



## **Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Nauru**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

10161

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

#### **Project Title**

Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Nauru

#### **Countries**

Nauru

#### **Agency(ies)**

UNEP

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Government of Nauru (DCIE); Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

#### **GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Capital providers, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Biomes, Mangroves, Tropical Rain Forests, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Species, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forest, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Knowledge Generation

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

2/24/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2027

**Duration**

72In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

332,782.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	1,284,450.00	848,344.00
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management	GET	1,016,168.00	18,247,656.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	1,202,350.00	199,653.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,502,968.00</b>	<b>19,295,653.00</b>

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To achieve land degradation neutrality and improve ecosystem services in Nauru through integrated landscape management and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$ )	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation	Technical Assistance	<p>1. Improved governance for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Measured through:</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan approved based on Strategic Environmental Assessment and implemented (Baseline: n/a / Target: NILUP under implementation)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Proportion of development activities subject to EIA that follow enforced EIA procedures (Baseline 0% / Target: 80%)</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Proportion of laws regulating land-based production sectors that support an enabling environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation (Baseline: TBD / Target:</p>	<p>1.1 National legislation, policies and procedures relevant to land use planning and management, environmental assessment and biodiversity conservation, incl. Protected Areas reviewed and strengthened</p> <p>1.2 Land use plan developed and accessed by stakeholders to guide decision-making, land use management and mainstreaming of biodiversity</p> <p>1.3 Affected stakeholders are able to receive updates on progress and developments through a web-based geospatial database</p> <p>1.4 Stakeholders are able to conduct strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement due to multi-stakeholder land use planning and management systems</p> <p>1.5 Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, and other relevant departments and district representatives, have enhanced capacity and evidence-based</p>	GET	700,150.00	56,951.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land to protect and reinstate ecosystem services in Nauru	Technical Assistance	<p>2. Degraded arable and mined land are rehabilitated to reach land degradation neutrality</p> <p>Measured through:</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Area of land managed using Sustainable Land Management technologies (Baseline: 4.14 hectares / Target: 54.14 hectares)</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Mean increase in net income from SLM over project period by women adopting the Project's SLM measures, disaggregated by sex (Baseline 0% / Target 20%)</p> <p>*(GEF Project Financing 1,143,500 (LD-1-1: 969,550 LD-2-5: 173,950)</p>	<p>2.1 Decision-makers on land use have improved information on land use, land cover and state of environment</p> <p>2.2 Decision-makers on land use have improved information on economic impact of degraded land on present and future socioeconomic development, the value of ecosystem services and economic opportunities of land restoration</p> <p>2.3 Landowners, farmers and government extension workers demonstrate improved skills in SLM</p> <p>2.4 Stakeholders demonstrate increased understanding of scalable soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques following extensive field piloting</p> <p>2.5 Landowners, farmers and small businesses benefit from new financial support mechanisms and incentives that promote the adoption of SLM practices on mined</p>	GET	1,143,500.00	18,274,474.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's remaining forests	Technical Assistance	<p>3. Government takes steps towards the creation of a protected area and sustainable management of priority areas with improved ecosystem services and sustainable forest management (SFM)</p> <p>Measured through:</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: Area of Anibare Protected Area with fully operational governance arrangements formally declared by Cabinet Approval (Baseline: 0 ha / Target: 50 ha)</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Area of forested landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity, incl. through restoration with native species / equivalent to GEF Core Indicator 4.1/ (Baseline: 0</p>	<p>3.1 Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area benefits from declaration as a Protected Area and the preparation of a management plan</p> <p>3.2 Degraded forests benefit from restoration by propagation and planting of native trees</p> <p>3.3 Populations of endemic and vulnerable bird species, including Nauru Reed-Warbler, Black Noddy, and Micronesian Imperial-Pigeon benefit from monitoring and targeted species conservation measures</p> <p>3.4 Stakeholders have improved ability to manage and control invasive alien species</p>	GET	803,000.00	808,827.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
4. Scaling up towards land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation	Technical Assistance	<p>4. Communication and knowledge management for dissemination and scaling up of sustainable land management approaches and ecosystem services</p> <p>Measured through:</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: Increase in environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Nauru's population (Baseline: TBD during Inception Phase / Target: 20% improvement on the baseline)</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: UNCCD LDN framework and approach integrated into Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Baseline: n/a / Target: LDN integrated into NILUP)</p> <p>*(GEF Project Financing 690,700 (BD-1-1: 54,800 LD-2-</p>	<p>4.1 Traditional knowledge governing resource use restored and strengthened through gender strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.2 Monitoring and evaluation system supports effective project implementation incl. adaptive management and dissemination of results</p> <p>4.3 Knowledge and best practices emerging from the project effectively absorbed to ensure sustainable land management through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder landscape approach to managing various land uses</p> <p>4.4 Stakeholders/citizens/ landowners reached with education programs and awareness campaigns demonstrate increased environmental awareness and an understanding of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services</p> <p>4.5 Stakeholders develop LDN upscaling strategy and rehabilitation action plan to be</p>	GET	690,700.00	113,929.00



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Sub Total (\$)					3,337,350.00	19,254,181.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET			165,618.00		41,472.00	
Sub Total(\$)			165,618.00		41,472.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			3,502,968.00		19,295,653.00	

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	162,928.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	78,788.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Land Management and Survey	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	824,178.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Land Management and Survey	Grant	Investment mobilized	93,970.00
Recipient Country Government	Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,065,047.00
Recipient Country Government	Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,765,560.00
Recipient Country Government	Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corporation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,085,560.00
Recipient Country Government	Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized	205,710.00
Private Sector	Digicel	Grant	Investment mobilized	13,912.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>19,295,653.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

"To identify ?Investment Mobilized?, potential partners were invited to indicate (i) the portion of their approved budget that will go to support the goals of the proposed project and (ii) the proportion from the identified amounts that will be used towards recurrent and operational expenditures, such as salaries, office

space, utilities, etc. The sub-set of Co-Financing that meets the definition of "Investment Mobilized" was then identified by the Implementing Agency by removing the amounts for recurrent and operational expenditures."

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,284,450	122,023
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,218,518	210,759
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,502,968.00</b>	<b>332,782.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

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PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agenc y	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00

## 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)
50.00	0.00	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)
50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Anibare Bay	125689	SelectProtected area with sustainable use of natural resources	50.00			

#### 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	W DP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 3 Area of land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500.00	494.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500.00	494.00		

**Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored**

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

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored**

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

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored**

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

**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100.00	103.00	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)
100.00	103.00		

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

Title	Submitted
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**Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	16152	15749	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> 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 <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	16,152	15,749		

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2041	2023		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	0			
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> 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)
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**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	250	968		
Male	250	942		
Total	500	1910	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

The Project focuses on the following interventions: (a) Preparation of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, which captures the entire area of Nauru of 2,151 hectares; (b) Restoration and rehabilitation of heavily degraded land following secondary mining; (c) Flattening of area with extreme pit and mound topography post-secondary mining by filling pits using crushed limestone and flattening terrain in preparation of recultivation on 496 hectares located on the Topside (entirely met from co-financing contribution); (d) Out of the area rehabilitated as described above, piloting of soil restoration and Sustainable Land Management technologies on an area of 46 hectares; (e) Improved management benefitting biodiversity of secondary forests that regenerated decades ago following phosphate mining on a cumulated area of 102.9 hectares on the Topside; (f) Declaration of a new Protected Area in Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area and remnant unmined pinnacle tops with intact vegetation scattered across the Topside on a cumulated area of 50 hectares. Under the BD Focal Area, the Project contributes to the Aichi Targets 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19 as described in more detail in Section 1.a.6 Global Environmental Benefits. Under the LD Focal Area, the Project will contribute to setting Nauru's voluntary targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), mainstreaming LDN through the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan and the Nauru Restoration and Action Plan, and upscaling through implementation of measures towards the LDN targets.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1) Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers

##### Global environmental problem

Nauru has been showcased as one of the gravest examples of environmental degradation globally, which puts the country at the fifth lowest rank globally in per capita biocapacity. Until present, 70% of the island's area, corresponding to virtually the entire central plateau of the island (Topside) has been mined, leading to enormous impacts on Nauru's social-ecological system. Open-pit surface mining cleared away the upper bedrock along with the soil and native vegetation layers on an area of 1,500 hectares. Native vegetation cover has been reduced to a few remnant areas along the island's steep littoral escarpment unsuitable for mining, one unmined area of 18 hectares on the eastern fringe of the Topside above Anibare Bay (Anibare Forest?), and to inaccessible limestone pinnacle tops scattered across the Topside. Aside from the loss of vegetation cover and habitats, the composition of remnant vegetation has been substantially altered. 125 exotic plant species have been introduced, which now make up two thirds of all vascular plant species documented in Nauru. Among exotics, several invasive alien species established themselves and their influx remains unchecked.

As a result, the provision of ecosystem services has been severely impaired, which manifests itself in substantial direct negative impacts on society. Phosphate mining released excessive levels of cadmium into the environment by polluting soils on the Topside and Nauru's groundwater lens. The removal of soil layer on 70% of the country's area, along with the lack of relevant skills, technologies and political commitment seriously compromised Nauru's food production capacity, making the country and its population fully dependent on imports even for basic foodstuffs. Long transport distances limit the choice mostly to preserved and highly processed food, which together with environmental pollution led to severe health impacts across the entire population. These include very high incidence rates of Type-2 diabetes, obesity, kidney, and other non-communicable diseases that are fully or partially associated with unhealthy diets and/or environmental pollution. As a result, life expectancy at 60.2 years is among the lowest in the Pacific region and the incidence of disability resulting from non-communicable diseases is excessively high.

The island's outstanding phosphate reserves have been exploited by colonial powers between 1906 and 1968 and by Nauruans ever since. The phosphate mining industry has dominated Nauru's economy throughout, initially triggering colonial expropriation that gave way to unprecedented per capita income after independence. Nevertheless, the vast revenues could not be utilized for securing a sustainable development pathway and instead, a resource curse manifested itself in the mismanagement of funds, political instability, a 'boom-to-bust' economy, and environmental degradation. The dwindling of phosphate reserves led to the replication of unsustainable extractive economic trajectories in the form of short-lived attempts to create an offshore tax heaven and the harboring of Australia's offshore refugee detention facilities. Since 2013, with the decline in easily accessible phosphate, service payments for hosting Australia's refugee facilities along with development aid have replaced the dominance of the phosphate mining industry in government revenues. Phosphate mining, however, continues to dominate land and resource use and provides the vast majority of household income through employment by the Republic of Nauru Phosphate (RONPHOS) or the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC), or through land lease fees paid to landowners. As a result of the historic dominance of mining as the revenue generating land use, along with financial, technology, skill, and tenure-related barriers to change land use, the majority of landowners do not recognize other meaningful land use options, apart from lease for phosphate mining. Consequently, land degradation and biodiversity loss continue unabated and there is an urgent need for systemic action to tackle the main environmental problem of lack of integrated landscape planning and management, and unsustainable use of biodiversity that led to a diminished flow of ecosystem services.

### Root causes

Nauru has a long history of unsustainable exploitation of land and natural resources that continues to define the economy of the country and the livelihoods of its citizens. Therefore, landowners have negligible interest in, and policymakers assign particularly low political priority to biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Capacities on both subjects are extremely limited, as summarized in ProDoc Section 2.4 and analyzed in detail in the separately attached Policy and Regulatory Framework and Capacity Analysis. Further root causes include the challenging land tenure situation, limited practical experience in the local context, low public awareness on SLM and biodiversity conservation, and lack of sustainable financing for SLM and biodiversity conservation.

The root causes further lead to immediate causes, such as limited cross-sectoral coordination, lack of an enabling framework for SLM and biodiversity conservation, limited enforcement of environmental regulations, the limited uptake and use of information, tools and technologies on SLM as well as the limited public commitment towards biodiversity conservation and the control of invasive alien species (IAS). The root and immediate causes lead to several fundamental problems, which include the lack of integrated landscape planning and management, and the unsustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the pollution and contamination of land and water resources. The fundamental problems, in turn, lead to compound problems, such as exacerbated land degradation and impoverished biodiversity, which is further threatened by IAS. Further compounded by climate change, the compound problems lead to immediate effects, including the diminished flow of ecosystem services, low food security, limited livelihood opportunities and limited government revenue. These sequentially lead to higher level effects including high vulnerability to stressors, health problems and limited opportunities for sustainable development, all of which ultimately result in unsustainable livelihoods.

### Barriers

Despite past and on-going interventions, fundamental barriers remain that prevent integrated landscape management as well as conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with the ultimate goal achieve Land Degradation Neutrality and improve the provision of ecosystem services in Nauru. These barriers include:

#### ? Limited policy and capacities and cross-sectoral coordination for SLM & biodiversity conservation.

The present policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional environment remains far from adequately enabling SLM and biodiversity conservation. In terms of policies, biodiversity conservation and SLM are provided adequate focus in key government strategy documents, but policies are incomplete. Fundamentally, a Biosecurity Policy, and the finalization of the Land Use Policy adequately reflecting the governance aspects of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan are major missing components. The legal framework is incomplete or inadequate to provide a legal mandate for SLM and biodiversity conservation. The Land Act is outdated in the current situation, in which laws will need to set the frame for alternative land uses other than mining. The recently passed Environmental Management and Climate Change Act does not adequately reflect biodiversity conservation and SLM priorities, apart from mandating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). There is no law that mandates biodiversity conservation or the declaration of Protected Areas, though the Environmental Management and Climate Change Act leaves a vaguely defined door open for the latter. Similarly, no laws govern the control and management of invasive alien species. Relevant regulations that translate the provisions of laws into practice are missing entirely. Institutional capacities are inadequate due to frequently unclear or overlapping institutional roles, lack of coordination mechanisms, and inefficient or non-existing processes required to fulfil institutional mandates. No systems of monitoring environmental status and of adherence to provisions of the legal framework are in place and no enforcement takes place. Individual capacities in terms of knowledge, skills, behavior, and attitudes of most institutions are highly inadequate. Most government departments are staffed with high school graduates without further specific training, even in high-level managerial and key technical positions.

Institutions lack the appropriate work attitude and behavior among their staff to efficiently advance the agenda of biodiversity conservation and SLM in Nauru.

? Limited information on land degradation and experience with sustainable land management.

Information on Nauru's land degradation status is available from coarse-scale remote assessments, as presented in the description of the baseline context in the following section. This information is not captured at sufficient scale and does not extend to all aspects required for a holistic assessment of land degradation status to inform targeted restoration action. Very importantly, information derived from ground-based assessments is entirely missing and no assessment of ecosystem service values required for economic decisions on land use is available. Even though the Taiwan Technical Mission has made remarkable progress on introducing agriculture and horticulture to Nauru, substantial knowledge and other capacity gaps remain that effectively prevent their upscaling. Experience with other aspects of SLM is entirely missing and experience with post-mining land restoration is limited to a single plot of a few hectares. There are no economic incentives in place that allow landowners to overcome the burden to restore private land and engage on SLM, including sustainable agricultural and horticultural production.

? Limited information on biodiversity threats and inadequate responses to conserve biodiversity. Even though the BioRAP provides a strong information basis on the biodiversity status in Nauru to inform conservation action, information on threats and spatially explicit detailed biodiversity information required for specific action for species and habitat conservation measures as well as the control of IAS is incomplete. Nauru has expressed the priority to declare the country's only Key Biodiversity Area, Anibare Bay that harbors remnant biodiversity as a Protected Area, but information and capacities are insufficient, effectively preventing the accomplishment of this target. Similarly, the lack of concerted effort through a collaborative platform and a national strategy along with adequate capacities prevent action to control the further influx and domestic spread of IAS in remaining moderately intact ecosystems and elsewhere across Nauru. While secondary succession on abandoned mining land is a naturally ongoing process, the lack of propagules, skills and commitment prevent active restoration and management efforts that result in benefits for ecosystems and society.

? Insufficient mechanisms and platforms for learning, knowledge management and communication.

The Nauru Environmental Data Portal prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an invaluable resource for knowledge management on biodiversity and SLM that captures the majority of knowledge available on the subjects for Nauru. Nevertheless, knowledge generated on biodiversity conservation and SLM is not systematically captured and informed decisions relying on them are rarely taken by policy makers, government organizations and other key stakeholders. The overall awareness of Nauru's population on environmental issues in general and on biodiversity and SLM in specific is extremely limited. Landowners see land as means of generating money from their lease for phosphate mining and do not realize there may be other feasible land use options. Biodiversity conservation is not assigned any priority among the public of Nauru or among policymakers. Traditional knowledge remains undocumented and women face barriers in participating in decisions on land use and reaping economic benefits from it (refer to ProDoc Appendix 22, Section 3.1 and 3.2 for detailed explanation). The concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is unknown, even within government organizations mandated with land use and environmental sustainability.

Platforms for coordination and collaboration between institutions are non-functional or non-existent and key environmental messages are not identified and communicated.

## **2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

### **Baseline scenario**

Nauru is the third smallest independent nation in the world in terms of surface area and the second smallest in terms of population size, and faces the distinct situation of Small Island Developing States. Nauru's population of 11,550 consists primarily of indigenous Nauruans (11,017), who are of mixed Micronesian and Melanesian ancestry and speak Nauruan, a distinct Micronesian language. The largest group of foreign residents are I-Kiribati immigrants, who number 245 persons. The proportion of widowed persons is high at 3%, of whom more than two thirds are females. While just about half of Nauruans have an Upper Secondary education, only 317 ? with balanced distribution between sexes ? have completed tertiary education. Buada and Anabar districts show disproportionately high, whereas Ijuw, and Anibare show disproportionately low ratios of tertiary education. 51.4% of all inhabitants above 15 years of age are formally employed - most of them by the government or government-owned corporations. Formal unemployment is 11.4%, while 3.4% of the population are classified as functionally disabled. Women constitute just under half (49.3%) of the formally employed Nauruans. Nauru's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was US\$ 9,397 in 2019, and the country has been upgraded from an Upper Middle Level Income Country to a High-Income Country for 2021 by the World Bank.

### Land use and land degradation

Nauru's land area of 2,151 ha is made up by the Topside with approximately 1,655 ha, which includes the escarpment, while the remaining 496 ha are made up by the coastal zone. The coastal zone consists of the tidal zone, and the open littoral strand, which includes most of the settled areas. There is no building code on the island, so it is commonplace for residences to line the littoral strand irrespective of a buffer zone on the foreshore. The coastal zone also contains the larger portion of the area utilized for horticulture, despite the generally very poor soils. The remainder of horticultural land use is located around Buada Lagoon on the Topside. The Topside is and continues to be used primarily for mining phosphate using open-cast surface mining, which has affected approximately 90% of Topside. Mining removed vegetation, soils, and the upper layers of the bedrock, leaving behind a pit and mound topography dominated by limestone pinnacles that emerge up to 10 meters above the general terrain level. Most of the Topside is covered with non-soil material and even in areas with soil cover, these are inadequately developed and have very limited soil organic carbon and moisture retention capacity. In connection with extended droughts and high solar irradiation loads, this leads to very high evapotranspiration rates and ultimately to excessive plant water stress which renders restoration of mined sites on the Topside extremely challenging.

At present, the Topside is covered by remnant primary forests confined to one patch of 18 ha above Anibare Bay (?Anibare Forest?) as well as smaller patches in the western part of the island; secondary forests that re-established primarily on the western half of the Topside where mining ceased several decades ago; open scrub vegetation in different stages of succession across other more recently mined parts on the Topside (covering 63% of the country's area); as well as bare land, where strip mining was completed more recently. While ?primary? strip mining removed all easily accessible phosphate ore, ?secondary? mining of remnant phosphate in depressions between limestone pinnacles has only been recently initiated. Paradoxically, all local and literature sources agree that completing secondary mining of phosphate followed by the flattening of pinnacles is a pre-requisite for the rehabilitation of the Topside.

No comprehensive assessments of land degradation have been published for Nauru, but remote sensing analysis tools applying Google Earth Engine, such as EarthMap (earthmap.org) developed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the TrendsEarth extension to QGIS developed by Conservation International using GEF funding allow for estimates of Nauru's status of land degradation. Overall, remote sensing information indicates a neutral to slow positive trend of land regeneration in Nauru, referenced against a highly degraded baseline status.

Characteristic of limestone atoll islands, surface freshwater resources in Nauru are very limited and the groundwater lens hydrostatically floats atop high-density sea water. The only surface freshwater bodies include the brackish Buada lagoon, and the Ijuw and Anabar wetlands. Water is particularly scarce on the arid karstic limestone plateau (Topside) that is largely devoid of an intact vegetation cover, as described above. Water shortage and polluted groundwater resources are particularly important aspects of the land degradation baseline.

### Biodiversity

Even though Nauru is part of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Polynesia Micronesia Global Biodiversity Hotspot, the island's small size and isolation resulted in relatively poor terrestrial species assemblages coupled with surprisingly low levels of endemism. Terrestrial biodiversity has been substantially decimated or altered by historic traditional land use practices, strip mining of the Topside, and the introduction of IAS. Native habitats are confined to the coastal escarpment and to pockets on the Topside.

Nauru's plant communities include the littoral strand, limestone forest, mangrove forest, freshwater marsh, secondary scrub, and secondary forest communities, most of which are dominated by a limited number of native species. Nauru has 56 native (including one endemic) vascular plant species, of which 14 are likely extinct or on the verge of extinction. Locally rare native tree species include *Aidia racemosa* (IUCN Red list Status ? LC[1]), Black Mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* ? LC), Beach Cordial (*Cordia subcordata* ? LC), Easter Flower (*Erythrina variegata* ? LC), Sea Hears (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia* ? LC), Elliptic Yellowwood (*Ochrosia elliptica*), Umbrella Catchbirdtree (*Pisonia umbellifera* ? LC), Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora stylosa* ? LC), and Indian Tuliptree (*Thespesia populnea* ? LC). Alongside, 125 introduced species have been described, including a number of IAS, such as the Red-Bead Tree (*Adenanthera pavonina*). Indigenous fauna is restricted to birds, reptiles, and invertebrates (including two endemic insects and three endemic snails); no indigenous land mammals are present. Nauru has recorded 36 bird species. The only native terrestrial breeding bird species are the endemic Nauru Reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus rehsei* ? VU), which is moderately well adapted to highly disturbed habitats, the Micronesian Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica* ? VU) and the once abundant Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus* ? LC) and Black Noddy (*A. minutus* ? LC), whose local populations have plummeted due to overhunting and habitat degradation. Important non-breeding migratory sea and shorebirds include the Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor* ? LC), which has an important role in the coming of age of young Nauruan men, the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis* ? VU), Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica* ? NT), Gray-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes* ? NT), Collared Petrel (*Pterodroma brevipes* ? VU), Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata* ? NT), and Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri* ? VU). A substantial proportion of moths and snails along with all ant species are exotic, including the highly destructive invasive Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*).

### Climate change

Nauru climate records lack detailed data, but regional estimates augment local data and establish the temperature rise experienced since the 1950s at 0.15 ? 0.25°C per decade. There are no clear trends in experienced changes of mean annual precipitation, but variability has increased substantially over the past decades. Nauru has been subject to above-average sea level rise that amounted to 5 mm annually since 1993. Climate projections based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) A1B (medium) emission scenario show a temperature rise of 0.9 ? 2.3°C by 2055 and 1.7 ? 3.5°C by 2090, along with sea level rise of 10 ? 30 cm by 2055 and 20 ? 57 cm by 2090. Even though projections are less consistent, precipitation is expected to increase. In terms of extreme events, the number of hot days and extreme precipitation events is projected to increase, while the duration of droughts is projected to decrease. Compared to flat coral reef islands, Nauru is less exposed to climate change induced sea level rise, as most of the island is a raised plateau. Nevertheless, sensitivity is high, given that most of the population resides in the coastal littoral zone, which will be affected by sea level rise.

