishment and designation of offshore MPAs will improve protection and preservation of Fiji?s unique and globally significant biodiversity. By developing management plans for all six offshore MPAs, as well as constructing a standardized MPA management plan template, the project will ensure alignment of management outcomes and structure across Fiji?s entire MPA network.

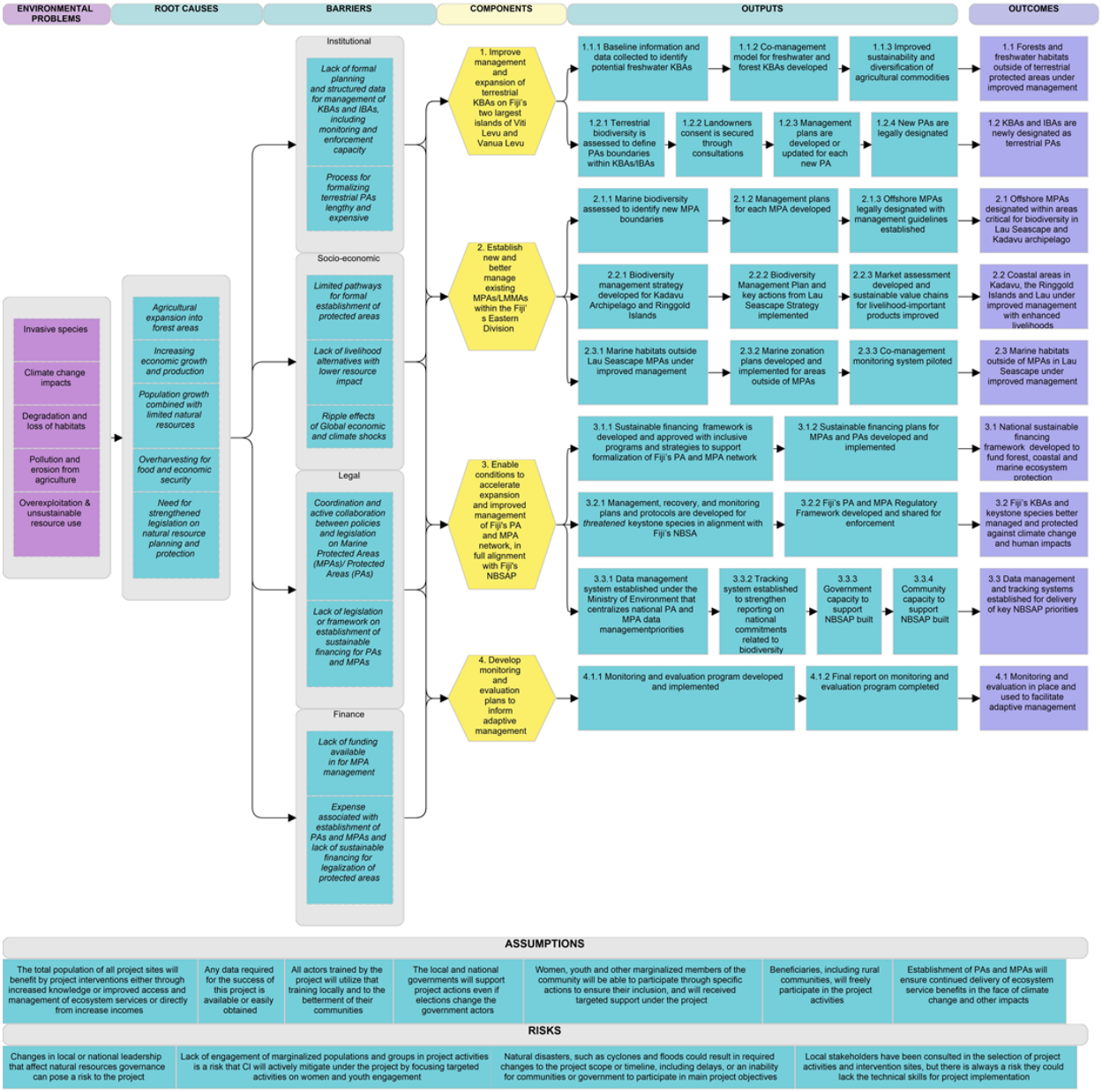
Again, through inclusive conservation, the project will maximize ocean and island protection and management benefits by investing in community-based coastal and marine management. By engaging key traditional leaders, resource owners/custodians, resource users, private sector groups, government agencies, NGO/SCO partners, and academic institutions , including through a Seascapes approach, the project will ensure that marine habitats within and outside of MPAs deliver improved outcomes under the project.

At the national level, the project will invest in developing sustainable financing framework for Fiji?s entire PA and MPA network, which will be used to develop at least three specific PA financing plans under the project. Once established, the sustainable financing framework will also serve as a guide for practitioners on how to identify and establish PA and MPA financing solutions in Fiji. This will be accompanied by a regulatory framework that outlines the process for establishment of PAs and MPAs in Fiji. Collectively, these two items will lay the foundation to significantly advance the establishment of Fiji?s PA and MPA network.

In addition, by investing in improved species management plans and actions the project will deliver improvements in species management and protection against climate change, and support delivery of Fiji?s NBSAP, Aichi targets, and align to the extent possible with post 2020 targets once finalized.

Finally, the project will establish a biodiversity data management and tracking system that will be managed by the Government of Fiji. This will deliver significant improvements to knowledge management and reporting to international frameworks and conventions, such as Fiji?s NBSAP, but also generate the capacity to inform and deliver on actual biodiversity needs also from a global perspective and with the utilization of global standards where feasible.

Theory of Change



Objective, Components, Expected Outcomes, Targets, and Outputs

The SAMBIO project will address biodiversity threats and their underlying causes through establishment of marine protected areas within a seascape approach, combined with strengthened management of terrestrial and freshwater KBAs within Fiji?s Viti Levu and Vanua Levu landscapes and coastal areas. The SAMBIO project aims to expand protection and better manage Fiji?s globally significant and locally economically and environmentally vital biodiversity by advancing the formal network of marine and terrestrial protected areas, as well as improve the sustainable management of Fiji?s KBAs and IBAs within forest, coastal and freshwater and coastal ecosystems. In addition, the project will progress sustainable financing for protected areas, while delivering and strengthening the

legal and policy frameworks necessary for establishment and management of Fiji?s Protected Area network. The project fits within the GEF-7 Biodiversity focal area, notably Objective 1, on mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, landscapes and seascapes, as well as Objective 2, that addresses direct drivers to protect habitats and species. The geographical focus includes biodiverse island systems in Fiji that are not formally protected, but house globally important key species and habitats that are critical, as also stipulated in Fiji?s NBSAP and other documentation of global significance. Within the project intervention/coverage area, the specific target sites may, perhaps, not seem as homogeneous geographical units for protection and management, from a project administration and coordination perspective, but were selected based on their biodiversity significance as KBAs and IBAs (terrestrial sites), as well as EBSAs and SUMAs (marine sites), possessing globally significant or representative biological diversity, special or important endemic species, threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats, and biological productivity or naturalness.

The project will aim to establish formal terrestrial protected areas covering 50,679 ha of the most critical and threatened biodiversity, and secure improved management of 32,168 ha of non-protected KBAs and IBAs, by addressing the most pressing drivers of ecosystem degradation and deforestation. Primarily, this will build on the efforts of previous interventions to formally designate protected areas (e.g. Sovi Basin Protected Area (Naitasiri Province, Viti Levu) and the Kilaka Forest Conservation Area (Bua Province, Vanua Levu)), and through the strengthening of the legislation. The project will also deliver an alternative model to improve management of high biodiversity areas that are not formally protected, achieved through dynamic co-management (inclusive conservation)? between government and communities. These efforts will take place within a selection of critically significant terrestrial KBAs and IBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Similarly, the project will work to establish offshore MPAs across 10,761,579 ha of ocean within Fiji's Eastern Division, while strengthening management of 1,579 ha of priority SUMA and EBSA areas in Lau, Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands, and improving management practices within 22,700,000 ha of marine habitat outside of protected areas. The offshore MPAs established and under improved management will collectively account for more than eight percent of the marine landscape of Fiji. In total, the project will secure marine and terrestrial ecosystem services for at least?157,627 people and provide direct livelihood benefits to at least 2,000 community members. Finally, the project will work closely with the Department of Environment (and other line Ministries such as Finance and Economy) to conceptualize and deliver a sustainable financing framework and strategy, necessary to support establishment and management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network. On this basis, the project will strengthen and facilitate formal endorsement of Fiji?s PA and MPA framework and establish protocols and enabling conditions for improved data collection and management for reporting and delivery beyond Fiji?s NBSAP. The Theory of Change and Results Framework, summarized here, is provided, respectively, in Appendix E.

Project objective: To establish new marine and terrestrial protected areas within priority areas of biodiversity and strengthen Fiji?s protected area network, improve the management of key biodiversity areas in forests and coastal ecosystems to protect Fiji?s most threatened biodiversity, and strengthen policy and financing pathways to secure ecosystem services and other benefits to island communities into the future.

Component 1: Improvement of management and expansion of protection of terrestrial key biodiversity areas on Fiji?s two largest islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu

The project will expand protection and improve management of priority KBAs and IBA within forest and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, delivering improved biodiversity outcomes and ecosystem service benefits to communities across Fiji. Component 1 will focus efforts within five terrestrial sites within these two main islands covering a total of 82,846 ha, representing 4.5% of Fiji?s proposed protected area network.

Outcome 1.1.: Forests and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities: Under this outcome, the project will advance the informal protection of key biodiversity areas, through development and adoption of a co-management model between communities and government extension officers.

? Indicator 1.1a: Number of hectares of forest and freshwater habitats and their buffer zones outside of Protected Areas with improved management under the co-management model to benefit biodiversity;

? Target 1.1a.: 32,168 ha under improved management/co-management

? Indicator 1.1b: Number of individuals with improved livelihoods as a result of the project

? Target 1.1b.: At least 1,000 people in project sites benefitting from improved livelihoods, including at least 50% women

Output 1.1.1: Baseline information and data assessed and collected to identify and define candidate freshwater KBAs within Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: The project will first address critical knowledge gaps in freshwater systems through delivery of a freshwater KBA assessment and analysis of priority freshwater sites across Fiji?s two main islands. This assessment will provide baseline information necessary for the design of comprehensive and effective action strategies to preserve freshwater and forest biodiversity and reduce harmful impacts to freshwater systems. There is limited data and information on freshwater biodiversity and health, as well as the threats and drivers that lead to freshwater degradation. By identifying priority freshwater sites across Fiji in alignment with the updated KBA map (Output 1.2.1), this project will collect critical baseline information to guide management of freshwater and forest sites. In particular, the project will aim to address national information gaps on Fiji?s freshwater habitats and provide evidence of their value to support Environmental Impact Assessments and general monitoring and enforcement of sustainable use laws and policies in Fiji. Output level metrics include:

? Indicator 1.1.1.: Number of KBA maps updated and watersheds assessed

? Target 1.1.1: At least five (5) watersheds assessed, and one (1) KBA map updated

Output 1.1.2 Co-management model for freshwater and forest KBAs developed and demonstrated within key sites to preserve Fiji?s biodiversity through a participatory process involving multi-level stakeholders; inclusive conservation: This project will deliver an alternative approach centered around co-management between government and communities (inclusive conservation) within priority freshwater and forest sites identified under the KBA assessment (Output 1.1.2). This will include engaging with communities and indigenous leaders to strengthen community-based management efforts, in alignment with national goals and targets, and with support from government extension officers with monitoring and management efforts. This will reduce the vulnerability of freshwater and forest KBAs to anthropogenic impacts, and secure critical biodiversity and provisioning of ecosystem services upon which Fijian communities depend.

? Indicator 1.1.2.: Number of co-management models developed or demonstrated

? Target 1.1.2. At least one co-management model delivered or demonstrated

Output 1.1.3: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods, including agricultural production, within project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: The project will build more sustainable, yet profitable, livelihoods pathways for communities living within and around KBAs. This will include diversification and improved sustainability of agricultural production, focusing specifically on kava producers within the target areas. The project will explore sustainability improvement options for key crops, specifically for kava production, such as localized certification schemes for sustainably produced kava and shade grown kava, or the use of digital apps and technologies to improve source verification (traceability) and improve market access. These activities will be informed by approaches such as conservation enterprises with the objective to cast further light on the natural capital ? livelihood nexus and identify specific intervention points for generating income while discontinuing environmentally harmful activities. The most successful approaches will be shared broadly with stakeholders for national replication across Fiji. The project will also develop market-access partnerships between producers and sellers, to improve upon existing kava supply chains and improve markets for sustainably-produced or certified kava. SAMBIO will also work with tourism operators and other private sector stakeholders to diversify livelihood opportunities for communities in each site. All the activities of output 1.1.3. will contribute to improvement of livelihoods for people of the target communities.

? Indicator 1.1.3.: Number of individuals within target communities with improved livelihoods

? Target 1.1.3: At least 1,000 people individuals directly benefiting from improved livelihoods with at least 50% women

Outcome 1.2: KBAs and IBAs are newly designated as terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: Under this outcome, the project will establish new protected areas covering 50,679 ha of KBAs and IBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, benefitting 122,546 people, the population of districts living within and adjacent to proposed sites. This will be achieved by advancing the establishment of three proposed protected areas that are also KBAs ? 1) the Greater Tomaniivi Area; 2) the Nakauvadra range; and 3) the Greater Delaikoro area. These PAs will be formally protected by the end of the project. This output builds upon activities under Fiji?s GEF-4 Protected Area Systems project

(GEFID:3819), which conducted wide stakeholder consultations towards the designation of the Greater Tomaniivi and Greater Delaikoro protected areas. This project will build upon these consultations that will serve as a project historical baseline.

? Indicator 1.2.: Number of hectares of forests and freshwater habitats (KBAs and IBAs) under newly designated PA legal status to benefit biodiversity

? Target 1.2: 50,679 ha newly designated

Output 1.2.1.: Fiji?s proposed Protected Area Network is updated based on KBAs/IBAs information, and PA boundaries defined for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: At the onset of the project, key stakeholders will gather baseline biodiversity and other data to assess the current state of Fiji?s proposed protected area network and determine the boundaries of priority areas in the project. These assessments will focus on the Nakauvadra Range, the Greater Tomaniivi and the Greater Delaikoro areas. The project will then ground truth and confirm the boundaries of these proposed PAs to advance their formal legal designation as part of the PAN under the project. The proposed ?Greater Tomaniivi? conservation area covers an approximate area of 13,592 hectares and will consist of (a) the two existing reserves of Tomaniivi Nature Reserve and Wabu Forest Reserve currently managed by government with a collective area of 2,499 hectares and (b) the extended area of 3,700 hectares.

? Indicator 1.2.1.: Country area (Fiji) coverage of updated KBA/IBA maps with defined boundaries

? Target 1.2.1: At least 16%

Output 1.2.2.: Stakeholder consultations are conducted and all necessary consent is secured (to advance legal formalization of Protected Areas in Fiji): The project will conduct stakeholder discussions and consultations with iTaukei clans who are the landowners and include the resource users of areas within the proposed PAs of Greater Tomaniivi, Greater Delaikoro, and Nakauvadra. Through these consultations, the project will aim consolidate the support of landowners and resource users, to formalize protection of their forest area. The project will align with the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) through these consultations, which uphold all FPIC processes. This activity will specifically build from baseline activities under Fiji?s GEF-4 PAS project (GEF ID: 3819), implemented by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in partnership with service provider Conservation International. Additional consultations will also be conducted with key national level stakeholders, including the Fiji Government, NGOs and private sector.

? Indicator 1.2.2a: Percentage of resource owners providing consent for formalization of the PA boundaries

? Indicator 1.2.2b: Number of consultations conducted with other relevant stakeholders, including government and private sector

? Target 1.2.2a: 60% of resources owners provide Free Prior and Informed Consent for establishment of a PA

? Target 1.2.2b: At least two consultations conducted with other relevant stakeholders and support for the PA support secured

Output 1.2.3: Management plans are developed and endorsed for each new PA, including District-level co-management requirements together with resource owners/communities: A management plan will be

developed for each PA that will be legally designated under the project ? the Greater Tomaniivi area, the Greater Delaikoro area, and the Nakauvadra range. Management plans will be co-developed with communities, government and other key stakeholders, such as resource owners and users/private sector to identify priority co-management actions, roles of different actors, and planning to support these activities over time. Draft management plans for the Greater Delaikoro and Greater Tomaniivi area were developed in 2015 under the above-mentioned GEF-4 PAS project. These plans were never fully endorsed by the government, but were codeveloped with community stakeholders. SAMBIO will build upon previous management plans as a framework and capitalize on the current political momentum as the proposed output was developed on the basis of requests from GoF.

The management plans will be developed or updated using the Conservation Standards, a widely adopted set of principles and practices that bring together common concepts, approaches, and terminology for conservation project design, management, and monitoring. Developed by the Conservation Measures Partnership and regularly updated in collaboration with the broader community, this open-source, strategic process helps conservation teams achieve lasting impact. Using the Conservation Standards, the project will design a management plan with extensive stakeholder engagement across all levels. Key activities within these management plans will also be implemented in partnership with communities and government, to actively improve biodiversity protection under the project. Inclusive conservation is expected to narrow the current gap in the fragmentation of biodiversity protection from a geographic and governance coherence perspective.

? Indicator 1.2.3: Coverage in hectares of management plans developed and endorsed by government and communities

? Target 1.2.3: Management plans developed covering at least 52,085 ha in total

Output 1.2.4: New PAs are legally designated through partnership between resource owners, communities and Government, with co-management guidelines in place: Finally, the establishment of new protected areas will be advanced under the project in partnership between community leaders, resource owners and users and the Government of Fiji. The project will review multiple options to consolidate the existing suite of protected areas, including review of the Sovi Basin typology. The project will also design a specific sustainable financing plan to support long-term financing of the PA management (Output 1.3.1).

? Indicator 1.2.4: Coverage of hectares of legally designated PAs in place

? Target 1.2.4: At least 50,679 ha in total

Output 1.2.5: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods within the proposed project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: The project will actively engage and support diversification of community livelihoods within the proposed PAs of Greater Delaikoro, Greater Tomaniivi and the Nakauvadra Range. This effort will aim to address some of the key drivers of habitat degradation and deforestation within each of the proposed sites, while also ensuring improved community development outcomes. Socioeconomic surveys of participating communities will be conducted at the beginning and end of livelihood intervention activities to ascertain impact and improvements in livelihoods. The project will also specifically target engagement of women in livelihood development activities, ensuring equitable benefits distributed to women?s groups.

? Indicator 1.2.5.: Number of individuals within target communities practicing sustainable livelihoods and participating in sustainable supply chains

? Target 1.2.5: At least 1,000 individuals benefiting from improved livelihoods with at least 50% women

Component 2: Establishment of new and better management of existing MPAs/LMMAs within the Fiji?s Eastern Division

This component is focused on expansion and enhancement of management effectiveness of Fiji?s MPAs system, including nearshore, offshore and archipelagic waters, within Fiji?s Eastern Division. The component will focus on Fiji?s Lau Seascape, the Kadavu archipelago and the Ringgold Islands.

Outcome 2.1: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago: The project will support the government to establish and manage sizeable MPAs within Fiji?s Eastern Division, specifically within priority EBSAs and SUMAs in Lau, Kadavu and in the Ringgold Islands. Establishment of these MPAs will significantly strengthen protection of Fiji?s globally important marine biodiversity, while improving management of coastal ecosystems that provide critical food security, livelihood and other ecosystem services to Fijian communities. Outcome 2.1 will be operationalized under the leadership of the Fiji Department of Environment, and Ministry of Fisheries, facilitating the formal establishment of 10,761,579 ha of MPAs within Fiji?s Eastern Division, in alignment with Fiji?s zero-draft candidate MPA map developed by Fiji?s Protected Areas Committee with support from IUCN, as key technical stakeholders.

? Indicator 2.1.: Number of hectares of offshore MPAs established with Management Plans and Guidelines in place

? Target 2.1.: 10,761,579 ha

Output 2.1.1.: Marine biodiversity assessed and new MPA boundaries defined: The project will build on existing biodiversity baseline information to assess the marine biodiversity within proposed MPAs in Fiji?s Eastern Division. While biodiversity assessments have been conducted within some of the proposed offshore MPAs, others have very limited biodiversity data available. The marine biodiversity assessments will fill critical information gaps and inform development of MPAs within Fiji?s archipelagic and nearshore waters, particularly in the Ringgold Islands where additional information is needed. The data will inform the current health of these areas and assess climate change impacts to reefs and biodiversity, as well as help confirm MPA boundaries. Once the MPA designation is complete, SAMBIO will also endeavor to assess the sequestration potential / carbon benefits with an appropriate methodology based on the available information and data from these areas. The SAMBIO partnership will report these results under GEF Core Indicator 6.

The project will then deliver a widespread consultation with communities, government, the fishing and tourism sectors to document and inform management and monitoring and surveillance activities that will be developed under the project (Output 2.1.2).

? Indicator 2.1.1: Coverage of new MPAs, biodiversity assessed and with defined boundaries

? Target 2.1.1: at least 10,761,579 ha

Output 2.1.2: Management plans for each MPA developed and key actions implemented (Criteria and delineation proposed through a participatory process comprised of technical and multi-level

stakeholder workshops): The project will develop a Management Plan for each of the proposed six offshore MPAs in the Eastern Division that integrates co-management and inclusive conservation approaches. Managements Plans will be developed using the Conservation Standards approach described under Output 1.2.3, through a series of technical and multi-level stakeholder engagement workshops. Each MPA Management Plan will include specific actions to address threats and drivers of ecosystem degradation and damage. These actions will then be implemented together with government and other stakeholders, prioritizing the most timely and impactful actions. Noting that some of these threats will be the same across MPAs, the project will also develop a management plan template that can be used across Fiji?s entire Proposed MPA network. There are also biodiversity opportunities in terms of establishing management corridors of migratory and flagship species across the protected areas and boundaries. This will include a high-level framework for monitoring and surveillance of Fiji?s entire 30% MPA network.

? Indicator 2.1.2.: Number of developed management plans with prioritized actions implemented

? Target: 2.1.2: At least six

Output 2.1.3: Protected areas in the offshore are legally designated with management guidelines established. The project will work with the Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Economy and relevant regulating agencies, to legally designate the six proposed offshore MPAs in the Eastern Division. This will be secured through existing legislation under Fiji?s Offshore Management Act. Once established, these MPAs will be managed through co-management guidelines (inclusive conservation) captured in the MPA Management plans in Lau and Kadavu within Fiji?s Eastern Division (2.1.2), in alignment with key actions outlined in Fiji?s NBSAP and taking into account actual biodiversity needs. Legal designation will be delivered through a consultative stakeholder engagement process, that outlines key considerations for co-management and inclusive conservation of marine and coastal resources.

? Indicator 2.1.3.: Coverage of protected areas legally designated with management guidelines established

? Target 2.1.3: At least 10,761,579 ha

Outcome 2.2: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities. Outcome 2.2 will focus on strengthened community-based management of 1,579 ha of coastal and nearshore areas in Lau, Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands. This will be achieved in partnership with local communities under the collective leadership of the traditional leaders from each geography. The project will also specifically focus on improving livelihoods in Lau, Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands, to address identified drivers of habitat degradation and continue to improve human well-being.

? Indicator 2.2a.: Coastal and nearshore MPAs with improved management effectiveness (ha)

  ? Target 2.2a.: 1,579 ha

  ? Indicator 2.2b.: Number of communities with improved livelihoods

  ? Target 2.2b.: At least 1,000 people in project sites benefitting from improved livelihoods, including with at least 50% women

Output 2.2.1: Biodiversity management strategy developed to harmonize management of coastal and nearshore waters in Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands. The project will work closely with island communities and key stakeholders to design biodiversity assessments, management and restoration strategies within key sites in Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands that integrate food security and community livelihoods imperatives. This will build from the example of the Lau Seascape Strategy, which was collectively developed with traditional leaders and additional stakeholders through a series of meetings in 2018 and 2019, and launched in a joint ceremony between traditional leaders and government representatives in 2019. It represents a collective vision for sustainable development of Lau?s islands that is both culturally and environmentally sustainable, guided by the aspirations of Lau?s people.

The Biodiversity management strategy developed for Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands will mirror the process delivered under the Lau Seascape. The project will bring together traditional leaders and resource users, including private sector entities where possible, to comprehensively design an integrated approach to biodiversity management at the Seascape scale, rather than developing individual community or district-level plans. By combining efforts at a broader scale, the project will deliver inclusive conservation, by identifying priorities of traditional leaders for the management of their islands and coastal waters, as well as the broader archipelagic waters adjacent to their LMMAs. These plans will be based on Fiji?s NBSAP (GoF, 2020) and other relevant coastal and mangrove plans including outputs from the Integrated Coastal Management Programme (2003-2005), Integrated Coastal Management Framework of the Republic of Fiji (GoF, 2011), Mangrove Management Plan for Fiji (Watling, 2013), A Mangrove Management Plan for Fiji, Phase 1 & 2 (Watling, 1985), and the Ra and Kadavu Integrated Coastal Management Plans.

? Indicator 2.2.1.: Coverage of Biodiversity management strategies developed in partnership with communities

? Target: Plans and strategies developed covering at least 1,579 ha

Output 2.2.2.: Key actions implemented from the Lau Seascape Strategy and the Biodiversity Management Plans to improve governance and coordinated management of coastal and archipelagic waters. Building from the plans developed under Output 2.2.1, the project will then engage with local communities, resource users ? including private sector entities where possible, and traditional leaders to implement key actions identified in these strategies. This will include establishing governance and management frameworks to address biodiversity degradation and loss, particularly restoration activities. This output will be achieved in partnership with the FLMMA network members.

? Indicator 2.2.2.: Coverage of plans and strategies implemented in partnership with local communities

? Target: Plans and strategies implemented covering at least 1,579 ha

Output 2.2.3.: Market assessment developed and environmentally friendly value chains for livelihood-important products improved for coastal island communities in Lau Seascape and Kadavu. SAMBIO will work closely with private sector operators to contribute to improved sustainable livelihoods of island communities, supporting at least 1,000 direct beneficiaries with training and technical assistance. Communities across Fiji?s maritime islands in the Eastern Division require additional support for livelihoods diversification, infrastructure development or management of their unique marine and land-based resources, and will require engagement with private sector players. Output 2.2.3 will also be

informed by the work under Output 1.1.3 on the natural capital ? livelihoods nexus for conservation enterprises approaches. The project will work closely with the Ministry of Fisheries and members of the domestic fishing industry in Fiji to support an increasing push to return to traditional cultivation methods in the Lau Seascape, and seek organic certification for agricultural products from Lau. The project will deliver certification and value-addition of agricultural and fisheries products to enable communities to access different domestic and export markets, and ultimately capture more revenue. While there is an abundance of fresh fish and seafood resources in the Lau and Kadavu Islands, distance from the main island of Viti Levu limits market access for fresh products. It is therefore imperative that communities focus efforts on value addition to maximize economic returns while avoiding unsustainable agricultural expansion.

? Indicator 2.2.3.: Number of individuals within target communities benefitting from improved value chains for sustainably developed products

? Target 2.2.3: 1,000 beneficiaries from target communities with at least 50% women

Outcome 2.3.: Marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago are under improved management, strengthening biodiversity protection at scale and benefiting local community livelihoods: Under Outcome 2.3, the project will improve management of marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago, delivering improved management of 22.7 million ha of marine habitat outside of protected areas. Project activities will strengthen management of the Lau Seascape, strengthen biodiversity protection with sustainable production and bolster resilience of at least 9,600 Fijians, the total population of Lau Province.

? Indicator 2.3: Number of hectares of Marine habitats outside MPAs delineated and under improved management (ha)

? Target: 22,700,000 ha under improved management

Output 2.3.1: Marine zonation/delineation plans are developed and implemented for areas outside of protected areas with a focus on enforcement. Working closely with traditional leaders and a range of stakeholders under the Lau Seascape initiative, the project will develop a zonation plan for designation of areas outside of the six proposed MPAs. Each sustainable usage zoning category will be identified and defined in partnership with Lau Seascape stakeholders, primarily, the traditional leaders and representatives of Lau. Examples of potential sustainable use zones include sustainable fishing areas, sustainable harvesting areas, tourism zones, marine migratory pathways, etc. The zonation plan will identify opportunities to improve holistic monitoring and surveillance of high biodiversity conservation areas.

? Indicator 2.3.1: Area coverage of marine habitat outside of MPAs included in the Lau Seascape marine zonation plan

? Target: At least 22,700,000 ha

Output 2.3.2: A management plan for the Lau Seascape is developed and approved, with key actions implemented. Building from the zonation plan developed under Output 2.3.1, the project will develop a management plan for the Lau Seascape to guide implementation, monitoring and surveillance of both MPAs and sustainably managed areas across the Seascape. The management plan will integrate and align with each of the six MPA managed plans developed under Output 2.1.2, while also identifying guidelines for 100% sustainable management of the entire Lau Seascape area. This will include identification of co-management and monitoring guidelines between communities and government, as

well as private sector operators, such as fisheries and tourism. The sustainable management approach acknowledges that all stakeholders play a critical role in ocean health and production, and the need to collectively engage all ocean stakeholders

? Indicator 2.3.2: Area coverage of marine habitat outside of MPAs included in the Lau Seascape management plan

? Target: At least 22,700,000 ha in sustainable management and protection of the ocean

Output 2.3.3: Co-management monitoring system piloted? in partnership with the Fijian Navy recommendations and other parallel surveillance strategies developed for scaling up and amplifications of the co-management model to all maritime islands. Once finalized, a co-management and monitoring system will be piloted to improve monitoring and enforcement within the Lau Seascape boundaries, in partnership with the Fijian Navy and other relevant agencies in scaling a co-management model in the maritime region. The pilot effort will take place within the northern Lau Seascape with at least three islands and associated communities, providing recommendations for amplification of the model to all maritime islands across the Lau Seascape, and possibly Fiji.

? Indicator 2.3.3: Number of pilots with surveillance strategies established

? Target: At least one pilot with surveillance strategies

Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s NBSAP Biodiversity protection needs. At the national level, the project will work closely with key stakeholders to build the enabling conditions for achievement of Fiji?s Aichi targets and delivery of its NBSAP and other actual needs as these will be indicated on the basis of current biodiversity status and trends also from a global perspective, including improved population health and status of key species, development of protected areas and sustainable financing strategies, and land/seascape management. This work will be led by the Department of Environment, and support engagement with all relevant line ministries and members of the various working groups established under the NBSAP and the committees established under the NEC.

Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework. This outcome will support development of a national sustainable financing framework for financing individual protected areas, as well as across the entire PA network and MPA network. This will also include development of sustainable financing plans for specific PAs that will be established under Outcome 1.2 of the project.

? Indicator: 3.1: Number of hectares of marine and terrestrial areas that benefit from a sustainable financing framework

? Target 3.1: 41,100,300 has of marine area, 305,100ha of land area (including 50,679 ha of forest from output 3.1.2)

Output 3.1.1: Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network: The project will design national sustainable financing programs and strategies to support the management of Fiji?s PA and MPA

network. Building on the outputs from Fiji?s above-mentioned GEF-4 PAS program and UNDP?s BIOFIN project, a final sustainable financing framework will be refined and adopted by the Department of Environment to support resourcing for priority protected areas. This will build from previous work conducted by the National Protected Areas Committee to identify gaps, needs and strategies for sustainable financing and biodiversity protection in Fiji. Not every PA or MPA will pursue the same sustainable financing strategy, but the framework will provide a guide for government and practitioners on how to identify the most appropriate financing pathway to support management of their PA and MPA and build upon the work envisaged by SAMBIO under Outcomes 1 and 2.

? Indicator 3.1.1: Number of sustainable financing frameworks developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network

? Target 3.1.1: At least 1 Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network

Output 3.1.2: Sustainable financing plans developed for PAs (to formalize protection of key areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu): Finally, in alignment with the sustainable financing framework developed under Output 3.1.1, the project will develop specific sustainable financing plans for each of the three terrestrial PAs established under the project ? the Greater Delaikoro Area, the Greater Tomaniivi Area, and the Nakauvadra range. The PA sustainable financing plans will be based on management scenarios and funding needs in alignment with the typology of each proposed PA and benefits-sharing considerations. These PA sustainable financing plans will be established to ensure the longevity of financing available for the management and protection of each area, including institutional, fiduciary and management arrangements among different stakeholders.

? Indicator 3.1.2: Area coverage of terrestrial protected areas encompassed in the sustainable financing plans

? Target 3.1.2: At least 50,679 ha of forest

Outcome 3.2: Fiji?s key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts.: Building on the implementation of priority actions within key sites in the project intervention areas, the project will advance delivery of Fiji?s Aichi targets through strengthening of protection for key species, and improvement of legislation and regulation necessary for PA establishment and management. The project will work beyond NBSAP baselines towards addressing the actual evolving biodiversity needs of Fiji.

? Indicator 3.2a: Number of keystone species for which plans and protocols are developed in alignment with global standards with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented

? Target: At least 10 species for which plans and protocols are developed or updated in alignment with national strategies (NBSAP) with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented

Output 3.2.1: Management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols for threatened keystone species developed or updated in accordance to the current biodiversity protection needs as an integral part of PA/MPA management plans, with key actions implemented. At present, at least 16 critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable terrestrial plant and animal species have existing management plans, of which 12 need to be updated. In addition, at least 12 critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable marine species have existing management plans and at least 10 are in need of new or updated management plans. This outcome will address the gap by developing and implementing

priority species management and recovery plans, which are central to enhancing biodiversity-driven effectiveness of protected area systems. This effort will be considered an integral part of the overall effort to enhance conservation management and the respective plans, as per CBD guidance and GEF Focal Area Investment. These plans will further address climate change related impacts on biodiversity, and integrate adaptation needs and considerations into management actions.

? Indicator 3.2.1.: Number of species included in relevant management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols

? Target: At least 10 species

Output 3.2.2: Fiji?s PA and MPA regulatory framework developed and shared for endorsement. One of the key issues and gaps identified by practitioners, was the lack of clear guidelines on the legislative and regulatory mechanisms that facilitate and govern legal establishment and management of PAs and MPAs. This output will develop a guiding framework for practitioners to identify the various pathways for establishment of PAs and MPAs in Fiji using existing legislation, as well as the regulations that govern these designations. This will align with the proposed PA and MPA typologies that are being advanced by other stakeholders in Fiji and address confusion expressed by stakeholders related to establishment of PAs and MPAs in Fiji. This framework will be developed and managed by the Department of Environment, in partnership with other ministries in Fiji. The PA and MPA framework will aim to address legal and policy-oriented uncertainties with the protected area establishment process, in alignment with the sustainable financing framework developed under Output 3.1.1.

? Indicator 3.2.2.: Number of integrated regulatory frameworks with full coverage of PA and MPA established

? Target: 3.2.2: At least one

Outcome 3.3: Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity. In addition to establishing MPAs, improving management of KBAs and IBAs, and developing long-term financing strategies to fund management actions beyond the project timeline. The project will also develop biodiversity data management tracking tools to improve upon assessment of current status and trends of biodiversity, its needs in Fiji and how to deliver on those, in partnership with community and government stakeholders through the co-management approach and supportive implementation capacity.

? Indicator 3.3a: Number of PA and MPA data management and tracking system established

  ? Targets 3.3a: At least one system established for PA and MPA data management and tracking

  ? Indicator 3.3b: Number of capacity building programs implemented at the national level with government agencies

  ? Target 3.3b: At least two programs developed and implemented

  ? Indicator 3.3c: Number of relevant government agency staff trained

  ? Target 3.3c: At least 400 government agency staff trained including at least 50% women

? Indicator 3.3d: Number of Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) and other relevant stakeholder representatives with increased capacity, including women and youth

? Target 3.3d: At least 600 YMST, and all relevant stakeholders with increased capacity, including at least 50% women and 25% youth representatives

Output 3.3.1: Data management system is established under the Department of Environment that centralizes national PA and MPA data management and supports Fiji?s reporting to the CBD. At present, there are a variety of actors that gather and collate biodiversity and management information, but there is no central database or tracking system that stores this information. This makes it very challenging for the Department of Environment to understand the current status of PAs and MPAs in Fiji, and hinders Fiji?s ability to provide streamlined and updated reports to the CBD. The project will address this gap by establishing a data management system that centralizes information and data on PAs and MPAs in Fiji. This database will be housed within and managed by the Department of Environment. The project will align with other biodiversity monitoring initiatives, including the INFORM project (GEF ID: 5195 executed by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), as well as the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) project (implemented by SPREP and IUCN), which manages the regional Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal, a regional platform that aims to strengthen and improve Pacific reporting to the World Database for Protected Areas.

? Indicator 3.3.1: Number of data management systems delivered

? Target 3.3.1: At least one data management system delivered

Output 3.3.2.Tracking system established to strengthen reporting on status and trends of biodiversity and benefits. As outlined above, there are multiple ministries, NGO stakeholders and other actors, including resorts and private sector operators, that collect and analyze biodiversity data for their respective sites of interest. This information is not centrally managed or collected by the Government of Fiji, and hinders biodiversity management and tracking goals. The project will aim to address this gap by developing a national tracking system that enables various stakeholders to provide relevant biodiversity information on specific sites to the national biodiversity database. This information collection will align with the timing of Fiji?s reporting to the CBD, but will also strengthen reporting beyond national commitments related to protection of biodiversity and benefits and provide links to regional and global databases (such as the current work under INFORM project). Synergies will be explored with Fiji?s tracking and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNFCCC and UNCCD respectively).

? Indicator 3.3.2: Number of tracking systems established

? Target 3.3.2: At least one tracking system established

Output 3.3.3: Relevant government agency capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting on Biodiversity through specific frameworks. The project will provide concentrated training and capacity building to government agencies on the tracking system, as well as the database management. First, staff at the Department of Environment will be trained as trainers, and serve as key focal points for the database with the priority to interface and provide support to other ministries with biodiversity information. Second, additional ministries will then be trained to collate and share information on biodiversity, including but not limited to the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forestry,

Ministry of Economy, etc. The tracking tool serve as a key tool for delivery of and reporting on Fiji?s state and trends of Biodiversity in alignment with global standards.

? Indicator 3.3.3: Number of relevant government agency personnel trained to support biodiversity relevant activities implementation and reporting

? Target 3.3.3: At least 400 government agency staff trained (aiming at 50% women if possible) and having capacity to support Implementation of reporting, with at least 50% women

Output 3.3.4: Community and other relevant stakeholder capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting through a specifically developed reporting framework. In addition to supporting training of government staff across multiple ministries under Output 3.3.3, the project will also support community capacity building around Biodiversity Actions/Activities Implementation and Reporting Framework among a multitude of stakeholders. A national training program will be rolled out to include NGOs and CSOs, community representatives, private sector stakeholders including tourism operators and farmers/agricultural producers, as well as other key stakeholders who collect and assess biodiversity data for priority sites. This will ensure an inclusive approach that improves collective information tracking on the health and status of KBAs, IBAs, and other priorities sites across Fiji.

? Indicator 3.3.4: Number of Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) and other relevant stakeholder representatives with increased capacity, including women and youth

? Target 3.3.4: At least 600 YMST, and all relevant stakeholders with increased capacity, including at least 50% women and 25% youth representatives

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation plans inform adaptive management

Outcome 4.1: Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management:

? Indicator 4.1: % of required reports and evaluations completed

? Target 4.1: 100% of required reports and evaluation reports completed

Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed and implemented: Under Component 4, a participatory monitoring and evaluation program will be developed to ensure tracking against all deliverables under the project. Building on this Output, the monitoring and evaluation program will be implemented under the project

? Indicator 4.1.1.: Number of monitoring and evaluation programs developed and implemented

? Target: 4.1.1: At least one monitoring and evaluation programs developed and implemented

Output 4.1.2: Final report on monitoring and evaluation program completed. At the end of the project, a final report on monitoring and evaluation program will be delivered. Gender will be mainstreamed into this component as it will be mainstreamed throughout the whole project and will be guided by a

gender strategy as stipulated in the gender equality and empowerment section of the proposal. Learnings from this project that are captured through these efforts will be stored and disseminated to a multitude of relevant stakeholders through the approaches outlined in the knowledge management section of this document.

? Indicator 4.1.2: % of required reports and evaluations completed

    ? Target: 100% of required reports and evaluations completed

4. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

This project will create links and synergies to active GEF projects and similar initiatives in Fiji and in the region through analysis of their results and utilization of good practices and lessons learned

The generation of synergies will be initiated through:

? Organizing special events (face-to-face workshops, online meetings for systematizing lessons learned and good practices);

? Seeking coordination agreements;

? Joint participation in national and regional events;

? Opening bridges of communication between project managers PSCs, project Working Groups, and subcommittees; and

? Engaging in Project Steering Committees (where there is high degree of geographic and thematic overlap).

Fiji is currently implementing a project GEF ID: 9095 ?Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets?. However, this project addresses conservation issues from the viewpoint of IAS and it is expected that SAMBIO will work in a complementary fashion on the governance and the other dimensions of PA and MPA management in Fiji.

SAMBIO has already scoped and will take this dimension into account when designing the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and the specific activities on the ground. SAMBIO will focus on non-duplication with the Fiji IAS project, but will also seek to engage in complimentary activities in order to deliver more integrated planning and management of biodiversity in the overlapping sites. Precise alignment will take place at the level of activities as they will be proposed under AWPs during the SAMBIO Inception Workshop.

The project will also maintain close contact, share relevant information and learn from other relevant and active projects (see table 16). This will occur formally, under the Project Steering Committee (PSC) subcommittees and associated working groups under the National Environment Council (NEC), as well as informally, through frequent dialogue and exchange between the Knowledge Management (KM) committee and relevant stakeholders. The project will improve awareness, communications, and education and ensure that project processes, experiences and results are properly recorded, collected and disseminated to in-country stakeholders and partners, but also sister GEF initiatives and projects

globally. The proper management of knowledge will require transparent and timely sharing of data, and other information through proper communication means, including the IW:LEARN (GEF?s International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network), Fiji?s GEF 5 STAR Ridge to Reef project, and the GEF 7 IUCN/CI Inclusive Conservation Initiative. IW:LEARN can serve as a great platform to disseminate the innovative work of SAMBIO on LMMAs and the involvement of the Navy in environmental and conservation monitoring and control, through its established mechanisms on collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems on water.

Below is a list of current projects that SAMBIO will make sure to be aligned with. Column (5) description shows the thematic areas that are related to SAMBIO. Column (6) casts light on the dimensions of complementarity and how SAMBIO will approach the generation of a synergistic effect and avoiding of duplication.

Table 3. Links with other GEF projects currently being implemented in Fiji

Project Name (1)	Years (Start End) (2)	Budget (3) (USD)	Donors (4)	Project objective and short description on how this project is related to the SAMBIO (5)
GEF ID 9880 Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project	2020-ongoing	2,119,425	GEF 6/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	This project aims to promote community-based integrated natural resource management at landscape level to reduce land degradation and strengthen local livelihoods in Ra and Tailevu provinces (Land Degradation, Climate Change). This aligns with Outcome 1.1 of the Results Framework activities within KBAs in Ra Province.

GEF ID: 9095 Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets	2015-2022	3,502,968	GEF 6/UNDP	To improve the chances of the long-term survival of terrestrial endemic and threatened species on Taveuni Island and surrounding islets by building national and local capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage Invasive Alien Species.
GEF ID: 5398 Implementing a "Ridge to Reef" Approach to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji (Fiji R2R)	2015-2021	7,387,614	GEF 5/UNDP	To preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, sequester carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods through a ridge-to-reef (R2R) management of priority watersheds in the two main islands of Fiji.
GEF ID 10575 Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities	2020-2023	7,000,000	GEF 7/ World Wildlife Fund - US Chapter	The project will facilitate the improvement of the health of local reef systems, through increased monitoring and the creation of national strategies for conservation.
Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)	2022-	1,615,125	GEF 7	Strengthen capacity to ensure transparency of action implemented and support received to implement Fiji?s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)

GEF ID 5195: INFORM Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific	2016 - 2020	11,206,276	GEF 5 / UNEP	Strengthen national level capacities to report to the three RIO Conventions. This project will establish a Pacific Island Country (PIC) network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental information to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels

The table below shows active GEF projects that are not active in Fiji but exhibit a certain degree of technical overlap that SAMBIO could benefit from.

Table 4 Other GEF Projects of thematic direction similar to SAMBIO but not in Fiji.

Project Name (1)	Years (Start End) (2)	Budget (3) (USD)	Donors (4)	Project objective and short description on how this project is related to the GEF project (5)	Coordination and cooperation with existing GEF projects (6)

GEF ID 10535 Prioritising Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles? Blue Economy Project area: Seychelles	Concept Approved 2020	4,955,023	GEF 7/ UNDP	The project contributes to marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, rehabilitate eroded coastal ecosystems. The project will benefit to local communities.	Data and lessons learned of marine protected areas on Seychelles will be utilized by SAMBIO. Both projects contribute to SDGs 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17 and the Aichi targets 1, 2, 5, 6, 10,12, 15.

GEF ID 10775 Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati) Project area: Kiribati	Concept Approved 2021	10,016,195	GEF 7/IUCN	The project aims to improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities in Kiribati to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation that supports biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. The project also will expand and improve island/atoll protected areas, MPAs, and natural resources management network across Gilbert Islands. Securing Kiribati will help develop baseline data for five outer islands through activities documenting the status of biodiversity, ecosystems, and socio-economic status while developing protected areas.	The outputs from Kiribati will be discussed and used in the Component 2 and Component 3 of the current project. Both projects contribute to SDGs 5,6, 14, 17 and the Aichi Target 5, 6, 11, 12 and 18

GEF ID 10703 Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish) Project area: Regional, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam	Concept Approved 2021	7,320,794	GEF 7/FAO	The project develops participatory ecosystem resilience plans, following the findings of the priority ecosystem resilience maps (for biodiversity), within and beyond the MPAs, and addressing the needs of the ecological corridors.	Best practices, methods and tools from the ecosystem network, training and lessons learned will be taken into account during SAMBIO implementation. Both projects align with SDGs 1, 5, 14, 17 and the Aichi Targets 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18.
GEF ID 10696 Inclusive conservation of sea turtles and seagrass habitats in the north and north-west of Madagascar Project area: Madagascar	Concept Approved 2020	3,370,320	GEF7/UNEP	The project aims to adopt integrated approaches for inclusive conservation of sea turtles and seagrasses and the sustainable management of their habitats in Northwest Madagascar. It will help to improved management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs).	Marine spatial planning, recommendations and guidelines from the Madagascar project will facilitate the increase of baseline knowledge for Components 2 and 3 of SAMBIO. Both projects contribute to SDGs 1, 5, 14, 17 and Aichi targets 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 14, 18.

GEF ID 10542 Conservation of Atoll Ecosystems through an effectively managed national protected area Estate (CATENATE) Project area: Maldives	Concept Approved 2020	2,110,358	GEF7/IUCN	The project will improve protracted government mechanisms. This project will bring the Protected Areas in Boduladhunmathi under improved management through capacity building, guidelines, standards and financial frameworks.	The project outputs from Maldives are an example of potential governance models and coordination of public policies and investments between government institutions and sectors to foster protected area management and conservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. This model can be used within the implementation process of this project. Both projects contribute to SDGs 1, 5, 14, 17 and the Aichi targets 1,2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18.

GEF ID 10351 Biodiversity protection through the Effective Management of the National Network of Protected Areas Project area: Comoros	Concept Approved 2019	4,009,589 USD	GEF7/ UNDP	The project conserves terrestrial and marine biodiversity by strengthening management of the UoC?s newly created Protected Areas Network through effective co-management with communities for sustainable development.	SAMBIO and the Comoros project will contribute to biodiversity conservation with direct local and global benefits. Addressing systemic changes to enforcement of national/ international laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation, the project will enhance the conservation of key endemic and threatened species, particularly at the project sites (but also potentially at a broader and even national level through improved governance mechanisms and border controls).
GEF ID 9847 Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) in Vanuatu Project area: Vanuatu	Concept Approved 2017	2,450,459	GEF 6/IUCN	The project improves management of landscapes and seascapes covering, and facilitate establishment of monitoring systems by using ECARE tools.	The outputs from the Vanuatu project can successfully feed into the proposed activities under Component 2. Vanuatu project and our project will contribute to the SDGs 5, 12, 13, 14, 15 and the Aichi Targets 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 13, 17,18.

GEF ID 9803 Managing the Human-Biodiversity interface in the southern Marine Protected Are?s of Haiti - MHBI Project area: Haiti	2017 - ongoing	1,826,485	GEF 6/ Inter-American Development Bank	The general objective of this project is to contribute to improving the conservation and management effectiveness of the Grosse Caye/Z?ne humide d' Aquin and Olivier/Zanglais Marine Protected Areas.	SAMBIO will take into account results and lessons learned from this project of high thematic relevance
GEF ID 9791 Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas Project area: Bahamas	2020 -on going	6,243,004	GEF 6/UNEP	The project Manages Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Bahamas. It strengthened and integrated MPAs into broader landscape planning in order to reduce pressures on ecosystem services and biodiversity from competing resource uses. The project supports monitoring of key species in each of the 5 MPAs.	Bahamas project components support activities that seek to improve climate change resilience and reduce pressures on biodiversity from competing land uses in the wider landscape. SAMBIO will be informed by the work done in the Bahamas.

GEF ID 9705 Managing Multiple Sector Threats on Marine Ecosystems to Achieve Sustainable Blue Growth Project area: Cabo?Verde	2020 - ongoing	3,787,864	GEF 6/UNDP	The project strengthens systemic and institutional capacity for reducing multiple threats to globally significant marine ecosystems and achieves sustainable blue growth in Cape Verde. The project emplaces Integrated Marine Spatial Planning (IMSP) monitoring and compliance mechanisms.	Best practices and case studies from project will be codified to enhance knowledge base for SAMBIO.
GEFID 9668 Enhancing National Development through Environmentally Resilient Islands (ENDhERI) Project area: Ma?dives	2020 - ongoing	3,532,968 USD	GEF 6/UNEP	The project proposal seeks to enhance the national capacity to manage the important marine biodiversity in the Maldives through the introduction and mainstreaming of accounting methods that will more persuasively reveal the value of the coral reefs in their ecosystem services provided to various sectors of the national economy.	SAMBIO will utilize the experience in the use of innovative methods for the assesment of coral reefs and the protection of MPAs. Especially outputs coming from project Componemnts 3 and 4.

GEF ID 9580 Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach Project area: St. Vincent and Grenadines	2019 - ongoing	3,757,102	GEF 6/UNDP	The project enhances biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services conservation through an expanded and strengthened PA system and with Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures integrated in a ridge to reef approach. BD and SLM Tracking Tool and monitoring programmes are used for the project.	Synergy is seen with SAMBIO in the strengthening of climate governance and the creation of the enabling environment for enhance climate resilience and conservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity. SAMBIO will take into account results and lessons learned.

GEF Project ID 9431 A Ridge-to-Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles Project area: Seychelles	2019 - ongoing	3,898,914	GEF 6/UNDP	The Seychelles project will undertake a comprehensive R2R approach that addresses the ?whole island? priorities of improved management and conservation of upland forest and agricultural ecosystems as well as coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles to produce global benefits in terms of conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the effective management of the large marine ecosystems (including coastal and near-shore marine ecosystems), and to arrest and reverse ecosystem degradation.	The Seychelles project manages and conserves the flow of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services in targeted islands of the Seychelles for multiple benefits through the Ridge-to-Reef approach. It strengthens MPA monitoring and enforcement capacity to prevent illegal fishing and harvesting of marine resources, to reduce negative impacts of tourism on coral reefs. Methods, approaches and data collected from the Seychelles project activity can be used within the framework of SAMBIO implementation.

GEF ID 5524 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Tourism Sector in Synergy with a Further Strengthened Protected Areas System in Cape Verde Project area: Cabo?Verde	2015 - ongoing	3,664,640	GEF 5/UNDP	The project safeguards globally significant biodiversity in Cape Verde from current and emerging threats, by enhancing the enabling and regulatory frameworks in the tourism sector and activating a critical further subset of the national protected areas system.	Under Component 2, the Cabo Verde project will support and conduct a rapid ecological and PA network gap analysis focused on the marine shelf. Tools and relevant data can be used in SAMBIO implementation.
GEF 5485 Project I? Seychelles' Protected Areas Finance Project Project area: Seychelles	2015 - ongoing	2,776,900	GEF 5/UNDP	The objective of the project is to improve the financial sustainability and strategic cohesion of the Seychelles protected area system, addressing financing gaps through the development of new and innovative financing mechanisms, while also dealing with emerging threats and risks to biodiversity in a shifting national economic environment.	Financing, strategic and management plans in protecting marine areas of Seychelles can be used to support activities for this project. Both projects contribute to SDG 1, 5, 14 and the Aichi Targets 2, 5, 11 and Aichi 4, 11, 15, 18.

GEF ID 10375 Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems Global Project	Concept Approved 2019	22,635,780 USD	GEF 7/ Conservation International	The project objective is to catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, to help build resilience, enhance ecosystem connectivity and function, and safeguard biodiversity.	The Blue Nature Alliance project focuses on the creation, expansion or improved management of ocean conservation areas ? from coastal ecosystems to broader open ocean areas ? to help the world achieve 30 percent ocean conservation by 2030. SAMBIO will create direct bridges and synergies internally as CI is the IA for both projects. Both projects contribute to SDG 1, 3, 5, 14, 15 and the Aichi Targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18.

Inclusive Conservation Initiative	PIF approved 10404	USD $22,535,780	GEF 7/ Conservation International and IUCN	Enhance Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) capacity and influence to deliver global environmental benefits.	SAMBIO will take into account results and lessons learned overlapping with the thematic area of inclusive conservation. Both projects contribute to SDGs 1, 5, 14, 17 and Aichi targets 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 14, 18.

Consistency with GEF Focal Area and/or Fund(s) Strategies

The project will increase the coverage and will improve the management of priority habitats/ecosystems through the set-up of new protected areas and by improving the management of existing protected areas, and strengthening management of areas not formally under protection. It will apply approaches for putting financial resources in place for long term management and examine opportunities for public and private sector financing. It will also help to build institutional, community and individual capacity to manage PAs and MPAs, by putting in place stronger legislation and institutional support as well as community network engagement in an inclusive conservation setting. The project will implement co-management and new models for protection?helping to unlock bottlenecks in PA designation. The Project will enhance climate change resilience by scaling up protection to cover land and seascapes, and will also help fill in significant gaps in biodiversity protection, particularly in the marine ecosystems given the scale and size of effort. The project will include endemic, threatened, and endangered island species into terrestrial protection as part of global targets.

The wide range of mainstreaming circumstances that the project is expected to encounter?both directly through its practical activities and indirectly through its knowledge exchange roles?will allow it to collect and share important lessons and approaches to inform future work under BD-1-1 and BD-2-7. The added values to the mainstreaming initiatives that GEF and other partners are engaged in will include innovation derived from the nexus of traditional knowledge and modern science, protection and use of traditional knowledge, and a platform for archiving and sharing the knowledge generated.

Table 5. Consistency with GEF Focal Area strategies

Project Components	GEF Focal Area programs linked to Project Outcomes	Project Contributions

Component 1: Improvement of management and expansion of protection of terrestrial key biodiversity areas on Fiji?s two largest islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu	BD-2 Program 7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate. Outcome 1.1.: Forests and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities. Outcome 1.2.: KBAs and IBAs are newly designated as terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.	The project will aim to establish formal terrestrial protected areas covering 50,679 ha of the most critical and threatened biodiversity, and secure improved management of 32,168 ha of non-protected KBAs and IBAs, by addressing the most pressing drivers of ecosystem degradation and deforestation. The project will expand protection and improve management of priority KBAs and IBA within forest and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, delivering improved biodiversity outcomes and ecosystem service benefits to communities across Fiji.

Component 2: Establishment of new and better management of existing MPAs/LMMAs within the Fiji?s Eastern Division	BD-1 Program 1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors. BD-2 Program 7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate. Outcome 2.1.: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago. Outcome 2.2.: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities. Outcome 2.3.: Marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago are under improved management, strengthening biodiversity protection at scale and benefiting local community livelihoods.	The project will enhance the ability of relevant institutions to effectively conserve biodiversity and face climate change challenges with appropriate consideration in policy development and national strategies. The project activities will facilitate biodiversity mainstreaming into management effectiveness of 1,579 ha of coastal and nearshore areas, including through improved livelihoods, within Lau, Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands. The project will work to establish offshore MPAs across 10,761,579 ha of ocean within Fiji's Eastern Division, improving management practices within 22,700,000 ha of marine habitat outside of protected areas.

Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s Biodiversity protection needs	BD-1 Program 1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors.	Community members and other stakeholders will be trained to support NBSAP implementation and identify and address actual and evolving Biodiversity needs on the basis of current status and trends.
	BD-2 Program 7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.	SAMBIO will ensure close collaboration with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, to support integration of long-term monitoring and continued support to organic farmers into their workplan.
	Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework.	The project will design national sustainable financing programs and strategies to support the management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network.
	Outcome 3.2: Fiji?s key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts.	The project will advance delivery of Fiji?s Aichi targets through strengthening of protection for key species. This will include the development of priority species management and recovery plans, which are central to enhancing biodiversity-driven effectiveness of protected area systems.
	Outcome 3.3 Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity.	The project will enhance better data management and tracking systems.

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

Although there was progress in Protected Area establishment (Aichi Target 11), with PA areas

increasing by 2.3% on land and 5.4% in the oceans from 2010-2020, this work was not enough to protect species, which saw a decline in and outside of PAs (Piero et al, 2019). Of those areas declared for protection, a significant portion do not have sufficient financial or technical resources to achieve effective management, thus seriously undermining their ability to generate the desired biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services for human wellbeing (Gil et al, 2017).