### Policy, legal and regulatory framework

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Nauru has an overarching strategic development policy (Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025) that was updated through a Voluntary National Review to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resulting in the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy 2009-2030. This strategic development policy outlines several key environmental priorities and is complemented by the National Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP) 2011. Apart from the NIEP, no key baseline sectoral policies are in place, even though the Land Use Policy and the Climate Change Policy are under development. Remarkably, Nauru does not have an Agricultural Policy. The Nauru Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and the Nauru Women's Policy additionally frame the policy environment of the baseline scenario. In addition to policies, a number of policy level strategy documents exist, including the Nauru National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016, the Nauru Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy and Guideline 2020, and the Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt).

Nauru's baseline national legislation required to enable SLM and biodiversity conservation is partially incomplete and partially outdated. There is no spatial planning, land use, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and biosecurity legislation in place. The most relevant element of the baseline national legislative framework is the recently enacted Environmental Management and Climate Change Act 2020. The Act establishes the mandate for reporting on the state of environment, the implementation of obligations arising from international conventions, Environmental Impact Assessment, access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, pollution control and waste management, combating climate change and setting up the Climate Change and Environment Protection Fund. It further specifies enforcement and offences.

Legislation regulating land use and management mostly relates to mining, leasing of land for mining, restoration post mining and land ownership and control. The Nauru Lands Committee Amendment Act 2012 establishes the Nauru Lands Committee and assigns it all matters related to ownership and lease of land. The Nauru Law of Property Act 1925 regulates land ownership and all transactions related to it. Owing to the historic importance of phosphate mining, the Land Act 1976/2011 identifies the land use types as phosphate bearing, non-phosphate bearing land, and worked-out phosphate bearing land and mandates land restoration after the completion of mining. The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Act 1997 establishes the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation as a state-owned enterprise and assigns the post-mining land restoration mandate to it. The Custom and Adopted Laws Act 1971 legally codifies traditional practices, which are not otherwise governed by law.

Legislation related to biodiversity conservation is even more limited. The National Heritage Act 2017 ? though it focuses on issues of cultural importance and is not specifically tailored to biodiversity ? potentially opens the possibility of biodiversity conservation as national heritage. The Environmental Management and Climate Change Act 2020 does not explicitly mandate biodiversity conservation, but among its miscellaneous provisions contains a brief remark that the declaration of Protected Areas may be pursued through a regulation issued by the Cabinet. Apart from the Wild Birds Protection Act 1937, which regulates and restricts hunting of certain bird species, there is no legislation in place for species conservation. However, the Agricultural Quarantine Act 1999, the Animal Act 1982 and the Sanitary Inspectors Ordinance 1921 all regulate plant and animal quarantine, providing for an incomplete legal mandate for the control of Invasive Alien Species. The Litter Prohibition Act 1983 and the Public Health Ordinance 1967 focus on minimizing environmental pollution.

The national regulatory framework to specify the implementation of relevant Acts of Parliament is largely non-existent. Only the Agriculture Quarantine Act 1999 is further specified in the Plant and Animal Quarantine Regulations 2004.

#### Institutional framework

The institutional framework of the baseline scenario is dominated by government departments and government-owned and managed corporations. The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (DCIE) has three subordinate Divisions: Environment, Commerce, and Agriculture. The former Division of Climate Change was upgraded to the level of a Department in November 2020 and continues to maintain strong institutional linkages with the DCIE, including through a joint supervision by the same Cabinet Minister. The President, supported by a Deputy Minister supervises the Department of Land Management and Survey (DLMS), including the subordinate Lands Committee,

the Department of Education (DoE), as well as the Nauru Police Force. Separate Cabinet Ministers supervise the Department of Justice and Border Control (DoJBC), including its subordinate Divisions of Justice and of Quarantine, the Department of Home Affairs (DoHA), with its subordinate Divisions of Women's Affairs and of Culture, as well as the Department of Finance (DoF), with its subordinate Divisions of Customs and of Public Aid. The government-owned Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corporation (RONPHOS), and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) are also supervised by a dedicated Cabinet Minister.

Government departments in most cases have clearly defined mandates that are moderately well delineated against each other. However, institutional mandates *de jure* and *de facto* are not always congruent and may shift over time. As an example, RONPHOS continues to engage in land restoration activities, which *de jure* is the mandate of the NRC. Additionally, institutional mandates on biosecurity are not clearly delineated between the Division of Quarantine and the Division of Customs, as well as with the DLMS. Formal inter-sectoral mechanisms are practically non-existent; however, the Higher Ground Project established an informal platform for information sharing on the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan that convenes at an ad hoc basis.

Most government departments in Nauru operate with very limited staff strength, and human capacities generally inadequate to fulfil their mandates. Commonly, government departments are staffed with high-school graduates without further specific training, even in senior and key technical positions. Most departments are constrained by a weak ability to retain staff and the resulting high staff turnover. The underlying causes are technically demanding job descriptions, which do not comply with available human capacities, low salaries, and limited scope for professional development

## Landscape of intervention

### Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area

Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) is the area of highest biodiversity value in Nauru and several strategic documents, including the Fifth National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) have prioritized this site for biodiversity conservation. The area attained recognition as a KBA and as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) having met two of the four global criteria for IBA status. The KBA totals 70 ha and consists of a contiguous area of 18 ha on the eastern fringe of the Topside which is the last sizeable unmined habitat of relatively intact vegetation (?Anibare Forest?), along with the steep escarpment below and the adjacent coastal belt in Anibare Bay. The KBA is largely contained within Anibare District, though its northern and southern fringes minimally extend to Ijuw and Meneng Districts, respectively. Within the 70-hectare KBA, 50 ha will be declared as a Protected Area, excluding 20 ha of shorefront settlement.

The escarpment at this site ranges in gradient from vertical cliffs to gradually sloping areas of colluvial soil. On the Topside margin of the proposed sites are rare areas of shallow phosphate soils and original and unmined pinnacles that are critical for sea bird breeding and undisturbed ecosystems. The line of wooded cliffs remains undisturbed and dominated by the native fig tree Pacific Banyan (*Ficus prolixa*; IUCN Red list Status ? LC), reaching a height of 20 m. Additionally, there is the presence of Beach Hibiscus (*Hibiscus tiliaceus* ? LC), Red Bead Tree (*Ochrosia elliptica* ? status not available), Alexandrian Laurel (*Calophyllum inophyllum* ? LC), Bastard Guelder (*Premna serratifolia* ? status not available), Fish Poison Tree (*Barringtonia asiatica* ? LC) and Tropical Almond (*Terminalia catappa* ? LC). This site has the highest density of the Nauru Reed Warbler on the island and is the nesting site for Micronesian Imperial Pigeons. Additionally, there is a population of tree nesting Black Noddies, which is of traditional importance for hunting in this area. The site borders Anibare Bay, which is the top priority site for marine biodiversity conservation in Nauru and thus provides one of the last partially intact ecotones between coastal and mainland ecosystems.

### Sites for restoration and rehabilitation on the Topside

The island's limestone escarpment rises 30 m to a central plateau (?Topside?) that ranges in gradient from vertical cliffs to gradually sloping areas interspersed with limestone outcrops and pinnacles. The colluvial soil between the outcrops and pinnacles covered extensive deposits of high-grade phosphate

rock. The Topside was historically used for phosphate mining, which left 1,600 ha of barren terrain dominated by jagged limestone pinnacles up to 10 meters high that is largely unsuitable for habitation or cultivation. In patches where the soil layer is intact, topsoil varies from 10 to 30 cm in depth, overlying deeper mineral soil layers that are between 25 to 75 cm deep. Calcium dominates the exchange complex and exchangeable magnesium is also high. Exchangeable potassium is low, while extractable phosphate values are generally high, and sulphate is moderate. The concentration of trace elements including manganese, copper, cobalt, and molybdenum levels is very low, and these, plus iron and zinc, are rendered unavailable to plants under pH value <6.5.

Terrestrial biodiversity has largely been removed along with the soil and vegetation layers as a result of strip mining. The vegetation in the area prior to mining comprised of semi-open forests dominated by a mix of native and naturalized species. Common components are Alexandrian Laurel and Pacific Banyan, with additional elements of Tropical Almond, Bastard Guelder, Sea Randa (*Guetarda speciosa* ? LC), Guava (*Psidium guajava* ? LC), and a sparse shrub layer. Today this forest has been almost completely removed to access the underlying organic phosphate, leaving a stark landscape of residual limestone pinnacles. The little remaining vegetation in this area now comprises of Pacific Banyan and secondary shrubs along with the aggressive invasive alien species Red Bead Tree.

Once remnant phosphate from pits between limestone pinnacles has been removed through secondary mining and backfilling using the crushed pinnacles has taken place, the rehabilitation of the Topside becomes feasible and may begin as presented in **Figure 1**. The Project will thus work on sites where secondary mining has been completed. During the project development phase (hereafter ?PPG Phase?), secondary mining had only been completed in very small pilot areas. RONPHOS and NRC have divided the Topside into rectangular 1 km \* 1 km ?tiles? and are planning to follow a schematic process of secondary mining followed by restoration tile by tile. The 1 km<sup>2</sup> tiles are further sub-divided into 25 sub-tiles of 200 \* 200 m (4 ha) blocks, which are also worked for i) rock clearing, ii) secondary mining, and iii) backfilling following a schematic sequence moving from one block to an adjacent one, until the entire tile has been completed. Initial experience indicates a capacity of 6,100 tons per month, which along with estimated phosphate stocks indicate that rock clearing and secondary mining each take about two months, before the processes move on to the next block in a sequential manner. The last phase of backfilling takes longer and is therefore expected to be completed with a delay. The first tile where RONPHOS initiated secondary mining and where subsequent restoration activities are scheduled is Tile 02 located in the eastern part of the Topside, above Anibare Bay and adjacent to Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area. Once secondary mining and backfilling of Tile 02 has been completed, the process will continue on subsequent tiles on the Topside throughout the Project?s lifetime.

#### Sites for Improved Forest Management

Sites for improved management of forests to benefit biodiversity are mostly secondary forests in advanced stages of regeneration on sites, where mining has been completed long ago, as well as heavily disturbed forests on sites that have never been mined. These areas are located in the western half of the Topside along the Command Ridge and Railway Zone. On the other hand, interventions focusing on improved forest management will take place in and around special ecosystems such as the Ijuw and Anabar Wetlands, and Unmined Rock Outcrops.

*Command Ridge & Railway Zone:* This site of 31.4 ha is located in the western part of Buada basin that overlooks Buada Lagoon and reaches an elevation of 71 meters above sea level. Past mining affected this area down to a depth of 20 meters, however the long period that passed since mining has been completed allowed for natural regeneration of the site. Referred to as the ?Grand Canyon? of Nauru, it provides a habitat for most of the reptile species due to the mix of exposed habitat and vegetation cover and has the potential of becoming a key land bird stronghold. In its current state it is an important habitat for the Micronesian Pigeon and the Nauru Reed-Warbler. Additionally, this is an area of heritage importance as it houses the remnants of Japanese World War II outposts and a four-kilometer-long, narrow gauge rail system formerly used to transport mined phosphate. A total of 787 residents, of whom 349 are females, are expected to benefit from the project interventions made in this area.

*Unmined Rock outcrops:* These areas are generally fertile with intact pre-mining ecosystems containing escarpment forest on unmined limestone outcrops. These are the remains of the original elements of

the landscape containing pockets of vegetation hosting lizards and invertebrates. It is anticipated that the remnant largely intact vegetation in convex mesosites will provide propagules for colonizing adjacent mined lands.

*Ijuw-Anabar mangrove & wetland:* The landlocked mangrove and wetland area is located at the border of Ijuw and Anabar Districts and consists of anchialine ponds. This site contains the most valuable brackish open water habitats for birdlife and significant areas of mangroves, and it supports the richest mosaic of ecosystems along the coastal plain. This area also holds endemic vascular plants providing a significant habitat for invertebrates, lizards, and birds. The Integrated Islands Biodiversity Project (GEF ID 4023) prepared a draft management plan for the proposed Ijuw-Anabar wetlands conservation area, which is also proposed as a Ramsar site. A total of 1,217 residents, 599 of whom are women, are expected to benefit from the project interventions.

### **Baseline projects**

A number of government and donor-funded initiatives define the baseline. Baseline projects on biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management, agriculture, or associated thematic fields that inform the Project's Theory of Change include:

#### *Government initiatives:*

- (a) The restoration of the Topside has been initiated by the Government of Nauru under the implementation of RONPHOS and NRC. Until now a total area of 6 ha has been restored at a cost of US\$ 4.6 million.
- (b) The Grow and Green Programme is run by the DCIE, Division of Agriculture between 2014 and 2020 and focuses on enhancing food security through improved soil fertility and increased horticultural production in home gardens. The program encourages households to plant fruit trees (breadfruit, lime, coconut, pawpaw, soursop, and mango) and vegetables and contains a strong capacity development component. The program has an approximate annual budget of US\$ 200,000. The project has been somewhat successful in the production of planting materials, setting up of family fruit tree plots, and raising awareness and providing training and technical support to individual households and schools in the planting and care of fruit trees.
- (c) The Clean and Green Programme is run by the Department of Home Affairs, Clean and Green Division and focuses on composting, waste management and the privatization of recycling. Through the Programme, solid green waste is being composted to increase organic matter in soils to be used for agriculture and revegetation of mined out areas of the Topside. Furthermore, the Programme has engaged and trained a contingent of about 140 young workers, who are fully employed in the 14 districts, to help promote awareness and education on waste management and provide support services to facilitate the effective collection and disposal of household wastes by district communities.
- (d) The Higher Ground Project is run by the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation and focuses on the preparation of a land use and restoration plan for the Topside. In the long run, it aims to rehabilitate land for use for residential, renewable energy, agriculture, aquaculture, recreation, parks, and natural reserves, etc. as dictated by the revised land use plan. The project has limited funding and is in the process of preparing a land use plan for the Topside based on analysis of remote-sensed data and so far without stakeholder consultations. The Project's land use planning approach in Output 1.2 will build on the achievements of the Higher Ground Project and will enable NRC to overcome the barrier that prevented the application of a cross-sectoral integrated approach and led to the preparation of a sectoral draft plan.

(e) The 100-Dollar Initiative is in the conceptualization phase and intends to purchase land ownership rights for the government from owners who obtain less than 100 AU\$ annually in land lease for ownership rights over an individual cadastral plot. The initiative intends to reduce the complexity of land tenure that prevents changes in land use.

*Donor-funded projects:*

(a) Between January 2020 and December 2023, the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund, Technical Mission (TTM) implements the Dietary Diversity Extension Project in Nauru with an annual budget of US\$ 2,076,115 for 2020 and 2021. This project builds on TTM's long history of successful engagement with establishing agriculture in Nauru. The project approach applies i) dietary and nutrition extension, including by training of balanced diet promoters, ii) food and agriculture education in schools for students and teachers, iii) establishing the concept of nutritional monitoring, and iv) enhancing production of vegetables, eggs, and mushrooms. The project runs two farms in Anabar and Buada districts (for livestock and horticulture, respectively) and is successfully producing 25 different vegetables, 10 tons of compost per month and 500 eggs per day. The project builds on the earlier success of the TTM-funded Nauru Horticulture Project (2009-14), which promoted the productions of fruits and vegetable (leafy greens, watermelon, tomato, pumpkin and cucumber) and also emphasized on healthy diets and the development of capacities on agricultural production (i.e., mulching, cover cropping, composting, waste management, transplanting).

(b) Between 2015 and 2019, the TTM implemented the Nauru Egg Production Project and the Nauru Vegetable Production and Nutrition Improvement Project with a cumulated budget of US\$ 3,420,000.

(c) The UNDP-GEF Implementing a 'Ridge to Reef' approach to protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions in Nauru (R2R Nauru) (GEF ID 5381) was a multi-focal area (LD, CC, BD, IW) child project under the regional Ridge-to-Reef Programme implemented by the DCIE, which started in 2015 and was due to close in December 2020. The project had a total funding of US\$ 11,136,358, of which US\$ 2,644,358 were contributed by the GEF. The project targets (i) Improved management effectiveness of new Locally Managed Marine Areas, (ii) Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities living within the 'bottom-side', and applicable 'ridge', and 'topside' areas not covered by mining, (iii) Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management mainstreamed in policy and regulatory frameworks, and (iv) Knowledge management. The Project has contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for biodiversity and SLM by delivering the Environmental Management and Climate Change Act 2020, and the draft Land Use Policy of Nauru. Very importantly, the R2R project prepared district-level Integrated Agricultural Land-Use Management Plans for Anabar, Anibare, Buada, Ijuw and Meneng Districts. Despite their titles, the plans do not focus on agriculture only and define land use priorities for all land use categories including i) urban settlement and housing, ii) utility and industry, iii) agricultural development, iv) forest management, v) water resource conservation, vi) ecosystem protection, and vii) biodiversity conservation. Of crucial importance, these plans do not contain zonation plans and therefore face substantial barriers that prevent their operationalization at the ground level. The plans were prepared in August 2019 and no further action has been taken on their formal approval or implementation. Additionally, the project demonstrated waste management technologies and a compost piggery and has

carried out revegetation in the coastal zone. Finally, the Project raised awareness on the environment in general and on the R2R concept through awareness campaigns.

(d) The Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management for Nauru (GEF ID 3492) was implemented between February 2009 and June 2012 with an overall budget of US\$ 1,000,000 of which US\$ 500,000 were contributed by the GEF. The overall project objective was to strengthen human and institutional capacity for SLM. The key achievements of the project were the development of a draft SLM National Adaptation Plan, the mainstreaming of SLM into the National Sustainable Development Strategy, the erection of a nursery and capacity development on SLM. At the same time, the project but failed to mainstream SLM into production sectors and did not develop the targeted land monitoring system. The project design proved to be overly ambitious and particularly the engagement of NRC was lacking.

(e) The Sustainable Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries project (GEF ID 2586) was a regional project jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP with a total budget of US\$ 100,328,437, of which US\$ 9,025,688 were contributed by the GEF. The project delivered an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) national diagnostic analysis, identified key national IWRM priorities through a hotspot analysis, and developed demonstration projects based on these. Key priorities identified were water scarcity, reduction of water demand, capacity development and the exploration of groundwater resources. The project also built capacities and established the Water Unit within the DCIE, developed the national IWRM Water and Sanitation Policy, and piloted better wastewater management.

(f) The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change regional project (GEF ID 3101) was implemented for 5.5 years by SPREP and UNDP with US\$ 13,125,000 in funding from the GEF (Special Climate Change Fund) and AusAid. The project aimed to create mechanisms for learning and knowledge sharing on climate change at national and regional level. Demonstration of adaptation options showed very little success in Nauru, as most water purifiers installed by the project were found non-functional by the terminal evaluation.

(g) UNEP through its Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster provides funding to the DCIE for the implementation of the Strengthening the national institutional capacity for integrated chemicals and waste management in Nauru project in Nauru between October 2019 and December 2022 with a total budget of US\$ 312,575, inclusive of cofinancing. The project seeks to strengthen Nauru's institutional capacity to implement sound chemicals and waste management in accordance with the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. The specific objectives of the Project are to i) develop a holistic profile of waste through a comprehensive situational analysis, ii) develop an Integrated Chemicals and Waste Management Policy and costed implementation plan, iii) review and update the national legislative framework for chemicals and waste management, vi) establish a data management system for chemicals and waste, and v) strengthen the human technical capacity of relevant institutions.

(h) SPREP implements the GEF-funded 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 project with a total budget of US\$ 4,319,635

due to end in 2021. The project builds a network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating, and analyzing environmental information to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels and has established the Nauru Environmental Data Portal.

(i) SPREP and IUCN co-execute the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project ? Phase two (BIOPAMA II)? project, with a total budget of US\$ 1,623,865 until September 2023. The project provides tools for data and information management, services for improving the knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and funding opportunities for specific site-based actions. It is a project that focuses on the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) region and also includes Nauru.

(j) The Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries" project Phase III is implemented since 2019 by UNEP and SPREP in 15 countries, including Nauru with funding contributed by the EU. The project focuses on supporting the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements related to biodiversity, chemicals, and waste amongst others through development of stronger compliance and enforcement measures, the development of biodiversity legislation and of knowledge sharing tools.

(k) SPREP executed the UNEP implemented, GEF-funded Integrated Islands Biodiversity Project (IIBP) (GEF ID 4023). The project had a total funding of US\$ 4,302,720, including US\$ 1,740,600 of GEF funding, of which US\$ 601,660 was spent on Nauru. In 2013, a Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Nauru (Nauru BioRAP) was carried out to improve the state of knowledge on marine and terrestrial ecosystems and provide a scientific basis for the conservation and management of nationally, regionally, and globally important ecosystems and species. The BioRAP documented the status of biodiversity, identified plant communities, described invertebrates, reptiles, and birds, as well as marine biodiversity, including species previously not reported in Nauru. The BioRAP assessment remains the most complete report on Nauru's biodiversity. The report made key conservation recommendations for immediate action to promote and establish a strong culture of conservation, protected areas, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the country. A particular focus of the Nauru BioRAP was to identify areas of conservation value and to investigate opportunities for establishing marine and terrestrial protected areas. Based on Nauru's BioRAP recommended priorities for conservation action, efforts are ongoing through R2R Nauru to protect Nauru's marine and terrestrial biodiversity with a view to formalizing locally managed marine protected areas (LMMAs) covering 30% of the coastline of Nauru. The DCIE is using the BioRAP's baseline data and information to guide the development of strategies for conservation management and monitoring purposes. Although some progress has been made, the majority of the BioRAP's recommendations for conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's biodiversity remain to be implemented. To date, there are no terrestrial protected areas, declared community conserved areas or landscapes under improved practices in Nauru. In addition, the project also prepared a Participatory Three-Dimensional Model for Nauru and the management plan for the proposed Ijuw/Anabar wetlands conservation area.

(l) The GEF Small Grants Programme approved the funding of three community projects implemented through EcoNauru in October 2020. The Nauru Farmers & Growers Association obtained US\$ 50,000 to enhance kitchen garden training capacity and to purchase equipment. Ijuw and Denig Communities also received US\$ 50,000 each for implementing piggery biogas projects.

(m) In 2008, BirdLife International identified the Anibare Bay escarpment as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). IBAs are sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity, including vital habitat for threatened plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, and are identified internationally agreed criteria. The same area had previously been proposed as a protected area.

(n) In 2018, NRC proposed to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy initiative to register a project in Nauru for the conservation of the Anibare Bay forest as part of creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, which aims at conserving indigenous forests for future generations. While the initial expression of interest has been accepted by the initiative, Nauru is yet to follow-up on registering the project.

(o) The regional GEF project Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific (GEF ID 9410) is another initiative focusing on IAS. Although Nauru is not among the countries in the Pacific IAS project, it is expected that it will benefit from the project's regional coordination activities aiming at creating common ground between the Pacific countries and agencies to redress concerns related to IAS. The project established the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) as a regional mechanism to facilitate the scaling up of invasive species management in the Pacific, and the Project can access its services.