Models estimate that it will cost Fiji US$1.36 million to establish terrestrial PAs that meet its commitment to protect 17% of its landmass, and a further US$23.46 million to meet the commitment to protect 30% of its marine area. Current investments in the establishment of MPAs are insufficient to meet this need and a significant increase in funding and support is needed. Protection of Fiji?s landmass, marine area and EEZ therefore cannot be realized without a strategic and consolidated investment and a coalition of key partners that can leverage each other?s strength. The SAMBIO project intends to bring together stakeholders including private sector donors and encourage co-investment from governments and private sector to spur much needed attention and investment at a scale necessary to reach Fiji?s domestic and international commitments.

The GEF investment will seize the opportunity to fill the existing gaps in terms of financing strategies, coordination and capacities for the protection of biodiversity enhancing the management effectiveness of KBAs, PAs, MPAs and LMMAs, expanding Fiji?s National Protected Areas Network (PAN), preventing species extinctions, sustainably safeguarding globally significant biodiversity, and improving community livelihoods through an innovative and inclusive co-management model.

The project will mobilize the government of Fiji (GoF), international and local specialists, private sector partners, and most importantly, local communities for improved management of terrestrial and coastal PAs and species protection on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. New MPAs will be designated in Fiji?s Eastern Division within the Lau Seascape, Kadavu archipelago and the Ringgold Islands. Fiji is in dire need of initial investments in protecting offshore areas and archipelagic waters, which would then be systematized and maintained through sustainable financing. Without project interventions, the fragmentation of the island habitats and degradation caused by the range of threats identified in previous sections, will not only continue but will most likely accelerate as human populations, climatic and economic pressures, including tourism, are expected to increase. In that sense, without the GEF 7 investment the proposed work, as the logical next steps in the dynamic spiral of multi-factorial environmental deterioration will either not take place, or will be significantly delayed, allowing for significant irreversible losses to occur.

The project is thoroughly designed to build upon technical, institutional and policy work already being delivered in Fiji in the field of biodiversity protection and the management of PAs and MPAs. Through its activities, the SAMBIO project is picking up from where other initiatives have left off, thus, advancing the work on biodiversity in a logical next-step approach. The project will seek to protect vulnerable areas and species from the threats of climate change and loss in biodiversity (degradation of coastal ecosystems, climate change, overfishing). Measures to achieve sustainability of MPAs and LMMAs include: improved management and expansion of protection of KBAs and IBAs; expansion and improved management of MPAs, LMMAs and adjacent marine environments; creation of the enabling governance environment and requisite capacities for Fiji to enhance the management of species, protected areas, landscapes and seascapes (delivering on its Aichi commitments) and to monitor progress and report on biodiversity?.

The UN's Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Report of the pandemic in Fiji found that the pre-Covid-19 poverty rate in the country was at 24.2% in 2020. The report says the poverty rate was at 16.76% (73,153 people) in urban areas and 31.9% (138,737 people) in rural areas (UN, 2020). The conflict between maintaining ecosystem stability and the needs of the country remains particularly acute as

food security of local communities depends on natural resources. The GEF investment is currently necessary for the country and target areas to develop tracking systems, data management and trainings of specialists, which will be done in a manner that these results will carry on post-project (e.g. sustainable financing). The project will support data collection on biodiversity and natural resources through the proposed monitoring mechanism, which will in turn facilitate knowledge-based decision making for the further improvement in the management of concerned areas. The GEF investment will therefore act as a catalyst in facilitating and coordinating concerted action at the country level to achieve global benefits.

The proposed project will build on the existing baseline and assessment work that has already been undertaken in Fiji and will coordinate with other initiatives that focus on establishing environmental databases such as the GEF 5 UNEP/SPREP CCCD (GEF ID: 5195) as this is presented in section 3M. The GEF investment will exert special weight on the functional regulatory and practical consolidation of the PA Network and will build on the previous historic work in community-based management of PAs and MPAs. Moreover, as described above in the COVID-19 context the proposed investment is of paramount importance for the livelihoods ? nature interface as the pandemic situation exacerbates all recorded environmental and socio-economic pressures.

In terms of the approach to MPAs the proposed project will catalyze and upscale from community level to seascape level as it will feature work on seascape level ecotones rather than land/sea administrational units, which is an anthropogenic scale of land/seascape division. On the communities' side, the GEF 7 investment will bring together traditional community leadership, develop their capacity and ensure their ownership in planning together the protection at the seascape level and participating in broader marine spatial planning and management.

In terms of the envisaged work on the terrestrial side, the elements described above represent the additionality potential of the proposed project in the protection of the country?s biodiversity, and provide direct knock-on effects to all dimensions of Sustainable Development. The project will build upon baseline work conducted under the previously mentioned GEF-4 to expand and consolidate priority sites within Fiji?s Proposed PA network. Historically, the expansion of Fiji?s PA network has been severely constricted and prohibited by cost, time needed for community consultations, and lack of cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement. However, by building upon the work undertaken by previous interventions such as GEF-4, the project will be able to achieve significant outcomes without lengthy or overly

resource-intensive activities. While the project will consolidate new PAs using proven models and approaches , the project will also identify alternative approaches to protection and sustainable management of resources, including by improving and scaling up community-based co-management together with government. Through this effort, the project will demonstrate successful alternative models to consolidate Fiji?s PA network, which can be scaled up broadly across the country.

In addition, by working with traditional leaders, resource users, and community representatives to establish co-management initiatives, the project achieves a multitude of outcomes in addition to biodiversity protection and management, including: 1) Inclusive conservation delivered together with landowners, local communities, and resource users; 2) Poverty alleviation of communities affected by the Pandemic, delivered through livelihoods interventions in a conservation enterprise approaches context and improved supply chains; and 3) Improved resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities by maintaining and improving the provisioning of ecosystem service benefits from terrestrial ecosystems, including freshwater provisioning, climate regulation, soil fertility, etc. By placing PAs at the center of the program, due to the integral nature of forest resources to the livelihoods, food security and culture of Fiji?s people, the project achieves significant outcomes that are additional to the core mandates. This will be achieved by working across different stakeholder groups to ensure sustainable utilization and ensure sustainable practices for the protection of areas and species.

Through this project, GEF will provide a variety of benefits to global biodiversity and ocean conservation. These include accelerating the timeline for accomplishing the goals and progress towards the Aichi targets, a higher level of investment available to support the improved management of existing PAs and MPAs that will enable more significant improvements in management effectiveness. The GEF partnership will provide credibility and will likely attract additional investment over time that will enable the project to increase its long-term goals, and GEF funding will enable access to the Facility?s extensive and well-established learning networks including IW:Learn and LME:Learn.

Without GEF funding, the costs associated with protecting offshore areas and pelagic water as well as designating additional (terrestrial and marine) protected areas would be prohibitively expensive, resulting in a sole focus on traditional coastal management efforts which would lead to fragmentation of island habitats and further degradation, resulting in the loss of unique biodiversity. The GEF funding will allow the SAMBIO project to improve and upgrade the formal network of PAs and MPAs, focusing on establishing MPAs within a seascape approach.

In addition to the $7,255,491 in direct project funding, the GEF will provide significant additional benefits to the SAMBIO project. To meet the full financial needs of terrestrial and marine PAs globally will require unlocking new and substantial funding flows. With its global reach and connections to national governments, bilateral and multilateral funders, and private sector investors, having the GEF

as a core partner will open up significant opportunities for leverage funding, allowing the SAMBIO project to meet its goal of establishing new marine and terrestrial PAs within priority areas of biodiversity.

The GEF funding is crucial to achieve the Global Environmental Benefits of an additional 50,679 ha of terrestrial PAs (forest and freshwater habitats) and 10,761,579 ha of MPAs created or under improved management, as well as the improved management of 32,168 ha of terrestrial and 22,700,000 ha of marine landscapes that are not formally protected, and a further 1,579 ha of coastal and nearshore MPAs. To be able to achieve the project goal, and the associated global environmental benefits, the project requires a minimum of $7,255,491 in project capital. The SAMBIO project will leverage a total amount of co-financing to $33,748,743.

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

The project will contribute to safeguarding globally significant biodiversity and its ecosystem goods and services in a manner that strengthens the livelihoods in local communities engaging them in direct co-management and custodianship of high biodiversity areas. The project will also contribute, through the proposed outputs, to the fulfillment of CBD / Aichi targets as these are identified in Fiji?s NBSAP, such as Target 11 (which states that 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas should be efficiently safeguarded) as well as align to the extent possible to the post-2020 targets. The project will facilitate the expansion, management and protection of MPAs adding significantly to the National and Global PAN, but also bring KBAs under improved management. In this regard, SAMBIO will protect species of global significance from a variety of threats, while reducing the intensity of overall environmental impacts in and around the project sites as described in previous sections: At least 10 species classified as threatened, endangered or vulnerable species will be targeted for support under the project. This will include development and implementation of management and recovery plans to address threats to these species and their habitats. Specific species will be identified at the onset of the project in alignment with the priorities of the Department of Environment and those listed under the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002

Innovative co-management models will be developed and deployed with a roadmap for scaling up to benefit and provide lessons learned to communities in other parts of the country and region. The proposed mechanism for the protection of biodiversity and the reduction of threat will provide long-term and sustainable results, while awareness and capacities for biodiversity protection and active participatory co-management will be increased. The project leverages co-financing from other global, regional, and national donors and entities generating a significant investment to protect globally significant biodiversity.

Specifically, the project will bring 50,679 ha of forest and freshwater habitats under new protected areas and deliver improved management of 32,168 ha of landscapes to benefit biodiversity on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. It will improve management of 22,700,000 ha of marine landscape habitat not formally protected and establish 10,761,579 ha of marine habitat as MPAs in Fiji?s Eastern Province. It will furthermore improve the management effectiveness of 1,579 ha of coastal and nearshore MPAs.

The project will benefit (directly) about 157,627 people with specific livelihoods support to at least 2,000 people, with at least 50% women.

Project Outcomes	Global benefits
Outcome 1.1: Forests and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities. Outcome 1.2: KBAs and IBAs are newly designated as terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.	Terrestrial areas will receive benefits. The project will aim to establish formal terrestrial protected areas covering 50,679 ha of the most critical and threatened biodiversity, and secure improved management of 32,168 ha of non-protected KBAs and IBAs, by addressing the most pressing drivers of ecosystem degradation and deforestation. Primarily, this will build on the efforts of previous interventions to formally designate protected areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu using proven models and approaches. Environmental protection of biodiversity on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu will also have cultural and social improvements for local communities. The project will benefit about 157,627,925 people with specific livelihoods support to at least 2,000 people. It will help to prevent environmental threats and support the needs of the target areas. The project will also support the maintenance of the mitigation potential of GHG emissions through 5,764,726 metric tons of CO2e carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of forestry, coastal ecosystems, and fisheries and aquaculture.
Outcome 2.1: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago. Outcome 2.2: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities.	Improved management and protection of 10,761,579 hectares of MPAs within Fiji?s Eastern Division will enhance conservation and recognition status comprising 8.15? of Fiji's total EEZ. Within this area restoration of marine resources, will facilitate the environmental and economic benefits of the region. Project implementation will also facilitate restoring and sustaining coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems goods (fish harvests, water and raw materials) and services (shoreline stabilization, breeding and nursery habitats, erosion and flood control) (Barbier, 2017). Populations of endemic and threatened species will be protected from the current threats within the project sites.

Outcome 2.3: Marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago are under improved management, strengthening biodiversity protection at scale and benefitting local community livelihoods.	The project aims to empower and enable local communities to effectively co-manage, along with the national and provincial governments. Lau?s rich marine resources will ensure long-term food security, biodiversity conservation and community well-being. The project will strengthen sustainable use of marine resources in the Lau Seascape through improvements in coastal management. This will further improve management and recovery for both in-situ species (reef fish and species), as well as marine migratory species in Fiji?s Eastern Division, including sharks, rays and cetaceans.
Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework.	Sustainable financing framework will be developed and approved with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network.
Outcome 3.2: Fiji?s key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts.	The expected benefits include the integration of climate risk and adaption measures into the ?governance frameworks? that are relevant for Fiji?s PA and MPA (i.e. policies, plans, strategies, programs etc.). The efforts will focus to the actual and evolving needs of Fiji?s Biodiversity in a dynamic environment. The health of at least 10 endemic or native and globally significant species will be improved through updated management and recovery plans.
Outcome 3.3: Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity Outcome 4.1: Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management.	Special measures (trainings, monitoring, data collection) will improve management and increase awareness and capacities of government stakeholders, MoE Staff and other project beneficiaries such as line government agencies, NGO,/CSO groups, community groups, resource owners and resource users (50% women) in biodiversity protection and management. Reports and data evaluation will be prepared to adapt to a more variable climate, anthropogenic impacts through access to relevant knowledge and tools, but also through firsthand experience with the results of concrete adaptation measures.

7. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up The project will also contribute to implementing activities identified in Fiji?s NBSAP under Aichi target 11, which states that 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas should be efficiently safeguarded ?through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of

protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape (Rees, et al., 2018).? The project will also support Fiji in achieving designation of 30% of its EEZ as MPAs, as declared under the National Oceans Policy 2021.

Innovativeness

SAMBIO?s innovative approaches include more effectively and efficiently advancing the protection of KBAs, IBAs, EBSAs and SUMAs through a biodiversity science informed and guided expansion of Fiji?s PAN (and as a model of expansion of the Global PAN), in full alignment with the Fiji?s NBSAP, as a guiding direction (GoF, 2020), but will also endeavor to address the country?s actual evolving needs in Biodiversity protection in a dynamic environment (GoF, 2020). The project will pioneer innovative co-management models?community and organizations (LMMA, YMST), government (Department of Environment, and the Ministries of Forestry, Fisheries, iTaukei Affairs, Agriculture, and Ministry of Waterways) and conservation NGOs?of KBAs and IBAs, to deliver strong protection, governance coordination, and sustainable utilization of Fiji?s biodiversity that are based upon action monitoring, development of sustainable livelihoods and traditional resource conservation management practices. It will be the first project of this nature and scale for the country with two more noteworthy elements of innovation seen in (a) the work on KBAs as sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity in a freshwater context in SIDS, which can be defacto used as guidance for the expansion of PAs, and (b) the engagement of the Fijian Navy in piloting the co-management and monitoring of MPAs. For the latter, wider reach and enhanced active control of the MPAs is expected to be one of the groundbreaking benefits of this partnership in the proposed co-management model. In Fiji?s Eastern Division, the project will be guided by the Department of Environment to establish a network of MPAs in the Lau-Kadavu EBSA, while further strengthening the management of coastal resources and biodiversity in partnership with local communities, statutory bodies and NGOs, such as National Trust of Fiji and FLMMA.

The project is innovative, not only for the Pacific, but for all SIDS in its utilization of land and seascape models, to improve marine conservation outcomes by extending management actions to vast ocean areas that encompass both MPA networks as well as sustainable production zones, such as commercial fisheries and ecotourism zones. These models have not yet been adopted widely globally but represent a major potential to connect networks of PAs as well as KBAs and IBAs through holistic, better integrated management approaches and coordination across different geographies and layers of protection. These efforts will address threats to ecological keystone species, such as sharks, as well as expand livelihood options to reduce local extractive pressures on forest, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Sustainability

Sustainability is addressed in different dimensions of the proposed project: (a) Institutional sustainability is sought through the review of the PA/MPA framework, Management Plans for each site, and legal designation of new PAs/MPAs galvanizing the commitment for protection, (b) Social/Behavioral (change) sustainability through ownership of the newly developed co-management model from all stakeholders and especially the actual custodians of the areas (i.e. the local communities), (c) Financial sustainability achieved through the development of a specific framework with inclusive programs and strategies underlining the formalization of protection status, harmonized with the reviewed PA/MPA framework, (d) Environmental sustainability is inherently addressed by the very nature of the project itself, and finally (e) Capacity of local stakeholders in PA and MPA establishment, management and financing which enables institutionalization and sustainability of project outcomes.

The project will build upon efforts of the Fiji Protected Areas Committee (PAC) to identify sustainable financing pathways for protected areas in Fiji. The PAC, which reports to NEC, has conducted significant baseline assessments of sustainable financing needs for the management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, as well as identified potential sources and financing mechanisms that could be pursued in Fiji. One of the most popular and regularly tried and tested methods is the use of a

Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). Recognizing that biodiversity conservation occurs through multiple pathways, including community conservation areas, the project will build upon the efforts of the PAC to develop a sustainable financing framework that includes a range of potential funding mechanisms that can be operationalized to support protection and management of Fiji?s PA network (Govan et al, 2012) (Ison, 2016). This framework will support the Government of Fiji and other stakeholders in pursuing multiple approaches to protected area financing given the diversity of protected area governance systems and management objectives.

The table below outlines some of the alternative finance approaches that Fiji could pursue under the project, or that could be included in the national Sustainable Financing Framework. Once finalized, the Framework will guide future practitioners on how to establish the most effective and relevant financing mechanism for their PA or MPA.

Table 6: Baseline considerations for alternative financing approaches for protected areas in Fiji.

Funding approach	Scale	Considerations

Payments for ecosystem services (PES)	Local, national	PES refers to voluntary or conditional programs, where identified buyers (beneficiaries) provide direct incentives (compensation for extra cost) to sellers to enhance the provision of well-defined ecosystem services from land use or other resource management decisions. Ecosystem service buyers (beneficiaries) include the tourism sector, commercial fisheries, offshore oil and gas companies, coastal city populations, government agencies, or international carbon markets. E.g. Voluntary access fee payments for tourists to enter several diving tourism hotspots (Sykes et al, 2018).
REDD+ and Climate financing	Local, National	Voluntary carbon markets: Schemes are being trialed whereby conservation lease payments for community-managed forest areas will be funded through the sale of carbon credits. There is potential to expand this to coastal areas through verification and sale of blue carbon credits for Fiji?s mangroves and seagrass. Fiji has signed its Emissions Reductions Program Agreement with the World Bank, which could serve as a source of financing for forest protected areas in Fiji.
Conservation agreements through lease payments	Local	Case Study: The Sovi Basin Conservation Area set a precedent in Fiji for a conservation lease brokered by the TLTB. The lease includes provisions for landowners to receive compensation through premium and annual payments, calculated on the basis of the timber value of their lands. However it does not adequately include the resource users as an important stakeholder. Funding for the payments comes from the interest of the Sovi Basin Trust Fund. A similar model has been replicated for the Kilaka Forest Conservation Area (Wildlife Conservation Society). Each site works through individual lessor/lessee relationships brokered by the TLTB. Specific donor conditions with requirements under the lease arrangement may present challenges for folding sites within a national protected area network and financing scheme.
Conservation enterprises approach	Local / National	Conservation enterprises approached provide with a very interesting lens to address the natural capital ? livelihoods nexus. With high enough income that is sustainable communities reduce or discontinue environmentally harmful activities and practices. This approach can be applied in several contexts relevant to Fiji such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries and has the potential to constitute of a significant part of self-financing conservation and environmental protection in Fiji. However, the systematic evidence that is currently available in not sufficient to guarantee for the effectiveness of these approaches.

Debt for nature swap through debt restructuring	National	Debt restructuring would require a conservation-minded investor that is able to purchase the debt from a lender group in exchange for Government commitment to protected area establishment and financing and direct repayment to the investor, such as through a Debt for Nature Swap. Fiji?s national budget has allocated FJ$159.6 million in debt repayments in 2016 (GoF, 2016). This could be on method of capitalizing a National Protected Area Trust Fund, following the example of the Seychelles, which established the Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust of Seychelles in 2015.

The project will ensure sustainability and continuation of biodiversity protection and management of KBAs through legal establishment of at least three protected areas under the project ? the Nakauvadra range, the Greater Tomaniivi Conservation Area and the Greater Delaikoro Conservation Area. These areas will be legally secured to halt any future infrastructure development activities in the areas. This will be particularly critical for the Greater Tomaniivi Conservation Area, which is threatened by a proposed hydropower dam. Additional biodiversity and community ecosystem service benefits incurred under the project will be maintained through investments into community-based management and livelihoods development. The project will further build local capacity and governance systems of landowning communities and other communities including other resource owners such as the private sector operating within and around KBAs. These collective actions will reduce drivers of habitat degradation and improve income generation in a sustainable manner. Livelihoods investments will be

designed in close consultation and partnership with national private sector operators, to ensure that community producers are guided by and connected to the domestic market through marketing partnership agreements. Targeted investment into sustainable production and supply chain improvements and partnerships will ensure the sustainability of investments, and continued economic benefits to communities beyond the project period.

Both terrestrial and coastal communities will also benefit from ecosystem services provisioning, either improvements or maintenance of benefits, as a result of sustainable management and protection of high biodiversity areas. These benefits will be sustained through the management and protected area arrangements that will be established under the project, specifically co-management arrangements between communities and government in targeted areas.

Marine protection benefits will be secured through legal designation of offshore MPAs (2.1.1), as well as the establishment of management and monitoring guidelines together with national agencies (2.1.2). In coastal areas, improvements in coastal management will be sustained by investing in community-level governance and strategy development, specifically by building local ownership of strategies and management plans. These investments will further align with traditional governance systems that are

already prominent in each of the targeted marine priority areas.

The project will also invest in developing systems, tools, processes and frameworks to improve biodiversity management, protection and financing across Fiji?s entire Protected Area Network. First, the sustainable financing framework will be adopted by and endorsed by the Department of Environment, and serve as a guideline for protected areas financing in Fiji and across the region. Second, the regulatory framework will further clarify the legislative pathways for establishment of Protected Areas, and enable improved delivery of protected areas across the PA and MPA network. Finally, the establishment of a biodiversity and protected areas database, as well as the associated training program for data management and entry, will ensure that biodiversity information is effectively tracked, safeguarded, and maintained into the future. Ongoing maintenance and operating costs of the data management system will be identified and integrated into the national budget allocation for the Resource Management Unit of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment.

Potential for Scaling Up

The opportunities for scaling up are substantial, given the creation of new models for establishing terrestrial PAs, and through the land and seascape approaches. The

seascape model represents a convergence of community-based management through inclusive conservation approaches and large-scale monitoring and protection with the support of the Navy, which is innovation for the region by itself, and will achieve marine conservation at scale by establishing an expansive network of interlinked marine and terrestrial protected areas and multi-use managed areas, including smaller community-based managed areas and larger co-managed MPAs. Piloting of improved communications between local communities and Government agencies, especially the Fiji Navy, will be crucial to better monitoring and control to address illegal fishing. The Lau and other Seascapes designated will demonstrate effective measures to bridge these different scales of governance to deliver national goals through a community driven/inclusive conservation approach, a model that can be readily replicated in all SIDS. As the largest maritime province, the Lau Seascape is critical for Fiji to meet its 30% protection commitment, and because it aligns with Fiji?s national MPA establishment processes led by the GoF and has been strongly supported by the indigenous communities of Lau, success will inspire global recognition of the vital importance of indigenous communities in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

It is envisaged that during the intervention, programs will be integrated into government workplans and agendas. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Fiji

2020 Agriculture Policy Agenda promotes sustainable agriculture, recognizing organic production systems as a pathway to fulfilling policy objectives. SAMBIO will ensure close collaboration with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, to support integration of long-term monitoring and continued support to organic farmers into their workplan. Similarly, the establishment of YMSTs, or community-based environment committees, is a policy priority of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and Department of Environment. YMSTs will be established in conjunction with the Ministry to ensure that post-project coordination and follow-up is continued by Ministry focal points and conservation officers. As economic development of the fisheries sector is a core objective of the Ministry of Fisheries, it is anticipated that the biodiversity strategies developed under SAMBIO will provide the enabling environment for local fishers in the eastern maritime areas to assess resource capacity and potential for harvesting and market sale. Additional support for scale-up will be provided by the Ministry of Fisheries both during and upon completion of the project. The new approaches and consultation strategies engaged under the project will be able to be replicated throughout Fiji, the Pacific Islands region, and across SIDS.

The project will also develop national level frameworks and tools to support amplification and replication. These include development of a national framework for sustainable financing for PAs and MPAs, to guide

practitioners interested in biodiversity conservation and management. Sustainable financing mechanisms, tools and approaches (such as the ones presented in ProDoc table 13) can also be used regionally across other Pacific Islands States and Territories. This will also include development of a Framework for PA that will outline the legal processes and options for establishment of PAs and MPAs, which will be endorsed by the Ministry as the official guideline.

The project will further demonstrate how collaboration with the Fiji Navy can support monitoring and surveillance of MPAs in Fiji, which can be scaled up nationally to support management of Fiji?s entire 30% MPA network, as well as regionally within other Pacific Islands States. In addition, the project will develop a standardized template to guide the design of management plans for at least six offshore MPAs in Fiji?s Eastern Division. Once finalized, this template can be applied to management plan design across Fiji?s entire MPA network.

The project will also demonstrate the value and benefits of community and government co-management of both PAs and MPAs, building upon generations of customary stewardship and land management of indigenous peoples. This will include improving upon existing community engagement protocols and aligning protected areas

management with traditional governance structures and processes. This approach will be innovative and can be replicated across Fiji and the broader region, demonstrating a pathway for inclusive conservation at scale.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

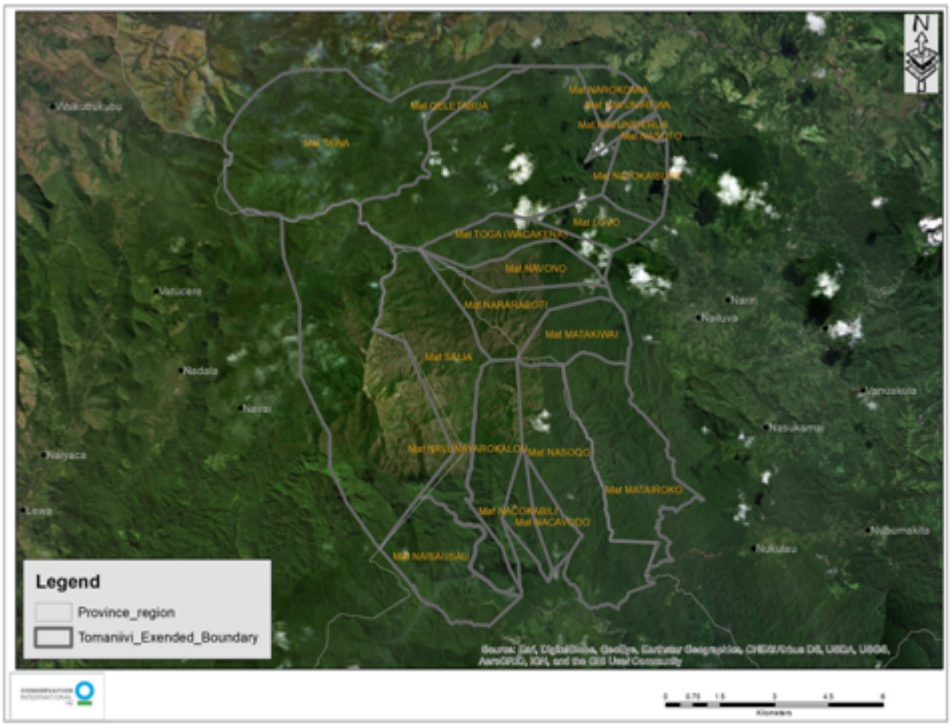


Figure 1: Locality Map of Greater Tomaniivi Boundary

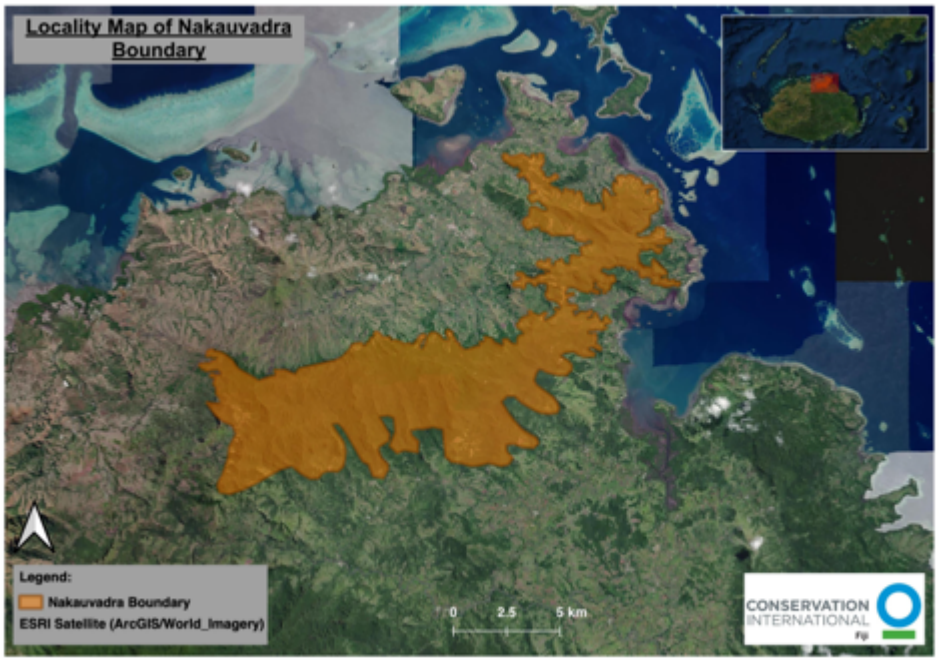


Figure 2: Map of Nakauvadra

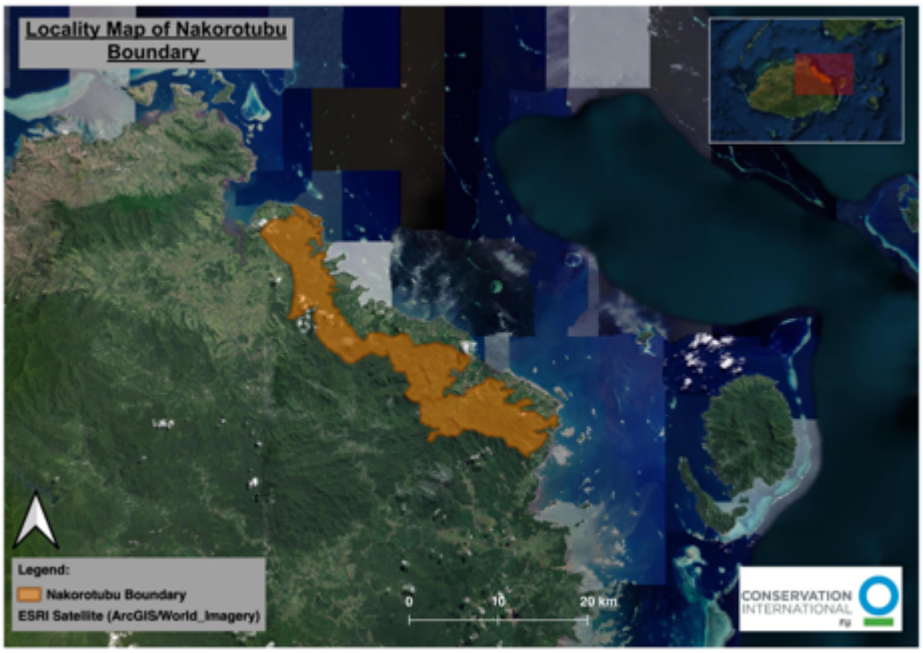


Figure 3: Map of Nakorotubu

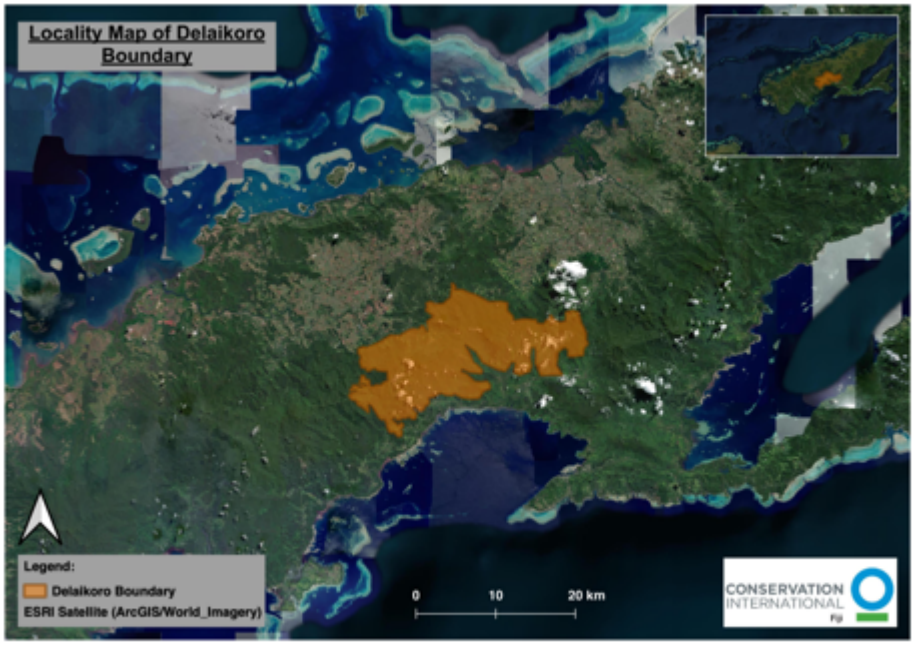


Figure 4: Map of Greater Delaikoro

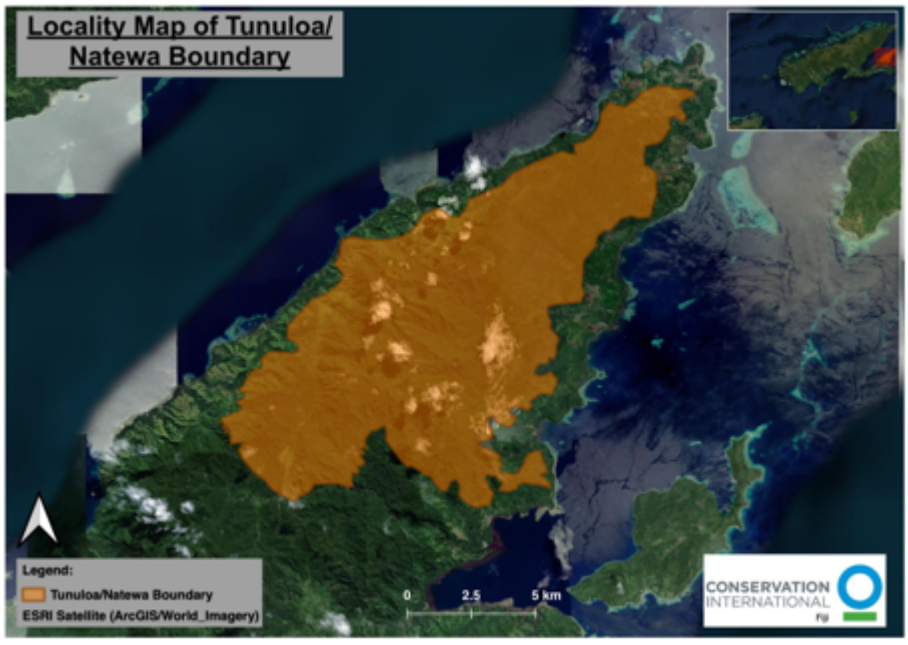


Figure 5: Map of Natewa-Tunuloa

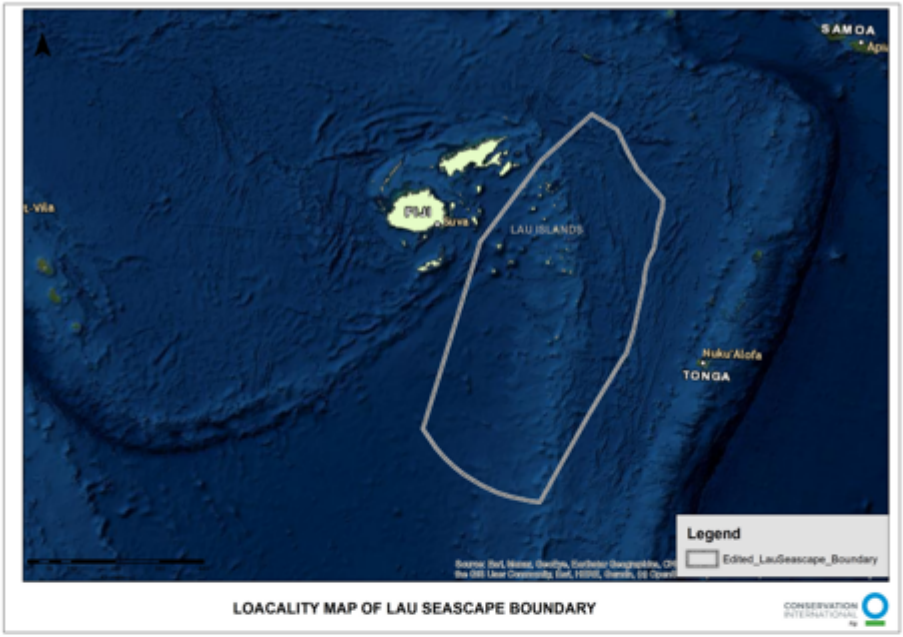


Figure 6: Map of Lau Seascape

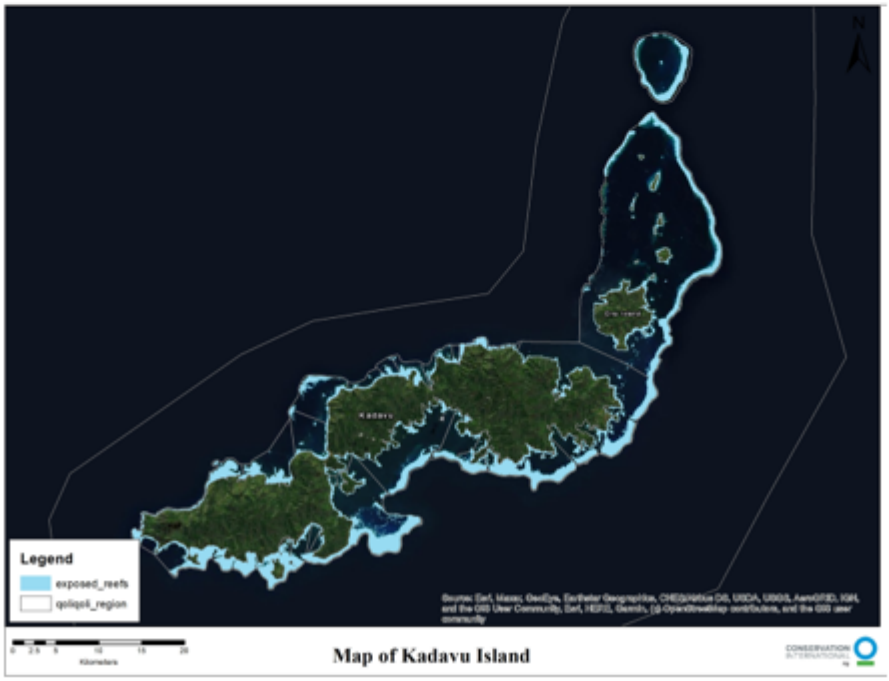


Figure 7: Map of Kadavu

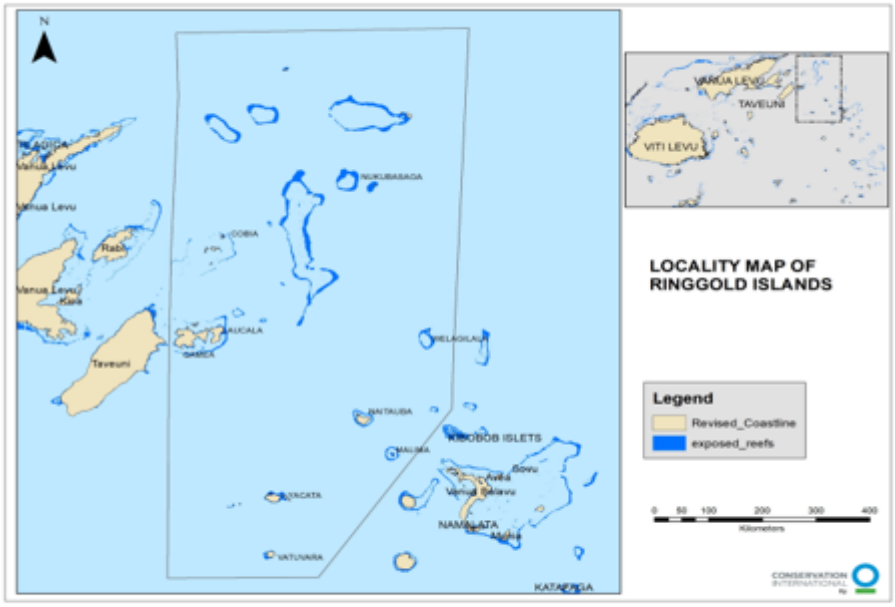


Figure 8: Ringgold Islands

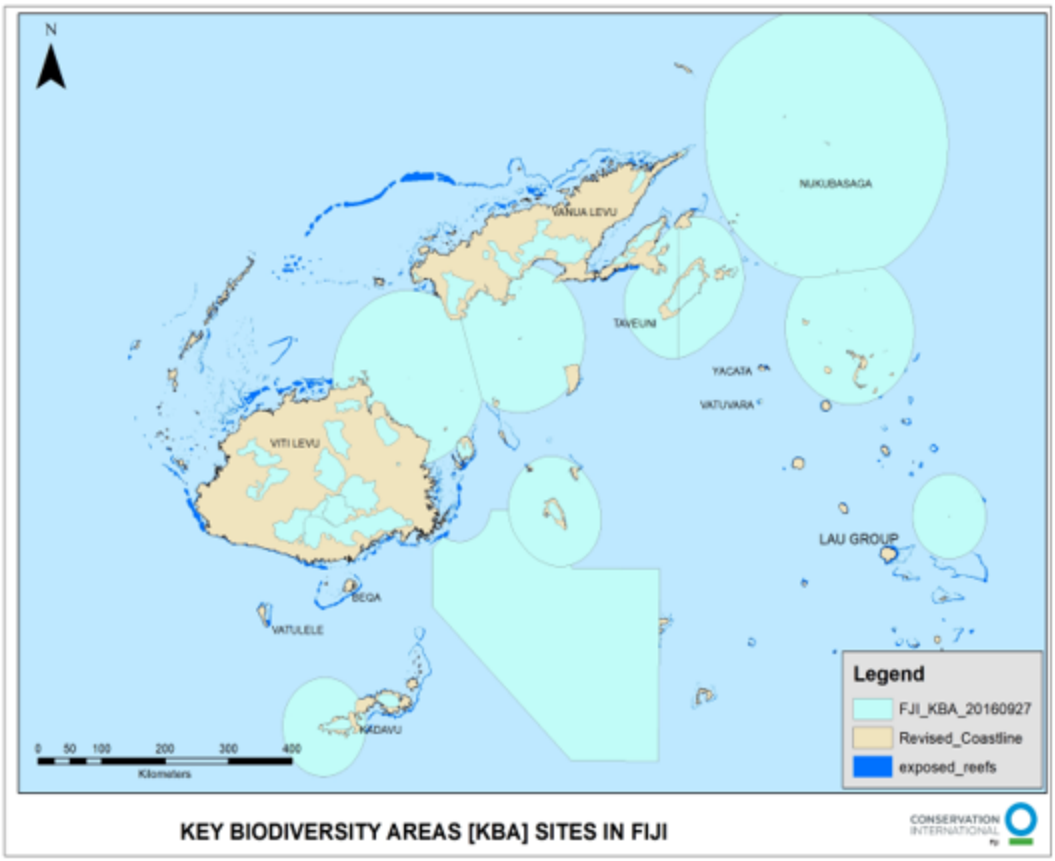


Figure *9*: KBAs in Fiji

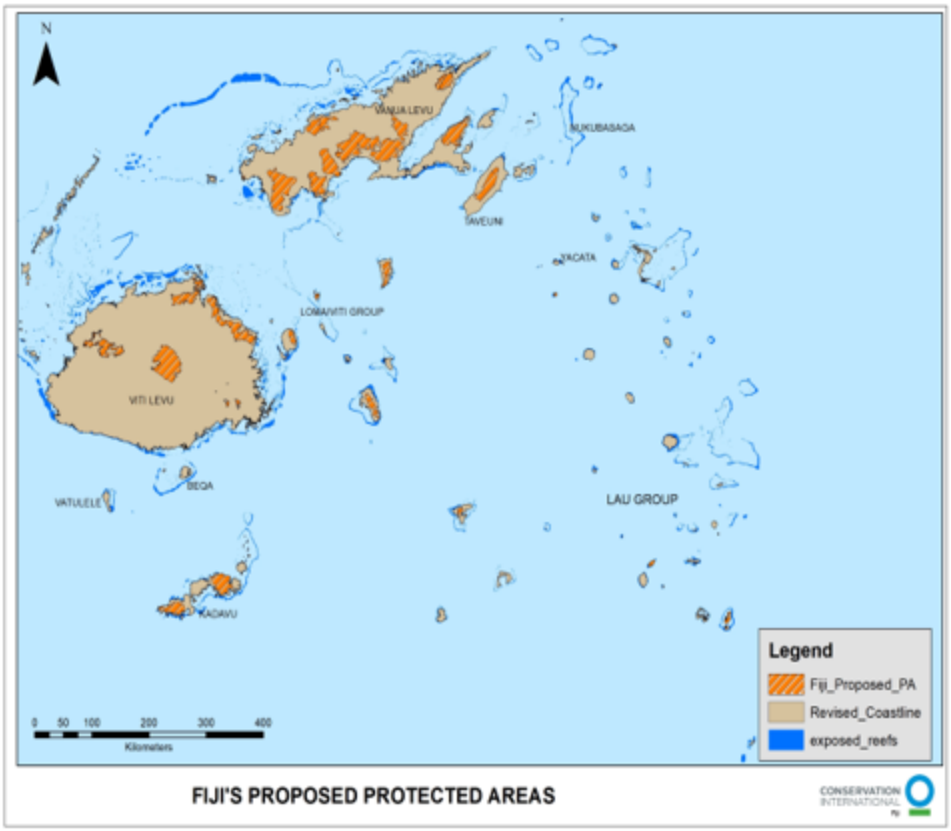


Figure *10*: Proposed Protected Areas in Fiji

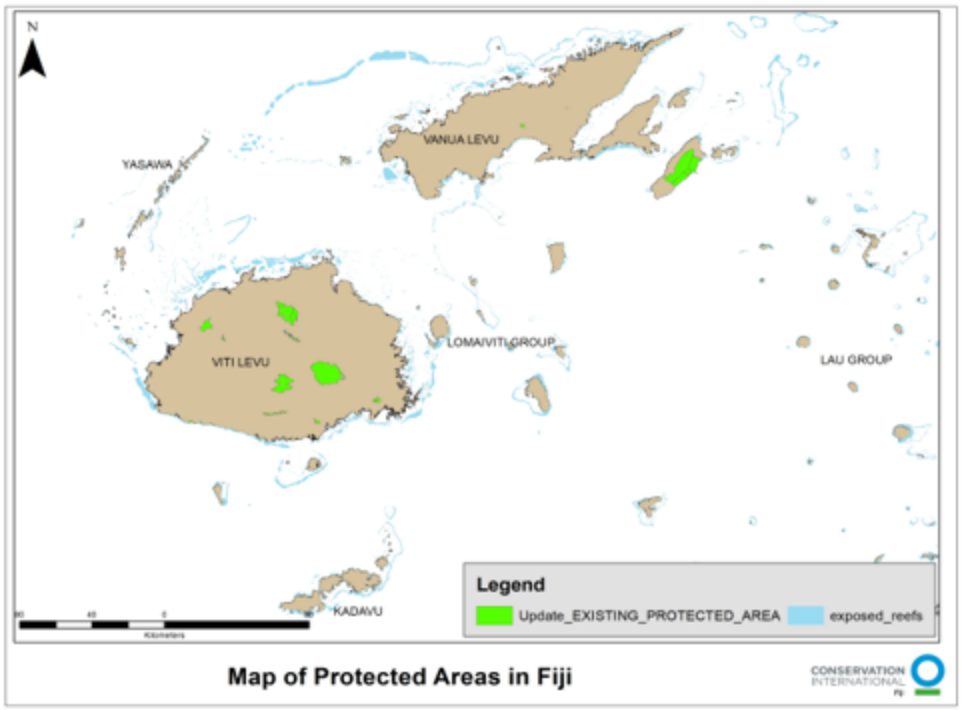


Figure *11*: Existing Protected Areas in Fiji

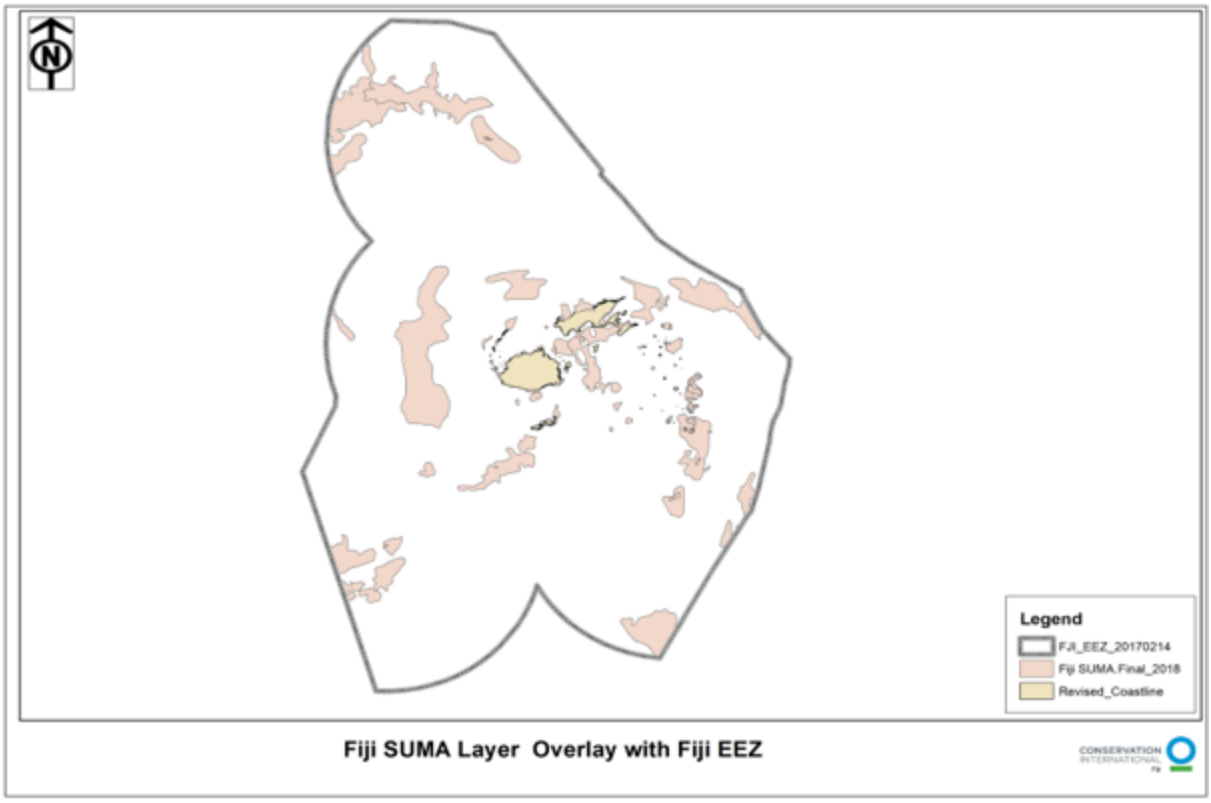


Figure *12*: Special and Unique Marine Areas within Fiji's EEZ

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.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan attached - Appendix VI B.

A preliminary stakeholder engagement plan is presented below. This will be updated to outline how the below points will be implemented for the different Project areas and activities. This will occur during the inception phase and at annual Steering Committee Meetings to continuously adapt to the needs of the project and stakeholders.

Step	Actions to be taken
1	**Conduct rapid socio-cultural assessments to understand the key target audience, perceptions, concerns, influencers and preferred communication channels** **Prepare key messaging and pre-test through participatory process, specifically targeting key stakeholders and vulnerable groups at prioritised selected sites** **Identify trusted community leadership across regional and sectoral groups, and local networks and project partners** **Information disclosure including general information about the project, to inform and attain support and confirm issues and impacts to the stakeholders** **Specific consultation activities to support the implementation of the social and environmental management plans across the project area, including the Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** **Facilitate consultation to identify potential economic displacement where required** **Consultation with those affected by land tenure to confirm approval, compensation, and assistance arrangements** **Address and mitigate any potential stakeholder concerns, in turn addressing any potential risk to project implementation** **Grievance management**
2	**Engage with leadership groups and local partners to prepare Community Engagement Plans (see 6.1.1) for specific activity and regions as detailed below** **Establish detailed timeline of engagement processes and make available for the relevant stakeholders** **Test critical engagement processes at prioritised selected sites, engage with groups for feedback on process ? review and adjust accordingly** **Establish large-scale community engagement for social and behaviour change approaches, collective decision making processes and participatory technical assessments to ensure progress towards to project objectives** **Mitigate potential stop-work or activity block scenarios** **Continue with specific consultation activities to support the implementation of the social and environmental management plans, more targeted to communities near and within the proposed protected areas, including the ESMP, ESIA and GMP and grievance mechanism** **Continue with awareness campaigns near and within the proposed protected areas, as per the development of area planning and management actions planning, gender based violence and community safety** **Grievance management**

3	**Establish stakeholder information and feedback mechanisms including through social media, community perceptions, knowledge, attitude and practice surveys (particularly for livelihood activities), direct dialogue and consultations** **Ensure changes to community and broader stakeholder approaches are based on needs and evidence, are empathetic and culturally appropriate** **Document experiences and use to inform further stakeholder planning as required.**

Community Engagement Plans

The SAMBIO Project will engage with the key community leadership groups and CSO?s during the inception phase of the Project to co-design the Community Engagement Plans (CEP) for specific regions and activities. Options for aligning the design of engagement for specific project activities across the project sites are presented in Table?8.2. Notably development of the CEP will include the following:

- Recruitment of a Communications Officer and Safeguard Officer within the PMU to support and facilitate these workshops with support from the IA.
- Establishment of a Community Engagement Team (CET). This will be best-for-project and may be split between regions (Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, maritime islands etc); or by project activity (biological assessment and data management, collective decision making, legal and administrative planning etc). Membership will be informed by the identification process in Step 1 in Table?.
- Deliver health and safety, child protection, integrity management and gender mainstreaming induction for the CET
- Develop the community engagement program through a series of participatory workshops (virtual, in person or a combination of both) involving the CET, and other partners for the Project
- Example Engagement Plan for site specific work is presented in Appendix B

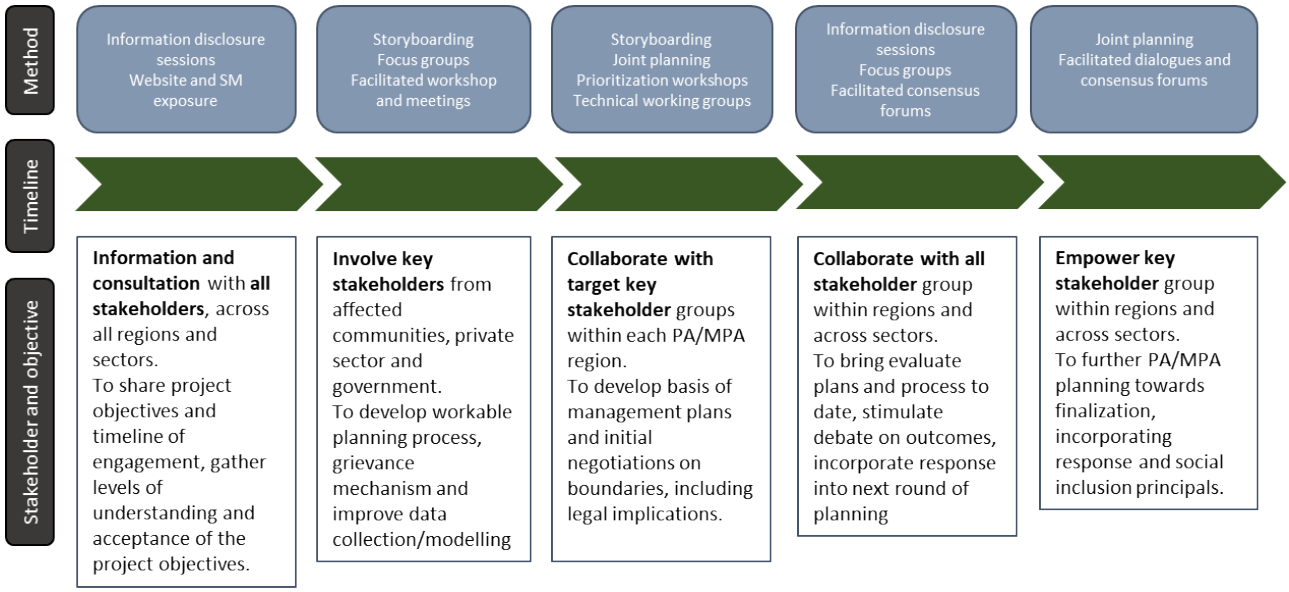
Table?9 Summary of engagement alignment options

Activity	Marine	Terrestrial	National
Project scope, rational and objectives	**??**	**??**	**??**
Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion training	**??**	**??**	**??**
Biological and socio-cultural monitoring training	**??**	**??**	
Biological assessment	**??**	**??**	
Socio-cultural assessment	**??**	**??**	

Develop targeted communication campaign and materials			**??**
Community identification of areas for management	**??**	**??**	
Community identification of options and strategies for PA/MPA	**??**	**??**	
Identifying potential legal and financial mechanisms for PA	**??**	**??**	**??**
Translate scientific, legal and administrative reports into common language and formats			**??**
Technical data collection and management			**??**
Technical data management training			**??**

Engagement framework

One of the more difficult aspects of defining engagement for the SAMBIO Project is the need for collective decision making over the establishment or expansion of protected areas and their associated management plans. The landowning and customary rights structure in Fiji is complex and nuance differ from village to village and region to region. It may be necessary to trial an increasingly multifaceted engagement approach as the process brings in groups and layers information as the project progresses (Figure?1). This is likely to be an iterative process and could be trialled within one area first. Table? summarises stakeholder engagement ac4tivities including activity types, topics, frequency and resources envisaged under the project.