(p) The UNDP-implemented, GEF-funded Supporting Mainstreamed Achievement of Roadmap Targets on Energy in Nauru (SMARTEN) project is a GEF-6 Climate Change Focal Area project (GEF ID 9974) executed by the Department of Climate Change and is due to commence in the first half of 2021. The project will enable the increased application of feasible renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies for supporting socio-economic development in Nauru in accordance with the country's energy roadmap targets. The project has a total funding of US\$ 26,067,968, of which GEF funding amounts to US\$ 3,302,968. Unless project closure will be revised due to a delayed start, the project will terminate in July 2024 and its implementation will partially overlap with the proposed Project and will share the same key stakeholders. The SMARTEN project focuses on i) energy policy & regulatory framework strengthening, ii) supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, iii) promotions of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and iv) improvement of energy sector capacity.

(q) Technical Assistance worth US\$ 50,000 is provided by Canada between Oct 2020 and March 2021 for a segregated storage facility for waste in Nauru.

(r) The Pacific European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme PacWastePlus will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices. Priority waste streams that the PacWastePlus program will focus on include hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste), solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and water impacted by solid waste (note this is not wastewater or referring to any liquid waste). The Project's budget for Nauru is US\$ 300,000.



(s) An Asian Development Bank (ADB) Urban Development Project is in the conceptualization stage and not much of it is known at the time of submission of this Project Document. The project has a total budget of US\$ 20 million, of which US\$ 5 million will be intended for infrastructure development.

(t) International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) Taiwan microfinance development fund. The ICDF Taiwan funds the implementation of a microloan scheme by the DCIE, Division of Commerce between 2021 and 2024. The Project has a total funding of AU\$ 150,000, of which AU\$ 30,000, equivalent to US\$ 22,000 are devoted to capacity development on financial management and the preparation of business plans. The remaining funds are to be disbursed as microloans of US\$ 4,000 each in support of successful business plans.

(u) The Sustainable and Climate Resilient Connectivity for Nauru Project funded by the Green Climate Fund, ADB, the Government of Australia and the GoN works on climate proofing of Nauru's port facilities with a total budget of US\$ 65.2 million. Though of no direct relevance to the Project, the ADB project can benefit from positive adaptation co-benefits arising out of activities related to integrated land use planning and compliance monitoring and enforcement under Outcome 1.

### **3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

The alternative scenario defined by the Project will contribute to the achievement of LDN and the improved flow of ecosystem services through integrated landscape management, SLM, and sustainable use of biodiversity. The alternative scenario will achieve this by overcoming the four identified barriers in a systemic manner, using a multi-pronged approach that will result in one project Outcome to overcome each of the four barriers.

**Component 1:** The alternative scenario marked by the Project will, through Component 1, ensure that the enabling environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation is fully established. The central tool for integrated landscape management will be an integrated land use plan capturing all of Nauru that will be based on a negotiated compromise among a broad range of diverse stakeholders, including landowners, to reconcile common restoration and land use priorities, identifying specific zones for biodiversity enhancement with appropriate management measures and restrictions. The implementation of the land use plan will be supported by a fully functional governance framework, marked by cross-sectoral institutions responsible for integrated landscape management and by a carefully designed and tested collaboration mechanism between government organizations for monitoring and enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations, including EIA and SEA processes. The enabling environment will be corroborated by a set of policies and laws mainstreaming SLM and biodiversity conservation that are further specified in regulations and guidelines as well as by enhanced capacities of relevant government stakeholders.

Outcome 1: ?Improved governance for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation?

? Output 1.1: ?National legislation, policies and procedures relevant to land use planning and management, environmental assessment and biodiversity conservation, including Protected Areas reviewed and strengthened?. The review of the policy, legal and regulatory framework will focus on i) firmly establishing government policy and the legal mandate for land use planning, ii) establishing the legal mandate for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, iii) linking the SEA and EIA processes with land use planning and iv) establishing the legal mandate for the declaration of Protected Areas and the control of invasive alien species (IAS), and v) the preparation of subordinate regulations

which clearly detail the implementation of corresponding legislation. The review will ensure gender responsiveness and mainstream climate change.

? Output 1.2: ?Land use plan developed and accessed by stakeholders to guide decision-making, land use management and mainstreaming of biodiversity?. The key deliverable under this Output is the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (NILUP), which will aim to maximize ecosystem service provision based on a sustainable utilization of land and natural resources. The NILUP will promote good governance and the mitigation of land tenure conflicts through broad-based public participation and social equity provisions, including for women, be governed by strong legislation resulting in a legally binding spatial plan for Nauru, and will be aligned with key government policies, such as the NSDS 2005-2025, the NIEP 2011, and the upcoming Nauru Land Use Policy. The NILUP will be subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment to identify and mitigate expected negative environmental and social impacts.

? Output 1.3 ?Affected stakeholders are able to receive updates on progress and developments through a web-based geospatial database?. The Output will deliver a land use database and web portal that will allow transparent sharing of land-related spatial information among stakeholders, disseminate the resolutions of the NILUP, including management zones, resulting restrictions on land use and possible environmental assessment requirements. The geoportal will integrate all available spatial information on Nauru, contain a cadastral map, land use map, etc. and will also include modules allowing the tracking of land degradation indicators based on automated analyses of remote sensing data. The land use database and web portal will be developed based on the needs of key stakeholders, such as the DLMS, DCIE, DoA, NRC, RONPHOS and local community representatives and groups.

? Output 1.4: ?Stakeholders are able to conduct strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement due to multi-stakeholder land use planning and management systems?. The Output will deliver multi-party compliance monitoring system of environmental regulations arising from the NILUP, and SEA and EIA processes, including a Monitoring Information System.

? Output 1.5: ?Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, and other relevant departments and district representatives, have enhanced capacity and evidence-based communication skills to strengthen compliance and enforcement?. The Output will ensure the sustainability of other deliverables under Outcome 1 by building institutional capacities and strengthening knowledge-based communication, including through trainings on compliance monitoring tools and processes, as well as enforcement procedures under relevant legislation, training on evidence-based public communication on environmental compliance for DCIE, DLMS and other relevant stakeholders, National Seminars involving all key stakeholders on policies and plans relating to conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, and the development of a national clearinghouse mechanism based on the UNCBD Clearing House Mechanism for disseminating and sharing of information on biodiversity work.

**Component 2:** In the alternative scenario defined by the Project, Component 2 will physically deliver and demonstrate viable restoration and SLM options for Nauru, building a solid information base on land degradation, ecosystem service values, and tested restoration options. Restoration and SLM will be enabled by enhanced local capacities among government and local community stakeholders, as well

as financial incentive mechanisms and sustainable livelihood development to remove economic hurdles that prevent the embracing of restoration and SLM in the baseline scenario.

Outcome 2: ?Degraded arable and mined land are rehabilitated to reach land degradation neutrality?

? Output 2.1: ?Decision-makers on land use have improved information on land use, land cover and state of environment?. The Output will deliver a survey of ecosystems, ecological values and vulnerabilities, environmental conditions and trends, land use and land cover, and potentials for agricultural production and for land restoration and will inform strategic spatial decisions on land use.

? Output 2.2: ?Decision-makers on land use have improved information on economic impact of degraded land on present and future socioeconomic development, the value of ecosystem services and economic opportunities of land restoration?. The Output will deliver the gender disaggregated economic cost of land degradation and value of ecosystem services in a spatially explicit manner, disaggregated by value category (direct, indirect, non-use value), manipulated, and presented in a manner to be ready to influence land use decision-making.

? Output 2.3: ?Landowners, farmers and government extension workers demonstrate improved skills in SLM?. The Output will deliver a comprehensive gender-responsive capacity development program to enable the up scaling of SLM and land restoration technologies across Nauru, including through trainings on Sustainable Land Management technologies using Farmers? Field Schools and trainings on extension skills and methods.

? Output 2.4: ?Stakeholders demonstrate increased understanding of scalable soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques following extensive field piloting?. The Output will deliver ready-to-upscale soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques based on extensive field piloting across a variety of environmental conditions and restoration targets in Nauru. Alongside the assessment of their technical and ecological suitability for the Nauru context, the techniques will be assessed for their economic and social feasibility. Activities will be gender-responsive and build on earlier research work and technical assessments that identified key constraints to soil restoration and provided an overview of technical solutions to overcome these.

? Output 2.5: ?Landowners, farmers and small businesses benefit from new financial support mechanisms and incentives that promote the adoption of SLM practices on mined sites and support livelihoods?. The Output will design financial support mechanisms, incentives, and value chains, which will enable landowners and the private sector to overcome the barrier to engage on land restoration and to adopt SLM technologies and will emphasize on benefitting women and members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

**Component 3:** The third Project component will define the alternative scenario for Nauru?s remaining forests by safeguarding the country?s remnant high value biodiversity assets in a Protected Area, that is managed based on a participatory co-management approach involving local communities. Highly degraded forest areas in- and outside the Protected Area will be restored using propagated and naturally regenerated native species. A National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan for Nauru will be developed to holistically tackle IAS that present high risk to native biodiversity, and its implementation will be tested through measures to control at least two priority IAS.

Outcome 3: ?Government takes steps towards the creation of a protected area and sustainable management of priority areas with improved ecosystem services and sustainable forest management (SFM)?

? Output 3.1: ?Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area benefits from declaration as a Protected Area and the preparation of a management plan?. The Output will lead to the declaration of Nauru's first terrestrial Protected Area (most likely IUCN Category V) based on supporting legislation and regulation previously prepared, and to defining its management based on an approved management plan resting on broad-based stakeholder consultations, including of women and members of disadvantaged groups.

? Output 3.2: ?Degraded forests benefit from restoration by propagation and planting of native trees?. The Output will lead to the restoration of degraded landscapes using locally propagated native tree species, to promote ecosystem connectivity, a healthy species mix, and the conservation of threatened and multi-purpose species.

? Output 3.3: ?Populations of endemic and vulnerable bird species, including Nauru Reed-Warbler, Black Noddy, and Micronesian Imperial-Pigeon benefit from monitoring and targeted species conservation measures?. The Output will deliver knowledge on the population status including trends of key bird species as an indicator of the state of environment, will inform species and habitat conservation measures and deliver these in Anibare Bay Protected Area and elsewhere.

? Output 3.4: ?Stakeholders have improved ability to manage and control invasive alien species?. The Output will be implemented in collaboration with a regional project to control alien species (GEF ID 9410) and deliver the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan for Nauru along with provisions for its coordinated implementation. The Output will also deliver the eradication and control of priority IAS in key locations for biodiversity conservation and restoration, based on site-specific management plans. The Output will build on the SPREP Guidelines for Invasive Species management in the Pacific. This work will synergize with relevant deliverables under other Outputs (e.g., Legislation, policy & protocols under Output 1.1; Land restoration under Output 2.4; Ecosystem restoration under 3.2).

**Component 4:** Finally, the alternative scenario defined by Component 4 will deliver upscaling towards LDN and improved ecosystem services by creating a broad momentum in support of SLM and biodiversity conservation by engaging women, raising awareness, and providing education on the environment, and making existing and new knowledge widely available. These contributions will be supported by a national target setting for LDN that will be operationalized through a restoration action plan and mainstreamed into the national land use plan.

Outcome 4 ?Communication and knowledge management for dissemination and scaling up of sustainable land management approaches and ecosystem services?

? Output 4.1: ?Traditional knowledge governing resource use restored and strengthened through gender strategy and action plan?. The Output will deliver an updated and validated project Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan to strengthen gender-specific knowledge-based traditional resource management practices in Nauru and thereby help local communities and particularly women to reconnect to their land and to develop positive attitudes towards Sustainable Land Management, including by informing activities under Output 2.4. The Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan was prepared during the PPG Phase and will be reviewed and updated during the Inception Phase.

? Output 4.2: ?Monitoring and evaluation system supports effective project implementation incl. adaptive management and dissemination of results?. The Output will deliver effective monitoring of project implementation and impacts, safeguards, gender, risks, assumptions, and other factors, and will allow the Project Management Unit (PMU) to effectively apply adaptive management. The Output will be delivered through standard UNEP and GEF project monitoring and evaluation activities that are enhanced by tailor-made system components.

? Output 4.3: ?Knowledge and best practices emerging from the project effectively absorbed to ensure sustainable land management through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder landscape approach to managing various land uses?. The Output will deliver a range of knowledge management products, including policy briefs, best practice notes, and guidelines, aiming at disseminating key project messages, increasing awareness, knowledge, and capacities of specific targeted stakeholders, and supporting the delivery of Output 4.4.

? Output 4.4: ?Stakeholders/citizens/landowners reached with education programs and awareness campaigns demonstrate increased environmental awareness and an understanding of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services?. The Output will deliver environmental education programs and awareness campaigns in Nauru that will contribute to an increase in citizen?s environmental awareness in a gender-responsive manner.

? Output 4.5: ?Stakeholders develop LDN upscaling strategy and rehabilitation action plan to be integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks?. The Output will deliver the national LDN target setting for Nauru and integrate its provisions into the NILUP. The LDN target setting will capture all necessary components of the process, including developing LDN targets, quantifying the baseline, identifying land degradation hotspots, and planning measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation.

#### **4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies**

The Project is aligned with the GEF 7 Biodiversity (BD) and Land Degradation (LD) Focal Areas.

Under BD, the Project contributes to Focal Area Strategic Objective BD-1-1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors?. In alignment to it, the Project will embed biodiversity considerations into the relevant policy, legal and regulatory framework, along with the practices of planning, implementing, and monitoring activities in production sectors that bear implications on biodiversity (mining, infrastructure development, and agriculture). The Project will specifically deliver:

- ? Output 1.1 Enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation
- ? Output 1.4 Environmental assessments mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, along with compliance monitoring and enforcement
- ? Output 1.5 Capacity development for improved compliance monitoring and enforcement
- ? Output 3.1 Anibare Bay Protected Area

- ? Output 3.2 Rehabilitation of heavily degraded remnant forests on the Topside over a cumulated area of 103 ha
- ? Output 3.3 Monitoring and conservation of priority bird species
- ? Output 3.4 National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan along with piloting its implementation with focus on two priority IAS
- ? Output 4.1 Gender strategy and action plan developed and implemented to restore and strengthen traditional knowledge governing resource use that was once an integral part of Nauruan's connection to the land and sea.

Under LD, the Project contributes to Focal Area Strategic Objective LD-1-1 ?Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management?. The Project will specifically deliver:

- ? Output 2.3 Skills and training programs on SLM and restoration;
- ? Output 2.4 Rehabilitation of severely degraded land affected by strip mining, void of vegetation and soil cover and marked by extreme pinnacle-pit topography. The Project will rehabilitate 496 ha (27%) of the degraded Topside to flat topography, ready for soil restoration and revegetation. Of this, the Project will pilot soil restoration and various SLM technologies, restoring the land to its full production potential on an area of 46 ha;
- ? Output 2.5 New financial support mechanisms and incentives, including value chain development supporting livelihoods and adoption of SLM practices on mined sites developed for landowners, farmers and small businesses.

Additionally, the Project is aligned with the Land Degradation Focal Area Objective LD-4-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN. The Project will specifically contribute to this by:

- ? Output 1.2 Integrated land use plan mainstreaming biodiversity conservation by maximizing sustainable utilization while safeguarding biodiversity conservation priorities capturing all of Nauru (2,151 ha). The strategic land use plan will also identify the location of the Protected Area and ensure that the management of its spatial matrix supports more ambitious conservation priorities within the Protected Area.
- ? Output 1.3 Geospatial database and web portal
- ? Output 2.1 Landscape survey on land use, land cover, land degradation
- ? Output 2.2 Valuation and mapping of ecosystem services
- ? Output 4.3 Management of knowledge emerging from the Project
- ? Output 4.4 Environmental education and awareness raising
- ? Output 4.5 Setting voluntary LDN targets for Nauru under the active partnership with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Global Mechanism and embedding LDN into the land-use plan and the restoration plan to meaningfully involve government organizations, local communities, private sector, and women into the upscaling of LDN across Nauru.

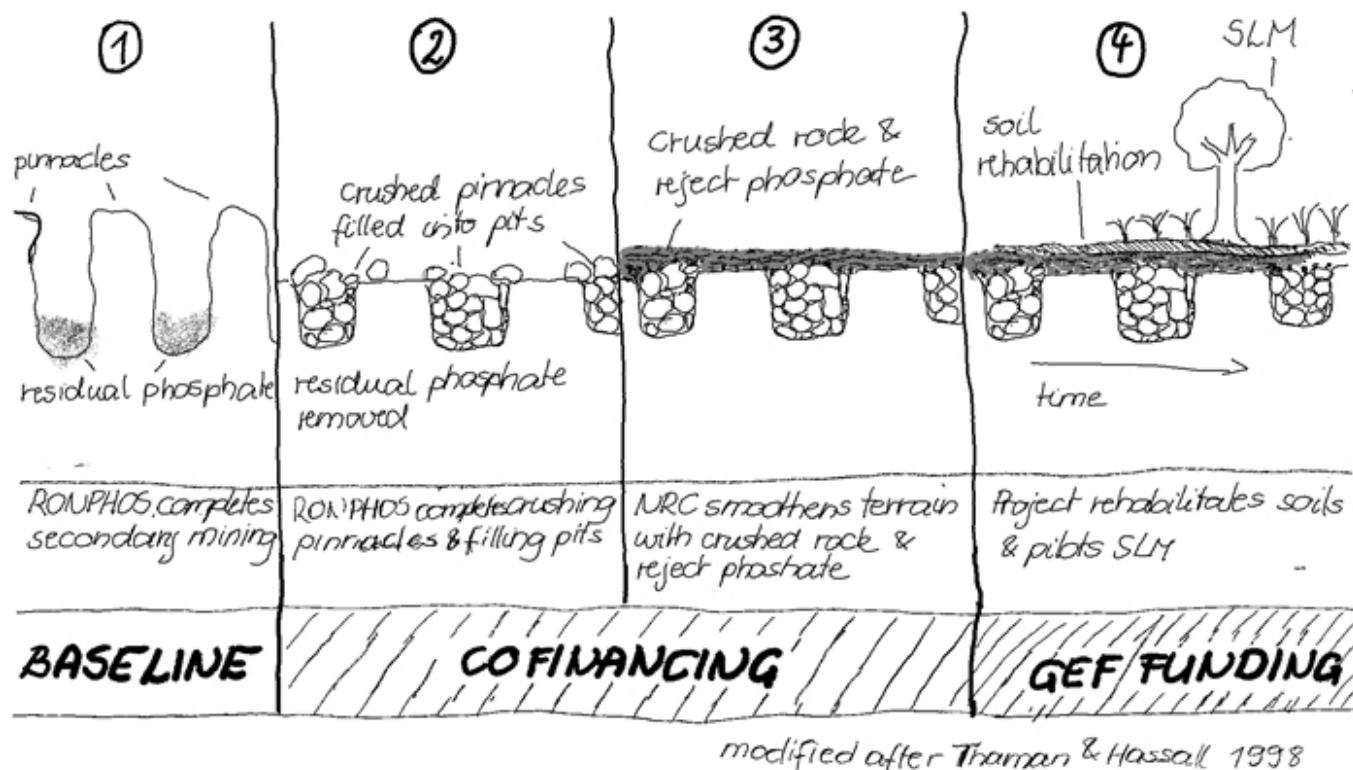
The Project takes full account of the GEF-7 project development guidance related to the ongoing Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by containing provisions to enhance the sustainability of results and resilience through i) integrated planning and institutional coordination, ii) focus on marginal and disadvantaged people, iii) enhancing capacities for remote project preparation and implementation, and iv) enhanced knowledge management. Additionally, the project strategy, including all Outputs listed above take guidance from and are compliant with the GEF Policy on Gender Equality.

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

The incremental cost reasoning, including expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing are presented in the table below:

<b>BASELINE</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>INCREMENT</b>
<b>(A)</b>	<b>(B)</b>	<b>(B) - (A)</b>
<p>? The enabling environment safeguard biodiversity conservation, along with respective capacities remains inadequate. Sectoral barriers prevail and environmental regulations are not monitored and enforced.</p> <p>? Restoration of the Topside does not progress due to lack of information, funds, viable technologies, and political commitment.</p> <p>? Nauru's remaining biodiversity assets including the country's only Key Biodiversity Area continue to diminish unabated due to habitat loss, IAS and unsustainable hunting.</p> <p>? Upscaling towards LDN remains out of scope due to limited public awareness on biodiversity and land degradation.</p>	<p>? The alternative scenario brought by the GEF intervention will create a comprehensive enabling environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation and will institutionalize cross-sectoral integrated landscape management. Environmental regulations will be carefully monitored, and their compliance will be enforced.</p> <p>? More than a quarter of Nauru's degraded Topside will be restored by creating a flat surface and soil restoration and SLM will be piloted on an area of 46 ha. Economic hurdles to engage on SLM by the private sector will be overcome and information for restoration will be readily available.</p> <p>? Nauru's only KBA will be conserved in the country's first Protected Area, forested landscapes will be restored and sustainably managed, priority bird species will be conserved, and a strategic plan for controlling IAS will be in place.</p> <p>? Nauru pursues a path towards LDN based on identified national targets, a national restoration plan, increased environmental awareness and readily available knowledge.</p>	<p>? Gaps in the enabling policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional environment will be filled enabling integrated landscape management and environmental monitoring</p> <p>? Viable restoration and SLM technologies will be tested and financial incentive mechanisms to overcome barriers for SLM will be put in place</p> <p>? A management plan for Anibare Bay Protected Area will be prepared, native trees will be propagated, and priority bird species will be monitored and conserved. A NISSAP will be developed and implementation will be piloted to control IAS.</p> <p>? LDN targets will be defined, relevant knowledge will be synthesized and disseminated, and environmental awareness will be raised.</p>
<p><b>BASELINE COST</b></p> <p>? TOTAL: US\$ 23,492,516</p>	<p><b>ALTERNATIVE COST</b></p> <p>? GEF: US\$ 3,502,968</p> <p>? Co-financing: US\$ 19,295,653</p> <p>? Baseline: US\$ 23,492,516</p> <p>? TOTAL: US\$ 46,291,137</p>	<p><b>INCREMENTAL COST</b></p> <p>? GEF: US\$ 3,502,968</p> <p>? Co-finance: US\$ 19,295,653</p> <p>? TOTAL: US\$ 22,798,621</p>

The Project's landscape rehabilitation approach, including the phases that form part of the Project, and the incremental cost reasoning on how GEF funds build on the baseline and cofinancing to deliver Global Environmental Benefits are presented in **Figure 1**.



**FIGURE 1: LAND REHABILITATION APPROACH, INCLUDING INCREMENTAL COST REASONING**

#### 6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

The Project will yield the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) resulting from GEF funding under the Biodiversity Focal Area in terms of i) the conservation of globally significant biodiversity, primarily contained in Anibare Bay Key Biodiversity Area and the Ijuw and Anabar Wetlands. Conservation of globally significant biodiversity will be achieved through a) mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into an enabling policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework (Logframe Indicator 1.3 'Proportion of laws regulating land-based production sectors that support an enabling environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation?'); b) enhanced capacities and implementation of compliance monitoring and enforcement of biodiversity relevant regulations (Logframe Indicator 1.2: 'Proportion of development activities subject to EIA that follow enforced EIA procedures?'); c) conservation of Nauru's only Key Biodiversity Area within the country's first Protected Area (Logframe Indicator 3.1: 'Area of Anibare Protected Area with fully operational governance arrangements formally declared by Cabinet Approval' with a 50-hectare targeted contribution towards GEF Core Indicator 1.1); d) targeted species conservation measures aiming at key vascular plant and bird species, e) sustainable management benefitting biodiversity of remnant forests outside Protected Areas (Logframe Indicator 3.2: 'Area of forested landscapes under improved



management to benefit biodiversity, including through restoration with native species? and Indicator 3.3: ?Number of priority species for conservation (Nauru reed-warbler, Black Noddy, Micronesian Imperial-pigeon) and for IAS control (Red Bead Tree, Yellow Crazy Ant) in Anibare Bay with achieved population targets?).

The Project will additionally contribute to the Aichi Targets as described in the table below.

<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b>	<b>Nauru Baseline</b>	<b>Alternative Project scenario</b>
Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Weak public awareness on biodiversity and its values owing to the long financial dependence on phosphate mining and the wealth it used to generate in the past	Increased public awareness on biodiversity and its values through Output 4.4
Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	Ecosystem values and the economic implications of land degradation and biodiversity loss are not known and accounted for.	Ecosystem valuation ready to be integrated into development planning through Output 2.2
Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	No such plans have been prepared in Nauru, the country continues to utilize land and biodiversity at unsustainable levels.	Nauru Integrated Land use Plan that ensures sustainable production & consumption within ecological limits through Output 1.2
Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Restored land for agriculture and degraded forest land is currently not managed for biodiversity benefits.	Demonstrate sustainable management of restored and degraded land for biodiversity benefits through Output 3.2 and upscaled restoration and rehabilitation through Output 4.5.
Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Existing IAS in Nauru are not controlled, prevention of new introductions inefficiently managed.	Demonstrated the control of priority IAS through Output 3.4

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved 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 landscapes and seascapes.	Establishment of Protected Area identified in several government policies and strategies, however, no legislation, and no Protected Area in place.	The country's first Protected Area established through Output 3.1 based on a clear legal mandate and a well-negotiated stakeholder process.
Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Populations of threatened species not monitored, continue to be decimated by hunting and no species conservation measures are in place.	Priority threatened species conserved through Outputs 3.2 and 3.3
Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	The UNDP-GEF Ridge-To-Reef child project was designed to address this. However, the project may not have delivered all targets (terminal evaluation is underway).	Ecosystems restored in a gender responsive manner through Outputs 2.4, 2.5, and 4.1.
Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	NBSAP and NSDS has put forth goals and strategies to achieve this but achievements have been dilatory to restore land due to the lack of local capacity to manage land resources and the lack of policies and communication for integrated land use planning and management.	Ecosystem resilience enhanced through Outputs 2.4, 2.5, and 4.1.
Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Traditional ecological knowledge not applied in conservation and use of biodiversity, as resources are used for mining. Customary use of threatened species in form of hunting continues despite unknown population status.	Indigenous people engaged in biodiversity conservation and their sustainable use throughout the Project and particularly through Outputs 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1, 4.1, 4.4.
Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	Country-wide rapid biodiversity survey (BioRAP) established knowledge base on biodiversity, results widely disseminated.	Biodiversity knowledge management promoted through measures delivered through Output 4.3

GEBs delivered through GEF funding under the Land Degradation Focal Area include ii) the improved provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services, directly on restored land (Logframe Indicator 2: 'Area of rehabilitated mined and degraded arable land' with a targeted 494-hectare contribution to GEF Core Indicator 3.1) and indirectly across entire Nauru under the implications of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Logframe Indicator 1 'Proportion of remotely monitored land use change in Nauru within the final project calendar year that complies with the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan approved by Cabinet?'), iii) mitigated/avoided greenhouse gas emissions and increased carbon sequestration in production landscapes, resulting from restoration, conservation and improved management of land and vegetation (Logframe Indicator 4: 'Carbon sequestration benefits attributed to the Project' with a 15,749 tCO<sub>2</sub>e contribution to GEF Core Indicator 6.1 over a 20-year accounting period considering permanence; refer to Appendix 19 and the separately attached FAO-Ex-Act tool), and iv) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in productive landscapes, resulting from restoration of remnant forests and their sustainable utilization (Logframe Indicator 3.2: 'Area of forested landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity, including through restoration with native species' with a targeted 103-hectare contribution to GEF Core Indicator 4.1). In terms of improved provision of ecosystem services, specific benefits will include the improved water retention and purification capacities of restored land and improved land productivity that under application of SLM technologies will lead to the improved production of horticultural and agricultural produce. Additionally, restored sites will lead to improved regulation of climate and zoonotic diseases and contribute to the increased appreciation of sites of cultural significance on the Topside. Restoration will create areas for recreation, which are presently non-available in Nauru. Restoration and rehabilitation of soils, sites, and secondary forests, along with conservation of remnant forests will lead to carbon sequestration benefits amounting to 15,749 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 20-year accounting period considering permanence (GEF Core Indicator 6.1). Conservation and sustainable use will safeguard key biodiversity assets in production landscapes, particularly in terms of threatened tree and bird species. The Project will additionally introduce and upscale the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality in Nauru, including through voluntary national LDN target setting and the mainstreaming of LDN into the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan.

## **7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

### **Innovativeness**

The Project contains several fundamentally innovative components for Nauru. The most important innovations at national level include: i) integrated cross-sectoral landscape approach, ii) strategic control and management of invasive alien species, iii) declaration and management of terrestrial Protected Areas, iv) soil restoration and aspects of Sustainable Land Management apart from sustainable horticulture, v) knowledge management tools such as the land use database and web portal and the environmental monitoring database, vi) cross-sectoral collaborative approaches to land management, and vii) gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector.

The Project also contains an innovation for the GEF, represented by a novel approach of building incremental GEF investments on top of post-mining land restoration to yield Global Environmental Benefits. Our comprehensive review of past GEF projects led to the conclusion that this has never before been followed in other GEF projects.

### **Sustainability**

The likelihood of project results to endure beyond the Project's lifetime is subject to socio-economic, institutional and governance, financial and environmental risks. While socio-economic risks are considered to be substantial, risks associated with other spheres are moderate. Existing risk levels during the PPG Phase translate to a moderately likely sustenance of project results overall.

#### Socio-economic risks to sustainability

The socio-economic sustainability of several project investments primarily hinges on the compatibility of these with Nauru's peculiar land tenure situation and the dominance of the phosphate mining industry, including its mid-term trajectory. Given that the Project does not target to change land tenure, its strategy strongly emphasizes on the tenure-responsiveness of all its investments to minimize associated sustainability risks. Land and resource tenure will be duly considered in all planning, consultations and decisions with a potential impact on land use. In addition, the Project will follow FPIC procedures to ensure that well-informed decisions are taken by a broad base of stakeholders, including at the grassroots level. The Project will emphasize on the concept of social equity and is designed in a gender-responsive manner to minimize social risks arising from marginalizing particular sections of society. The Government's commitment to and local community interest in SLM and biodiversity conservation strongly depend on the implication of relevant targeted project achievements on phosphate mining. Where these two priorities are in potential conflict with each other (e.g., the safeguarding of the last remnant forested land on the edge of the Topside above Anibare Bay versus mining it to tap the last untouched phosphate reserves of Nauru), the socio-economic risks to the sustainability of Project results are very substantial. The Project will work along a multi-faceted strategy to minimize the risks by i) evidence-based policy advocacy, ii) broad-based environmental awareness raising, iii) obtaining formal Government commitments *a priori*, including the enactment of relevant legislation, iv) capacity development, and v) showcasing economic benefits, to safeguard biodiversity conservation and SLM priorities.

#### Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

The Project will create institutional frameworks (NILUC, Anibare Bay Protected Area management committee, NISSAP committee, micro-credit groups, etc.) that focus on breaking sectoral silos and drawing membership from a broad stakeholder base. Several of these institutions will be formal government-community co-management institutions (NILUC, Anibare Bay Protected Area management committee) mandated with taking land use decisions. Strong emphasis will be put on their establishment and capacity development from project start to ensure that at project end institutions have fully taken charge of their mandates and are capable of implementing processes under their mandates. Empowered cross-sectoral institutions will thus reduce sustainability risks. Endurance of achievements in creating an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment for Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation is highly likely, in case the concerned legislation can be enacted by Parliament within the Project's lifetime. The planned revision of the Land Act sponsored by the Project may however be very challenging to achieve, given the highly contentious nature of land tenure in Nauru (see above). The sustainability risks in enacting most project-sponsored legislation beyond the Project's lifetime are expected to be at most moderate, based on the recent experience of the UNDP-GEF R2R Child Project in Nauru, which sponsored legislation that is still in an ongoing process of being enacted despite the operational closure of the project.

#### Financial risks to sustainability

The Project's substantial upfront investments to overcome barriers (enabling policy & governance framework for SLM and biodiversity conservation; enabling restoration through capacities, technologies and incentive mechanisms; processes, structures and capacities for the protection of Nauru's remaining forests; upscaling towards LDN) will be financed from the GEF fund. Once in place, most of these investments will yield no or limited maintenance costs. The investments with

substantial financing requirements beyond the Project's lifetime include: i) the hosting and maintenance of the land use database and web portal, ii) continued rehabilitation of the Topside, iii) continued monitoring of environmental offences (including enforcement), state of the environment, habitats and bird populations, iv) running costs of Anibare Bay Protected Area, v) costs of NISSAP implementation, and vi) LDN upscaling. The costs associated with i) are primarily staff costs and to a subordinate extent hardware and software costs. The Project will strongly emphasize on the creation of sufficient capacities and the creation of a dedicated staff position along with the retainment of staff at DLMS to ensure the long-term sustainability of this investment. Necessary hardware and software will also be procured with a view to long-term sustainability. The costs associated with ii) are cofinanced by the Government of Nauru through NRC during the Project's lifetime and therefore the phasing out of GEF funding will have no implications on their financial sustainability. Monitoring frameworks and institutional arrangements will have been put in place using the GEF fund and therefore costs associated with iii) are primarily human resource related. It is anticipated that the reliance on well trained staff on regular government payroll in combination with established remote-sensing supported monitoring and institutionalized student engagement through School Environmental Clubs will ensure the sustainability of environmental monitoring activities. Running costs associated with iv) will primarily be related to monitoring (refer to the earlier point), the implementation of habitat and species conservation measures, as well as ongoing stakeholder consultations. The co-management structured with the strong involvement of local landowners and community members will contribute also to the financial sustainability of the Protected Area. The implementation of v) will once again be primarily associated with human resource costs of regular government staff, which bears limited risks to financial sustainability. Lastly, it is expected that Nauru will continue to receive assistance from the UNCCD in upscaling towards LDN, which will also contribute to the financial sustainability of the concerned investments.

#### Environmental risks to sustainability

The risks related to the environmental sustainability of project investments are low. The Project will apply ecosystem-based solutions for piloting restoration and rehabilitation of the Topside, which represents the minimal risk approach. The control of IAS in Anibare Bay Protected Area yields residual risks of environmental sustainability in case control efforts do not continue beyond the Project's lifetime. However, the environmental risks to the long-term sustainability of IAS control are minimized by the institutionalized NISSAP established through the Project.

#### **Potential for up-scaling**

The Project targets transformational change away from unsustainable exploitation of land and natural resources defined by sectoral barriers towards integrated sustainable landscape management and conservation of remnant biodiversity. The uptake and upscaling of this approach by the Project's target audience depends on whether the Project will be able to demonstrate integrated landscape management not only as a solution with attractive social and environmental benefits, but also as an economically competitive alternative in the long run. Given the tangible economic benefits even secondary phosphate mining yields, demonstrating the long-term economic competitiveness of SLM on restored land and biodiversity conservation on unmined land is challenging, though possible. Embedding physical SLM and restoration pilots (Output 2.4) into larger landscape level strategic planning frameworks (NILUP ? Output 1.2, Nauru Restoration Action Plan ? Output 4.5), along with

their institutionalized implementation and backed up by relevant development of capacities (Outputs 2.3, 1.5) will provide these pilots with a well-defined path for upscaling across Nauru. The Project's holistic capacity development that does not only target the passing of skills and knowledge, but also a shift in attitude and behavior, is an important prerequisite to achieve a multiplier effect of widescale sustained tangible changes on the ground that will last beyond the Project's lifetime.

The project design contains specific components to promote upscaling, which includes i) the establishment and capacity development of institutions that will lead to the upscaling of the Project's demonstrated pilots and technology packages for SLM and biodiversity conservation - consisting of physical demonstration pilots (soil restoration, SLM technologies, ecosystem restoration, eradication of IAS), along with implementation guidelines - tools (land use database and web portal, environmental compliance monitoring database), plans (Anibare Bay Protected Area management plan, Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, Nauru Restoration Action Plan, LDN target setting for Nauru, NISSAP), and methodologies (bird monitoring). Furthermore, the Project will enable upscaling through ii) the demonstration applying valuation of ecosystem services of the costs and economic opportunities foregone with mining versus the benefits resulting from ecosystem services derived from intact biodiversity and restored land, which along with the spatially explicit mapping of ecosystem services will contribute to the upscaling of economic decision making considering the complete range of ecosystem values. The Project will also develop iii) financial incentive mechanisms in the form of regular tax cuts or subsidies to live on beyond the Project's lifetime, which will facilitate the long-term removal of barriers for the upscaling of land restoration across the Topside. Lastly, the Project will iv) develop the national LDN target setting and mainstreaming LDN into national policies and strategies under the active support of the UNCCD Secretariat. It is expected that this engagement will continue beyond the Project duration and ensure the upscaling towards LDN in Nauru.

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[1] IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (LC: Least Concern; VU: Vulnerable; NT: Near Threatened) <<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>> [accessed 2 January 2021].

## **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

The Project will take place on the 21 km<sup>2</sup> island of Nauru consists of a single island located at 0°31'S and 166°56'E in the Central Pacific, 41 km south of the Equator between the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, isolated by 400 km from its closest neighbor. The project map is presented in **Annex E**.

## **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**

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**Private Sector Entities**

**If none of the above, please explain why:** Yes

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

Other (Please explain): Beneficiaries

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

Please refer to document **Appendix 21 Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

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

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)** Yes

#### **Stakeholder consultations**

Stakeholders will be consulted through the approaches described below:

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings: PSC meetings will be held bi-annually, with one meeting immediately following the Annual Work Plan and Budget meeting, whereas the other held at a six-month gap. The Project Steering Committee will be convened by the National Project Director (NPD) and its membership will consist of representatives of all key project stakeholders. The PSC meetings

will include special mechanisms to review and address the concerns of local community members, and particularly of disadvantaged groups.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings: TAC meetings will be held on a need basis and be conveyed by the NPC and be chaired by him/her or the Technical Advisor (TA). The Technical Advisory Committee will consist of knowledgeable representatives of all key technical stakeholders, including all project partners. These meetings will focus on providing guidance to specific technical questions arising in the course of project implementation and ensure smooth technical cooperation.

Annual Work and Budget Planning workshops: These workshops will also serve the review of progress achieved in the preceding year, including the identification of causes for potential delays. These workshops will contain special provisions to provide an opportunity for project beneficiaries to present their views and voice their priorities. Provisions will also be made that implementers/government agencies cannot dismiss local priorities unless these do not conform to the provisions of the Project document. The reports of these workshops will be widely circulated.

Focus Group Discussions: The Project will conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and/or Public Meetings related to certain topics of project. FGDs will be used to elucidate local community knowledge, background and priorities related to a certain topic. In order to remove barriers for the genuine participation of women, the Project will apply gender disaggregated FGDs (e.g., discussion on SLM engagement of women with the Women's Group). FGDs will follow best practices and EcoNauru and other stakeholders engaged in local community facilitation will be trained in the proper application of the technique.

Local Consultative Forum: In each community where project activities will take place, local consultative fora will be established, building on traditional approaches of local consultation in Nauru. The purpose of such meetings is to provide a forum for local stakeholders for public discussions on issues directly related to the Project. The meetings will i) review the progress of project implementation against the local workplan for the concerned period, ii) define new targets for the upcoming planning period, including the selection of beneficiaries of project activities, iii) review challenges and constraints of implementation, and iv) receive and register any potential grievances or comments. Local Consultative Fora will be conducted on a regular basis and these meetings will be linked to the schedule of project management activities. They will take place ahead of Annual Review and Work Plan Meetings and will inform these meetings. Attendance registers and minutes of these meeting must be maintained and shared with the PMU.

Workshops: Workshops will be held to obtain structured stakeholder input for and to reach decisions on the Project's deliverables, such as revised policies, laws, and regulations; the NILUP, LDN target setting and others. Workshops will be widely used throughout the Project and be organized in an inclusive manner. Reporting on workshops will be mandatory and the duty of the workshop's lead facilitator. Special provisions to facilitate the genuine participation of disadvantaged groups will be enforced.

Nauru Integrated Land Use Planning Platform/Committee: During the PPG, an informal platform of government agencies shaped for discussing the land use plan initiated by NRC through the Higher Ground Project was formed. The project development utilized this loose platform during the PPG to discuss and define the scope of the cross-sectoral Land Use and Restoration Plan for Nauru. The PPG phase also used this platform to implant the concept of a cross-sectoral approach to land use planning as opposed to NRC's sectoral approach. The Project intends to utilize this platform, builds its capacities and formally establish it as a permanent standing committee. The committee will be mandated to coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring, enforcement, evaluation and updating of the NILUP. Membership will consist of all government agencies mandated with land-based production sectors and will also include representatives of landowners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the private sector and of disadvantaged groups. The Committee will meet bi-monthly to review issues related to its mandates.

Participatory Rural Appraisal: The local community facilitation of the Project will apply Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools to solicit structured information, elucidate local community priorities, allow structured learning and communal decision-making on various project activities. The capacities



of EcoNauru as the Project's grassroots facilitators will be built on applying a facilitatory approach and the appropriate application of PRA tools. Throughout the PRA, focus will be on overcoming power differences to achieve full and genuine participation of all stakeholders.

Participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling: A participatory three-dimensional model (P3DM) of Nauru has been prepared through a past GEF project effort. This P3DM will be utilized for engaging stakeholders into participatory spatial planning both for the NILUP as well as the preparation of complimentary spatial plans, including the Anibare Bay Protected Area Management Plan.

Awareness campaigns: The Project will conduct awareness campaigns on key project contents, including biodiversity conservation and SLM. Awareness campaigns will target the general public of Nauru and specifically communities in targeted project landscapes. Awareness campaigns will apply multiple methods, including public rallies, competitions, plenary presentations, etc.

Environmental education: The Project will mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM into the school curriculum in Nauru. This will be achieved by establishing nature clubs in schools located in the districts targeted by the Project. Nature clubs will draw their membership from among students and will be engaged through interactive games, quizzes, participatory monitoring activities. Besides, specific educational programs will be developed and imparted on the Project's main topics. The Nature Clubs will also be used to disseminate the Project's knowledge products.

Trainings: The Project has strong capacity development component of which trainings are a central element. Trainings will focus both on the project's primary beneficiaries, as well as on the Project's implementers, including several government agencies. Trainings will build on best practices of adult education, rely on experiential learning and a strong interactive component through contribution of the rich experience of participants to theoretical learning contents. Where possible, classroom trainings will be combined with field practices. Trainings, including approaches and contents will be designed based on training needs assessments and be tailored to the specific demands of the target audiences. Special provisions will be made to ensure the full and genuine participation of disadvantaged groups.

Participatory monitoring: The Project will engage local communities in tracking progress against project targets. Monitoring will apply crowd-sourced data of e.g., spotting of invasive alien species, breaches of the provisions of the Land Use and Restoration Plan, bird populations, etc. Additionally, participatory monitoring will also be carried out by Nature Clubs in schools, established and supported through the Project's environmental education program.

Surveys/questionnaires: The Project will apply surveys/questionnaires to track progress against certain indicators defined in the logframe. These surveys will be developed and administered in the most appropriate manner (e.g., paper-based survey, online survey, etc.).

### **Stakeholder engagement by project component**

Following the Inception Phase, the Project Implementation Phase performs a continuous engagement of stakeholders throughout the project lifetime. Project implementation requires stakeholder engagement customized not only in terms of formats that are adequate to the specific needs to the concerned stakeholders. For details of these stakeholder engagement activities related to individual project components as well as project management activities, refer to the separately annexed Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Component 1 of the Project focuses on strengthening the policy and institutional capacities for Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation. The technical contents of stakeholder engagement include i) review of the policy, legal, and regulatory framework related to land use planning, biodiversity mainstreaming, SEA, and EIA processes, ii) preparation of a Land Use and Restoration Plan for Nauru, iii) development of a land use database, iv) system of compliance monitoring and enforcement resulting from provisions of the Land Use and Restoration Plan and its linkages to the SEA and EIA processes, v) capacity building for strengthened compliance and enforcement of government agencies. This component will require extensive stakeholder engagement from the key governmental agencies involved in improving the enabling environment for SLM and biodiversity conservation. Cross-sectoral working groups will bring together representatives of government agencies, experts and non-governmental representatives to drive forward the agenda for an

improved legislative framework as well as for innovative financing. The Nauru Integrated Land Use Committee will be established consisting of high-level representatives of all departments mandated with regulating key production sectors, of representatives of landowners, the private sector, NGOs, etc, along with the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee. This will bring the key stakeholders together at a national level and will help to ensure that there is strong coordination and collaboration between sectors. These bodies will be responsible for driving forward the agenda of an enabling policy and regulatory framework for SLM and biodiversity conservation. Additionally, they will coordinate the implementation of all activities targeted under Outcome 1, including to i) conduct a series of review and planning meetings to adapt the policy and regulatory framework aiming at mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM, ii) coordinate the drafting and finalization of the Nauru Land Use and Restoration Plan, iii) agree on the features of the land use database and web portal, iv) coordinate compliance monitoring and enforcement of provisions of the legal and regulatory framework (e.g. EIA) as well as of the Nauru Land Use and Restoration Plan, and to v) coordinate capacity development on compliance monitoring. Further key stakeholder engagement activities will include the establishment of coordination mechanisms for effective monitoring and enforcement of provisions arising from the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan.

Component 2 of the Project focuses on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land. Therefore, the primary targets of stakeholder engagement include landowners, as well as local communities and the private sector. Stakeholder engagement will focus on the following subject matters: i) landscape survey to assess state of ecosystems and restoration potentials, ii) assessment of the economic impact of land degradation, iii) capacity development on SLM, iv) testing of soil restoration methods, v) development of financial support and incentive mechanisms to allow engagement in SLM. Stakeholder engagement activities will concentrate around training needs assessment and the delivery of trainings on various aspects of SLM. Trainings will be customized for two target audiences, including for project-affected stakeholders as well as extension officers. Stakeholder engagement will also focus on collecting information primarily from local community stakeholders to be utilized for the landscape survey and the economic assessment of land degradation. These activities will be accompanied by the dissemination of results on these studies.

Outcome 3 of the Project focuses on the conservation of Nauru's remaining forests. The key stakeholders targeted for this Outcome include both government agencies responsible for the regulatory framework of biodiversity conservation, as well as the concerned landowners and local community members residing in and around Protected Areas. Stakeholder engagement activities will focus on i) preparation of the legislation and the management plan for Anibare Bay Protected Area, ii) propagation of threatened indigenous tree species, iii) monitoring of important bird species, and iv) management of invasive alien species. A key mechanism for stakeholder engagement will be the Community Consultative Fora established for each land-based intervention type (PA management, restoration & rehabilitation, improve management), which will convene at least bi-annually. These will provide an opportunity for stakeholders from different community groups, and well as local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector to collaborate and contribute to the project Objective. These partnership forums will allow ecosystem-based and participatory landscape-scale approaches to be applied for the first time, providing a key mechanism for advising the project on implementation activities and required adaptive management. Further stakeholder engagement at pilot landscape level will occur through diverse training activities and demonstrations of SLM and consultations regarding the new Protected Area. Livelihoods work under component 2 will develop new partnerships between local communities and the private sector, facilitated by the Chamber of Commerce.