Figure?1 An iterative approach to engagement

Target Stakeholders	Topic(s) of Engagement	Methods	Frequency/Location /	Indicative Resources*[2]
All project areas	Project scope, rational and objectives Local employment and volunteer opportunities Timeline of engagements Grievance management process Stakeholder relationship process	Inception meeting Community meetings Information sessions Communication campaign Grievance mechanism	During inception phase Repeated annually as required	PMU ? SC salary over 5 years ($115,478.85) Inception workshop ($ 4,320.00) Community Engagement in years 1-5 through: Divisional workshops ($141,500.00) Annual site and community visits by the PMU ($52,120.00)

Affected Persons: Within project boundaries	**Project design and adaptation** **Conservation and social objectives of protected areas** **Sustainable species management** **Sustainable livelihoods options** **Awareness campaigns as per the ESMP** **Land acquisition and livelihood restoration process consultations** **Grievance management process**	**Community meetings** **Traditional protocol process** **Participatory learning action tools** **Community meetings** **Communication materials** **Focus groups (separate meetings specifically for affected persons, women and vulnerable groups)** **Census survey of affected people** **Grievance mechanism**	**As required through the project** **Community/villages within the project areas**	**Community Engagement ? See Divisional Workshops and Annual Site/Community Visits above** **PMU ? SC salary over 5 years (See above)** **Local Consultant - Development of Species Recovery Plans (10 species) ($220,000)** **Local Consultant - Community Management Planning and Trainings: Natewa-Tunuloa and Nakorotubu ($600,000.00)** **Local Consultant - Community consultation, Awareness and Outreach: Tomaniivi, Nakauvadra, and Nakarotobu ($225,000.00)** **Local Consultant - Communications Product Development ($100,000)**

Affected Persons: Within project boundaries	**Biodiversity values and assessments Socio-economic assessments Protected area planning Financial planning for protected areas**	**Biological and socio-economic assessment training Terrestrial and/or marine biological and socioeconomic monitoring. Financial and legal foundations induction**	**As required through the project Community/villages within the project areas**	**Local Consultant - Marine Rapid Biodiversity Assessments ($150,000)** **Local Consultant - Desktop Assessment and Development of Viable Sustainable Financing Framework ($180,000)** **Local Consultant - Terrestrial Biodiversity Rapid Assessment ($225,000)** **Local Consultant - Management Plan Development and Finalisation ($210,000)** **Local Consultant - Support Establishment of the Biodiversity and PA Database and Online Tracking System ($510,750)**

Affected Persons: **Not within project boundaries** **Private sector** **Commercial interests**	**Conservation and social objectives of protected areas** **Sustainable species management** **Sustainable livelihoods options** **Livelihood restoration process consultations** **Grievance management process**	**Personal meetings** **Community or key group meetings** **Traditional protocol processes**	**As required throughout the project** **Areas affected but not directly within project boundaries**	**National Meetings with key stakeholders over years 1-5 ($36,160.00)** **Local Consultant - National and Multi-stakeholders Consultation of MSP and Management Plan ($220,000)**
Change Agents and Allies	**Project scope and rationale** **Conservation and social objectives of protected areas** **Awareness campaigns as per the ESMP** **Financial and legal planning for protected areas**	**Personal meetings** **Community or key group meetings** **Traditional protocol processes**	**Inception phases** **As required through the project**	**Local Consultant - National and Multi-stakeholders Consultation of MSP and Management Plan (See budget above)** **Community Engagement in years 1-5 through:** **Divisional workshops (See budget above)** **Annual site and community visits by the PMU (See budget above)**

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated,

and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Key project stakeholders were mapped and identified including local communities, government, civil society, private sector, and non-governmental organizations as indicated in the table below and in Appendix VI B. Stakeholder consultations were conducted with the majority of stakeholders, in form of workshops, bilateral and Focus Group Meetings, and also telephone calls. The issues of the stakeholder involvement and gender mainstreaming were raised and discussed extensively during these engagements, and the outcomes have informed the preparation of the safeguard plans.

Due to COVID-19, not all stakeholders were directly engaged during the PPG phase of the project. For those that were not comprehensively engaged, they have been included as priority in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Appendix VI B.).

Government and Local Authorities	CBOs/NGOs
Biosecurity Authority of Fiji *Responsible for protecting Fiji?s economy, environment, biodiversity and human health from the entry of foreign and/or invasive organisms.*	Bird Life International *A global partnership of conservation organisations with a mission to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity.*
Roko tui and Provincial Administration *The traditional administrative body for the fourteen provinces in Fiji.*	cChange *An organisation that offers sustainable environmental solutions for global, national and community projects in the private and public sector.*
EFL (Energy Fiji Limited) *Government owned statutory body responsible for electricity generation and retails for larger islands in Fiji.*	Duavata Sustainable Tourism *Collective of tourism operators that focus on enhancing cultural heritage and the environment*.
Fiji Museum *Statutory body responsible for preserving Fiji?s history and culture. It is governed by the Fiji Museum Act and the Preservation of Objects of Archaeological and Palaeontological Interest Act.*	FLMMA *Community or village-based networks established across Fiji solely responsible for protecting their iQoliqoli (traditional fishing areas).*
iTaukei Lands Trust Board *Statutory board that controls and administers iTaukei lands on behalf and for its indigenous owners.*	Grace Trifam Ministry *Supports and empowers the building of resilient communities in Fiji.*

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) *Responsible for all policy and regulatory functions related to the maritime sector in Fiji.*	IUCN *A membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of more than 18,000 experts.*
Ministry of Economy (Climate Change Division) *Responsible for the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2018, Climate Change Act 2021, and the National Oceans Policy 2021.*	Living Wealth Solutions *A Fijian-led consultancy focused on community-based natural-resources management solutions.*
Department of Environment/Ministry of Environment *Governing institution for environmental governance/enforcement/compliance and conservation matters. Also serves as the GEF OFP and oversees GEF projects and focal point for CBD, and is the lead Agency that oversees the implementation of NBSAP.*	Live and Learn *A learning network of NGO?s in the Asia and South Pacific region that aims to reduce poverty and advance sustainable development.*
Ministry of Foreign Affairs *Responsible for the implementation of Fiji?s foreign policy in host countries and countries that the mission is accredited to.*	Manta Trust *An organisation focussed on managing sustainable oceans for mantra rays.*
Ministry of Forestry *Responsible for licencing/permitting for logging and sawmilling and ensuring sustainable forest utilization and monitoring of forest areas in Fiji.*	Matanataki *Private sector partnership of various stakeholders in Fiji who support the development of green and blue businesses in Fiji.*
Ministry of iTaukei *Governing institution responsible for the preservation of Fijian culture and socio-economic development of indigenous Fijians.*	Nature Fiji MareqetiViti *Purpose is to enhance biodiversity and habitat conservation and protection of endangered species in Fiji through a collaborative approach.*
Ministry of Fisheries *A regulatory and service organization responsible for the national fisheries sector. Ensures sustainable management, use and preservation of fisheries and marine resources through legislations and policies.*	Operation Wallacea *A global biodiversity and climate research organisation.*

Ministry of Agriculture *Governing institution responsible for the security and enhancement of food production and income security through agricultural growth.*	Pacific Blue Foundation *A non-profit organisation that provides basic research, education and encouragement for sustainable coastal practices in the Pacific.*
Ministry of Commerce Trade Tourism and Transport *Governing body that formulates and implements policies and strategies to facilitate growth in trade and investment.*	Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community *A governance body of the movement of organic materials through the Pacific to sustain cultures and communities and improve farmer livelihoods.*
National Trust of Fiji (Ministry of Education, Culture and Heritage) *Statutory body funded by various stakeholders including the Fiji Government with the aim of protecting Fiji?s natural, cultural and national heritage.*	WWF *Global conservation organisation also based in Fiji, that addresses a range of pressing environment and development issues such as sustainable seafood, protection of sea reefs, protection of iconic species such as turtles.*
Republic of Fiji Navy *The military force of the Pacific island nation of Fiji that is tasking with monitoring and surveillance of the EEZ for security risks and threats.*	WCS *World Conservation Society provides support for preserving Fiji?s priority ecoscapes through a community-based adaptive management approach.*
Private Sector	Academia
Papageno Resort *Located on Kadavu Island. Hosts various sustainable and community projects on themes such as energy, waste, food and conservation projects.*	USP ? Marine Studies Program *A discipline in the Marine Studies School of Agriculture, Geography, Environment, Ocean and Natural Sciences, Laucala Bay, Suva.*
Matagi Resort *Private island resort located off the island of Taveuni in the northeast.*	USP ? Institute of Applied Sciences *IAS is the research and consulting arm of the Faculty of Science, Technology & Environment; it capitalises on its unique and recognised strengths to provide professional scientific services, research outputs and innovative approaches to meet the development needs and aspirations of the region.*
Laucala Resort *Private island resort located off the island of Taveuni in the northeast and adjacent to Matagi Resort.*	Social enterprises

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association *An association formed to proactively address major issues of concern to the Hotel and Tourism industry in Fiji.*	Teitei Taveuni *An NGO formed by Taveuni farmers with an interest in sustainable farming, conservation and environmental awareness.*
Talanoa Treks *One of Fiji?s prominent hiking companies.*	Loving Island *An organisation that provides communities in Fiji with better access to economic development, while maintaining environmental integrity of the islands.*

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency?s Stakeholder Engagement Policy, the Executing Agency developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In addition, the project monitoring plan includes tracking of and reporting on the following minimum indicators relating to stakeholder engagement:

? Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis

? Number of people(sex disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

? Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

Stakeholder engagement is central to this project in at least two important ways. Firstly, to secure multistakeholder buy-in from the full range of relevant government agencies and traditional governing structures at all levels for adoption and mainstreaming of protected area management, and land-use and marine spatial planning. And secondly, voluntary participation at the community level in local land/marine use planning and subsequent management activities. CI is a leader in development and application of best practices in stakeholder engagement and will work with partners to apply these in this project, as reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and monitoring framework provided.

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.

During the PPG phase a gender analysis was conducted in Fiji with a focus on the project sites to assess gender dynamics in household and community livelihoods levels and identify existing gender differences and inequalities on the basis of the Fiji National Gender Policy of 2014. This assessment focused on the following core areas of inquiry:

? Gender roles, responsibilities, and time use

? Household patterns of power and decision-making

? Access to and control over assets and resources

? Meaningful participation in public decision-making

? Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The gender analysis revealed that in the land and seascapes of the project sites, men and women have very distinct gender roles with respect to natural resource use and access. Inheritance patterns for land rights vary from area to area, and while women can legally inherit land, their brothers or husbands often dominate decision making on land use. In addition to this pattern at the family level, traditional structures and social norms have been observed to constrain the participation of women in consultations and mataqali meetings where larger land-use issues are discussed. In rural settings, women and men still maintain quite strict gender roles and divisions of labour.

Considering the diverse contexts within the Fijian population, women generally have less access to key productive resources such as transport, technology, extension services, markets, etc. Women have even less control over critical resources because men are considered to be the heads of households and the primary decision makers (Fleming et al, 2019).

The analysis also revealed that gender based violence in Fiji is highly prevalent and this undermines social cohesion and capacity in communities and families (ADB, 2016). Rural women also have very limited access to protection and support services due to the remoteness of their dwellings. Difficulty in accessing the formal justice system compels many women to seek support from traditional justice systems, which are more focused on reconciliation than protection (Newland, L, 2016).

Furthermore, the gender analysis also revealed that though most project partners are sensitised to the concept of gender mainstreaming and the importance it plays in reaching community and national

goals, the capacities within agencies or organisations to implement and monitor meaningful gender sensitive engagement is limited.

The following recommendations were made that have informed project design including:

? Build and strengthen the capacities of the SAMBIO partners on gender mainstreaming.

? Develop a gender sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System to capture and monitor gender equality and women empowerment Indicators.

? Use traditional and religious leaders as entry points as community members take leaders as role models; conduct awareness-raising on the provisions of laws and policies on gender equality and women?s empowerment to enable men and women to know their rights, and be better able to promote and protect them.

? Ensure that women?s representation on project management decision-making bodies in this project is not limited to nominal positions; and establish separate project decision-making spaces and/or bodies for both men and women.

? Provide adequate access to information for both women and men and conduct gender sensitive communication activities in the project by ensuring that both men and women have access to the same information and that this information is presented in a manner that can be understood by both men and women at the community level.

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency?s Gender Mainstreaming Policy the Executing Agency prepared a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (Appendix VI C). In addition, the project monitoring plan includes tracking of and reporting on the following minimum indicators relating to gender mainstreaming:

Disaggregated indicators	Gender and social inclusion specific indicators

Disaggregated indicators	Gender and social inclusion specific indicators
Number/% of training material and delivery that is gender-sensitive Number of women (% of overall project beneficiaries) receiving targeted socioeconomic benefits/services Research/evidence and sex-disaggregated data collected and processed (yes/no)	Recruitment of at least one specialist project adviser CI will support the gender inclusive development of Terms of Reference for PSC Number/% of women and men actively participating in project-related consultations and meetings Number of trainings, workshops or tools to strengthen capacities among project partners and beneficiaries on gender Number of communications campaigns with a gender approach and campaigns that prioritize women?s perspectives and practices on land/ fisheries/coastal use management Number of experiences on gender mainstreaming documented Gender sensitive AGM developed and operational for Project level and where necessary site level revisions Number of gender-differentiated studies Number of strategies, policies, or management plans derived from the project that explicitly promote equal access and control over natural resources for women and men Data management systems are gender inclusive (Yes/no) Number of gender and social inclusion references included in planning and program frameworks

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;

Improving women's participation and decision making

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.

As outlined above, a private sector consultation was undertaken during the PPG stage of the project, namely with the Duavata Sustainable Tourism Collective. During project implementation, the project will further engage the Duavata Collective and other private sector operators in delivery of various outcomes and outputs, specifically the Fiji Fishing Industry Association and other stakeholders. In particular, within areas where tourism operators have an established presence, they will be engaged to support data collection and improvement of baseline information for various KBAs and SUMAs (Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, and 2.1). Tourism operators will also be engaged to lead or support development of species-specific management and recovery plans under Outcome 3.2, if selected species are present within high tourism areas. Tourism operators will also be invited to participate in biodiversity surveys, as well as ongoing site monitoring throughout the project, and broadly to regularly provide information to the biodiversity database and tacking system that will be established under the project (Outcome 3.3). Finally, the project will build upon existing and functioning conservation, community and tourism sector partnerships under Marine Conservation Agreements, and integrate these pathways into sustainable financing for PAs and MPAs. The project will also work closely with fishers and farmers at various scales to ensure alignment of the project activities with existing priorities and programming.

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):

Risk-related implications of COVID-19; Availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines. Although pandemic-related priorities may dominate the attention of government agencies, during the development of this project document key government counterparts have assured CI Country Program representatives that this project will be a priority. CI Fiji, local partners and the Fijian government have developed COVID-19 response strategies and protocols to protect staff as well as counterparts in communities, local civil society organizations, and government agencies. Moreover, these actors are well adjusted to remote work and online interactions, and in facilitating access for others requiring connectivity for their interactions.

Local NGOs and academic institutions are anticipated to play an important role in community engagement and project implementation. Funding for these NGOs in the COVID-19 context is even more constrained than usual; therefore, financial resources made available through the project will not only enable important implementation activities, but also help the emergent civil society sector in the area survive the pandemic. Moreover, their involvement in the project will allow the CI Country Program and partners to convey best

practices to these local NGO actors with respect to safety planning and protocols as per government requirements.

The project beneficiaries rely predominantly on subsistence agriculture and fishing. Although economic shocks caused by the pandemic do affect the area (e.g., as observed in price increases for agricultural inputs), self-reliance grounded in staple food crop production, subsistence fishing and household strategies for coping with poor market access, offer some buffer against these shocks. By focusing on agricultural and coastal fisheries productivity, as well as sustainable resource management, the project will reinforce this self-reliance, while positioning people to take better advantage of opportunities when economic conditions and market linkages improve. Moreover, the emphasis on water management in this project provides a potential avenue for incorporating a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) theme in direct response to the pandemic, which will provide additional benefits to community members.

Risk-related implications of COVID-19; Stakeholder engagement. The project has been designed to deliver the most inclusive and extensive stakeholder engagement process possible, in light of the COVID-19 restrictions in Fiji. During the project delivery, the Department of Environment will be the main lead for stakeholder engagement and consultations at the national level, while a number of additional services provided will provide site-level support for stakeholder engagement during implementation. At the global level, CI has employed a full-time risk and safety officer, who has developed an institutional COVID-19 response plan. This plan includes weekly country updates on the status of COVID-19 cases, and how each country where CI is operating is impacted. This includes suggested office protocols for both staff and visitors (currently no visitors are permitted in any office, but this will be adjusted on a case-by-case basis pending local conditions); and detailed protocols for work with communities. Each project site is rated monthly in terms of the types of risk (e.g. meetings in the field, meetings in an office, other field activities where our staff or partners are involved in outdoor actions like tree planting, farming, fishing, etc.), and mitigation approaches and guidelines for each type. An internal team at CI headquarters (HQ) reviews all protocols and is able to deploy flexible resources to support safety equipment for partners and communities (CI is also developing an emergency fund to help communities and people at risk where they work). The Government of Fiji also has in place strict COVID-19 protocols.

The project team will refine the Stakeholder Engagement Plan during implementation, and will draw on CI?s dedicated COVID-19 response capacity to inform specific planning for COVID-risk mitigation. In addition, the Plan will align with protocols and guidelines maintained by the government of Fiji, and apply any additional measures required.

Risks-related implication of COVID-19; Financing. The government of Fiji is providing significant co-financing for this project. Upon a review of the 2021/2022 financial year budget, and projections for additional economic contraction and eventual recovery in the coming years, the pandemic is not expected to impact this aspect of project co-financing. The project does expect to see some price increases that will impact procurement, in particular for inputs pertinent to shipping, transport, and fuel price fluctuations. However this could have some implications on travel that would be required by international consultants to Fiji. This may require some budgetary shifts to ensure adequate funds for field testing climate-smart practices. One potential strategy for mitigating this impact is to work with other projects that are operating in the same arena, to increase order sizes that can achieve volume discounts, or identify synergies in key experts visiting Fiji for the SAMBIO and other projects. In addition, university partners may have access to

preferentially priced sources of key supplies. A challenge with respect to incorporating these budget considerations is that some field activities (and thus their related procurement needs) can only be identified after the diagnostic and planning processes; however, by that time, prices may have normalized in any case.

Future Risk of Similar Crises/Opportunities

The remoteness and geographic isolation of the selected project areas, as already described, present less risk of potential community COVID-19 transmission. Overall, the project components will further contribute to the mitigation of future risks in a similar context:

? Protection of freshwater supplies and improved watershed management will help maintain human wellbeing and ecosystem services, and continue contributing to developing socioeconomic and environmental resilience, including for climate change;

? Improved spatial planning will rationalize land use, identify areas for restoration, and support the prevention of uncontrolled conversion or degradation of natural habitat;

? Strengthening of livelihoods will improve overall household resilience against shocks and enable local people to better address health and economic needs in general.

Table 7: Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning

Risks	Rating High (H), Substantial (S), Modest (M) Low (L)	Risk Mitigation Measures
Uncertainty due to government shifts in priorities and policy changes	Low	The project will work with national and subnational leaders to ensure alignment of activities with national priorities. The project will also strengthen the country?s ability to conserve key species and habitats as well as protect natural resources to increase climate resilience of rural communities.
Limited coordination/communication between sectoral agencies and/or ministries	Low	The project will work in close coordination with key Ministries and local leaders to ensure alignment and close coordination on the design and implementation of the project. The project is designed to engage and coordinate with all relevant stakeholders at all levels

Issues with project internal administration, coordination, and timeliness of work to be delivered between the different non-jointed marine and terrestrial areas.	Low	The project sites were selected based on biodiversity importance as elaborated in sections above. Acknowledging and understanding the limitation of geographies, the project will explicitly factor in this dimension by elaborating a robust work plan that addresses the different limitations for the administration of work. The project governing mechanisms such as the PSC will take this into account for every decision made.
Partner organizations do not follow proper procedures for project implementation, which could cause delays in project implementation.	Moderate	Conduct due diligence of all partner organizations prior to signing service agreements. Ensure, that all reporting requirements cascade to our partners. Provide additional capacity support and propose other remedies if gaps in compliance with agreements are observed with our partners during implementation monitoring.
Effects of Climate Change have a negative impact on the outcome of project activities and project communities.	Moderate	In the event of a natural disaster, the project will work directly with communities and government to support ecosystem and community recovery. This will include providing training and resources to communities to conduct post-disaster restoration support activities to maximize species survival rates, including propping up of downed trees and propagules to maximize recovery. In addition, the project will integrate climate change monitoring and adaptation protocols to build climate resilience of marine and terrestrial protected areas. This will include integrating learnings from climate change projections and predictive modeling for Fiji within the project approach.
Low level of inclusiveness in project decision-making and governance	Low	The project will include traditional representatives, leaders and traditional authorities and other community groups in decision-making around project activities, and include engagement of resources users and other community stakeholders in project consultations. The project will further uphold non-discrimination in all actions, ensuring even hard-to-reach communities/vulnerable are engaged in project activities within their geography, with a priority focus on vulnerable populations and groups.

Intercultural and gender sensitive approaches to project activities	Low	The project will consult, train and collaborate with traditional leaders on project activities, to ensure the integration of culturally appropriate approaches and platforms to the project design. Any intercultural response should be gender-responsive and based on awareness of the different needs and roles of men and women in the community.
Women may face barriers to participating in project training and decision-making processes, and therefore may not be able to engage in, influence, and benefit from the project as planned. Gender inequality within the household or producer organizations can increase risks of sex and gender-based violence.	Low	Implement training processes with a gender focus (proactively encourage women?s participation through understanding the barriers they face and implementing mitigation measures) Promote the participation and enrollment of women as project beneficiaries, working both with women themselves and their spouses in support of this.
COVID-19 and other possible pandemics[1][1]	High	As a Small Island Nation Fiji closed its borders immediately at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. After more than one year without any community-transmission cases, Fiji experienced a severe outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant. As of January 21st 2022, Fiji had counted 768 deaths due to COVID-19. Due to limited testing capacity, the COVID-19 medical response teams no longer use testing as the primary metric for the state of the pandemic. As of January 21st, 2022, roughly 92.6% of the target population have received their second dose of the vaccine and are considered fully vaccinated (572,189 people). Fiji opened its international borders on December 1st, 2021 As the situation is readily evolving, an emergency response plan will be developed at inception stage of the project with procedures and guidelines to be followed in alignment with Fiji Government protocols

Climate Risk: Most climate change models for Fiji suggest an increase in the proportion of high intensity tropical cyclones, increase in temperature, sea level rise, and an increase in precipitation and floods over time with a degree of variance. Fiji is already vulnerable and prone to floods and tropical cyclones, and these will become increasingly detrimental as climate change impacts increase over time. With the current limited adaptive capacity, the impact on the population and economy could include increased poverty and decreased food security, displacement from sea-level rise, increased prevalence of water-borne diseases and sensitivities of non-communicable diseases exacerbated by temperature increases, variable freshwater

supply, and negative impact on the tourism sector. The project will contribute to reductions in flooding, landslides, and coastal and riparian zone erosion, habitat and/or ecosystem degradation as well as improve sustainability of community-based agriculture to enhance socioeconomic resilience by legally securing protection and improving management of forests, securing food security benefits for coastal communities that rely on productive coastal fishing grounds for subsistence and cash income by protecting and improving the management of marine ecosystems, and building institutional capacity and strengthening coordination mechanisms for delivery of Fiji?s Protected Area Network with specific attention to tracking and adapting to climate risks. During the PPG Phase, the project will conduct a detailed climate vulnerability assessment including on species, and identify risk management options which are to be incorporated into the implementation processes and results of the project.

A more comprehensive climate risk assessment has been included in Appendix XVIII.

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.

Execution Arrangements and Partners

Implementing Agency (IA): The CI-GEF Project Agency as the implementing agency, will ensure compliance with GEF policies and procedures and will be responsible for tracking and evaluation of the project, including the oversight of the mid-term review and terminal evaluation, and revising quarterly financial and technical progress reports, and annual Project Implementation Reports. CI-GEF Project Agency will also provide guidance regarding global environment benefits (GEB), analysis and technical support in pertinent fields, disseminating knowledge and lessons learned between allied GEF projects it supervises across portfolios, and other liaison and coordinating actions if required by the Executing Agency (EA) necessary for correct project implementation.

The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide project assurance, and support the EA in the project implementation in any technical and financial management aspects upon request from the EA. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project?s implementation and achievement of the project objective, outcomes, and outputs, ensure the proper use of GEF funds through desk reviews and/or site visits, and review any changes in budgets or workplans. To support these efforts and provide adequate oversight to the project, the CI-GEF Project Agency will hire a Fiji-based Technical Oversight Officer to serve as the main project focal point for the IA.

Executing Agency (EA): The project will be executed through the Department of Environment serving as the designated Executing Agency (EA). The EA will be the main recipient of project-specific GEF funding from the CI GEF Project Agency to execute the GEF7 SAMBIO project. The EA will have the technical and administrative responsibility to oversee and supervise project execution in order to achieve the desired outcomes as defined in the project document.

The EA will be responsible for the recruitment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) in line with the Fijian Civil Service Open Merit Recruitment and Selection (OMRS) Guideline. The EA- will oversee the

day-to-day management and administration of project delivery, including management of sub-agreements and service providers, procurement and operations, budget management, tracking and evaluation, progress against technical deliverables, and financial and technical reporting to the EA Director of Environment. The execution functions as detailed will be financed by the GEF funding as well as in-kind co-financing from budgetary allocation to the Department of Environment and a range of other co-financing sources. The PMU will report to the Director Environment ? who will lead the EA. The EA will keep CI-GEF Agency updated on at least a quarterly basis, with the potential for more frequent update when required. The EA will lead the financial oversight of the project and will be responsible for preparing annual workplans and budgets, for quarterly technical and financial reporting, annual Project Implementation Reporting, and the final project report. The EA will be fully accountable for intended and appropriate use of funds, for procurement and contracting of goods and services, and for timely delivery of inputs and outputs. The EA will be responsible for hiring or recruiting any external service providers in line with the Fiji Government Procurement Policy for any acquisition of goods, works or services,

There may be instances where the policies of CI-GEF and the Government differ. In those instances, the more restrictive policy should be followed.

SAMBIO Governance Structure: The project is governed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Environment and consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, National Trust of Fiji, a representative from the Civil Society Organizations, Conservation International and a representative from the Academic Institutions that exist in Fiji.

The PSC?s key responsibility is to provide advisory support to the EA through overarching management advice and recommendations, based on information provided by the EA, to assist the EA in decision-making. The PSC further provides guidance to the EA regarding the technical feasibility of the project in alignment with the project expected outputs and benefits. The primary function of the PSC is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project and to ensure the realization of the project expected outputs from the perspective of the project beneficiaries

The PSC?s recommendations are to be made in accordance with standards that promote good governance and accountability, cost-effectiveness, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, the final decision rests with the PS for the Ministry of Environment. The EA in consultation with the PSC will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

The synthesis of the PSC will be finalized during its first meeting, which will take place immediately after the SAMBIO Inception Workshop, where specific TORs will be agreed upon. Representatives of the organizations comprising the PSC will maintain equal voting rights.

The CI-GEF Project Agency will hire a Fiji based Technical Oversight Officer who will provide the technical support to the Executing Agency (EA) in line with the GEF and Fiji government requirements. The technical support role includes reviewing yearly workplans, quarterly technical progress reports and yearly Project Implementation Reports. It also includes meetings with the EA to discuss project progress.