Outcome 4 concerns knowledge management. It will support effective implementation and operation of the project's governance mechanisms and will provide mechanisms for knowledge sharing between the project stakeholders and beyond. The project's communication plan will guide this knowledge sharing and ensure that project reports, case studies and lessons are shared with all stakeholders for information and feedback. Additionally, the component targets upscaling towards Land Degradation Neutrality and biodiversity conservation. The project will work with schools and NGOs to raise public awareness and participation to new levels. Stakeholder engagement activities will focus on i) implementing a gender strategy targeting the advancing of traditional governance and resource management practices, ii) monitoring and broad dissemination of project results, iii) preparation of

knowledge products, iv) implementation of environmental education campaigns, and v) development of an up-scaling strategy defining national Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

Project Management related engagement will focus on i) project governance aspects, ii) work planning, iii) budgeting, iv) monitoring and evaluation, v) reporting, vi) establishment of partnerships, and vii) communication.

### **Timing of stakeholder engagement activities**

The timing of stakeholder engagement activities is described in detail in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

### **Resource requirements**

Sufficient human and financial resources are allocated to ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities can be implemented in a resource-effective manner. In terms of human resources, the full-time TA will fill the position of Communication Specialist within the PMU and will have the responsibility of implementing stakeholder engagement activities as defined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Besides, the Project will collaborate with the Government Information Office for a broad dissemination of project information and will utilize the cash cofinancing provided by Digicel for the same purpose. Financial resource requirements are presented in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Besides, the project budget, as presented in the Project Document (Annex 2), also reflects the financial implications of stakeholder engagement activities.

## **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

### **Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

Demographic and social context: According to the Census 2011, the sex ratio of 5031 males against 4914 females is almost balanced. Nauru is a young society with a median age of 21.5 years. Given that life expectancy is slightly higher for females, the median age for women is also higher as compared to men. High fertility rate (4.3% in 2011) and the responsibility of rearing children adds to the burden born by women. The 586 female-headed households accounted for 35.4% of all households in 2012. Even though several sources indicate that no segregation and discrimination is prevalent in the education sector, the ratio of female to male secondary school completion rate of 72%, indicating that girls are more likely to drop out of secondary school as compared to boys. There are notable shortcomings in women's health status marked by a high incidence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Domestic violence against women remains a disproportionately serious concern, with almost half of women reporting to ever have experienced domestic violence.

Economic opportunities: The proportion of female-headed households are overrepresented in the economically weakest categories, including i) 'poor' households below the Basic-Needs Poverty Line (BNPL) (36.3%) and ii) 'vulnerable' households within 20% of the BNPL (41.7%) against the overall proportion of 35.4% of female-headed households. Therefore, female-headed households have higher vulnerability as compared to male-headed ones. Additionally, widowed households are a highly vulnerable category with 60% being poor or vulnerable, and female widows are more vulnerable as compared to males. Even though no discrimination is prevalent in the education sector, discrimination starts when women enter labor market, as they tend to be assigned lower grade clerical jobs. In 2011, 49.3% of women against 78.9% of men participated in the labor force. There are no specific laws that prohibit gender discrimination during staff recruitment. While equal pay between sexes is mandated by law for civil servants, there are no similar provisions in the private sector. Similarly, maternity leave is only mandated following six months of employment in the government sector. Marked discrimination against women exists in employment and wages, which are partially rooted in social traditions. Against the 35.4% of women-headed households, less than a quarter of employed household heads were women. 70% of male heads of households against 30% of female heads of households were engaged in

paid or unpaid work. Overall, the rates of employment as well as the proportion of entrepreneurs is markedly lower for women as compared to men. At the same time, female unemployment rate is higher than for men.

#### Policy, legal and regulatory framework

Nauru is a signatory to several international conventions and processes to advance gender equality, which include:

- (a) Convention Against Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW; accession 2011)
- (b) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (accession 2012)
- (c) Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (2005-15)

Similarly, relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements have gender-specific considerations:

- (a) UNCCD Gender Action Plan
- (b) UNCBD 2015-25 Gender Plan of Action

At the same time, even though the country has not enacted any national legislation to promote gender equality, the constitution and the policy framework contains important relevant component, which include:

- (a) Constitution of Nauru: Spells out that discrimination of any type based on sex is not permissible.
- (b) Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2005-2025. Spells out a goal for gender equality and identifies several gender targets, of which i) heightened participation of women in leadership positions, ii) improved economic status of women, iii) equitable participation in education, and iv) improved capacity to mainstream gender equality programs are relevant in the context of the Project.
- (c) National Women's Policy, which reiterates the above-mentioned priorities of the NSDS 2005-25.
- (d) Women's Affairs Department National Plan of Action: The Action Plan aims at improving women's quality of life in Nauru focused around 16 thematic issues, promoted by the Women's Affairs Department. Of these, the ones relevant for the Project include: i) education and training for women, ii) women in decision-making, iii) women and culture, iv) good governance, v) women and economy, vi) women in agriculture and fisheries, and vii) women in the environment.
- (e) Legal framework: There are no components of the legal framework (e.g., laws related to land-based production sectors, etc.) that contain any gender provisions or that may contribute to exacerbating gender inequality in terms of participation in decision-making, reaping benefits and access and control over land and natural resources.

Despite policies laid down primarily in the National Women's Policy and the National Action Plan, gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting government responsibility has not yet been identified.

Capacities on gender mainstreaming: A Women's Office was established in 1997 and has been upgraded to the Division of Women's Affairs (WAD), under the Department of Home Affairs. During

the PPG Phase, the WAD was further upgraded to a full-fledged Department. The WAD has dedicated staff, its own budget to carry out work to address the needs of women in Nauru and to link up with international processes. The WAD is the only government institution with holistic capacities on gender mainstreaming. Apart from the Police Domestic Violence Unit, which also focuses on reducing domestic violence against women, there are no gender-related capacities with other government organizations. Besides, a Safe House and a hotline for women experiencing domestic violence exists in Nauru.

Project relevant gender knowledge and activity profile: 114 years of phosphate mining and the ensuing loss of traditional resource use also eroded traditional knowledge. The only aspect of gender-specific traditional knowledge that the analysis could elucidate includes the specific knowledge of men related to hunting Black Noddies. The dominance of the mining sector has not only fundamentally changed land use, but also gender relations by shifting the balance in favor of men in recent decades. Men continue to work in government and the mining sector and are represented in public life. Given the matrilineal society by tradition, life at home is centered around women, but men are the main decision makers. Women are primarily engaged in raising children, running the households, and to a subordinate extent in carrying out informal economic activities. Only a small part of Nauru's population is engaged in any land-based activities, apart from leasing land to the government for phosphate mining. Some households own small kitchen gardens, which are mostly maintained by women. A few families own larger plots of non-mining land, mainly in Buada Lagoon, which is used for horticultural crops and aquaculture to supply the local market. These activities are primarily implemented by men.

Access & control of land and natural resources: Nauru is traditionally a matrilineal country that however was governed by mostly male chiefs prior to colonization. Land tenure, particularly ownership, has traditionally followed matrilineal inheritance, which gave way to gender neutral inheritance since independence in 1968, and some families even show preference for inheritance to boys in recent times. Some of the consulted stakeholders indicated that matrilineal inheritance does not need extended family consent, as opposed to inheritance to boys. On the other hand, district affiliation, which emerged from ancient tribal affiliation, follows matrilineal or patrilineal inheritance and may be changed for political reasons. No gender-specific differences in land and resource tenure could be detected. While access to land on the Topside is generally free for everyone, all other components of the bundle of rights irrespective of tenure regime are concentrated in the hand of the concerned landowner. No gender disaggregated records of land ownership exist and none of the interview partners could indicate whether there was any bias in the distribution of land ownership between the two sexes. This may potentially indicate that land ownership may be more or less balanced between sexes. Nauru has a very elaborate and clear cadastral system that has been maintained since the colonial administration. Land tenure rights are very strong and secure, and landowners fiercely defend any attempts of what they perceive as incursion against these rights. However, multiple splitting of inheritance led to a high number of owners of single plots, and therefore land disputes are frequent. These disputes are handled by Court, supported by the Nauru Lands Committee.

#### Participation and decision-making in environmental planning and governance at all levels

(a) Policy and government: Women are underrepresented in policy level decision-making. From 2013 to 2016, 5% of seats in parliament were filled by women, whereas from 2016 onwards this figure rose to 10.5%. Of Nauru's 19 Members of Parliament, two are female. In senior government administration, bias against women is substantially less pronounced. Whereas Nauru only has a single female Cabinet Minister at present, the large majority of Government Department Secretaries are female, including that of the DCIE. Additionally, the Personal Assistants of Cabinet Ministers, as well as Nauru's High Commissioners tend to be females.

(b) Community decision making: All Nauruans belong to a particular district, and district affiliation draws the responsibility for participating in district activities. Invitations to participate in community meetings to not carry any gender bias. In community decision-making, women actively express their

opinions, and their voice theoretically carries equal weight. However, men tend to dominate discussions and thereby communal decisions.

(c) Household-level decision making: Decision making at the household level is a function of the sex of the household head. Given that women generally only head households in case there is no male partner, domestic decisions are generally taken by men.

(d) Private sector: Men dominate the formal private sector and all larger companies and corporations, including NRC and RONPHOS. Women are more involved in informal and small-scale formal business activities. Informal businesses operated by women typically include ad-hoc/seasonal/part-time activities focusing on catering, laundromat services, provision of informal credit, etc.

Access to socio-economic benefits and services: The Women's Affairs Department assists women in the community to start and manage small businesses. The Community Education Training Centre located in Fiji and accessed through scholarships similarly assisted communities to develop gardening, cooking, sewing and other livelihood projects. Nauru has developed the draft National Strategy on Women's Economic Empowerment which focuses on better working conditions and employment opportunities, training for women in the technical and management fields, better access to finance and saving schemes. However, the Strategy has not been finalized.

Analysis of gender gaps: Key gender gaps in Nauru relevant in the context of the Project were identified as i) unequal participation of women and men in most aspects of decision-making, and ii) limited capacities to mainstream gender. The analysis could not clearly confirm the existence of iii) unequal economic opportunities and benefits, and iv) unequal access to and control of land and natural resources. Females enjoy more limited opportunities to participate in household and communal decision-making and benefits may thus flow to a disproportionate extent to men who decide on their distribution and use. Women face limitations in capacities related to land and natural resources and their gender-specific knowledge is not utilized to optimize land use. Women possess some, but not very substantial knowledge and skills that could be utilized to find context-specific solutions to the land use challenges Nauru faces. An important problem arises from the fact that gender roles dictate that traditionally, women's primary responsibility was tending to the land and taking care of the home, but decades of mining and severe degradation of arable land resulted in a loss of the connection to farming and, consequently, loss of much of the perceived importance of women in the economy. Due to weakly developed financial systems and lack of collateral and financial skills, women lack access to capital and technologies, adding to the burden of disproportionate responsibilities related to households.

Project strategy to remove gender barriers : The provisions to address above gaps i) and iv) include i) administering of gender-disaggregated Focus Group Discussions, and of gender-disaggregated consultation meetings (applicable to relevant Activities under Outputs 1.2, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3., 4.1, and 4.4), ii) training contents, methods, timings and venue adjusted to the specific needs of women (Output 2.3), iii) introduction of quota for females and representatives of disadvantaged groups in committees established with support of the Project, such as the Nauru Integrated Land Use Committee (Output 1.2), Protected Area Management Committee (Output 3.1), Micro-Credit Groups (Output 2.5), School Environmental Clubs (Output 4.4), iv) the utilization of female grassroots facilitators (all previously mentioned Outputs), v) the use of female-only preliminary discussions in order to identify common women's positions before engaging on plenary discussions with unbalanced power relations (same Outputs as under i), and vi) the use of mass SMS in parallel to communication via social media channels to remove access barriers due to the high costs of internet (Output 4.4). Gap ii) directly resulted in Activity 4.1.12: 'Train all project staff, consultants and key stakeholders on gender mainstreaming and safeguards?'. Gap iii) was translated special provisions for women and members of multiply disadvantaged groups, such as widowed females, to be primary targets of the Project's financial incentive mechanisms to support livelihoods and SLM (Output 2.5).

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

Yes

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

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** Yes

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

Yes

#### **4. Private sector engagement**

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

An overview of the private sector entities engaged in the Project is presented according to the GEF Private Sector typology in the Table below.

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Private sector stakeholders involved in the Project</b>
Privately owned companies	SMEs across Nauru engaged in producing and marketing agricultural produce
Cooperatives	Nauru Farmers' and Growers' Association
Publicly listed companies	Digicel, Bendigo Bank Agency
Joint ventures and partnerships	Chamber of Commerce
Sole traders, primary producers and artisans	Small-scale farmers
Government owned business enterprises and state-owned companies	Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation; Republic of Nauru Phosphate

Key private sector stakeholders engaged in project implementation include NRC, RONPHOS, Chamber of Commerce, Bendigo Bank Agency, Digicel, small businesses, landowners, and farmers. The Chamber of Commerce will facilitate the engagement of the private sector with government agencies and will represent the private sector in designing an enabling environment for private sector engagement in land restoration and SLM. Bendigo Bank will provide technical assistance in the development and administering of micro-credit schemes, whereas Digicel will make available Corporate Social Responsibility funds for environmental prizes and will also support the Project in environmental awareness raising through mass SMS. Small businesses, landowners, and farmer entrepreneurs will be engaged to inform the best options for investment in SLM, will participate in relevant capacity building, and will contribute work on land restoration. NRC and RONPHOS are key project partners primarily engaged into the restoration of the Topside, but also into land use planning, and environmental compliance monitoring.

The Project utilizes the following private sector entry points outlined in the GEF Private Sector Engagement Strategy:

(a) Smallholders and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through value chain interventions: The Project contains a dedicated gender-responsive component for value chain development for smallholders and SMEs.

(b) National level companies responsible for in-country partnerships, government relations and local financial relationships: The Project will be implemented under the partnership of the two largest national level companies ? NRC and RONPHOS.

(c) Industry associations with a commitment to sustainable development: The Project will engage with the Nauru Chamber of Commerce

The project seeks to maximize the opportunities to engage the weakly developed private sector of Nauru into project implementation. The private sector will primarily be engaged in the implementation by i) co-developing incentive mechanisms to be disbursed directly from the Project to beneficiaries on the condition of engaging into SLM practices (Output 2.5), ii) thorough consultations on the design of government subsidies and tax easements to encourage private sector engagement on land restoration and SLM (Output 2.5), iii) technical support in the design and establishment of micro-credit schemes, incentives and value chains (Output 2.5), iv) identifying the most favorable asset investments into SLM, which yield attractive returns on investment coupled with reasonable risk expectations and repayment periods (Output 2.4), v) contributing land restoration on private land (Output 2.4), vi) financing through Corporate Social Responsibility of environmental prizes as part of the Project's environmental awareness activities (Output 4.4), vii) participation in tailor-made capacity building on SLM technologies (Output 2.3), and viii) permanent representation on the Nauru Integrated Land Use Committee (Output 1.2).

The Project applies all six modalities for private sector engagement advocated by the GEF:

Engagement modality	Project strategy
Knowledge and information sharing	The Project engages the private sector in the design of financial incentive mechanisms and fiscal instruments required to upscale restoration and SLM across Nauru (Output 2.5).
Policy development	The Project will rely on strong private sector engagement in shaping a proposal for fiscal policies that will enable landowners and the private sector to invest into land restoration and SLM on large scale (Output 2.5).
Technical assistance	NRC, RONPHOS, the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders were actively involved in project development and will be involved in implementation either as Partners or as key facilitating stakeholders
Capacity development	The Project provides capacity development and facilitation to smallholders and SMEs in terms of financial management skills and business planning preparation (Output 2.5). Besides, technical capacities on the production aspects of land-based value chains (e.g., crop agronomy, etc.) will be built (Output 2.3).
Finance	The Project demonstrates very substantial amounts of in-kind and cash cofinancing primarily from government-owned corporations, but also from private companies.



Industry leadership	The environmental compliance monitoring and enforcement component of the Project will provide both capacity development (Output 1.5) as well as practical implementation of environmental monitoring and assessments (Output 1.4), into which large government corporations will be engaged in. The Project will thereby enhance the capacities and improve the environmental compliance performance of two of the largest industry corporations of Nauru, NRC and RONPHOS.
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## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

The key project management risks are of political, organizational, management and social nature, and mainly stem from the root problems identified in the problem analysis, including weak human capacities, lack of cross-sectoral collaboration, limited financial resources for SLM and biodiversity conservation, limited landowner interest in SLM and biodiversity conservation, high staff turnover, limited public environmental awareness, and lax enforcement of regulations. In addition, COVID-19 poses substantial project management risks, and moderate economic risks, even though the pandemic has not directly affected Nauru.

Mitigating actions to counter all management risks are internalized in project design through their inclusion in the Project's activity plan, specific allocation of responsibilities and definition of timeframes in the workplan, and the allocation of dedicated resources in the Project budget. The following table summarizes the risks and mitigating actions.

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
Government does not adhere to commitment of establishing Anibare Bay Protected Area, parts of which instead will be mined[1]	Very high	Strategy: high-level advocacy by UNEP with key government stakeholders along with grassroots advocacy, based on strong information base Actions: Activity 4.4.4: Develop and deliver awareness campaigns among the public and information and advocacy campaigns among policy makers and other key stakeholders
Incompatible capacity of DCIE in financial management and accountability necessary to execute the Project	High	Strategy: Project co-executed by SPREP and careful financial management, which will ensure that the periodic (quarterly) release of funds is subject to adequate spending, accounting and reporting on previous spending. Actions: Activity 4.2.9: continuous review of the risk assessment ratings, Activity 4.2.13: training on UNEP-GEF financial management and reporting, annual UNEP oversight missions

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
Inefficient cross-sectoral coordination between government stakeholders	High	<p>Strategy: cross-sectoral &amp; participatory project implementation, shared responsibility of project implementation by Partners</p> <p>Actions: Activity 1.2.1: Establish and capacitate a cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder governance mechanism for the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, Activity 3.4.1 (Intersectoral Committee for NISSAP)</p>
Inadequate engagement of non-government stakeholders	High	<p>Strategy: cross-sectoral &amp; participatory project implementation</p> <p>Actions: Broad based participatory engagement of local stakeholders, specifically refer to Activities 1.2.2-4, 2.4.2, 2.5.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.5, 3.2.1, 4.5.1</p>
Contentious land tenure issues prevent, delay, or allow incomplete implementation of interventions, including the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, Anibare Bay Protected Area, piloting of restoration and SLM, sustainable management of forests to benefit biodiversity, etc.	High	<p>Strategy: Project interventions that potentially infringe on land tenure are designed and implemented in a tenure-responsive manner, accompanied by awareness raising and providing financial incentives.</p> <p>Actions: Broad based participatory engagement of local stakeholders, specifically refer to Activities 1.2.2-4, 2.4.2-3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.2.3, 4.5.1</p> <p>Awareness raising on project benefits: Activities 4.4.1, 4.4.4</p> <p>Financial incentive mechanisms: Activity 2.5.3</p>
Inadequate human resources available in Nauru to implement project	High	<p>Strategy: strong external support to PMU, including co-execution by regional organization (SPREP) &amp; regular UNEP supervisory missions</p> <p>Actions: hire full-time TA to be based in Nauru, as well as technical expertise procured mainly through international/regional consultancies, strong capacity building component: Activities 1.2.1, 1.5.1-4, 2.3.1.-2.3.3, 3.3.3, 4.1.2, 4.2.13, 4.4.2-4.4.6, 4.5.1</p>
Weak application of rule of law may lead to government actions violating environmental legislation (e.g., mining of priority biodiversity areas without further procedure despite Environmental Management and Climate Change Act mandating EIA)	High	<p>Strategy: permanent close assessment of risks on the Project and early, proactive advocacy to prevent unfavorable actions</p> <p>Actions: Activity 4.4.4 to implement policy advocacy campaign</p>

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
Conflicts within the PMU arising from the use of the project vehicle <sup>[2]</sup>	High	Strategy: The vehicle must be used for project-related official purpose. Actions: Records on usage of vehicle are maintained and reported quarterly to UNEP. Further guidelines on use of project vehicle refer to the Procurement Plan.
COVID-19 impacts may lead to restricted travel of consultants and may hamper project implementation	High	Strategy: The Project has chosen a consultant allocation strategy that is fully responsive of COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Once the TA can be deployed to Nauru, activities can be started with remote support of international subject matter consultants. Actions: all activities
COVID-19 economic impacts reach Nauru and lead to diminished contribution of cofinancing commitments	Substantial	Strategy: given the single dominance of the phosphate mining industry and the already experienced and projected rise of global DAP prices, <sup>[3]</sup> COVID-19 is unlikely to have a marked negative economic impact on Nauru. Nevertheless, PSC meetings will regularly review cofinancing contributions and identify priorities in case the government's ability to contribute cofinancing diminish. Actions: Activity 4.2.6 to regularly review cofinancing contributions
Parliament does not pass legislation prepared by Project in a timely manner	Substantial	Strategy: development of close partnerships with policymakers and legislators, effective policy advocacy Actions: Activity 4.4.4: Implement an information and advocacy campaign among policy makers and other key stakeholders
Government does not adhere to co-financing commitments	Substantial	Strategy: close linkage of co-financing contributions to GEF funded targets Actions: proactive budgeting of co-financing contributions by Project Steering Committee along with GEF Annual Work Plans; regular follow-up on co-financing in PSC meetings (Activity 4.2.5)

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
High fluctuation of project staff hampers smooth project implementation	Substantial	<p>Strategy: The project will strive to establish a positive working atmosphere along with attractive working conditions at the PMU.</p> <p>Actions: i) attractive salary packages budgeted, ii) Regular bilateral staff &amp; PMU meetings with NPM &amp; TA to avoid, mitigate and manage staff grievances and create a positive working atmosphere.</p>
Land and resource use restrictions stemming from regulatory framework & land-based project activities (Protected Area management, Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, piloting of restoration & SLM, improved management & rehabilitation of habitats) cause dissatisfaction among landowners and other community members, e.g., hunters	Substantial	<p>Strategy: broad participatory stakeholder processes to design land-based interventions, facilitation of government lease payments, and dedicated grievance redress mechanisms to avoid and manage potentially emerging conflicts</p> <p>Actions: Activity 4.2.9: as part of it, establish and quarterly monitor Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism, Activity 4.2.4 (PSC meetings to facilitate government lease payments)</p>
Unclear division of execution responsibilities between the NPM and the TA hamper effective project implementation	Substantial	<p>Strategy: UNEP will closely monitor adherence to the Terms of Reference of the two positions and mediate any potential conflicts in a timely manner.</p> <p>Actions: Activity 4.2.1 (Inception Workshop), 4.2.5 (PSC meetings), 4.2.12 (period review of project management risks).</p>
Authorized officers do not strictly enforce compliance with environmental regulations	Moderate	<p>Strategy: Holistic capacity development of authorized officers targeting transformational in knowledge, skills, beliefs and attitudes, cross-sectoral coordination.</p> <p>Actions: Activities Activity 1.5.1: Update the PPG Capacity Needs Assessment and prepare a Capacity Development Plan; Activity 1.5.2: Develop and impart trainings on compliance monitoring tools and processes, as well as enforcement procedures under relevant legislation; Activity 1.5.3: Conduct training on evidence-based public communication on environmental compliance for DCIE, DLMS and other relevant stakeholders; Activity 4.2.4: Hold at least two Project Steering Committee meetings per year</p>

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
Establishment of SLM pilots on Topside becomes unfeasible within the project lifetime due to extreme aridity, requirement to develop a restored soil cover and challenges in bringing water to the sites	Moderate	<p>Strategy: The project will work on establishing water conservation facilities and will promote water-saving technologies</p> <p>Actions: Activity 2.4.3: Pilot Sustainable Land Management and farming technologies, including rainwater capture and storage on the Topside.</p>
Women's representation on decision-making bodies not ensured, women's participation inadequate	Moderate	<p>Strategy: enforce female quota and remove barriers for women's participation</p> <p>Action: Activity 4.1.1 Gender Action Plan identifies in detail a large set of measures to overcome the barriers.</p>
Limited public awareness results in limited community support for restoration, SLM and biodiversity conservation activities	Moderate	<p>Strategy: Well-designed and intensive advocacy and public awareness campaigns, along with promotion of change-makers and demonstration sites</p> <p>Actions: Activity 4.4.4 on raising public awareness on the environment</p>
Climate change disrupts the Project's restoration and biodiversity conservation activities	Moderate	<p>Strategy: mainstream climate change into project implementation</p> <p>Action: Activity 2.4.1 Climate Vulnerability Assessment to inform all relevant interventions of the Project</p>
Adherence to gender equality in recruitment may hamper implementation due to high turnover of female staff as a result of high incidence of domestic violence	Moderate	<p>Strategy: thorough recruitment process coupled with continued guidance on gender mainstreaming by UNCCD Gender Expert and collaboration with domestic abuse hotline and safe house in case of emergencies</p> <p>Actions: Activities 4.1.2 (Gender training), 4.1.3 (Implement of Gender Action Plan)</p>
Elite capture of project benefits	Low	<p>Strategy: Careful identification of vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society and tailor-made engagement; equitable beneficiary selection targeting women, vulnerable and disadvantaged</p> <p>Actions: Activity 4.2.9: Conduct annual implementation review of the Gender Analysis, Strategy &amp; Action Plan; Stakeholder Engagement Plan; Project Communication Strategy and Action Plan and social and environmental safeguards</p>

Risk Description / Analysis	Risk rating	Risk Management Strategy & Actions
High cost of living in Nauru do not render attractive the financial incentive mechanisms that can be offered by the Project	Low	Strategy: assess required financial level of incentive mechanisms to trigger change in land use, adjust number of beneficiaries to available funds Actions: Activity 2.5.1: Screen, prioritize and develop in detail potential sustainable financial support mechanisms based on community/private sector priorities and government feasibility

[1] The PPG Team was informed that there was an imminent threat of mining of Anibare forest. A submission to the Cabinet was made, which resulted in a temporary halt of mining, which be revisited based on an economic assessment of ecosystem values versus mining of the area. Nevertheless, there is no guarantee that the area will not be mined even if the results of the economic assessment show that ecosystem service values outweigh short term mining profits.

[2] The Project budget includes the purchase of a vehicle, which is justified with the lack of available cars with the DCIE, the recent government ban on the purchase of government vehicles, and the limited availability of rental cars in Nauru that are costly at approximately 80 US\$ per day. Relying on rental cars would not represent savings to the GEF budget and introduce a high risk of non-availability of cars according to the Project's needs.

[3] <https://ihsmarkit.com/research-analysis/report-covid19-effects-on-the-fertilizer-industry.html>

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

The project management structure is presented in the organogram in **Figure 2**.

GEF Agency: UNEP is the responsible GEF Agency that provides implementation oversight to the project on behalf of the GEF, assisting the two Executing Agencies (EA) in effective project delivery, and reporting on it to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP will be responsible for overall project supervision and oversight, ensuring consistency with GEF and UNEP standards, policies and procedures, and maintaining accountability towards the GEF through standardized reporting. UNEP will also provide technical and administrative backstopping (including project appraisal and legal agreement, procurement, oversight of financial management), disburse GEF funds to the two Executing Agencies and review financial reports, will closely monitor project implementation (for example, through supervisory missions), ensure that strategic adaptive management is applied as needed, and commission the mid-term and terminal evaluations. UNEP will additionally ensure that the project is in line with the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and Program of Work (PoW). UNEP will provide its project oversight services through its Ecosystems Division centered in Nairobi with representation in the UNEP Pacific Subregional Office in Apia, Samoa. UNEP will venture into a tri-partite Project Cooperation Agreement with the two Executing Agencies (see below) with clear description of distinct responsibilities of all the parties.

Executing Agencies: The Project's ambitious targets coupled with the weak national technical and implementation capacities a regional intergovernmental organization with in-depth local experience on board to co-execute the Project, ensuring timely progress towards targets at high technical quality. The Project is thus co-executed by two Executing Agencies: The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Government of Nauru (DCIE), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which share responsibility for project execution as described in detail below. Both the DCIE and SPREP are UNEP partners with a long history of collaboration. UNEP is currently implementing several projects in partnership with DCIE (see also section 2.6 'Baseline analysis and gaps?'), including 'Strengthening the national institutional capacity for integrated chemicals and waste management in Nauru'. Under the multi-country GEF funded project 'Implementing the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work by integrating the conservation management of island biodiversity?', UNEP, DCIE and SPREP worked together to develop the Nauru BioRAP which provides as an important foundation for the present Project. UNEP and DCIE have also worked together in the GEF project 'Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan for Nauru' which was completed in 2013. Furthermore, UNEP has an active engagement with Nauru through the MCO/UNCT framework. SPREP has been a long-standing partner of UNEP. The partnership started with SPREP being created as a component of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and continued after its formal establishment in 1993 with the signing of the 'SPREP Agreement'. Since then, UNEP and SPREP have worked together in the planning, development and execution of numerous projects, initiatives and strategies to support the fourteen countries in the Pacific region. Both organizations are currently active UNEP partners, for which due diligence partnership reviews were completed in the past. Decisions that affect project execution will be taken jointly by the two EAs based on supporting consultations between the National Project Manager and the Technical Assistant. The DCIE and SPREP report to both the Project Steering Committee (biannually) and directly to UNEP (quarterly) on project progress. Besides executing functions, the two EAs will also take lead responsibility for the delivery of certain project activities as described in the Workplan (refer to the UNEP Project Document).

(a) Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Government of Nauru (DCIE): The DCIE as the one of the two Project Executing Agencies (EA) has the overall responsibility to execute the Project (apart from executive functions of SPREP described below) under the supervision of UNEP and according to the provisions defined in the Project Document, as well as UNEP, GEF, and Government of Nauru standards, policies, legislation, and procedures. The DCIE is responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Project, managing the delivery of project outputs, ensuring accountability for intended and appropriate use of funds, procurement, contracting, coordination with Project Partners, particularly other Government of Nauru organizations, and coordination of the delivery of cofinancing by the Government of Nauru. Apart from funds for contracting international consultants and service providers as described below, ALL other costs are to be met from funds allocated to the DCIE, including those that are necessary for implementing the work of international consultants in Nauru (e.g., costs of local transportation, workshops, meetings, etc.). The DCIE will second the National Project Director to the Project and will establish the Project Management Unit for day-to-day implementation of project activities. Irrespective of the executing functions, the DCIE will also have the lead responsibility for the delivery of certain project activities that are within the core mandate of the DCIE (refer to Appendix 5, Project Document).

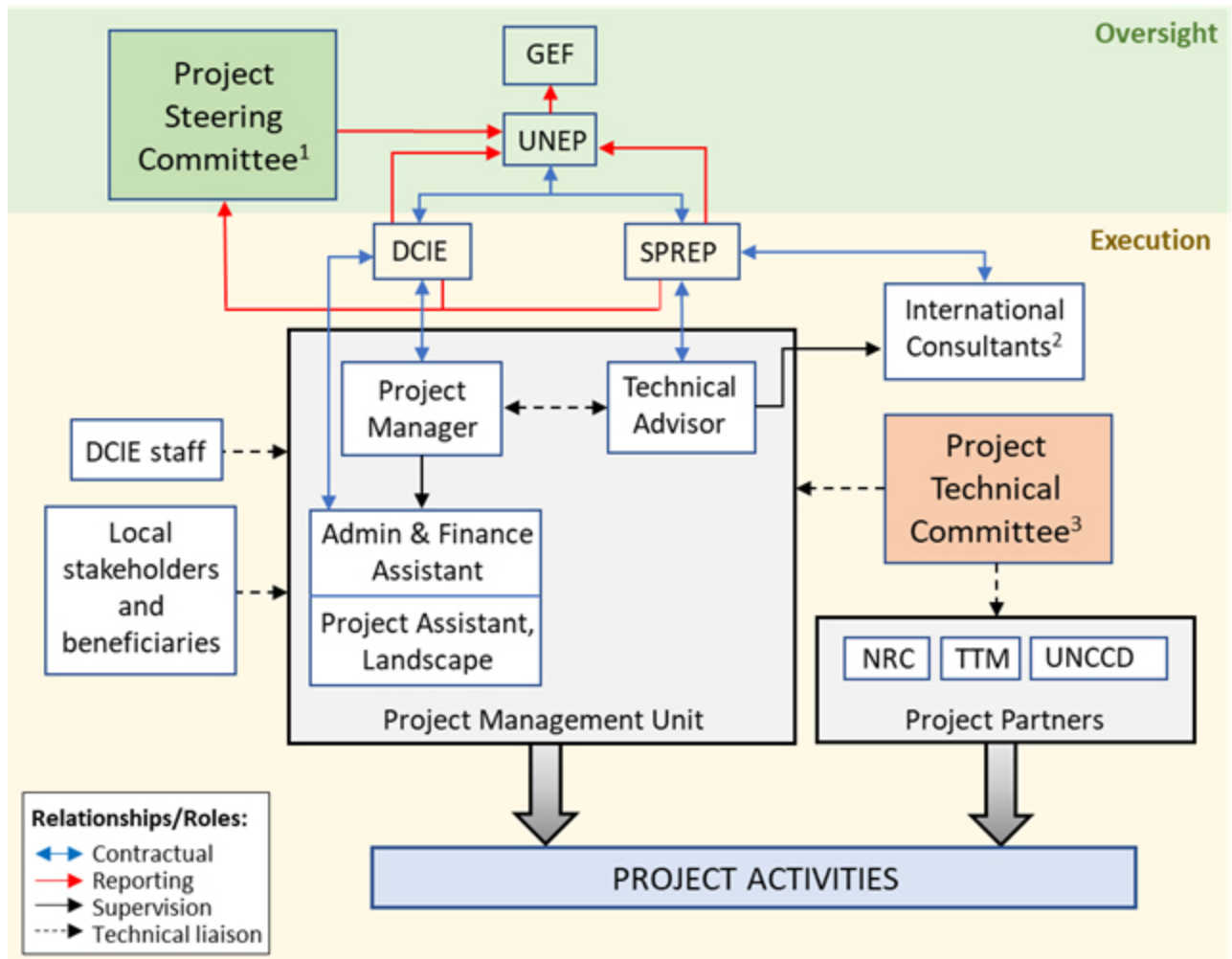
(b) Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP): The SPREP will act as the second of the two Executing Agencies and its executive roles will be restricted to contracting and technically managing the inputs of international consultants and international service providers, along with the financial management of these activities. Alongside, SPREP will ensure financial management of all activities that are under its execution. SPREP will manage funds allocated for contracting international consultants and

service providers, along with funds directly associated with these contracts, such as international travel costs of daily allowances. All other expenditures are to be met from funds channeled through the DCIE. SPREP will regularly liaise with the PMU through the Technical Advisor contracted by SPREP and based at the PMU as well as formally through the DCIE. Based on the reporting by SPREP forwarded to the PMU, the PMU will compile Quarterly Financial Reports and other reports that need to be submitted to UNEP. Irrespective of the executing functions, SPREP will also have the lead responsibility for the delivery of certain project activities that are within the core mandate of SPREP (refer to Appendix 5, Project Document).

For the purpose of project management, the DCIE establishes the Project Management Unit (PMU) within its premises, charged with day-to-day project implementation. The PMU is supervised by the National Project Director (NPD), who is a senior officer of the DCIE seconded part-time to the Project. The PMU is co-staffed by the two EAs: DCIE contracts the National Project Manager (NPM), the Administrative and Finance Assistant (AFA) and the Project Assistant, Landscape (PAL), while SPREP contracts the full-time Technical Advisor (TA), who will be based in the PMU.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) provides strategic guidance, policy-level decision-making and strategic stakeholder coordination. The DCIE and SPREP report to both the PSC and to UNEP on project progress. Technical guidance on project implementation (e.g., clearance of technical methodologies) is provided by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The DCIE through the PMU enters into contractual arrangements with Project Partners for the implementation of certain project Outputs/Activities and with Local Service Providers for the delivery of smaller distinct service packages related to project implementation. On the other hand, SPREP contracts International Consultants and Service Providers for the delivery of distinct project deliverables. These International Consultants and Service Providers are placed under the technical supervision of the Technical Advisor.





**FIGURE 2. PROJECT ORGANOGRAM.** Notes: (1) Project Steering Committee to be composed of representatives from UNEP, DCIE, SPREP, project partners and project beneficiaries (e.g., district community leaders, landowners, CBOs and women's groups). (2) consultants needed for: (i) land use planning; (ii) livelihoods assessment; (iii) economic assessment degraded land & ecosystem services; (iv) environmental legislation; (v) Anibare Protected Area management plan; (vi) national invasive species action plan; (vii) environmental assessment and compliance. (3) Project Technical Committee to be composed of representatives from PMU, project partners, local stakeholders and project beneficiaries. Abbreviations: DCIE (Nauru department of commerce, industry and environment); GEF (Global Environment Facility); NRC (Nauru rehabilitation corporation); TTM (Taiwan technical mission); SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme); UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification); UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme).

The Project will closely coordinate implementation with the following projects in the described manner:

- (a) GEF-9974 Supporting Mainstreamed Achievement of Roadmap Targets on Energy in Nauru (SMARTEN). The SMARTEN Project will also be executed by the DCIE and is expected to start one year ahead as GEF-10161. Coordination will focus on exchanging learning on project management and the execution arrangements through the DCIE. Additionally, the Project will reach out to SMARTEN to

explore the possibility of sharing resources, such as office space and transportation. The Project will also seek an exchange of learnings on capacity development approaches.

(b) GEF-9410 Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of invasive alien species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific?. Coordination to exchange knowledge and best practices on the control of IAS will be enhanced by the fact that the project is implemented by SPREP. Through SPREP, the Project will also coordinate with the Pacific Invasive Partnership and the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) to maximize technical support towards IAS control.

(c) The Higher Ground Project implemented by NRC through government funds focuses on integrated land use planning and is reflected as cofinancing contribution to the Project. The Project will closely build on and complement the achievements of the Higher Ground Project, by relying on data and spatial analyses completed for land use planning and contributing a broad stakeholder consultation process based on scenario planning that will lead to an integrated land use plan for Nauru based on broad public acceptance. Coordination will be facilitated by the fact that the Project Partner for the respective activities on the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Activities 1.2.1 to 1.2.3) is NRC that also implements the Higher Ground Project.

(d) The Project will closely liaise with UNEP's Strengthening the national institutional capacity for integrated chemicals and waste management in Nauru? so that profiling of cadmium and a mapping of cadmium pollution is completed for all of Nauru or, at least, for the sites targeted for restoration interventions by the Project. Alongside, coordination will focus on management of information on cadmium pollution. These interventions will be prerequisites for and will inform the strategic approach of restoration activities under Output 2.4. Coordination between the two projects will be facilitated by a shared implementing agency, UNEP.

(e) The TTM Dietary Diversity Project works on food and agriculture education in schools for students and teachers, and on restoring land for SLM and production of vegetables. The Project will coordinate the implementation of SLM pilots with this Project, both of which are carried out by TTM.

(f) The Project will coordinate through SPREP with the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Project ? Phase two (BIOPAMA II)? project, on available tools for data and information management, and on knowledge and capacity development for protected area planning in Anibare Bay.

(g) The Project will coordinate with the GEF Small Grants Programme that supports the Nauru Farmers & Growers Association to enhance kitchen garden training capacity in order to optimize the delivery of trainings under Output 2.3 by filling existing gaps.

(h) The Project will liaise with the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative to facilitate exchange of knowledge and best practices, capacity building and the dissemination of results regarding Anibare Bay.

(i) Furthermore, the Project will coordinate with the ICDF Taiwan microfinance development fund to jointly deliver a microfinance scheme. The Project will benefit from and co-fund ICDF's capacity development on financial management and the preparation of business plans. Additionally, lessons learnt

from microfinance development by ICDF its administering by the Division of Commerce, DCIE, will be incorporated into the design of the Project's relevant activity under Output 2.5.

(j) The Project will through SPREP liaise with the "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries" project Phase III particularly on the development of compliance and enforcement measures, the development of biodiversity legislation and the utilization of knowledge sharing tools.

(k) The Project will closely coordinate with the LDN target setting program of the UNCCD Global Mechanism on defining Nauru's voluntary LDN targets and on relevant capacity development and exchange of knowledge.

## **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

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

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

The Project is fully consistent with the Nauru Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-25, which defines the overarching long-term development policy and strategy of the country. The Project directly contributes to the achievement of two of the five national development goals (rehabilitation of mined land for livelihood sustainability and development of domestic food production). Of the subordinate priorities defined in the NSDS, the Project contributes to i) enabling legal and regulatory framework for sustainable use and management of the environment, ii) transparent allocation of land through land use planning, and iii) strengthened capacities to address land degradation, including monitoring.

Virtually all targets of the Project are spelt out in the National Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP) 2011, including i) environmental governance (strengthening policy & legal framework, strengthening planning and enforcement processes, establishment of M&E body), ii) land management (land use planning, SLM, rehabilitation of mined land), iii) resource management & biodiversity conservation (management of IAS, conservation of species and priority habitats), iv) environmental education & awareness, etc.

The Nauru National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016 spells out the national priorities to protect, conserve and sustainably manage Nauru's biodiversity. The NBSAP identifies the requirement to treat biodiversity conservation as a top policy priority including by i) mainstreaming it into the revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as into the main production sectors. Additionally, the NBSAP calls for ii) increasing the proportion of Protected Areas to 30% of the country's territory, iii) dedicated species conservation programs, iv) ecosystem restoration, v) community engagement into biodiversity conservation, vi) establishment of ABS, vii) promotion of agrobiodiversity, viii) ensuring biosafety, and ix) sustainable financing of biodiversity conservation. The Project's contributions to the achievement of specific hierarchic targets of Nauru NBSAP include:

### *Theme 1. Mainstreaming Biodiversity:*

(a) Objective 1 "To integrate concepts of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into all sectoral policies, plans and programs" will be addressed by integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into integrated land use and the agriculture sector. The Project will additionally deliver the

spatially explicit valuation of ecosystem services that will serve as the information base for the government to consider ecosystem services in economic decision-making.

(b) Objective 2 ?Multi-sectoral collaboration?: The Project will establish the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee as a multisectoral committee mandated to oversee environmental assessment and monitoring.

(c) Objective 3 ?Legislation to ensure that appropriate legislation is developed and effectively enforced to sustainably manage Nauru?s Biodiversity?: The Project will support the development of a number of Parliament Bills, including the Biosecurity Bill, the Biodiversity Bill, and the revision of the Environmental Management and Climate Change Bill to include mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment.

(d) Objective 4 ?To ensure that EIAs are conducted for all development projects to minimize any adverse impacts on Nauru?s Biodiversity?: The Project will establish the EIA process, prepare guidelines for its implementation, build the capacities of relevant institutions and link the EIA process to the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan.

(e) Objective 5 ?To develop and enhance local capacity to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of policies and legislation for the conservation and sustainable use of Nauru?s Biodiversity? will be fully addressed by a dedicated Project Output that will focus specifically on achieving the objective.

#### *Theme 2. Ecosystem Management:*

(a) Objective 1 Research and monitoring will be addressed by undertaking research and monitoring of important bird species, and by completing a biodiversity baseline of Anibare Bay Protected Area.

(b) Objective 2 Conservation Areas will be addressed by the establishment of Anibare Bay Protected Area, by improved management benefitting biodiversity in degraded forested areas and by the development of the Nauru Restoration Action Plan mainstreaming biodiversity.

(c) Objective 3 Sustainable use of ecosystems will be addressed by developing the Anibare Bay Protected Area management plan that will ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity.

(d) Objective 4 Capacity building will be addressed through dedicated capacity development on biodiversity survey and monitoring techniques, including participatory monitoring by school environmental clubs.

(e) Objective 5 Public awareness and education will be addressed by establishing an Environmental Information Centre in Anibare Bay, mainstreaming environmental and biodiversity topics into school curricula and extracurricular activities, implementing awareness raising and advocacy campaigns on key environmental topics, disseminating environmental information through local media and other channels, and the development of relevant awareness raising information materials.

#### *Theme 3. Species management:*

- (a) Objective 1 Species conservation will be addressed through dedicated conservation programs for priority bird species.
- (b) Objective 2 Research and monitoring: The Project will carry out studies on the biology and population monitoring of key bird species.
- (c) Objective 3 Sustainable use and management of species: The Project will propagate native tree species and use them to rehabilitate degraded sites.
- (d) Objective 4 and 5 are identical with those under Theme 2 and will be addressed by the Project using the same activities.

*Theme 4. Community:*

- (a) Objective 1 Traditional knowledge, practices, and innovation: The Project addresses this by documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge and traditional resource use practices and by integrating them with scientific knowledge for the benefit of biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization.
- (b) Objective 2 Empowering communities: The Project addresses this Objective by engaging community members into participatory monitoring of bird species and habitats and through the community co-management approach to be followed for Anibare Bay Protected Area.
- (c) Objective 3 Public awareness & education: awareness & education campaigns will focus on the benefits of biodiversity and on traditional ecological knowledge.
- (d) Objective 4 Capacity building: The Project will build capacities on participatory monitoring of bird species.

*Theme 6. Biosecurity:*

- (a) Objective 1 Policy & legislation: The Project will establish a committee for the implementation of the Nauru National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and will support the development of the Biosecurity Bill as well as of the NISSAP.
- (b) Objective 2 Control & eradication: The Project will develop programs for the eradication and control of two priority IAS.
- (c) Objective 4 Capacity building: The Project will build the capacities in screening of species introductions.
- (d) Objective 5 Public awareness & education: The Project will deliver awareness campaigns on the control of IAS.

*Theme 7. Agrobiodiversity:*

- (a) Objective 1 Conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity: The Project will promote organic farming and other SLM technologies that focus on the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

(b) Objective 3 Food and health security: The Project will promote the production of nutritious and healthy food crops.

(c) Objective 5 Capacity building: The Project will conduct capacity building on SLM technologies, including those that focus on the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

*Theme 8. Financial resources & mechanisms:*

(a) Objective 3 Economic valuation: The Project will institute environmental economic valuation methodologies for assessing the full economic value of biodiversity and integrate biodiversity valuation as an integral part of land use planning.