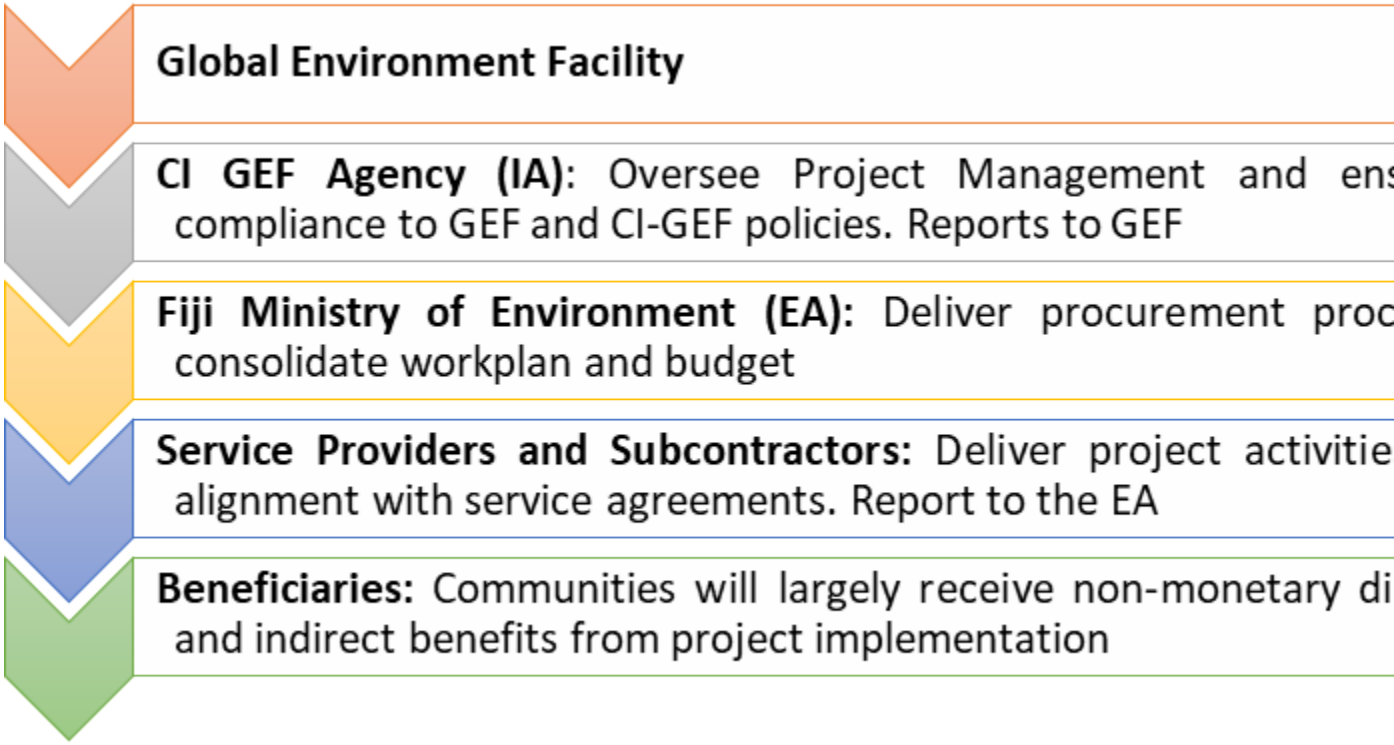
In addition, the IA focal point in Fiji will represent CI-GEF in the PSC meeting. Staff from the CI-GEF Project Agency will support the in-country representative and will participate in in-country project field visits when required. The CI-GEF Agency will lead the financial oversight of the project and hire third party assessors when needed.

The Chairperson of the PSC is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and holds legal authority to make decisions. In any unforeseen circumstances that the Chairperson is unable to attend the PSC meeting, the legal authority may be delegated to the Director of Environment.

The PSC will meet at least twice a year to consider project status and approve recommendations put forward by the EA on project implementation by all service providers. In the event that PSC members are not able to attend meetings in-person, other alternative platforms may be considered such as teleconferences.

Contractual arrangements: GEF7 SAMBIO project funds will flow from GEF to the CI-GEF Agency, to the EA. The EA will identify service providers and subcontractors through a rigorous procurement process, in alignment with the approved workplan to implement project activities and fulfill project outcomes following all Government processes. The EA will manage the relationship with the service providers and contractors and ensure smooth implementation of project delivery in alignment with Government of Fiji, CI-GEF Agency Policies and in full compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards. Accountability is based on technical progress, financial accounting and fiscal reporting.

Figure 13: Flow of funds



Given the vast expanse of the project scope across Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and the entire east and south-eastern maritime areas, the EA will decide upon delegating implementation of specific project components to service providers and consultants. The EA will engage service providers to implement project activities within specific project sites in alignment with the overall project outcomes and outputs. Service providers have not been selected during the PPG phase of the project, but will be determined during a procurement process at the beginning of the project. Standard selection process and procedures of the EA (Department of Environment) will be implemented to guide selection of final service providers in line with the Fiji Government?s Procurement Policy.

There are a number of local and international organizations in Fiji working within the project sites, and with strong technical, operational and project management skills. Service providers will be identified and selected based upon a range of criteria, with significant weight given to their presence and history of community and government engagement in the project site, past performance references and operational capacity for delivery of projects in Fiji, and documentation of institutional protocols and safeguards in place to effectively manage medium and large awards, as well as deliver technical outputs and reports. Service providers may form consortium among local organizations working in the same site or having specific skill sets to complement the deliverable of the team.

Project Management Unit (PMU): The EA will set up the PMU through a transparent government of Fiji OMRS recruitment processes. The PMU will be established by the Department of Environment, as a separate project unit reporting to the Director of Environment. All staff recruited to be part of the PMU will be new employees and will have a contract specifically for this project. The PMU consists of the following full-time staff with all functions reporting to the Project Manager. The Project Manager reports to the Director of Environment:

? Project Manager (PM): The position will serve as both lead technical expert and project manager, with dual responsibilities in project implementation and management. The PM will be responsible for lead development of AWPs, including tracking and collating project information and revising action plans. The project manager will also be responsible for reviewing project activities and outcomes and ensuring compliance with partner/donor agreements. The PM will also be responsible for leading program planning activities as well as lead drafting of project annual workplans, quarterly technical progress and financial reports, Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) and other reporting. The PM will provide technical oversight for project delivery, managing project partnerships and supporting delivery of project capacity-building programs. The PM will further serve as a technical resource for the program/project and provide decision-makers with the relevant technical data needed to implement conservation priorities and outcomes. Finally, the PM will oversee the overall implementation of assigned project(s), monitor project progress and provide technical advice on the project?s management, as well as identify trends and corrective actions to resolve problems and ensure future project efficiencies. The PM will ensure quality control and alignment to Fiji Government requirement, GEF and CI policies and standards.

? Principal Administrative Officer (PAO): The Principal Administration Officer will lead on delivery of all administrative aspects of the project, including logistics, organization of workshops, support for management of service providers and subcontractors, etc.

? Principal Finance Officer (PFO): The position will oversee financial and operational function of the PMU as well as providing administrative management of project implementation. The PFO will develop, maintain, implement, review and ensure compliance of the Ministry of Waterways Finance Manual and other related governing laws, in alignment with the project activities. The PFO will also manage and assess budget utilization and spend rate as well as facilitate cash flow adjustments, virements, financial reconciliations. The PFO will further approve Local Purchase Orders, Payment Vouchers, Journal Vouchers and also ensure the timely processing of salaries & wages and pensions for PMU staff and consultants. The PFO will lead on preparation and submission of financial reports (such as quarterly financial progress reports) under the overall supervision and responsibility of the PM/PL, and preparation of budget submissions, and financial statements. The PFO will also lead on asset management and procurement and organize key staff around project deadlines. The position will ensure full compliance with GEF and CI-GEF Agency policies all times. The PFO will report to the Director of Environment and the PM.

? Finance and Contracts Specialist: The Finance Officer will provide critical support to the Senior Finance Officer, supporting successful completion of cash flow adjustments, virements, financial reconciliations, etc. The position will support the PFO and will work alongside the PAO The position will ensure that procurement policies of GEF and CI are observed and documented. The incumbent will work alongside Safeguards Coordinator to ensure the inclusion or relevant milestones are incorporated into contractual grants and agreements with each service provider. The PMU is supported by other staff as described in the budget.

Per the GEF requirements TORs are provided the positions charging to both components and PMC.

The PMU will ensure proper implementation of project activities and use of project funds to fulfill the overall goals of the project. The PMU will also adopt a transparent selection process for service providers and procurement of goods in alignment with the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standard and as per Government of Fiji processes. In case of any discrepancy, the primary special weight lies with the former.

The PMU will liaise with the Resource Management Unit of the Department of Environment on the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP) to ensure technical soundness of the reports received from service providers as well as relevance of recommendations to the PSC. The PMU may negotiate solutions to problems faced by service providers and will report to the Director of Environment. The PMU will work closely with service providers to ensure the timely delivery of project inputs and outputs, allocate resources in an effective and efficient manner, and lead coordination of all other responsible parties, including other line ministries, local government authorities and civil societies.

The GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP): The GEF OFP for the country should be updated about the project progress on a regular basis. The EA will regularly send annual PIRs to the GEF OFP, both via email and physical copies, as well as policy briefs detailing lessons learnt, best case practices, challenges, and opportunities.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

Fiji?s Policy Response to Biodiversity: Fiji has several relevant policy documents and strategies that support the preservation of marine and terrestrial protected areas. Relevant legislation includes the Constitution of Fiji, Green Growth Framework, the National Environment Strategy, the Fiji National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2020-2025), the National Forest Policy, Environment Management Act (2005), Forest Decree (1992), Fiji?s Offshore Management Act (2012), the Integrated Coastal Management Framework of 2012, the National Trust of Fiji Strategic Plan (2008 ? 2012), the World Heritage Policy, Fiji?s REDD+ Policy, the Rural Land Use Policy of 2006, Fiji National Ocean Policy 2020-2030, the Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) 2018-2050, and the Fiji National Adaptation Plan of 2017 and Climate Change Act of 2021. For terrestrial protected areas, Fiji requires a strengthened framework that aligns the various legal mechanisms into improve the national legislative approach, reinforcing the opportunities for inter-agency coordination on implementation, enforcement and monitoring of Fiji?s protected areas. While the Fiji Protected Areas Committee has developed a Framework for Protected Areas in Fiji, this is not formally endorsed.

Fiji has committed?through its NBSAP and as signatory to the CBD?to establish and better manage a network of protected areas, achieve greater biodiversity data availability and information access, improve monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies protecting biodiversity, and to reduce threats impacting its terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. Fiji has undertaken several initiatives to progress biodiversity conservation, as outlined in Fiji?s Fifth National Report to the CBD (GoF, 2014) and the 2013 State of Conservation in Fiji, which outlines key achievements in conservation with focus on the size and type of protected areas and governance initiatives in the country (SPREP, 2013). Fiji also identified a preliminary register of important sites in the 1992 National Environment Strategy, including 32 KBAs, 28 IBAs, and two Endemic Bird Areas (EBA). There are currently five recognized Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) areas in Fiji, as well as 16 Forest Reserves (22,214 ha), six Nature Reserves (5,373 ha) and 15 Parks (16,912 ha) located on the three largest islands (Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni).

Building upon these efforts, this project is fully consistent and advances delivery of multiple Fiji plans, strategies and global commitments. The SAMBIO project aligns with the Fiji Green Growth Framework (GoF, 2014a), which aims to support sustainable development into future planning at the national level with a focus on ten thematic areas, four of which will be strengthened under the project, including: sustainable islands and ocean resources, building resilience to climate change and disasters, food security, and inclusive social development. This project aligns with Fiji?s 5&20-year National Development Plan that aims to establish MPAs across 30% of Fiji?s marine area in alignment to SDG 14.2, as well as the long-term conservation of 5% of critical forest habitat by 2021. This project will expand protection and improve management of previously identified KBAs and IBAs on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, including through formal protection of roughly 4% of Fiji?s forests within these areas as Forest or Nature Reserves.

This project also advances delivery of Fiji?s commitments under SDG 14, by establishing and improving management of MPAs across roughly 8% of Fiji?s EEZ, focusing on the Eastern Division.

The SAMBIO project will further support assessments under relevant conventions and deliver an aligned and focused response beyond Fiji?s 2020?2025 NBSAP. While the project contributes to all six priority focus areas in Fiji?s 2020?2025 NBSAP, its main focus is on developing protected areas and the associated enabling environment and mainstreaming conditions for success tending to actual and evolving Biodiversity protection needs also from a global perspective. Importantly the mainstreaming of establishment of protected areas within a matrix of better managed landscapes will involve a community co-management model, which is considered sustainable without the need for external funds. Also linked to Fiji?s NBSAP, the project will also advance implementation of key actions under the Fiji Wetlands Policy on the Conservation and Management of Fiji?s Coral Reefs and associated ecosystems and supporting implementation of Fiji Policy on Conservation and Protection of Fiji?s endangered Iguana Species.

The SAMBIO project also aligns with implementation of Fiji?s climate change policies, strategies and frameworks, including the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2018-2030, the National Adaptation Plan Framework of 2017, and Fiji?s Low Emissions Development Strategy 2018-2025 (LEDS) and the Climate Change Act of 2021. The project aligns with the NCCP in recognizing the important role of nature-based solutions to increasing ecosystem protection and seeks to advance establishment of large-scale marine managed areas and locally managed coastal fisheries. In alignment with Fiji?s National Adaptation Plan Framework (GoF, 2018), the project will align with climate change adaptation objectives, actions and investments, namely those focused on nature-based solutions, to reduce climate change and anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Similarly, the LEDS recognizes the need to invest in preservation and restoration of critical biodiversity habitats to build resilience to current and future climate-change impacts.

The SAMBIO project activities will further align with Fiji?s important sectoral policies in Forestry and Agriculture. Fiji?s National Forest Policy 2007 recognizes the potential for natural forests to provide greater socio-economic and environmental benefits to current and future generations through sustainable forest management, conservation of forest biodiversity, water catchments and soil fertility. The project will support implementation of the National Forest Policy by strengthening consultations with customary landowners and resource users around protected areas establishment and management and developing land use and management plans for key sites. This is further aligned with the National Rural Land Use Policy 2005. The SAMBIO project will support on-going efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forestry to develop District/Provincial and national land use plans that designates conservation of KBAs, wetlands, and mangroves, and ensures no net loss of these habitats by 2030.

As itemized in Fiji?s NBSAP (GoF, 2020) there are many important sites for marine biodiversity conservation in Lau archipelago as well as in the adjacent Kadavu archipelago, which together are the geographic focus of Component 2. In Fiji (2020), Kadavu and the Southern Lau Region are listed as EBSAs and SUMAs and prioritized for conservation and protection. At the national scale, supporting sustainable development in Lau is a priority of the Fiji Government. In June 2017, at the United Nations Oceans Conference for Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14), the Fiji Government declared the Lau Seascape as one of its 17 voluntary commitments. As the largest maritime province in the country, establishing protection and management in the Lau Seascape will help Fiji achieve its commitment to the

United Nations CBD to protect 30% of its seas by 2030, as well as other commitments to conserve 10% of inshore areas. The approach on maritime island encapsulates an integrated coastal management of island systems from ridge to reef to oceans. The Lau Seascape initiative also aligns with the national Green Growth Framework (Thematic Areas, 3 and 6), as well as sectoral policies in Fisheries, Land Use, Forests, Integrated Coastal Management and Sustainable Development.

The project is fully compatible with Fiji?s international environmental commitments, as per its recent 6th CBD National Report, its long-term climate action plan under the Paris Agreement to the secretariat of the UNFCCC and its adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) national action programs, both in 2019, and the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols.

In addition to the priority strategies and plans outlined above, the project will further align with the following national plans, strategies and policies:

Table 8: Consistency with National Priorities, Plans and Policies

National Priorities	Project Consistency
Policies	
Fiji Climate Change Policy 2021	The SAMBIO project will support delivery of GHG emissions reductions actions through conservation of High Value Conservation Forest Areas as natural carbon sinks, as well as support rural forest and coastal community adaptation across Fiji. The project has a significant mitigation potential (5,199, metric tons CO_2eq from forests and coastal areas).
Fiji National Oceans Policy 2021	The project will contribute towards the establishment of MPAs across 30% of its EEZ, as well as community-driven approaches to sustainable management and protection of coastal areas.
Fiji National Gender Policy 2014	The project will engage a women?s economic empowerment approach to reduce gender inequities in priority sites.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Fiji 2020-2025	The project will support delivery of multiple areas of Fiji?s NBSAP, including: Focus Area 1: Improving our Knowledge; Focus Area 2: Developing Protected Areas; Focus Area 3: Species Management (SM); Focus Area 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM); and Focus Area 6: Sustainable Use and Development (SUD).
Fiji REDD+ Policy 2009	The project will contribute greatly to the implementation of this policy through enhancement of national forest-based carbon balance by supporting and strengthening initiatives that address the drivers of forest-based carbon emissions and encouraging the drivers of forest-based carbon sinks.
Rural Land Use Policy 2005	The SAMBIO project will support the development of participatory land use plans, which is a systematic approach to land use to determine capacity for sustained production.

Green Growth Framework 2014	The project will deliver the impact of increased productivity, reduced environmental disturbances and preservation of natural capital; additionally, support livelihood options and expand income streams of resource custodians across the project sites.
Laws and regulations	
Environmental Management Act 2005	The project will support data collection and management of biodiversity data to assist in monitoring and enforcement related to the EMA and in ensuring sustainable utilization and development. It will allow for the regulations to be drafted for standards/guidelines/procedures for conservation/protection and rehabilitations works
Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012	The project will support establishment of MPAs under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act.
Land Conservation and Improvement Act 1953	One of the pivotal laws relevant to protecting the environment of Fiji. It ensures integrity of land and water resources that sustains agricultural productivity. The Act makes provisions for the Conservation and improvement of the land and water resources of Fiji.
Forest Decree 1992	The project aims to consolidate some of the small forest and nature reserves into large biologically significant ecosystems capable of supporting species. The project will also look at options using this bill to legally conserve key biodiversity areas.
Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002	The project aims to improve management of species listed in this act through the development of species recovery/management plans.
Native Land Trust 2006	The project will utilize this act to conserve and protect terrestrial key biodiversity areas, including consideration of Conservation Leases if appropriate within a given site, which are predominantly used for biodiversity protected areas and suitable for use in water catchment areas.
Fiji Climate Change Act 2021	The SAMBIO project will support delivery of nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation and mitigation through conservation of High Value Conservation Forest Areas as natural carbon sinks, as well as support rural forest and coastal community adaptation across Fiji.
Endangered and Protected Species (Amendment) Act 2017	The project will develop national strategies, plans, and protocols to support management and protection of at least 10 keystone species, including integrating climate change adaptation considerations.

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.

Knowledge Management Approach: The SAMBIO project will aspire to generate and communicate knowledge on Fiji?s terrestrial and marine biodiversity, both at the site and national level, including Fiji?s entire PA and MPA network. The project?s knowledge management (KM) approach will focus on ensuring an enabling environment, institutional arrangements and management instruments for storing and sharing data/information. This will include focus on information gathering and assessment, strategic planning and strengthened cooperation, as well as dissemination of important information, as key cross-cutting elements. The approach recognizes that all project stakeholders possess knowledge that is important to project success. The project will aim to develop the capacity of these stakeholders on knowledge sharing to promote a dynamic communications culture that contributes to improved management of protected areas and community resilience to climate change. A total budget of US$ 217,965 has been allocated for these KM activities.

A KM committee will be established under the PSC, consisting of key executing partners engaged in the gathering, management and dissemination of important information. The KM committee will guide KM efforts under the project, including identification and production of key knowledge products to be developed and disseminated under the project.

The project will also capture key information on terrestrial and marine protected areas (existing, new and planned) including location, area, ecosystems and species conserved, management arrangements, and monitoring and enforcement considerations. Specific data will be housed within a data management platform established under the project (output 3.3.1) and maintained through a tracking system also established under the project (output 3.3.2). Establishing data management and tracking tools will improve information available for reporting on Fiji?s state and trends of Biodiversity in general, maintained through a co-management approach among community and government stakeholders.

Relevant information will be made publicly available through a simple information system on the Department of Environment website. Key documents on each of Fiji PAs and MPAs, as well as associated landscape and seascape-scale management and corridor/linking initiatives, will also be made available through the Ministry website.

Where possible, the project will also enhance global understanding of protected areas in Fiji by contributing to existing knowledge sharing and data management platforms, such as the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal, which aligns with the World Database on Protected Areas, and others. Decision-making related to broader data and knowledge sharing will remain with the KM committee under the PSC.

Contribution of KM to the project?s overall impact: The project?s overall impact will be considerably magnified through sharing of lessons learnt amongst project staff and collaborators, including ministry staff and extension officers, NGOs, private sector partners and local communities. This will be done both actively through exchange visits to project sites and sharing of experiences, as well as passively by making key information publicly available online. In addition, overall awareness of the general public will be improved through delivery of targeted communications outreach using radio, print, social media, and other forms of digital media, as well as distribution of targeted communications materials, such as flyers and brochures. Finally, lessons learnt from the project partnership with the Fiji Navy related to monitoring and surveillance of offshore MPAs in Fiji, mainly foreign-registered vessels, will be collated and shared for amplification at national level.

Plans for reciprocal learning between relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations: It is envisaged that the project will contribute to the existing community of practice for community-based biodiversity conservation in Fiji. This community of practice is fostered through frequent exchange of information, the sharing of ideas and lessons among Fiji?s conservation and academic professionals and is vital for sustainable biodiversity conservation in Fiji. Equally vital is the meeting of minds and cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches when traditional iTaukei conservation practitioners are engaged in these discussions, leveraging traditional and customary knowledge alongside Western science. Building on this foundation, the project will aim to strengthen private sector engagement in this community of practice, to develop both economically viable and environmentally sustainable approaches to biodiversity conservation in Fiji.

The project will also maintain close contact, share relevant information and learn from other relevant projects. This will occur formally, under the PSC subcommittees and associated working groups under the NEC, as well as informally, through frequent dialogue and exchange between the KM committee and relevant stakeholders in Fiji. As outlined in the KM approach, the project will improve awareness, communications, and education and ensure that project processes, experiences and results are properly recorded, collected, and disseminated to in-country stakeholders and partners, but also sister initiatives and projects globally. The proper management of knowledge will require transparent and timely sharing of data, and other information through proper communication means, including the IW:LEARN (GEF?s International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network), Fiji?s GEF 5 STAR Ridge to Reef project, and the GEF 7 IUCN/CI Inclusive Conservation Initiative. Especially IW:LEARN can serve as a great platform to disseminate the innovative work on LMMAs and the involvement of the Navy in environmental and conservation monitoring and control, through its established mechanisms on collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems concerning water protection.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established Conservation International and GEF procedures by the project team and the CI-GEF Project Agency. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project inception workshop, including a review of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

A. Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities

The Executing Agency will be responsible for initiating and organizing key monitoring and evaluation tasks. These tasks will largely fall to the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, with support from the PM, who will be responsible for reporting against the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan outlined in Appendix III. This includes monitoring outcomes from the project inception workshop and documenting them in a report, as well as compiling quarterly progress reports, annual progress and implementation reports,

documentation of lessons learned, and support for and cooperation with the independent external evaluation exercises, in alignment with Appendix III.

The project Executing Agency is responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent evaluation exercises.

Key project service providers will be responsible for providing any and all required information and data necessary for timely and comprehensive project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate, which will in turn convey to the IA.

The Project Steering Committee plays a key oversight role for the project by holding regular meetings to receive updates on project implementation progress and approve annual workplans. The Project Steering Committee also provides continuous ad-hoc oversight and feedback on project activities, responding to inquiries or requests for approval from the Executing Agency.

The CI-GEF Project Agency plays an overall assurance, backstopping, and oversight role with respect to monitoring and evaluation activities. The in-country IA representative will be the main project liaison for the CI-GEF Project Agency.

The CI General Counsel?s Office with the Grants and Contracts Unit are responsible for contracting and oversight of the planned independent external evaluation exercises at the mid-point and end of the project.

B. Monitoring, Evaluation and Project Management Costs Activities

The Project M&E and PMC Plan should include the following components (see table 20 and 21 for details):

Inception workshop

Project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of project start with the project stakeholders. An overarching objective of the inception workshop is to assist the project team in understanding and taking ownership of the project?s objectives and outcomes. The inception workshop will be used to detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of the CI-GEF Project Agency and the Executing Agency.

Inception workshop Report
The Executing Agency should produce an inception report documenting all changes and decisions made during the inception workshop to the project planned activities, budget, results framework, and any other key aspects of the project. The inception report should be produced within one month of the inception

workshop, as it will serve as a key input to the timely planning and execution of project start-up and activities.

Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs)
A Project Results Monitoring Plan will be developed by the EA, which will include objective, outcome and output indicators, metrics to be collected for each indicator, methodology for data collection and analysis, baseline information, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection, responsible parties, and indicative resources needed to complete the plan. Appendix III provides the Project Results Monitoring Plan table that will help complete this M&E component. The Project Results Monitoring Plan will have to be reviewed and endorsed by the PSC.

In addition to the objective, outcome, and output indicators, the Project Results Monitoring Plan table will also include all indicators identified in the Safeguard Plans prepared for the project, thus they will be consistently and timely monitored.

The monitoring of these indicators throughout the life of the project will be necessary to assess if the project has successfully achieved its expected results.

Baseline Establishment: in the case that all necessary baseline data has not been collected during the PPG phase, it will be collected and documented by the relevant project partners within the first 18 months of project implementation.

GEF Core Indicator Worksheet

The relevant section of the GEF Core Indicator Worksheet was updated for the CEO endorsement submission. This worksheet will also be updated i) prior to mid-term review, and ii) prior to the terminal evaluation.

Project Steering Committee Meetings
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will be held annually, semi-annually, or quarterly, as appropriate. Meetings shall be held to review and approve project annual budget and work plans, discuss implementation issues and identify solutions, and to increase coordination and communication between key project partners. The meetings held by the PSC will be monitored and results adequately reported.

CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervisory and technical backstopping Missions
The CI-GEF Project Agency will conduct (at least) annual monitoring visits to the project country and potentially to project field sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess firsthand project progress. Oversight visits will most likely be conducted to coincide with the timing of PSC meetings. Other members of the PSC may also join field visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CI-GEF PA staff participating in the oversight mission, and will be circulated to the project team and PSC members within one month of the visit. The EA should be informed of such visits. All expenses relating to such visits will be borne by the IA.

Quarterly Progress Reporting (Technical and Financial)
The Executing Agency will submit quarterly progress reports to the CI-GEF Project Agency, including a budget follow-up and requests for disbursement to cover expected quarterly expenditures.

Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)
The Executing Agency will prepare an annual PIR to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the reporting period (July 1st to June 30th). The PIR will summarize the annual project result and progress. A summary of the report will be shared with the Project Steering Committee. The PIR will be considered as part of the quarterly progress reporting unless the PSC decides otherwise.

Final Project Report
The Executing Agency will draft a final report at the end of the project, which will be submitted to the GEF through the CI-GEF Project Agency.

Independent External Mid-term Review
The project will undergo an independent Mid-term Review within 30 days of the mid-point of the grant term. The Mid-term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. The Mid-term Review will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions, and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review will be incorporated to secure maximum project results and sustainability during the second half of project implementation.

Independent Terminal Evaluation
An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within six months after project completion and will be undertaken in accordance with CI and GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project?s results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The Executing Agency in collaboration with the PSC will provide a formal management answer to the findings and recommendations of the terminal evaluation.

Financial Statements Audit
Annual Financial reports submitted by the executing Agency will be audited annually by external auditors approved by the CI-GEF Agency. CI-GEF may hire the auditor firm directly with project funds. This is part of the PMC budget.

The Terms of References for the evaluations will be drafted by the CI-GEF PA in accordance with GEF requirements. The procurement and contracting for the independent evaluations will handled by CI?s General Counsel?s Office. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget, as indicated at project approval.

Table 9: M&E Plan Summary

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)

a. Inception workshop	Within three months of signing the CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	? Executing Agency Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO) Project Manager (PM) ? CI-GEF PA Technical Oversight (TO)	*Included in project costs
b. Inception workshop Report and review of M&E Plan	Within one month of inception workshop	? Executing Agency (PM, MEO) ? CI-GEF PA (TO)	$4,000
c. Project Results Monitoring Plan and progress report (Objective, Outcomes, Outputs, and finances))	Quarterly (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	? Submission: Executing Agency (PM) ? Review: CI-GEF PA (TO and Financial Focal Point)	$70,616
d. GEF Indicator Tracker	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	? Preparation and submission: Executing Agency (PM) ? Review: CI-GEF PA (TO)	$19,247
e. CI-GEF Project Agency Supervisory and Technical backstopping Missions	Annually	? CI-GEF PA (TO and other CI-GEF technical and administrative staff as necessary)	*covered under Agency fees
f. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Annually for the fiscal year ending June 30	? Executing Agency (PL) ? CI-GEF PA (TO and Financial Focal Point)	$54,555
g. Project Completion Report	Upon project operational closure	? Preparation and submission: Executing Agency (PM) ? Review and endorsement: CI-GEF PA (TO)	$19,247
h. Independent External Mid-term Review	Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	? CI Evaluation Office ? Executing Agency Project Team (PMU)	$25,000

		? CI-GEF PA (TO)	
i. Independent Terminal Evaluation	Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	? CI Evaluation Office Executing Agency Project Team (PMU) ? CI-GEF PA (TO)	$25,000
Project Closure Documentation (report and financial administrative closure)		CI-GEF PA (Financial Focal Point)	*Included in project costs
Summary M&E total			$217,665

Table 10: Project Management Costs (PMC) Summary

Type of PMC	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
a. Project Steering Committee Meetings	Annually	? PMU lead by PM ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA (TO)	$11,600
b. Quarterly Progress and financial Reporting	Quarterly	? Executing Agency (PM) ? CI-GEF PA (TO)	$258,324
c. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation	At least annually	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	$28,425
d. Financial Statements Audit	Annually and at the end of the project (Final Project Audit Report)	? Executing Agency (PM) ? CI-GEF PA (Financial Focal Point)	$47,150
Summary PMC total			$345,499

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)?

This project will deliver direct and indirect benefits to communities and individuals across Fiji, specifically to communities on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu as well as maritime island communities within Kadavu and Lau Provinces, as well as the Ringgold Islands. The project will work with communities to maintain ecosystem services provisioning and address a range of compounding issues to improve human well-being and socio-economic considerations in Fiji. Critically, the project will specifically invest in livelihoods development in a gender responsive manner to address increased unemployment cause by the pandemic, largely due to the halting of global and national tourism.