(b) Objective 5 Income generating activities: The Project will deliver activities to promote income generation from SLM.

(c) Objective 6 Partnership: The Project will be delivered through several partners, including non-government stakeholders. Partnerships will be particularly strengthened with the private sector, NGOs, and local communities to deliver biodiversity-positive outcomes.

Nauru's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy and Guidelines (2020) were developed by the DCIE to manage environmental and social impact and risks of developmental activities. The Policy articulates nine minimum standards in managing environmental and social impacts in Nauru. The standards draw on relevant environmental and social safeguard approaches of the GEF, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), SPREP and ADB and were customized to the unique situation of Nauru. The Project's environmental and social safeguard risk provisions are fully aligned with the policy.

The Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) identifies key resilience goals, such as a healthy environment and productive and secure land resources. The actions, which are prescribed to achieve the resilience goals include several of direct relevance to the Project. These include relevant targets of the Project, including i) designation of areas for biodiversity conservation, ii) species protection through the control of invasive alien species (IAS), iii) gender-inclusive planning, iv) increased availability and productivity of land resources, and v) increased household engagement with agriculture, vi) preparation of a long-term Nauru Land Use Plan, etc.

Additionally, the Nauru National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and the Women's Policy contain relevant targets, the implementation of which is supported by the Project. In terms of the former, the Project contributes to water security through sustainable land use, while in terms of the latter the Project focuses on strengthening of women's participation in decision-making and their share of reaping benefits in land-based sectors.

Though not yet finalized, the draft Nauru Land Use Policy Framework will spell out the goals and objectives of land use in Nauru, along with strategic priorities and implementation arrangements. Of particular relevance, the draft Policy highlights the fundamental principle of Sustainable Land Management to guide land use decisions, the safeguarding of land rights and the importance of relevant capacity development. Furthermore, the Policy spells out the necessity to develop an Integrated Land Use Plan, but it does not clearly specify the institutional arrangements for its implementation. All these policy objectives are reflected in the project components.

The Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture 2007 ? 2017 focuses on improved food security, increased consumption of nutritious food, partnerships between farmers and the government, capacity development, development of an enabling policy environment, and improved governance for agriculture, the achievement of which will be supported by the Project.

The Women's Affairs Department National Plan of Action identified 16 thematic issues that aims to improve the lives of women in Nauru, including women and the environment. The Project is designed in a

gender-responsive manner and will advance gender equality in decision-making over and benefitting from land resources. Additionally, the Project complies with the objectives of the draft National Strategy on Women's Economic Empowerment.

## **8. Knowledge Management**

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

The Project's overall Knowledge Management (KM) strategy builds on the GEF's Knowledge Management Approach as described in the STAP "Managing knowledge for a sustainable future" publication and the UNEP Knowledge Management Strategy 2014-17. The results of KM activities will be explicitly measured through the Project's results framework (refer to indicator 4.1: Increase in environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Nauru's population) as well as the M&E plan (Annual lessons learnt reports; Project monitoring database). KM activities are primarily contained in Outcome 4 "Communication and knowledge management for dissemination and scaling up of sustainable land management approaches and ecosystem services".

In terms of baseline learning, the PPG Phase conducted a review of project design elements of PIF concepts, Project Documents and the recommendations of Evaluation Reports of relevant GEF projects in the field of land restoration, particularly of mined land, sustainable land management, land use planning, creation of new terrestrial protected areas and mainstreaming of biodiversity in sector and government policies, programs and budget, as well as of past GEF Projects in Nauru to identify relevant lessons learnt and to inform the design of the present Project (refer to separate document). The IDs of reviewed GEF projects are 10356, 10352, 10365, 10343, 10222, 10220, 10216, 10204, 10195, 10188, 10184, 10169, 10151, 10046, 10041, 10007, 9095, 9917, 9880, 9846, 9813, 9785, 9772, 9524, 9477, 9410, 9148, 9095, 9094, 6958, 5700, 5517, 5179, 4916, 4632. Key conclusions to inform the project design included:

- (a) Emphasize on in-depth stakeholder identification and consultations throughout the PPG;
- (b) Emphasize on design components that facilitate early recruitment of project staff and reflect appropriate capacity building in result-based management.
- (c) Define the Project Supervision Plan by UNEP in a way which supports filling local capacity gaps
- (d) Define the staffing profile of the project under due consideration of the limited managerial and technical capacities available in Nauru and back this up with adequate capacity building on results-based management
- (e) Define project governance to be able to rely on an efficient and effective collaboration between project management, supervisory and technical advisory bodies, including a fully functional Project Management Unit (PMU), PSC and Technical Advisory Board and allocate adequate resources to enable an effective functioning of the Project Steering Committee and the Technical Advisor Board
- (f) Where appropriate, combine related activities into combined packages of survey, training, mentoring, data analysis, and planning as with the BioRAP survey
- (g) Consider the results of the BioRAP survey as ideal entry points for the project

- (h) Emphasize collaboration with current on-going GEF projects in Nauru, including GEF-9974 ?Supporting Mainstreamed Achievement of Roadmap Targets on Energy in Nauru (SMARTEN)? and the regional project GEF-10394 ?Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC?, as well as with regional GEF projects, including GEF-9410 ?Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of invasive alien species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific?.
- (i) Consider engaging SPREP into project implementation. Their engagement appears to be particularly useful for the knowledge management component, for developing and hosting the online land use database. Additionally, their engagement in monitoring & evaluation, management of IAS, mainstreaming BD into legal and regulatory frameworks, PA management planning, environmental assessment, spatial planning, and communication may be worth exploring.
- (j) Community engagement shall be strengthened through intensive contact with the project in the form of road shows and other awareness raising, capacity building, planning and implementation partnerships.
- (k) Community buy-in shall be ensured through explicit bottom-up planning processes, due consideration of tenure and local rights, and capitalizing on the livelihood development opportunities presented by SLM and land restoration.
- (l) Most explicitly link the economic valuation of land degradation to Output 1.1, where valuation should be used to promote the creation of an enabling environment for SLM and BD conservation, Output 3.1. where economic valuation shall be used to highlight the potential benefits of a new PA, Output 4.4 where economic valuation shall be used to communicate economic and financial benefits arising from SLM and BD conservation, and Output 4.5 where the results of economic valuation shall be used for upscaling LDN.
- (m) More strongly focus on institutional and governance aspects particularly under Output 1.1, where the creation of an enabling environment may also extend to reviewing institutional roles and responsibilities for mainstreaming SLM and BD conservation, under Output 1.2. where the governance of the land use plan needs to be explicitly defined, and Output 3.1 where governance arrangements of the new PA need to be considered.
- (n) Gender mainstreaming shall be strengthened through Output 4.1, which will have implications for the implementation of all other outputs.
- (o) Climate change mainstreaming needs to be emphasized, particularly under Output 1.1 where the legal review should capture climate change relevant aspects, Output 1.2 where the land use plan shall consider climate change impacts (e.g. rising sea levels and the resulting loss of land for human settlement and agriculture, etc.), Output 2.3 where SLM and restoration piloting shall consider the expected impacts of climate change, Output 3.1. where PA management planning needs to focus on climate change related conservation impacts, Output 3.4, where the management of IAS needs to consider expected impacts of climate change and future IAS introductions and spread, Output 4.3, where knowledge products should take due reference to climate change, Output 4.4, where communication and awareness raising should capture climate change.



(p) Under Output 4.5 explicitly clarify the linkage to UNCCD.

Results assessed and documented:

The Project's key learning will be the demonstration of a viable alternative consensus-based land use trajectory for Nauru. The Project will establish valuable learning on participatory processes of consensus building for integrated landscape management, as well as on institutional cooperation for improved environmental management in the context of monitoring status, detecting offences, and enforcing regulations related to the environment. Additionally, important lessons on the creation of an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment for Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation will be learnt. Furthermore, learnings on how to engage local stakeholders, including the private sector into Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation will be achieved. The Project will also demonstrate how an ambitious project in an SIDS with very limited own capacities can be implemented through South-South Cooperation involving a well-established regional intergovernmental organization.

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The Project's information management strategy will strongly build on the project monitoring database, which will be established as described in Appendix 7, Project Document (also refer to Activity 4.2.2). The monitoring database will maintain all monitoring processes and information in a common space and aggregate information to gauge progress towards indicator targets. The monitoring database will be kept up to date at any given time, and its completeness will be verified annually, prior to the preparation of PIRs. The database will also serve as a most important source of data for the Midterm Review/Evaluation and the Terminal Evaluation of the Project.

The Project will generate geospatial and environmental data through the tracking of impact indicators including the project contribution to Aichi Target Indicators, the tracking of GEF Core Indicators, and specifically through the delivery of Output 1.2 (Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan including zonation and zone-specific land use restrictions), Output 1.3 (land use geodatabase and web portal), Output 1.4 (spatially explicit compliance monitoring of environmental regulations), Output 2.1 (spatially explicit analysis of land use, land cover, land degradation), Output 2.2 (spatially explicit mapping of ecosystem services), Output 2.4 (spatially explicit documentation of piloted soil restoration and Sustainable Land Management technologies), Output 3.1 (delineation, management zones and environmental and biodiversity data of Anibare Bay Protected Area), Output 3.2 (spatially explicit documentation of restored ecosystems), Output 3.3 (spatially explicit monitoring of bird populations and habitats), Output 3.4 (spatially explicit documentation of eradication of IAS), Output 4.5 (spatially explicit Nauru Restoration Action Plan and LDN target setting).

The data will be hosted in i) a geodatabase maintained by the DLMS (Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, Nauru Restoration Action Plan), ii) an environmental compliance monitoring database maintained by the DCIE (environmental compliance monitoring), iii) the PMU monitoring system (all data), and iv) the Project website. The hosting agencies DCLM, DCIE and the PMU will be responsible for managing the data, which will remain licensed by the Project until its closure, upon which the license will be transferred to the DCIE along with all other project assets. The geospatial data on planned project interventions (e.g., planned annual restoration sites, proposed area of Anibare Bay Protected Area, etc.) will be shared with the concerned stakeholders. Geospatial data referencing approved and implemented interventions will be made publicly accessible through the land use database and web portal and certain datasets (e.g., Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan zonation, etc.) will be uploaded in the Nauru Environmental Data Portal hosted by SPREP (<https://nauru-data.sprep.org/>) and other relevant regional repositories. Geospatial datasets on

biodiversity, land use / land cover, land degradation, spatially explicit ecosystem services, LDN indicators will be used in the Project's communication strategy and used to populate relevant datasets of the World Environment Situation Room, which remains largely blank in Nauru.

The Data Management Plan specifies the type of data, its formats, storage and preservation provisions, sharing and public access as well as respective roles and responsibilities of data management.

(a) **Data Types:** The Project will generate both digital and non-digital data. Non-digital data will be converted to digital data via manual entry. Data will be solely primary data and no metadata will be collected. Data will be collected as social surveys, biodiversity surveys, participants of trainings, etc.

(b) **Data Formats:** The Project will maintain data in common machine-readable formats, which will enable their wide interchangeability and potential for independent use and validation. These formats will include Microsoft Office (e.g. .docx, .xlsx, .mdb, .ppt), and common GIS formats (e.g. .shp, .gdb, .tiff, .json, etc.).

(c) **Data Storage and Preservation:** Data will be stored in a safe environment and adequate measures will be taken for its long-term preservation. All data will be stored on multiple computers at the PMU, and regular physical backups will be created on two external hard drives. In addition, the Project will purchase cloud storage space with automatic data backup. The Administrative and Finance Assistant will additionally be responsible for creating weekly manual backups of relevant data. Besides, spatial data will be maintained at the DLMS through hosting of the land use database and web portal. Data will be backed up here as well.

(d) **Data Sharing and Public Access:** Spatial data that is not specific to project implementation and yields potential interest for a broader target audience will be made available publicly through the land use database and web portal (established through Output 1.3). Data made available includes spatial data generated through Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, the spatial zoning plan that is part of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Output 1.2), and the spatially explicit LDN target setting and Nauru Restoration Action Plan (Output 4.5). In addition, data that primarily measures project progress and impact will be made available on the project website. Any social data (e.g., socio-economic baseline data for Anibare Bay Protected Area) will be anonymized to protect personal privacy. Data remains proprietary of the Project and the use of publicly available data will require the recognition of the Project as the data source. Upon project closure, intellectual property rights over the data will be transferred to the Government of Nauru, represented by the DCIE.

(e) **Roles and Responsibilities:** The National Project Manager will be responsible for data management, including manipulation, safeguarding, sharing, and managing public access. In terms of data acquisition and collection, the Technical Advisor will be responsible for providing guidance on data formats and collection methods to other Project members and Partners, as well as for collecting information personally. PMU staff and Partners will be responsible for collecting data and information related to the technical components under their respective responsibilities. The budgetary implications of data management are covered from the GEF Fund within the staff salary of the Technical Advisor, the service contract for the preparation of the land use database and web portal, and the consultancy of land use/land cover assessment. In addition, cofinancing contribution to data management is reflected in the salary of DCIE staff responsible for maintaining and managing the land use database and web portal.

#### Sharing with stakeholders:

The Project will ensure that all relevant information is duly disclosed to stakeholders and the public through an active, targeted, and continuous process that will form part of the Project's Communication Strategy. Throughout project implementation, including in the process of preparing Annual Work Plans, the PMU will assess stakeholder who may potentially be affected by individual activities. Targeted measures will be taken to engage these affected stakeholders. In compliance with FPIC procedures, proper dissemination of information will be ensured particularly for the engagement of local communities so that these can take informed decisions on whether to approve of and engage on planned project activities. Potential impacts will be assessed in terms of environmental and social aspects, presented to the stakeholders and if required, amendments and mitigating options will be identified. Updates on project progress (including progress towards indicator targets) and on stakeholder engagement will be disclosed regularly through i) Project Steering Committee meetings, ii) regular progress reporting as per UNEP and GEF requirements, and iii) all other communication platforms utilized by the Project as specified below.

Special attention will be paid to enabling an understanding of and disclosing of the environmental and social risks and any applicable mitigation measures. Risk assessment will be a continuous process and results will be disclosed synchronously with periodic GEF and UNEP reporting, which will document risk assessment, mitigation measures and any applicable grievances. Disclosure will be done through periodic reporting as well as through the Project's website. In a similar manner, grievances and measures for their resolution will be disclosed as described in Grievance Redress Mechanism under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In addition, the PMU will maintain a database and activity file on the details of all public consultations, disclosure information and grievances collected throughout the project, which will be accessible for public review on request.

## **Information dissemination**

Information will be disseminated using the channels described below:

Notice board: Notice boards are an effective mechanism to inform literate audiences and can be used by Project Management to inform community members about project activities. Notice boards will be placed in key locations visible to all implementation partners and in all four districts, in which project activities will take place. Selecting the best location for the notice boards should be done in consultation with community members. These notice boards will be regularly updated with project information and used to inform community members about project activities and impact management measures including the grievance redress mechanism.

Community Focal Persons: In order to ensure effective consultation and participation of the community members during implementation and operation of the project, the Project Management Unit and EcoNauru will liaise with each stakeholder community to designate a Focal Person who will coordinate all activities related to local stakeholder engagement and will serve as a liaison between the community and the Project.

Project website and social media: A website will be developed to inform stakeholders with access to Internet. The website will provide an overview of the Project's context, its objectives, strategy, implementation arrangements and regular updates on its progress towards results. Besides, the website will serve as an important tool for knowledge management through a searchable repository of project-generated documents. An important aspect of communication will be news section of the website. The website will also serve the important function of logging grievances. The Project will additionally maintain an active Social Media presence particularly on Facebook, which is widely used in Nauru. Contents will be updated at least on a weekly basis by the Communication Specialist. Additionally, internal communication among project implementers will be supported by closed WhatsApp groups.

Brochures, bulletins, press releases: Output 4.3 mandates the development of knowledge products based on the Project's results. The Project will develop brochures, bulletins, and press releases to communicate on background information, innovations, best practices, strategies, and progress of the project. These knowledge products will be disseminated both in hard copies and electronically to stakeholders. Besides a focus on national dissemination, relevant international fora will also be targeted (e.g., [www.mongabay.org](http://www.mongabay.org)), primarily for online press releases.

Policy briefs: Policy briefs are designed to influence decision makers on main topics of the project, based on scientific evidence and lessons learnt from the project. The Technical Advisor will prepare these based on inputs received from thematic experts. The policy briefs will distil and summarize key policy recommendations i) necessary to gain policy support to reach the Project's targets (e.g., on biodiversity mainstreaming, land use planning, protected area management, etc.), and ii) on lessons generated through the Project.

Local radio/TV: Brief spots on the Project's context, main messages and results will be developed for broadcasting on the local radio station (Radio FM 105) and TV. Radio spots will also be used to alert local community members of upcoming consultation or capacity building events.

Nauru Government Information Website: The Project will closely work together with the Government Information Office on the dissemination of project relevant information via the Government Information Office website (<http://nauru-news.com/>). Staff of the Government Information Office will be invited to participate in all major project events and will be requested to release updates on the website. In order to facilitate this and to ensure that the right messages are communicated, the Technical Advisor will draft the press releases to be forwarded for review / amendments and publication by the Government Information Office.

Land use Information System: Output 1.3 will deliver a land use information system that will be linked to a web portal. The web portal will be used to disseminate the Nauru Land Use and Restoration Plan, including its zoning provisions as well as any land and resource use restrictions that result from the zonation. The information system will also be used to disseminate the details of breaches of the provisions of the NILUP to the general public.

Restoration & SLM technology demonstration site: The NSDS has a target to develop an agriculture resource center. While this is not the mandate of the Project, a specific contribution towards this will be made by establishing a demonstration site for restoration and SLM technologies. This demonstration site will showcase best practices of restoration and of SLM technologies appropriate for Nauru's ecological and socio-economic context. The demonstration site will be utilized for training purposes on SLM as well as for the environmental education activities. Additionally, the Nauru Growers' Association will utilize the demonstration site and policy makers will be invited here to review the activities of the Project.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The Project's Monitoring Plan and Reporting was designed following standard GEF and UNEP policies, procedures and instruments, as described in the GEF Policy on Monitoring 2019, the GEF Evaluation Policy 2019, the GEF Guidelines on Project and Programme Cycle Policy 2020, and the UNEP Programme Manual. The Project's M&E plan will ensure that monitoring is i) based on reliable data through the use of standardized protocols, ii) relevant, with a balanced presentation of evidence, findings and recommendations, iii) engaging stakeholders into monitoring, iv) compliant with ethical standards to ensure that conflicts of interest are avoided and violations are reported safeguarding confidentiality, and that evaluation should i) promote accountability, and ii) promote learning and iii) knowledge sharing.

The Project logframe presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators for each expected Outcome and Output (further specified in Appendix 20 of the Project Document) along with targets and milestones. The logframe indicators along with the key deliverables and procedures described in the monitoring plan below will be the main tools for assessing whether project processes are on track and whether they deliver the targeted impacts. UNEP project oversight and monitoring will be guided by the UNEP Project Supervision Plan (separately attached document submitted for Project Review Committee (PRC) Review). The monitoring approach identifies entry points for stakeholder engagement and participatory monitoring, through the engagement of the PSC, the TAC, and school environmental clubs and local community members into monitoring activities. M&E related costs are also presented in the Monitoring Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget. The Monitoring Plan along with the SMART-ness of indicators, their frequency of monitoring and associated budgets and responsibilities will be reviewed during the Inception Phase and updated during the Inception Workshop. The Inception Phase will also serve the establishment of certain indicator baselines (e.g., bird population numbers). The Monitoring Plan will further be subject to continuous assessment and adjustments to it will be made based on approvals by the PSC, honoring mandatory UNEP and GEF requirements. Any changes will be subject to UNEP approval.

The costed monitoring plan is presented in the table below.

Type of M&E and Reporting Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (US\$)	Co-finance (US\$)	Time Frame
<b>M&amp;E and reporting activities excluding staff and consultant expenses</b>				
Inception Workshop	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA) ? UNEP ? Partners	4,000	0	Within 3 months of project start
Inception Report	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	2,000	1,000	1 month after Inception Workshop
Tracking of project indicators (outcome, output indicators, GEF Core Indicators) including baseline data collection	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA) ? Project Partners	30,000	0	Outcome/Output Indicators: as per schedule defined in Appendix 20

Type of M&E and Reporting Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (US\$)	Co-finance (US\$)	Time Frame
Biannual Project Steering Committee Meetings	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	12,000	2,000	Twice annually, upon preparation of AWP & budget, and upon preparation of draft PIR.
Annual review meetings	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA) ? Project Partners	12,000	2,000	Annual review meetings, conducted as part of Annual Work Plan & Budget preparations
UNEP Semi-annual progress reporting	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	3,000	1,000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period (Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> / July 31 <sup>st</sup> ).
UNEP Quarterly Financial Report (with notes)	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM, Adm & Finance Assistant)	1,500	0	Quarterly on or before 30 April 30 <sup>th</sup> , July 31 <sup>st</sup> , Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> , Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>
UNEP Annual non-expendable material purchase report	? DCIE (PMU: NPM)	1,500	0	Annually, by Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>
Financial audit report for calendar year	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM)	48,000	0	Annually, by June 30 <sup>th</sup> following target calendar year
Lessons learned reports	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	6,000	1,000	Annually, before PIR submission
Monitoring of environmental and social risks, and corresponding management plans as relevant	? PSC ? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA) ? Project Partners	7,000	1,000	Quarterly by PMU, semi-annually by PSC & Partners
Monitoring of project management risks and updating of risk log	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA) ? PSC	3,000	1,000	Quarterly, or when needed
Technical monitoring	? TAC ? SPREP	12,000	1,000	Quarterly
GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR)	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA)	6,000	1,000	Annually, by July 15 <sup>th</sup>
Mid-Term Review/Evaluation	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA) ? Project Partners ? UNEP	30,000	1,000	After two years of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA) ? Project Partners ? UNEP	45,000	1,000	Within 6 months of end of project implementation

Type of M&E and Reporting Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (US\$)	Co-finance (US\$)	Time Frame
Project Final Report	? DCIE & SPREP (NPD, PMU: NPM & TA)	3,000	1,000	Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure
Co-financing report	? DCIE (NPD, PMU: NPM) ? Project Partners	0	4,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e., on or before July 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Subtotal of M&amp;E Costs excluding staff &amp; consultant costs</b>		<b>226,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	
<b>M&amp;E and reporting activities staff and consultant expenses</b>				
Grievance report	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	4,000	0	Quarterly, review annually
Gender Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Report, including tracking of Gender Action Plan (GAP) Indicators	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA) ? WAD ? Project Partners	10,000	3,000	Throughout Project, as defined in GAP GAP Indicators: annually, as part of GAP implementation review)
Stakeholder Engagement Plan implementation monitoring	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM, Communication, Knowledge Management and Partnership Officer) ? Project Partners	10,000	0	Annually
Communication Plan monitoring	? DCIE & SPREP (NPM, PMU: Communication, Knowledge Management and Partnership Officer)	10,000	0	Annually
Monitoring database	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM, Adm & Finance Assistant, TA)	10,000	0	Continuously
Procurement plan (goods & services)	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM & TA)	1,000	0	Update Procurement Plan prepared during PPG within the Inception Phase
Cash Advance request and details of anticipated disbursements	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM, Adm & Finance Assistant)	2,000	0	Quarterly, or when required
Final inventory of non-expendable equipment	? DCIE (PMU: NPM)	3,000	0	Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure
Equipment transfer letter	? DCIE (PMU: NPM)	1,000	0	Within 2 months of the project technical completion/closure

Type of M&E and Reporting Activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Budget (US\$)	Co-finance (US\$)	Time Frame
Final expenditure statement	? DCIE & SPREP (PMU: NPM)	1,000	0	Within 3 months of the project technical completion/closure
UNEP Annual Project Oversight missions	? UNEP	Agency fee	0	Annually
UNEP Project Supervision Plan	? UNEP PM	Agency fee	0	Continuously
<b>Subtotal of staff &amp; consultant time M&amp;E costs</b>		<b>52,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
<b>Subtotal Output 4.2 M&amp;E</b>		<b>278,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	
<b>M&amp;E and reporting activities that form part of the project's technical activities</b>				
Participatory monitoring of bird populations	? School environmental clubs ? Local community members ? DCIE	30,000	0	Annually
<b>Subtotal monitoring budgeted under technical components</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total M&amp;E Plan cost</b>		<b>308,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	

The implementation of the Project's monitoring plan is a responsibility shared between the DCIE and SPREP as the responsible Executing Agencies, which deutes most tasks to the PMU, as well as Project Partners, UNEP, and local stakeholders, including school environmental clubs and local residents:

? UNEP as the GEF Implementing Agency responsible for: participation in Inception Workshop; conducting Supervision Missions; reporting through Project Implementation Reviews on progress towards project targets, financial disbursement, risks, safeguards, gender, communication, and partnerships, reporting on Core Indicators, cofinancing, commissioning independent Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation.