First, the SAMBIO project will aim to improve income-generation, sustainability and diversification of local livelihoods within target communities in high biodiversity areas under outcomes 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2. The project will include resource owners, women?s groups and resource users. In terms of livelihoods improvement, SAMBIO activities will aim to identify the most promising and sustainable approaches to be pursued for each site, informed by the natural capital ? livelihoods nexus in a conservation enterprises approach context, which will identify key entry points for generating sustainable income while reducing or stopping environmentally harmful activities, together with market and supply chain analysis, and consultations with community and private sector stakeholders.

The project will then provide targeted training and capacity building for communities, women?s groups and entrepreneurs in business management and planning, financial management, operations and bookkeeping, and compliance requirements for small businesses in alignment with Fiji law and taxes taking into account gender relations and vulnerable groups. The project will further provide technical assistance and training to communities and entrepreneurs for product development, value-addition and processing, packaging and branding, and finally, private sector partnerships. The project will also identify and build supply chain and marketing partnerships with private sector operators in Fiji, to better connect local producers to the domestic market. Through these activities, the project will aim to ensure sustainability of GEF investments and improvements in income generation within each site.

Project livelihoods activities will specifically ensure and target inclusion of women and women?s groups, by focusing at least partially on sale of products developed by women, or income-generating activities in which women play a leading role, in a conservation enterprises approach context. In this regard, the project will deliver an economic empowerment strategy to address existing gender inequities, which might affect project outcomes and their post-project continuation, while also ensuring active gender inclusion across all resource management and planning activities.

The project will measure socio-economic benefits in each relevant site (according to outcomes) through community surveys conducted before and after project interventions, in a gender disaggregated fashion. These surveys will also assess additional community benefits, including improved resilience and reduced vulnerability of island communities to climate change impacts resulting from the maintenance and improvement in ecosystem service provisioning from habitat protection and management. The transition of income generation from environmentally harmful to environmentally neutral or positive activities will also

be assessed. Adaptation benefits will be a critical contribution of the project to all targeted communities, and will be measured using a robust suite of adaptation monitoring tools developed by CI in tandem with other globally adapted tools and gender markers.

Additional benefits will include improved food security resulting from better management of coastal areas and traditional fishing grounds to climate change and anthropogenic threats, as well as improved sustainability of agricultural production within multiple terrestrial sites. Finally, by strengthening community-based resources management plans and skills within each site through targeted training and community facilitation, the project will secure continuation of a multitude of ecosystem services benefits, including: freshwater provisioning, recreation, cultural and spiritual services provided by nature, soil and land stability, and a range of other benefits, which have direct and indirect beneficial effects on the socio-economic functions of the target communities and the country as a whole.

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
High or Substantial	Medium/Moderate		

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.

By advancing protected area and natural resource management the project will yield positive environmental impacts; by strengthening community participation in markets for sustainable commodities and through participatory planning processes the project will yield positive social impacts. Planning processes will be multi-stakeholder and participatory, and site-based interventions will be community-driven, involving best-practice engagement processes and Free, Prior and Informed Consent, with specific attention to gender considerations. However, the interventions will not involve

resettlement, alterations to physical or intangible cultural heritage or the generation of hazardous materials. Thus, the safeguard screening process indicates that the proposed project will have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

Table 11: Safeguard Screening Results

By advancing protected area and natural resource management the project will yield positive environmental impacts; by strengthening community participation in markets for sustainable commodities and through participatory planning processes the project will yield positive social impacts. Planning processes will be multi-stakeholder and participatory, and site-based interventions will be community-driven, involving best-practice engagement processes and Free, Prior and Informed Consent, with specific attention to gender considerations. However, the interventions will not involve resettlement, alterations to physical or intangible cultural heritage or the generation of hazardous materials. Thus, the safeguard screening process indicates that the proposed project will have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

Environmental & Social Standard (ESS)	Triggered (Yes/No)	Justification
ESS 1: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	Yes	Under Component 1, 2 and 3, the project will create new protected areas as well as expand and improve the management of existing protected sites in Fiji. This is one of the five activity types identified by CI-GEF that may result in adverse environmental and social impacts. As a result, an ESMP has been developed.
ESS 2: Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation	No	The project is not proposing activities that would have adverse impacts on natural or critical natural habitats, contravene applicable international environmental treaties or agreements or introduce or use potentially invasive, nonindigenous species.
ESS 3: Resettlement and Physical and Economic Displacement	Yes	No resettlement of villages or land acquisition is required for this project. However, protected area management plans for both terrestrial and marine sites have the potential to cause short-term access or economic restrictions for residents in nearby villages or settlements, particularly for people who rely on forest resources, land, and sea for their source of income.

ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples	Yes	Traditional village communities and settlements are situated in close proximity to the selected terrestrial and marine sites. Marine sites are comprised of iQoliqoli?s (traditional fishing areas) that are locally managed by indigenous people under their traditional social structure.
ESS 5: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	No	There are no proposed activities related to the use of banned, restricted, or prohibited substances, chemicals or hazardous materials.
ESS 6: Cultural Heritage	No	Particular areas within these biodiversity hotspots are of cultural significance. Since this project supports the development of management plans and resource planning, cultural resources and culturally significant areas for each site should be maintained and respected. The project does not plan to disturb, remove or alter in any way sites of cultural significance.
ESS 7: Labour and Working Conditions	No	The EA has in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the GEF Minimum Standard 8.
ESS 8: Community Health, Safety and Security	No	The project does not expose communities to Health, Safety and Security risks.
ESS 9: Private Sector Direct Investment and Financial Intermediaries	No	There are no proposed activities related to direct investments in private sector firms, or disbursements of funds through Financial Intermediaries (FIs).
ESS 10: Climate Risk and Related Disasters	Yes	The project contributes to Fiji?s international and national biodiversity targets outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and other key documents, including the Climate Change Act and REDD+ Policy.

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
		X	

Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
GHD-12550606-REP-001-C-ESIA	CEO Endorsement ESS	
GHD-12550606-REP-004-C-GMP	CEO Endorsement ESS	
GHD-12550606-REP-003-C-SEP	CEO Endorsement ESS	
20220204 Fiji SAMBIO ESIA Approved	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Appendix VI ESMP	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Appendix VI AGM	CEO Endorsement ESS	
20201015 Climate Risk Screening Fiji SAMBIO	Project PIF ESS	
20200918 SMTB Fiji Preliminary Safeguard Screening Analysis Results	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).

Objective:	To establish new marine and terrestrial protected areas within priority areas of biodiversity and strengthen Fiji?s protected area network, improve the management of key biodiversity areas in forests and coastal ecosystems to protect Fiji?s most threatened biodiversity, and strengthen policy and financing pathways to secure ecosystem services and other benefits to island communities into the future.
Indicator(s):	? 50,679 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha) ? 10,761,579 ha of marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha) ? 32,168 ha of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (ha) ? 22,700,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (ha) ? 157,627 direct beneficiaries including 82,403 males and 75,224 females as co-benefit of GEF investment

?

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 1: Improvement of management and expansion of protection of terrestrial key biodiversity areas on Fiji?s two largest islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu			

Outcome 1.1.: Forests and freshwater habitats outside of terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities *Indicator 1.1a.: Number of hectares of forests and freshwater habitats and their buffer zones outside of PAs with improved management under the co-management model to benefit biodiversity* *Indicator 1.1b.: Number of individuals with improved livelihoods as a result of the project*	Limited number of KBAs/IBAs have existing management plans under co-management by government and communities	Target 1.1a.: 32,168 ha under improved management/co-management Target 1.1b.: *At least 1,000 people in project sites benefitting from improved livelihoods, including* with at least 50% women	Output 1.1.1.: Baseline information and data assessed and collected to identify and define candidate freshwater KBAs within Viti Levu and Vanua Levu ? *Indicator 1.1.1.: Number of KBA maps updated and watersheds assessed* ? *Target 1.1.1: At least 5 watersheds assessed, and 1 KBA map updated* Output 1.1.2.: Co-management model for freshwater and forest KBAs developed and demonstrated within key sites to preserve Fiji?s biodiversity through a participatory process involving multi-level stakeholders; inclusive conservation *Indicator 1.1.2.: Number of co-management models developed or demonstrated* *Target 1.1.2. At least one co-management model delivered or demonstrated* Output 1.1.3: Improved sustainability and diversification of community livelihoods, including agricultural production, within project sites on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu: *Indicator 1.1.3.: Number of individuals within target communities with improved livelihoods* *Target 1.1.3: At least 1,000 individuals directly benefiting from improved livelihoods with at least 50% women*

Outcome 1.2.: KBAs and IBAs are newly designated as terrestrial protected areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu *Indicator 1.2.: Number of hectares of forests and freshwater habitats (KBAs and IBAs) under newly designated PA legal status to benefit biodiversity*	*23 terrestrial protected areas have been established, covering 50,000 ha and representing 2.7% coverage of Fiji?s forest IBAs and KBAs*	*Target 1.2: 50,679 ha newly designated*	Output 1.2.1.: Fiji?s proposed Protected Area Network is updated based on KBAs/IBAs information, and PA boundaries defined for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu *Indicator 1.2.1.: Country area (Fiji) coverage of updated KBA/IBA maps with defined boundaries* *Target 1.2.1: At least 16%* Output 1.2.2.: Stakeholder consultations are conducted and all necessary consent is secured (to advance legal formalization of Protected Areas in Fiji) *Indicator 1.2.2a: Percentage of resource owners providing consent for formalization of the PA boundaries* *Target 1.2.2a: 60% of resources owners provide Free Prior and Informed Consent for establishment of a PA* *Indicator 1.2.2b: Number of consultations conducted with other relevant stakeholders, including government and private sector* *Target 1.2.2b: At least 2 consultations conducted with other relevant stakeholders and support for the PA support secured* Output 1.2.3.: Management plans are developed and endorsed for each new PA, including District-level co-management requirements together with resource owners/communities *Indicator 1.2.3.: Coverage in hectares of management plans developed and endorsed by government and communities* *Target 1.2.3: Management plans*

Component 2: Establishment of new and better management of existing MPAs/LMMAs within the Fiji?s Eastern Division			
Outcome 2.1.: Offshore MPAs are designated within areas critical for biodiversity within Fiji?s Eastern Division, including within the Lau Seascape and Kadavu archipelago *Indicator 2.1.: Number of hectares of offshore MPAs established with Management Plans and Guidelines in place*	0 ha of offshore MPAs are currently gazetted in Fiji.	*Target 2.1.: 10,761,579 ha*	Output 2.1.1.: Marine biodiversity assessed and new MPA boundaries defined *Indicator 2.1.1.: Coverage of new MPAs, biodiversity assessed and with defined boundaries* *Target 2.1.1: at least 10,761,579 ha* Output 2.1.2.: Management plans for each MPA developed and key actions implemented (Criteria and delineation proposed through a participatory process comprised of technical and multi-level stakeholder workshops) *Indicator 2.1.2.: Number of developed management plans with prioritized actions implemented* *Target: 2.1.2: At least six* Output 2.1.3.: Protected areas in the offshore are legally designated with management guidelines established. *Indicator 2.1.3.: Coverage of protected areas legally designated with management guidelines established* *Target 2.1.3: At least 10,761,579 ha*

Outcome 2.2.: Coastal and nearshore marine areas in Kadavu, the Ringgold Islands and Lau under improved management effectiveness with enhanced livelihoods delivered to island communities. *Indicator 2.2a.: Coastal and nearshore MPAs with improved management effectiveness (ha)* *Indicator 2.2b.: Number of communities with improved livelihoods*	1,579 ha of locally managed marine areas /coastal and nearshore areas under coastal community management	*Target 2.2a.: Target 1,579 ha* *Target 2.2b.: At least 1,000 people in project sites benefitting from improved livelihoods, including with at* least 50% women	Output 2.2.1.: Biodiversity management strategy developed to harmonize management of coastal and nearshore waters in Kadavu and the Ringgold Islands *Indicator 2.2.1.: Coverage of Biodiversity management strategies developed in partnership with communities* *Target: Plans and strategies developed covering at least 1,579 ha* Output 2.2.2.: Key actions implemented from the Lau Seascape Strategy and the Biodiversity Management Plans to improve governance and coordinated management of coastal and archipelagic waters. *Indicator 2.2.2.: Coverage of plans and strategies implemented in partnership with local communities* *Target: Plans and strategies implemented covering at least 1,579 ha* Output 2.2.3.: Market assessment developed and environmentally friendly value chains for livelihood-important products improved for coastal island communities in Lau Seascape and Kadavu *Indicator 2.2.3.: Number of individuals within target communities benefitting from improved value chains for sustainably developed products* *Target 2.2.3: 1,000 beneficiaries from target communities with at least 50% women*

Outcome 2.3.: Marine habitats outside of MPAs in the Lau Seascape archipelago are under improved management, strengthening biodiversity protection at scale and benefiting local community livelihoods *Indicator 2.3: Number of hectares of Marine habitats outside MPAs delineated and under improved management (ha)*	0ha under sustainable management	Target: *22,700,000 ha under improved management*	Output 2.3.1: Marine zonation/ delineation plans are developed and implemented for areas outside of protected areas with a focus on enforcement. *Indicator 2.3.1: Area coverage of marine habitat outside of MPAs included in the Lau Seascape marine zonation plan* *Target: at least 22,700,000 ha* Output 2.3.2: A management plan for the Lau Seascape is developed and approved, with key actions implemented. *Indicator 2.3.2: Area coverage of marine habitat outside of MPAs included in the Lau Seascape management plan* *Target: at least 22,700,000 ha in sustainable management and protection of the ocean.* Output 2.3.3: Co-management monitoring system piloted? in partnership with the Fijian Navy recommendations and other parallel surveillance strategies developed for scaling up and amplifications of the co-management model to all maritime islands *Indicator 2.3.3: Number of pilots with surveillance strategies established* *Target: At least one pilot with surveillance strategies*
Component 3: Enabling conditions strengthened to accelerate expansion and improved management of Fiji?s PA and MPA network, in full alignment with Fiji?s Biodiversity protection needs			

Outcome 3.1: Increase in the marine and terrestrial area of PAs and MPAs that benefit from a sustainable financing framework Indicator(s) *3.1: Number of hectares of marine and terrestrial areas that benefit from a sustainable financing framework*	A draft national sustainable financing framework is developed and requires review and formal endorsement	Target 3.1: *41,100,300 has of marine area, 305,100 ha of land area (including 50,679 ha of forest from output 3.1.2)*	Output 3.1.1: Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network *Indicator 3.1.1: Number of sustainable financing frameworks developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network* *Target 3.1.1: At least 1 Sustainable financing framework is developed and endorsed with inclusive programs and strategies to support formalization of Fiji?s PA and MPA network* Output 3.1.2: Sustainable financing plans developed for PAs (to formalize protection of key areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu) *Indicator 3.1.2: Area coverage of terrestrial protected areas encompassed in the sustainable financing plans* *Target 3.1.2: At least 50,679 ha of forest*

Outcome 3.2: Fiji?s key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts Indicator(s): *3.2a: Number of keystone species for which plans and protocols are developed in alignment with global standards with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented*	At present, at least 16 critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable terrestrial plant and animal species have existing management plans, of which 12 need to be updated. In addition, at least 12 critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable marine species have existing management plans and at least 10 need new or updated management plans.	*Target: At least 10 species for which plans and protocols are developed or updated in with climate change mainstreamed and key actions implemented*	Output 3.2.1: Management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols for threatened keystone species developed or updated in accordance to the current biodiversity protection needs as an integral part of PA/MPA management plans, with key actions implemented. Note: these plans will address climate change related impacts on biodiversity *Indicator 3.2.1.: Number of species included in relevant management, recovery and monitoring plans and protocols* *Target: At least 10 species* Output 3.2.2: Fiji?s PA and MPA regulatory framework developed and shared for endorsement *Indicator 3.2.2.: Number of integrated regulatory frameworks with full coverage of PA and MPA established* *Target: 3.2.2: At least one*

Outcome 3.3 Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to monitor and report on management and resources at scale for Biodiversity. *Indicator(s):* *3.3a: Number of PA and MPA data management and tracking system established* *3.3b: Number of capacity building programs implemented at national level with government agencies* *3.3c: Number of relevant government agency staff trained* *3.3d: Number of Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) and other relevant stakeholder representatives with increased capacity, including women and youth*	Limited tracking and monitoring systems currently in place	*Targets: 3.3a: At least one system established for PA and MPA data management and tracking* *3.3b: At least 2 programs developed and implemented* *3.3c: At least 400 government agency staff trained including at least 50% women* *3.3d: At least 600 YMST and all relevant stakeholders with increased capacity, including at least 50% women a*nd 25% youth representatives	Output 3.3.1: Data management system is established under the Department of Environment that centralizes national PA and MPA data management and supports Fiji?s reporting to the CBD *Indicator 3.3.1: Number of data management systems delivered* *Target: At least one data management system delivered* Output 3.3.2. Tracking system established to strengthen reporting on the status and trends of biodiversity and benefits *Indicator 3.3.2: Number of tracking systems established* *Target: At least one tracking system established* Output 3.3.3: *Relevant government agency capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting on Biodiversity through specific frameworks.* *Indicator 3.3.3: Number of relevant government agency personnel trained to support biodiversity relevant activities implementation and reporting* *Target 3.3.3: At least 400 government agency staff trained and having capacity to support biodiversity relevant implementation activities and reporting, with at least 50% women* Output 3.3.4: Community and other relevant stakeholder capacity developed to implement, projects, actions, and reporting on Biodiversity through a specifically developed reporting framework. *Indicator 3.3.4: Number of Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST) and other relevant stakeholder representatives with increased*

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation plans inform adaptive management			
Outcome 4.1: Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management *Indicator 4.1: % of required reports and evaluations completed*	M&E mechanism not in place and not linked to adaptive management	*Target: 100% of required reports and evaluation reports completed*	Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed and implemented *Indicator 4.1.1.: Number of monitoring and evaluation programs developed (1) and implemented* *Target: 4.1.1: At least one monitoring and evaluation program developed and implemented* Output 4.1.2: Final report on monitoring and evaluation program completed *Indicator 4.1.2: % of required reports and evaluations completed* *Target: 100% of required reports and evaluations completed*

Components: components are sub-sections of a project. They are used to group issues within a project into smaller and manageable parts in terms of size, duration, and responsibility (e.g., systems, subsystems, components, tasks, sub-tasks, and work packages), which include all steps necessary to achieve the objective. [Note: Project management should NOT be included as a specific project component; it is not part of the project strategy and expected results. Project management arrangements will be described later in the project document section on project execution.]

? *Outcomes: the intended or achieved short and medium term effects of an intervention?s outputs, usually requiring the collective effort of partners. Outcomes represent changes in development conditions which occur between the completion of outputs and the achievement of impact. Outcomes respond to the question of ?what are the short and medium term impacts or results of the project?? There can be several outcomes for each component.*

? *Baselines: the current/original status or condition of the environment without the project. The project?s baseline must be completely defined and documented before the project execution can begin. Baseline values or conditions will be used to assess the success of the project, through the implementation monitoring and evaluation activities. Baselines need to be quantified whenever possible (hectares, tons of CO_2, percentage of coverage, number of staff trained, number of participants, etc.).*

? *Target: the change in the baseline value that will be achieved at the end of the project (number of hectares protected, number of species conserved, tons of CO_2 emissions avoided or captured, legislation passed, plans adopted, staff trained, etc.).*

? *Outputs: the products and services which result from the completion of activities within a development intervention. Outputs respond to the questions of ?what does the project do? And who does the project reach/benefit?? There can be several outputs for each outcome. Outputs need to be quantified whenever possible (hectares, tons of CO2, percentage of coverage, number of staff trained, number of participants, etc.).*

? *Indicators: measurable entities related to a specific information need, such as the status of a target, change in a pressure, or progress towards achieving an objective, outcome and/or output. By identifying indicators the project can develop a rigorous monitoring plan, evaluate the program?s responses and progress towards success, and provide for adaptive management. Indicators should be measurable, precise, consistent, and sensitive.*

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).

Review criterion	GEF Secretariat Comment	Agency Response PIF	Agency Response PPG
Stakeholders			

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?	No, it would be good to describe the National Dialogue and any other consultations that preceded this project and the activities included in it and the plans for further consultations. We understand that COVID-19 has made these activities more limited or challenging.	Thank you for the comment. We have further clarified the current extent of national consultations and enhanced the text on p.24 related to planned consultations during the PPG stage.	Please see dedicated paragraphs under project document section 4 on the issues faced regarding stakeholder engagement and the ways the engagement was carried out.
Risks			

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?	No. Please see STAP guidance on climate risk screening (link below) and provide at least a basic climate risk screening at PIF stage. At a minimum, at PIF stage, the climate risks should be identified, listed and described. This can include: a.) Outlining the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at the project location (or as close to it with data available), which are relevant for the type of intervention being financed (e.g. changes in temperatures, rainfalls, increased flooding, sea level rise, saltwater acquirer contamination, increased soil erosion, etc). b.) Time horizon if feasible/data available (e.g. up to 2050). Please refer to list of examples from STAP guidance. c.) Listing key potential hazards for the project that are related to the aspects of the climate scenarios listed above (describe how the climate scenarios identified above are likely to affect the project, during 2020-2050). d.) Describing plans for climate change risk assessment and mitigation measures during PPG. https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Climate%20Risk%20Screening%20web%20posting.pdf	Thank you for this comment. The climate risk screening has now been completed and included with this resubmission.	Please see an enhanced and up-to-date climate risk assessment as part of the current project document, according to the specifications of the STAP and CI-GEF Agency?s previous experiences in conducting such studies for programming purposes.
	Council Comment		

	Germany Comments Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account: Germany welcomes this proposal, which aims to broadly support Fiji?s protected area network. Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal: ? Germany suggests to present more details on the specific distinction of this newly proposed GEF-investment to other cited and ongoing initiatives in Fiji. For example, under Outcome 2.3 the development of a management plan for the Lau Seascape is announced. As there is already an inter alia GEF-CI implemented project (GEF-7 ID: 10375, Blue Nature Alliance; 2020-2022) with the aim to establish the Lau Seascape, it would be beneficial to learn more about the complementarity of the two projects.		Please see dedicated Appendix XIV of the current project document on alignment of all GEF funding under CI management for the Lau Seascape. The Appendix was formulated on the basis of an updated memo sent from CI to the GEF Secretariat on the same question.

Responses to STAP comments. STAP rating: Concur

Pending STAP comment	Project Response
Assumptions are not explicitly identified. This should be completed prior to CEO endorsement, along with measures to track these assumptions as part of M&E / adaptive management framework.	Assumptions included in the Theory of Change diagram.
Stakeholder engagement: Initial roles identified, to be further developed during PPG stage.	Stakeholder Engagement roles have been further developed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Maps provided, geo coordinates missing.	Geo coordinates included

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: Safeguarding Marine & Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO)- 10675			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
During the PPG Phase the following activities were conducted: stakeholder mapping and engagement; preparation of the ProDoc and budget including execution arrangements; preparation of Safeguard plans (ESIA/ESMP, GMP, SEP, AGM); finalize results framework; conduct EA due diligence; finalize the Execution Arrangements; Desk studies including policy analysis baseline assessment, socio-economic assessments	$200,000.00	$167,573	$32,427
Total	$200,000.00	$167,573	$32,427

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

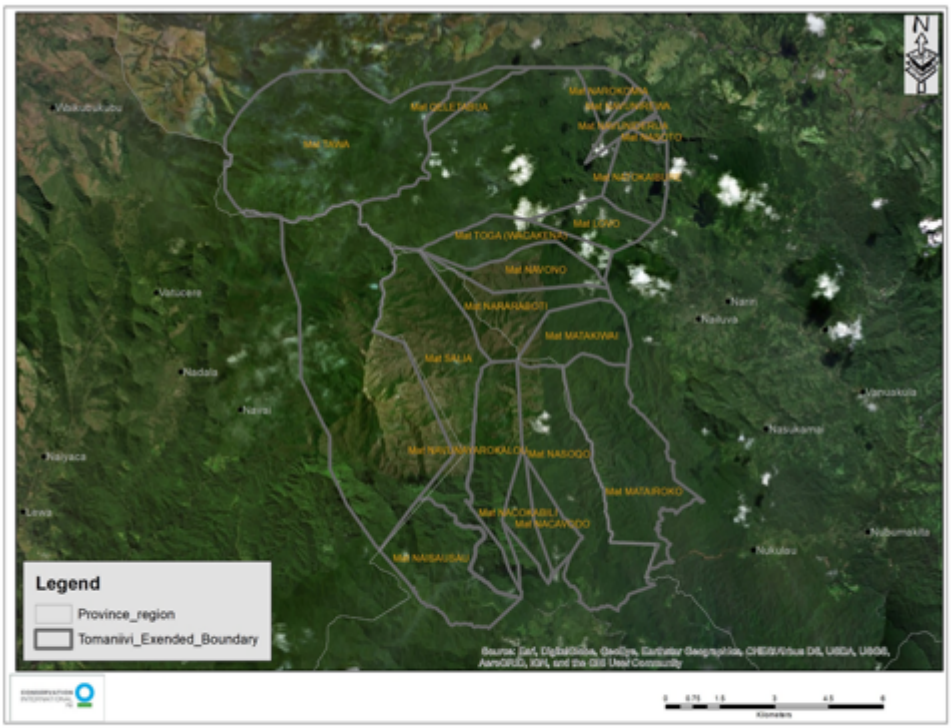


Figure 1: Locality Map of Greater Tomaniivi Boundary

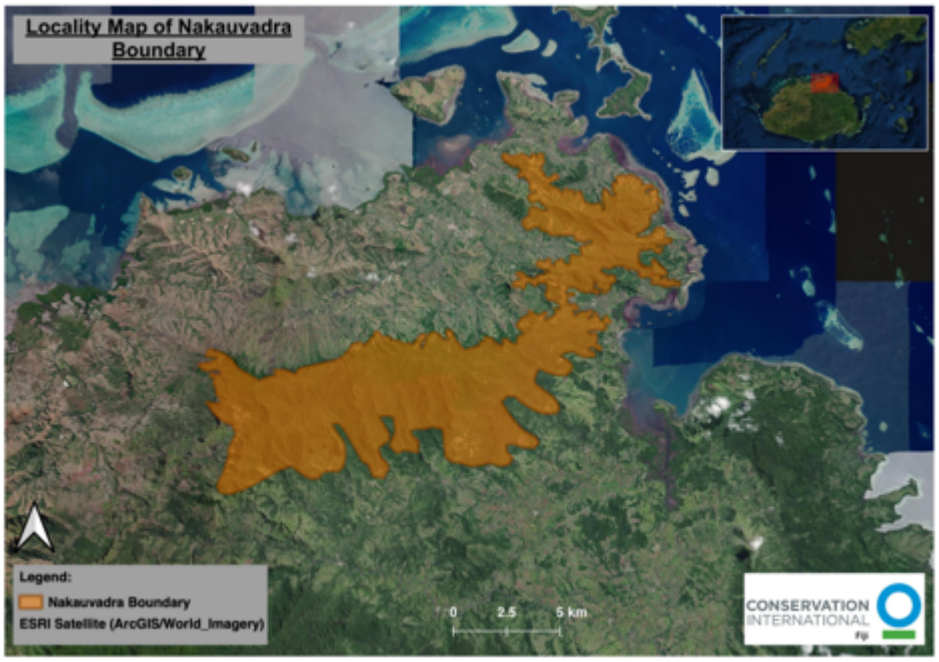


Figure 2: Map of Nakauvadra

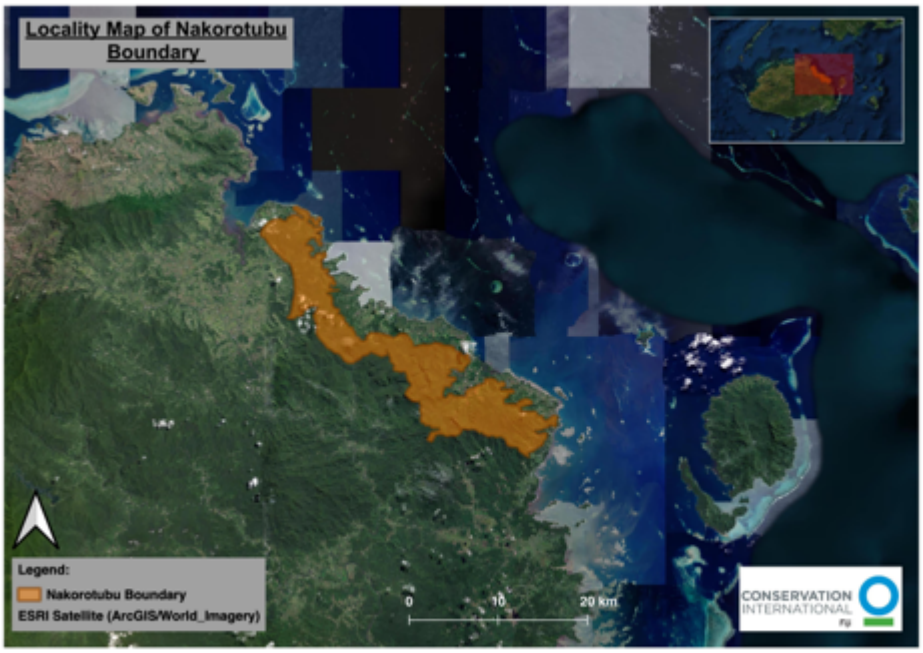


Figure 3: Map of Nakorotubu

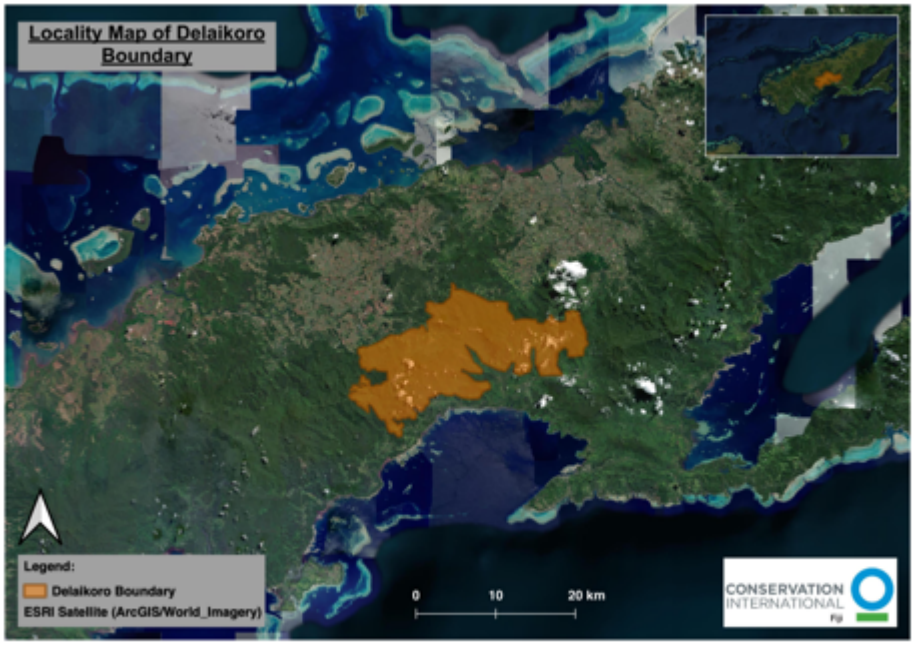


Figure 4: Map of Greater Delaikoro

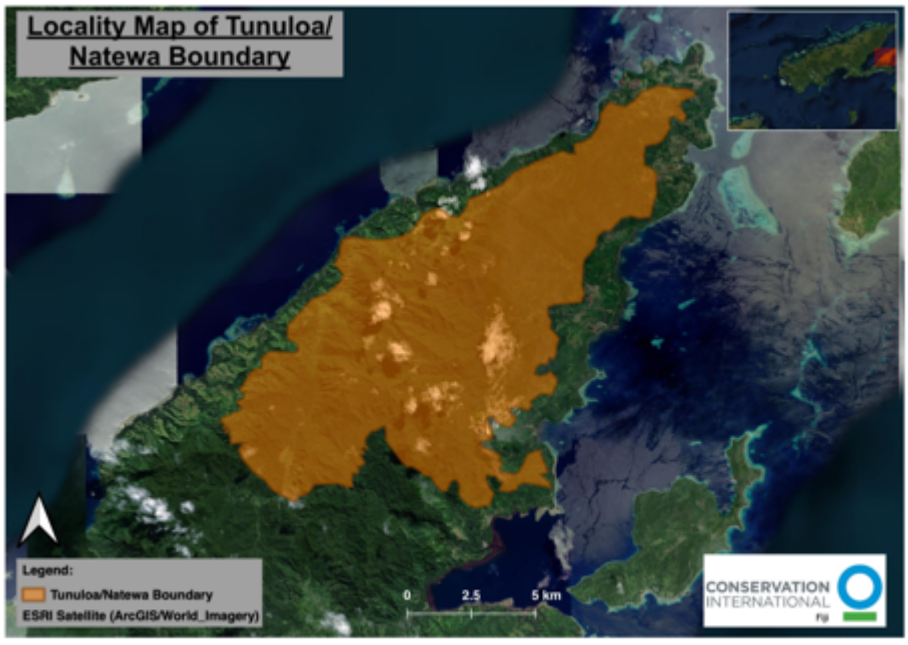


Figure 5: Map of Natewa-Tunuloa

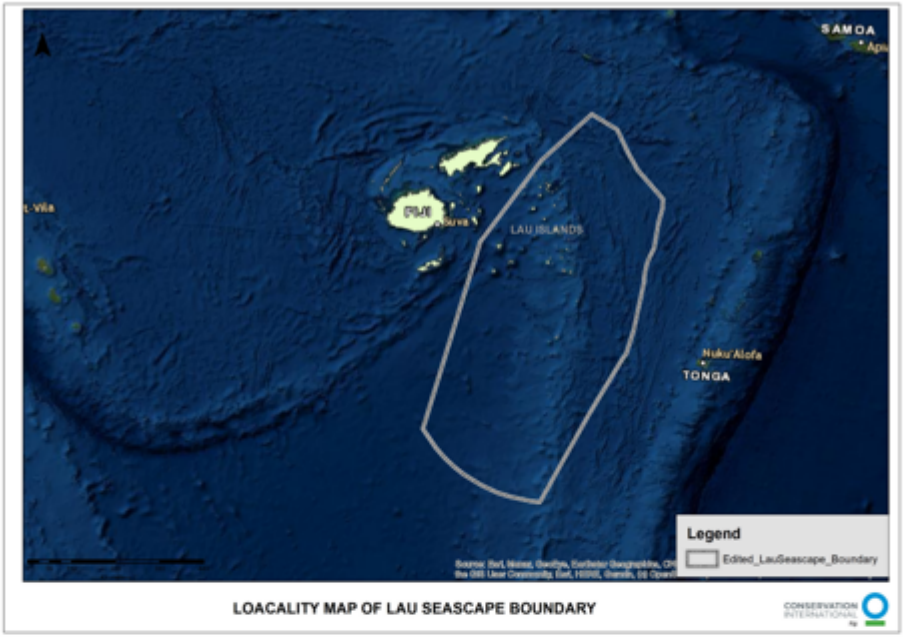


Figure 6: Map of Lau Seascape

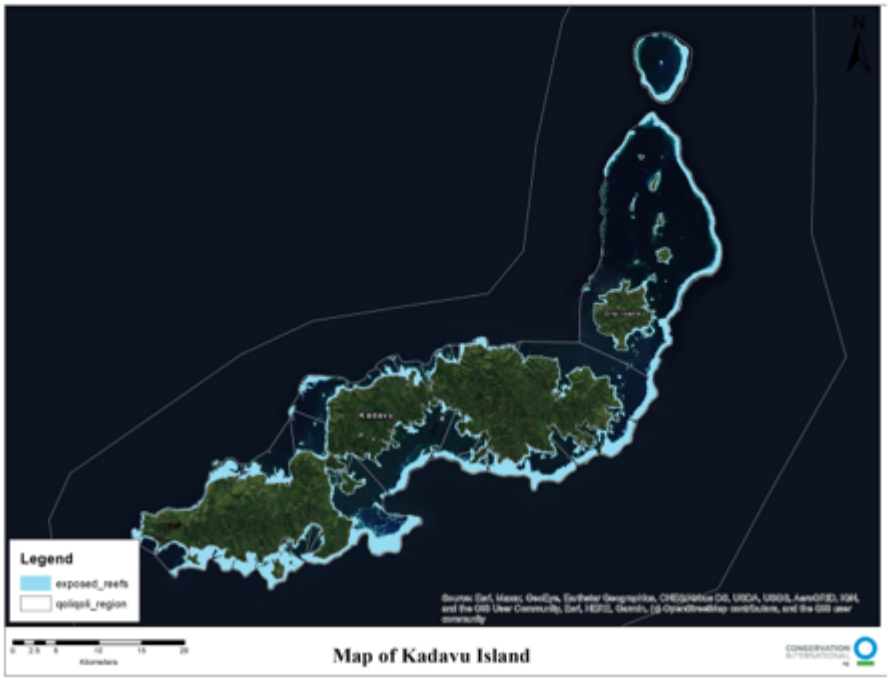


Figure 7: Map of Kadavu

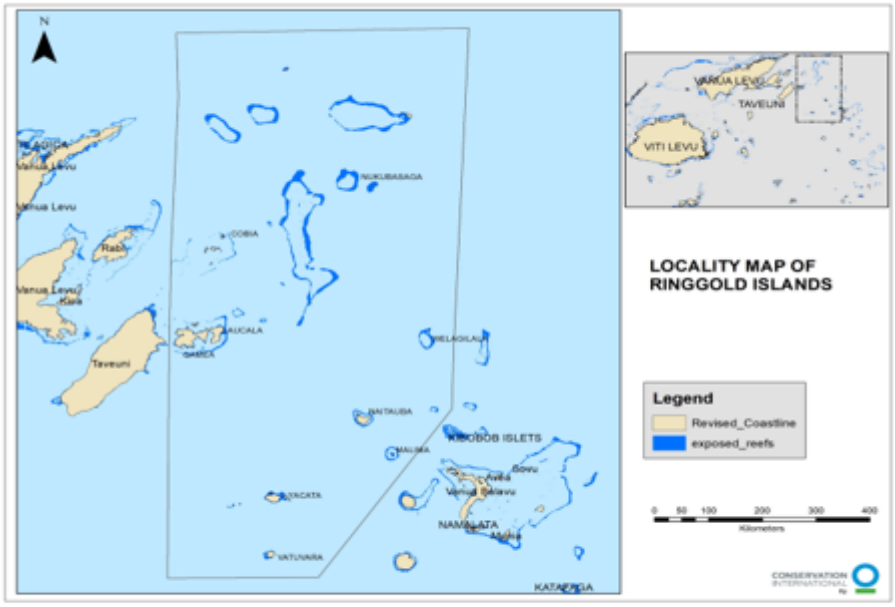


Figure 8: Ringgold Islands

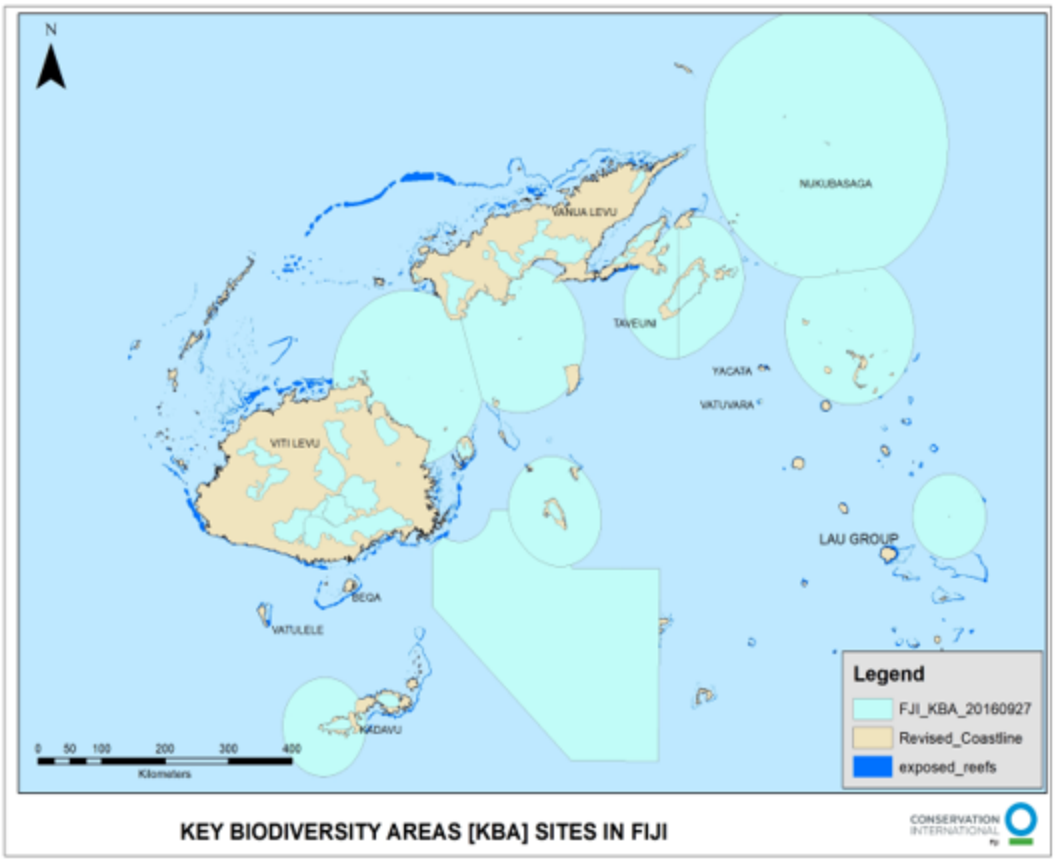


Figure *9*: KBAs in Fiji

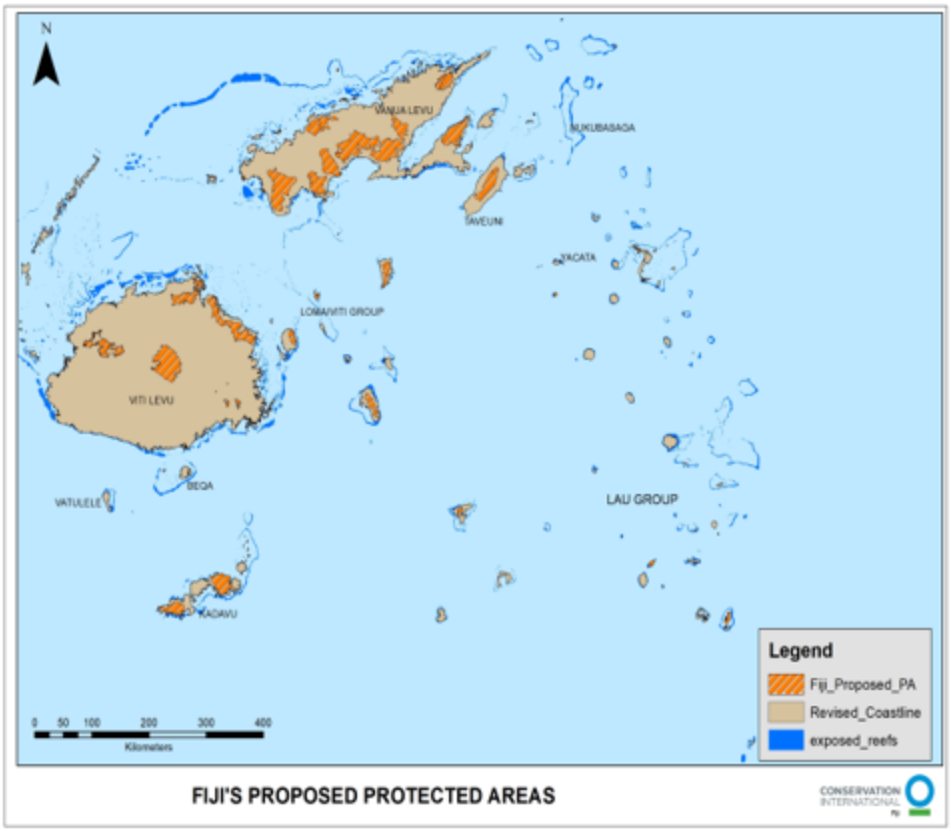


Figure *10*: Proposed Protected Areas in Fiji

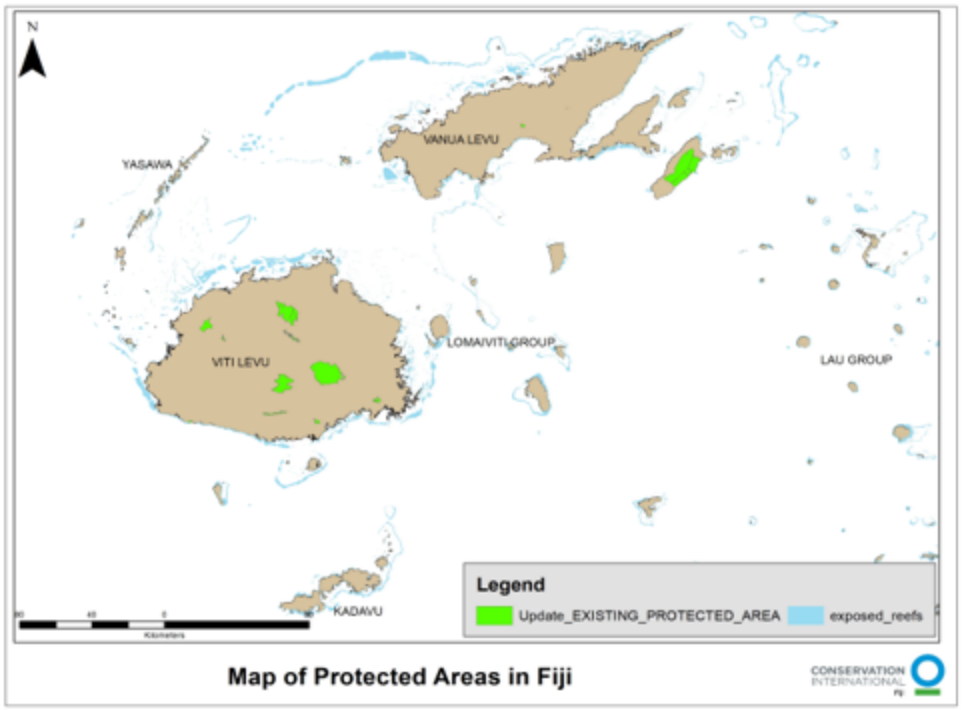


Figure *11*: Existing Protected Areas in Fiji

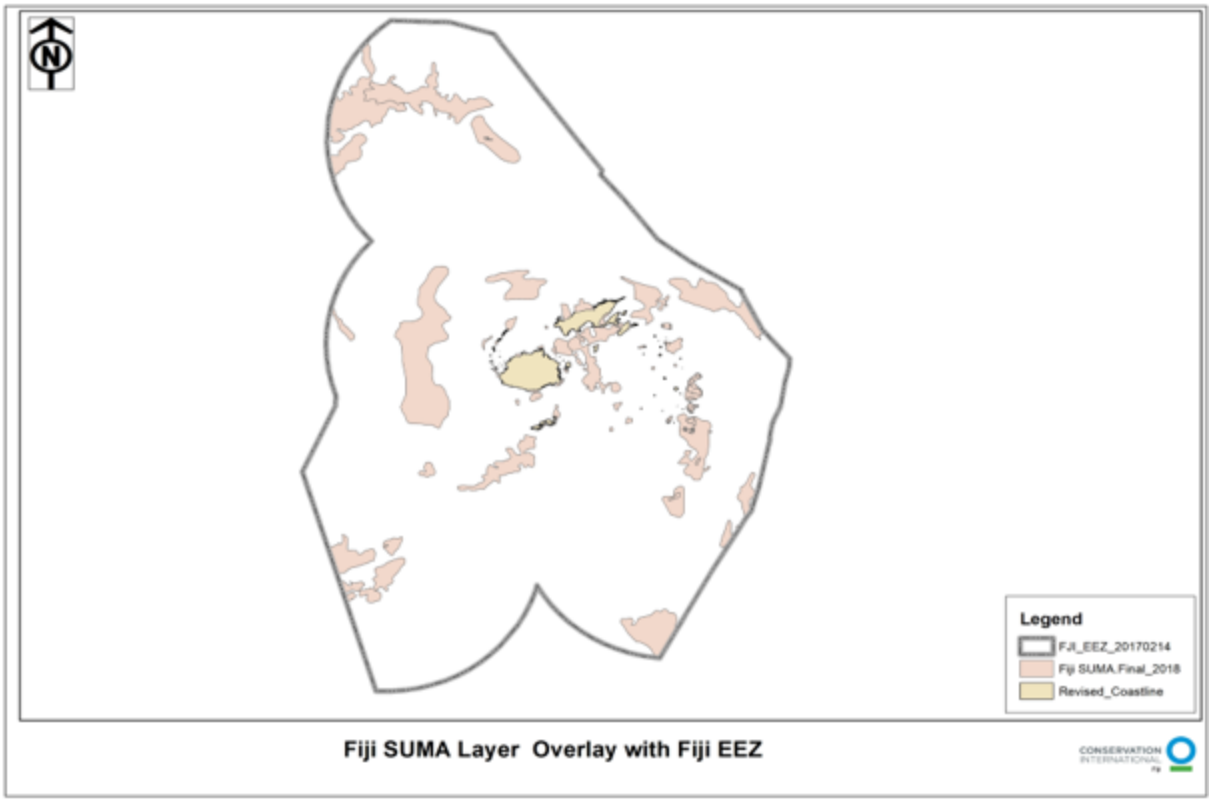


Figure *12*: Special and Unique Marine Areas within Fiji's EEZ

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)												Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1		Component 2			Component 3				Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 2.3	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2	Outcome 3.3	KM					
	Personnel - Project Manager	15,917	15,849	13,634	13,633	13,633	13,633	13,633	13,633.00	-	113,565	-	56,850	170,415	
	Personnel- Principal Administrative Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,383	92,383	
	Personnel - Principal Finance Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,479	115,479	
	Personnel- Communications Coordinator	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	4,619	4,619.00	27,715	92,381	-	-	92,381	
	Personnel- GIS Specialist	13,857	13,857	13,857	13,857	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238.00	-	92,380	-	-	92,380	
	Personnel- Finance and Contract Specialist	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238	9,238.00	-	73,904	-	18,477	92,381	
	Personnel - Technical Officer	17,322	17,322	13,857	13,857	12,703	13,857	13,857	12,703.00	-	115,478	-	-	115,478	
	Personnel - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,479	-	115,479	
	Personnel - Safeguards Coordinator	17,322	17,322	17,322	17,322	11,548	11,548	11,548	11,549.00	-	115,481	-	-	115,481	
	Personnel - Driver, Viti Levu Region	13,648	13,648	-	-	-	10,918	10,918	5,461.00	-	54,593	-	-	54,593	
	Personnel- Driver, Vanua Levu Region	13,648	13,648	-	-	-	10,918	10,918	5,461.00	-	54,593	-	-	54,593	
								-						-	
	Contractual Services - Project audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000	
	Contractual Services - Legal fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	
	Contractual Services - Translation documents	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000.00	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	Service Provider - GIS Consultant (General Retainer for technical assistance)	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,200.00	-	12,400	-	-	12,400	
	Service Provider - Identify Sustainable Supply Chains for Communities in Nakorotubu and Natewa-Tunuloa	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	35,000	
	International Consultant -Mid-term Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	
	International Consultant -Terminal Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	
	Service Provider - Desktop review, GIS analysis and finalisation of PA boundaries (Delaikoro, Nakauvadra, Tomaniwi)	-	5,000	10,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	
	Service Provider - Marine RAP on Deep Water Research Expedition (Kadavu, Lau and Ringgold Islands)	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	150,000	
	Service Provider - Develop National MPA Management Plan Template, and Plans for 6 MPAs in Fiji's Eastern Division	-	-	170,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,000	-	-	170,000	

Personnel and Professional Services	Legal Consultant - Develop Legislation for Gazettal of MPAs	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	60,000	Ministry of Environment
	Service Provider- Develop Business Plans, and Identify Private Sector Market Access Partnerships (Kadavu, Lau, and Ringgold Islands - Desktop work)	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	35,000	
	Service Provider - Marine Spatial Planning (Lau Seascape)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	
	Service Provider - Desktop Review and Development of Co-management Surveillance Plan (for the Lau Seascape)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	
	Service Provider - Develop Communications Protocols and Procure equipment for Island-scale Monitoring with Community Leaders and Navy Leader	-	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	130,000	
	Service Provider - Desktop Assessment and Development of Viable Sustainable Financing Framework (National) and specific plans for terrestrial PAs (Nakauvadra, Tomaniivi, and Delaikoro)	-	-	-	-	-	198,000.00	-	-	-	198,000	-	-	198,000	
	Service Provider - Biophysical RAPs to Determine Species Status (10 species in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, or nationally)	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,000	-	-	190,000	-	-	190,000	
	Service Provider - Development of Species Management and Recovery Plans (10 species - nationally across Fiji, or focused on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu)	-	-	-	-	-	-	245,192	-	-	245,192	-	-	245,192	
	Service Provider -Support Establishment of the National Biodiversity and PA Database and Online Tracking System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	510,669.00	-	510,669	-	-	510,669	
	Service Provider - Report Writing	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	
	Service Provider - Terrestrial Biodiversity Rapid Assessment (5 sites - Nakauvadra, Nakorotubu, Natewa-Tunuloa, Tomaniivi and Delaikoro)	225,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,000	-	-	225,000	
	Service Provider- Community Management Planning and Trainings: Natewa-Tunuloa and Nakorotubu	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	-	600,000	
	Service Provider - Community consultation, Awareness and Securing 60% Landowners Consent: Tomaniivi, Nakauvadra, and Delaikoro	-	225,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,000	-	-	225,000	
	Service Provider - Management Plan Development and Finalisation (Tomaniivi, Nakauvadra, Delaikoro)	-	210,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	210,000	-	-	210,000	
	Service Provider- Develop Legislation for 5-year Conservation Lease (Delaikoro, Nakauvadra, Tomaniivi)	-	700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	700,000	-	-	700,000	
	Service Provider - Community Conservation Agreements for Livelihoods (Tomaniivi, Nakauvadra, Delaikoro)	-	330,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330,000	-	-	330,000	
	Service Provider - Development and Initial Implementation of Biodiversity Management Strategy (Kadavu and Ringgold Islands)	-	-	-	230,000	-	-	-	-	-	230,000	-	-	230,000	
	Service Provider- LMMA Establishment and Management (Lau Seascape, Kadavu and Ringgold Islands -- 3 sites)	-	-	-	330,000	-	-	-	-	-	330,000	-	-	330,000	
	Service Provider - Strengthen Community Livelihoods and Provide Trainings on Sustainable Production (Kadavu, Ringgold Islands, and Lau Seascape)	-	-	-	240,000	-	-	-	-	-	240,000	-	-	240,000	

	Service Provider - National and Multi-stakeholders Consultation of MSP and Management Plan (Lau Seascape MSP and Management Plan)	-	-	-	-	220,000	-	-	-	-	220,000	-	-	220,000	
	Service Provider - Communications Product Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	100,000	
	Service Provider- Gender Consultant	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	2,500	7,500.00	7,500	2,500	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	
														-	
Travel, Meetings and Workshops	Annual Site monitoring (3 staff x 7 sites)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,186	-	48,186	
	Biodiversity engagement (3 staff x 2 trips)	-	-	-	-	-	7,800.00	7,800	7,800	7,800	31,200	-	-	31,200	
	Biodiversity Strategy and Planning Workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,250	80,250	-	-	80,250	
	National Inception and Closeout Workshops (60 participants)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	-	4,000	
	Annual Steering Committee Meeting (20 participants)						-	-			-		11,600	11,600	
	PMU Staff Trainings and workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	
	National PA and MPA Expert and Stakeholder Workshops (2x per year, 60 participants)	-	-	-	-	-	12,054.00	12,053.00	12,053.00	-	36,160	-	-	36,160	
	Divisional PA and MPA Stakeholder Engagement Workshops (2 sites x 50 participants)	28,300	28,300	28,300	28,300	28,300	-	-	-	-	141,500	-	-	141,500	
	Fuel for Vehicles	10,550	10,550	-	-	-	6,800.00	6,800.00	5,300.00		40,000	-	-	40,000	
											-			-	
Equipment	Vehicles (2 4x4 Pickup trucks)	20,000	15,000	-	-	-	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	80,000	-	-	80,000	
	Boat	-	-	25,000	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	70,000	
	Project staff laptops (9)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	541	16,541	-	1,459	18,000	
	Project printers (4)	216	213	160	160	132	140.00	124.00	114.00	50	1,309	-	691	2,000	
	Marine Surveillance and Monitoring Supplies and Equipment	-	-	-	-	58,291	-	-	-	-	58,291	-	-	58,291	
	Asset Maintenance	4,800	4,800	3,000	3,000	9,400	-	-	-	-	25,000			25,000	
											-			-	
Other Direct Cost	Office operating cost including rent, IT, printing, office supplies, etc.	11,100	16,862	5,617	10,087	5,902	3,132.00	5,400.00	6,010.00	4,330	68,440	-	3,560	72,000	
	Liability insurance	6,600	6,600	4,250	4,250	3,300	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	
											-			-	
Grand Total		1,095,256	1,675,947	545,473	999,942	587,623	343,514	578,338	635,548	230,686	6,692,327	217,665	345,499	7,255,491	-

The EA will set up the PMU through a transparent recruitment process. The PMU will be hosted by the Department of Environment, as a separate project unit. No salaries of government staff will be funded with GEF Project resources. All staff recruited to be part of the PMU will be new employees and will have a contract specifically for this project.

Finance and Contracts Specialist contributes to technical outputs through capacity building of the technical staff and the contractors to comply with GEF minimum fiduciary standards and other policies and procedures, including providing training on prohibited practices and ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities in carrying out this project. Their full ToR is found in the ProDoc.

Office operating costs are essential costs for the delivery of technical outcomes of the project and have been allocated across components proportional to each component's share of the overall budget.

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 Agencys 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).