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

? SPREP as the second Executing Agency responsible for: monitoring the work of international consultants and service providers; providing relevant data and information for project reporting by the PMU as described above; strategic oversight of monitoring through the work of the TA.

? Project Partners: Partners are key stakeholders with distinct responsibilities in project execution. They will take part in the implementation of the monitoring plan by participating in the Inception



Workshop; collecting and collating information and forwarding them to DCIE for tracking of project progress, including through logframe indicators, GEF Core Indicators, etc.; participating in Annual Review Meetings to allow participatory monitoring of project progress; participating in the two evaluation of the Project; providing information for the annual cofinancing reports; and monitoring progress on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, environmental and social safeguards and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

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

? Local stakeholders (school environmental clubs, local community members): Local stakeholders will engage in participatory biodiversity monitoring, primarily focusing on bird populations and habitats, but also on other aspects of managing Anibare Bay Protected Area (e.g., IAS monitoring).

The Project will track progress against logframe indicators at individually specified frequencies both at the Outcome and the Output levels. While most Outcome level indicators will be tracked only prior to midterm and terminal evaluations, Output level indicators will be generally be tracked annually, and progress on them will be reported in PIRs. The data sources include i) project reports that have been finalized and disseminated via the project website and circulated among concerned stakeholders in hard copies, ii) official national documents and records (Bills submitted to Parliament, Acts of Parliament notified in the Nauru Gazette, Audit Reports issued by the Nauru Audit Office, data of the Nauru Bureau of Statistics, government websites). The Project will also implement iii) dedicated surveys (e.g., for gauging public consent to the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan), iv) keep track of its own deliverables (e.g., country exchange visits, knowledge products, various technical reports, etc.).

Very importantly, the Project will develop v) a monitoring database (suggested in MS Excel or MS Access formats) to keep track of all components of the Monitoring Plan, including monitoring requirements, tools, frequencies of application, responsibilities, and progress towards indicator targets (refer to Activity 4.2.2). The database will need to be kept up to date at all times and aggregate the collected raw data to the level of logframe indicators, etc. in a transparent and easy-to-follow manner. The TA will be responsible for developing the database during the Inception Phase, in collaboration with the NPM and the Administrative and Finance Assistant. It will be the responsibility of the TA to advise the NPM to direct the Administrative and Finance Assistant to continuously administer entries into the database and place queries for PIR and other reporting, as well as adaptive management purposes.

Progress and challenges in stakeholder engagement will be monitored through the monitoring of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including by monitoring the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism, as identified in Workplan Activity 4.2.9. The monitoring of the SEP is straight-forward, as it contains an explicit action plan on stakeholder specific engagement tools, the timing and frequency of their application, concerned responsibilities and budgets. In addition, capacities and skill development will be monitored through dedicated logframe indicators (Indicators 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1). The monitoring of gender-responsive measures will also be conducted through the dedicated monitoring of the Gender Action Plan

(Workplan Activity 4.2.9) as well as by monitoring gender-specific or gender-disaggregated logframe indicators (Indicators 2.2, 4.1). The monitoring of progress related to knowledge management and communication contents will be carried out through the dedicated Workplan Activity 4.2.12, which amongst others will ensure the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Project's Communication Strategy & Plan, as well as by monitoring dedicated logframe indicators (Indicators 4.1).

The Project contains a specific Workplan Activity that focuses on the review of the Project's risk log and social and environmental safeguard risks (Activity 4.2.9). Project management risks will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and the risk log will be updated if needed. Furthermore, management risks will be reported in the PIRs, including the mitigating actions taken to address specific risks. Social and environmental safeguard risks will be reviewed bi-annually preceding the biannual PSC meetings. The implementation of mitigating measures will be monitored quarterly in the case of the Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism, whereas the implementation of the SEA of the NILUP will be tracked through logframe Indicator 1.1.

## **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)?**

The socio-economic benefits delivered by the Project include direct benefits enjoyed by beneficiaries, as well as indirect benefits to beneficiaries and at the national level. In terms of direct benefits, the Project will provide direct financial incentives for landowners to overcome the barrier to engage on SLM. In addition to that, beneficiaries will benefit from fiscal incentives which the Project will draft in close consultation with the private sector and with the government. These fiscal incentives, potentially in the form of tax easements or subsidies to be provided by the government, will ensure that direct financial benefits will continue to flow to landowners who engage on SLM also once the Project closes. Besides, the Project will deliver indirect benefits in the form of viable sustainable alternative livelihoods to landowners who engage on SLM, particularly in the form of sustainable agriculture.

Additionally, the project will yield substantial biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management benefits, which are summarized under Section 1.a 6 Global Environmental Benefits. These will, amongst others, contribute to a substantial increase in ecosystem services, providing direct and indirect benefits to local communities such enjoyment of natural areas, spiritual and cultural appreciation of and reconnection with the land, as well as improved health of Nauru's population.

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

#### 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.

Please refer to Appendix 15: Safeguard Risk Identification Form

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
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**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).

The Project Results Framework is available as **Appendix 4 of the Project Document**. Changes against the PIF are presented in the Table below.

WORDING IN THE pif	changes	eXPLANATION
<b>Project objective:</b> To achieve land degradation neutrality and improve ecosystem services in Nauru through integrated landscape management and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	None	
<b>Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation</b>	None	
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Improved governance for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation	None	

Output 1.1: Review of national legislation, policies and procedures relevant to land use planning and management and biodiversity, including by strengthening of the SEA and EIA processes, to (i) prevent land degradation and biodiversity loss, (ii) identify barriers and options for rehabilitation and regeneration, as well as opportunities for biodiversity and social gains, and (iii) minimize impacts on ecosystem services and loss to society	Output 1.1: <del>Review of</del> National legislation, policies and procedures relevant to land use planning and management, <b>environmental assessment</b> and biodiversity <b>conservation, incl. Protected Areas reviewed and strengthened,</b> <del>including by strengthening of the, SEA and EIA processes to (i) prevent land degradation and biodiversity loss, (ii) identify barriers and options for rehabilitation and regeneration, as well as opportunities for biodiversity and social gains, and (iii) minimize impacts on ecosystem services and loss to society</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Legislation to enable Protected Area moved here from Output 3.1.  ? SEA & EIA processes were summarized as environmental assessment  ? Output purpose explanation was moved to description of project components (Project Document Section 3.3) to keep logframe length at bay.
Output 1.2: Land Use and Restoration Plan developed, in consultation with the communities and landowners, to guide decision-making, land use management and facilitate mainstreaming of biodiversity into priority sectors to ensure that land and resource use maximize production without undermining biodiversity	Output 1.2: Land Use <del>and Restoration Plan</del> developed <del>in consultation with the communities and landowners</del> <b>accessed by stakeholders</b> to guide decision-making, land use management, and facilitate mainstreaming of biodiversity <del>into priority sectors to ensure that land and resource use maximize production without undermining biodiversity</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Restoration plan moved to Output 4.5, since it is more related to upscaling LDN
Output 1.3: Land use database developed and published through a web portal, to keep involved and affected stakeholders updated on progress and developments	Output 1.3: <del>Land use database developed and published through a web portal, to keep involved and affected</del> <b>Affected stakeholders are able to receive</b> updates on progress and developments through a web-based geospatial database	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice

Output 1.4: Land degradation neutrality promoted through a stronger system for compliance monitoring and enforcement as part of multi-stakeholder land use planning and management systems (including monitoring of conditions arising from the SEA and EIA process) to ensure that the targeted benefits are sustained	Output 1.4: <del>Land degradation neutrality promoted through a stronger system for</del> <b>Stakeholders are able to conduct strengthened</b> compliance monitoring and enforcement as <del>part of</del> <b>due to</b> multi-stakeholder land use planning and management systems <del>(including monitoring of conditions arising from the SEA and EIA process) to ensure that the targeted benefits are sustained</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Output purpose explanation was moved to description of project components (Project Document Section 3.3) to keep logframe length at bay.
Output 1.5: Capacity, knowhow and communication enhanced in Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, other relevant departments and district representatives to strengthen compliance and enforcement capacity	Output 1.5: <del>Capacity, knowhow and communication enhanced in Ministry</del> <b>Department</b> of Commerce, Industry and Environment, other relevant departments and district representatives <b>have enhanced capacity and evidence-based communication skills</b> to strengthen compliance and enforcement <del>capacity</del>	? Corrected official name of the government institution  ? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice
<b>Component 2: Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land to protect and reinstate ecosystem services in Nauru*</b>	<b>None</b>	
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Degraded arable and mined land are rehabilitated to reach land degradation neutrality	<b>None</b>	
Output 2.1: Landscape survey carried out identifying land use, land cover and state of environment (ecosystems, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural production and degraded land that can be restored)	Output 2.1: <del>Landscape survey carried out identifying</del> <b>Decision-makers on land use have improved information on</b> land use, land cover and state of environment <del>(ecosystems, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural production and degraded land that can be restored)</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Detailed explanation on state of environment moved to description of project components (Project Document Section 3.3)

Output 2.2: Economic impact of degraded land on present and future socioeconomic development and provision of ecosystem services estimated	Output 2.2: <b>Decision-makers on land use have improved information on</b> economic impact of degraded land on present and future socioeconomic development, <b>the value and provision of ecosystem services estimated and economic opportunities of land restoration</b>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Expanded Output with economic opportunities of land degradation
Output 2.3: Gaps identified and skills training programs on SLM developed and implemented for the benefit of landowners, farmers and other stakeholders, targeting 300 men and women and taking into account their different needs, roles and priorities, to improve their capacity to engage in sustainable agriculture, establish landscape management, and restore ecosystems while increasing agricultural production; training of government extension services to ensure continuity	Output 2.3: <del>Gaps identified and</del> <b>Skills training programs on SLM developed and implemented for the benefit of</b> <del>Landowners, farmers and</del> <b>government extension workers demonstrate improved skills in SLM</b> <del>other stakeholders, targeting 300 men and women and taking into account their different needs, roles and priorities, to improve their capacity to engage in sustainable agriculture, establish landscape management, and restore ecosystems while increasing agricultural production; training of government extension services to ensure continuity</del>	? Capacity gap identification was a PPG activity and therefore this was deleted from the wording  ? Explanatory details were moved from Output title to description of project components (Section 3.3 Project Document)  ? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Specified ? other stakeholders?

Output 2.4: Soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques tested at pilot sites after secondary mining for phosphate has been completed to lower erosion, increase organic matter content in soil and improve soil fertility; restoration cost analysis performed for different methodologies to enable subsequent scaling up	Output 2.4: <b>Stakeholders demonstrate increased understanding of scalable s</b> Soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques <del>tested at following</del> <b>extensive field piloting</b> sites after secondary mining for phosphate has been completed to lower erosion, increase organic matter content in soil and improve soil fertility; restoration cost analysis performed for different methodologies to enable subsequent scaling up	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Explanatory details were moved from Output title to description of project components (Section 3.3 Project Document)
Output 2.5: New financial support mechanisms and incentives for landowners, farmers and small businesses, targeting 200 men and women and reflecting their different needs and priorities, to support livelihoods and adoption of SLM practices on mined sites	Output 2.5: <b>Landowners, farmers and small businesses benefit from n</b> New financial support mechanisms and incentives for landowners, farmers and small businesses, targeting 200 men and women and reflecting their different needs and priorities, to support livelihoods and <b>that promote the</b> adoption of SLM practices on mined sites <b>and support livelihoods</b>	? Removed indicator target from Output wording  ? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice
<b>Component 3: Conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's remaining forests</b>	None	
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Government takes steps towards the creation of a protected area and sustainable management of priority areas with improved ecosystem services and sustainable forest management (SFM)	None	



Output 3.1: Draft legislation for the creation of a terrestrial protected area in Anibare Bay; Management plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, based on SFM approaches and including measures to avoid loss of biodiversity from potential threats such as development (e.g. tourism, infrastructure development) and current threats (e.g. invasive alien species), developed and implemented for Anibare Bay and priority areas	Output 3.1: <del>Draft legislation for the creation of a terrestrial protected area in Anibare Bay;</del> <b>Key Biodiversity Area benefits from declaration as a Protected Area and the preparation of a management plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, based on SFM approaches and including measures to avoid loss of biodiversity from potential threats such as development (e.g. tourism, infrastructure development) and current threats (e.g. invasive alien species), developed, and implemented for Anibare Bay and priority areas</b>	? Legislation on Anibare Bay Protected Area moved to Output 1.1 which deals with the enabling environment for BD and LD  ? Explanatory details moved to description of project components (Project Document 3.3)  ? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice
Output 3.2: Local trees, particularly rare and threatened species, propagated in nursery and planted in the Anibare Bay protected area and other biodiversity priority areas	Output 3.2: <b>Degraded forests benefit from restoration by propagation and planting of native</b> local trees, particularly rare and threatened species, propagated in nursery and planted in the Anibare Bay protected area and other biodiversity priority areas	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice
Output 3.3: Monitoring and evaluation needs identified for Anibare Bay and priority areas; regular monitoring of key bird species, including the endemic and vulnerable Nauru reed-warbler, noddly birds (and their harvest rates), bristle-thighed curlew, Micronesian imperial-pigeon, bar-tailed godwit and grey-tailed tattler carried out; and measures implemented to maintain and improve their numbers	Output 3.3: <del>Monitoring and evaluation needs identified for Anibare Bay and priority areas;</del> <b>Populations of endemic and vulnerable</b> regular monitoring of key bird species, including the endemic and vulnerable Nauru reed-warbler, <b>Black Noddy</b> birds (and their harvest rates), <del>bristle-thighed curlew, and</del> Micronesian imperial-pigeon, <del>bar-tailed godwit and grey-tailed tattler</del> <b>benefit from monitoring and targeted species conservation</b> measures implemented to maintain and improve their numbers	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Removed migratory birds, which do not breed on Nauru and the populations of which project activities will therefore not realistically be able to impact

Output 3.4: Action plan to manage and control invasive alien species in Anibare Bay and priority areas developed on the basis of existing assessments and implemented in coordination with regional project (ID 9410) to control alien species and prevent further introductions	Output 3.4: Action plan <b>Stakeholders have improved ability</b> to manage and control invasive alien species in Anibare Bay and priority areas developed on the basis of existing assessments and implemented in coordination with regional project (ID 9410) to control alien species and prevent further introductions.	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Details of coordination with regional GEF Project moved to descriptive text on project components (Project Document 3.3)
<b>Component 4: Scaling up towards land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation</b>	None	
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Communication and knowledge management for dissemination and scaling up of sustainable land management approaches and ecosystem services	None	
Output 4.1: Gender strategy and action plan developed and implemented to restore and strengthen traditional knowledge governing resource use that was once an integral part of Nauruan's connection to the land and sea	Gender strategy and action plan developed and implemented to restore and strengthen <del>†</del> Traditional knowledge governing resource use that was once an integral part of Nauruan's connection to the land and sea <b>restored and strengthened through gender strategy and action plan</b>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice  ? Explanatory details moved to description of project components (Project Document 3.3)
Output 4.2: Project progress continually monitored and evaluated; achievements and results recorded and disseminated	Output 4.2: <b>Effective results-based management including adaptive management and dissemination of results supported by monitoring and evaluation system</b> <del>Project progress continually monitored and evaluated; achievements and results recorded and disseminated</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice

Output 4.3: Knowledge management products based on results and best practices from Outcomes 2 to 3 developed to ensure sustainable land management through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder landscape approach to managing various land uses	Output 4.3: Knowledge <del>management products based on results</del> and best practices <b>emerging from the project effectively absorbed</b> <del>Outcomes 2 to 3 developed</del> to ensure sustainable land management through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder landscape approach to managing various land uses	? Language simplified  ? Shifted reference to Outcomes 2 and 3 to descriptive text
Output 4.4: Environmental education and awareness campaigns implemented to: (i) provide citizens and landowners with knowledge on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) enable participatory project monitoring and evaluation; (iii) promote alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities and (iv) share and disseminate knowledge products for uptake by targeted national and regional audiences	Output 4.4: <b>Stakeholders/citizens/ landowners reached with</b> <del>Environmental education programs and awareness campaigns implemented to: (i) provide citizens and landowners with knowledge on demonstrate increased environmental awareness and an understanding of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) enable participatory project monitoring and evaluation; (iii) promote alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities and (iv) share and disseminate of knowledge products for uptake by targeted national and regional audiences</del>	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice
Output 4.5: Upscaling strategy setting up national LDN targets and rehabilitation action plan developed and integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks (component 1)	<del>Upscaling strategy setting up national</del> <b>Stakeholders develop</b> LDN targets <b>upscaling strategy</b> and rehabilitation action plan developed and integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks ( <del>component 1</del> )	? Adjusted language in line with UNEP RBM practice

\*For the purposes of this project proposal, ?rehabilitation? is seen as the effort required to maintain, and enhance if possible, ecosystem services; whereas ?restoration? is the return as close as possible to the original functional ecosystem with its biodiversity and sustainable state. To the extent possible, both will be attempted by the project

## **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).**

### GEF Secretariat Comments

GEFSec Comments	Responses
Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 can be conducted during the PPG phase so as to inform the design of the project and the most suitable SLM techniques to be implemented.	Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 could not be completed during the PPG phase due to travel restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These outputs will be completed during the inception phase of the Project and once international travel has been reestablished.

Please provide specific indicators for the project components which can be linked to the Aichi Targets. These can be changed during PPG.	Specific indicators were refined for each project component.
Although the project is not utilizing CCM funding, please include an estimated target for emissions avoided benefits for the project. This can be finalized at PPG stage.	The avoided emissions benefits were finalized during the PPG phase and Table F was revised.
Please indicate how the barrier related a central data management system for information on natural resources including biodiversity and land will be addressed. Specifically, who will maintain and update the data?	Biodiversity and land data will be shared through the Nauru Environmental Data Portal ( <a href="https://nauru-data.sprep.org/">https://nauru-data.sprep.org/</a> ) and other relevant repositories hosted by SPREP.
IAS planning ? Please make sure that sustainability and long-term resources are a key piece of this plan. Coordination with the regional GEF-6 project has been mentioned. The regional hub of expertise being developed as part of the project could be helpful in supporting Nauru, given limited capacity, while this project could be a helpful trial of the model.	Coordination with the IAS project (ID 9410) will happen throughout the Project, and in particular for the development of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, identification of priority IAS and capacity development. Coordination will be facilitated by having SPREP as Executing Agency of both projects.
At the PIF stage in addition to any plans to collect sex-disaggregated data, we expect indicative information on Gender, any measures that will be implemented that consider gender related issues.	A Gender Analysis and Action Plan was developed during the PPG phase to guide implementation.

#### **GEF Council Comments**

<b>GEF Council Comments</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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<p>Germany welcomes the inter-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach. However, Germany also recommends that the full proposal should clearly quantify the economic impact of degraded land on present and future socioeconomic development and the benefits for investments into SLM practices for further decision making of investors and policy makers.</p>	<p>The PPG phase put substantial emphasis on ensuring that the economic impacts of land degradation are quantified and that informed decisions on SLM investments based on knowledge of costs and benefits will be available. In specific, the Project's results framework under Output 2.2 contains four activities addressing this comment. The relevant activities include Activity 2.2.1: Conduct valuation and mapping of ecosystem services, Activity 2.2.2: Assess of economic potentials of land restoration, and Activity 2.2.3: Mainstream valuation of ecosystem services, of costs of land degradation and potentials of restoration into land use decision-making tools and processes. In addition, under Output 2.4, Activity 2.4.5 will assess the economic and social feasibility of soil restoration and Sustainable Land Management technologies. Economic assessment will be based on cost-benefit analyses.</p>
<p>Germany also suggests that the full proposal should provide further information on the cooperation with UNCCD as the custodian agency for SDG 15.3 and the Global Mechanism.</p>	<p>Based on Germany's comments in the GEF Council, the PPG phase engaged with UNCCD Secretariat in the recommended manner. As a result, UNCCD has been included as a Partner in implementing the Project. UNCCD will particularly support the delivery of Activities 2.1.1: Conduct a landscape survey of land use, land cover, and land degradation, 2.1.2: Prepare and present the results of the landscape survey to inform land use decision in the NILUP, 2.4.5: Assess economic and social feasibility of soil restoration and Sustainable Land Management technologies, 4.1.1: Review and update the Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan developed during the PPG Phase, as well as Activities 4.5.1 ? 4.5.2 dealing with voluntary national LDN target setting. For further details, kindly refer to the Project Document (Section 4 and Appendix 5).</p>
<p>The full proposal should further provide information on the institutional role of the co-financiers in the course of the project lifetime.</p>	<p>Co-financiers will act as Executing Agencies (DCIE), as Project Partners (NRC, RONPHOS, DLMS) or will support project implementation as external stakeholders (Digicel). All co-financiers will be members of the Project Steering Committee, which will also serve the coordination of cofinancing contributions. Additionally, all Executing Agencies and Partners will be members of the Technical Advisory Committee, providing technical advice on methods and tools and the technical coordination of the delivery of activities. The institutional roles of all co-financiers are spelled out in greater detail in the UNEP Project Document under Section 4. Additionally, lead and collaborative roles on the implementation of individual project activities are described in Appendix 5 Workplan of the UNEP-GEF Project Document.</p>

## STAP Comments

STAP Comments	Responses
<p>Minor issues to be considered during project design. STAP welcomes the project entitled "Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Nauru" from UNEP. STAP believes this is a generally quite well-planned, clear and focused proposal with a high chance of success. However, STAP advises that there is a need for attention to several points. The language and objectives around biodiversity and ecosystem services is unclear at a number of points. There is a lack of clarity around some outputs and how they contribute to outcomes. Community engagement and mechanisms to gain community support and buy-in could be considerably strengthened. Lessons learned from other projects could be much more clear, explicit and extensive. However, while the GEBs achieved are small in absolute terms they are very important for Nauru, and the rehabilitation of mined lands represents an important innovation with enduring impact. Overall, STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design.</p>	<p>The issues raised by the STAP were given thorough attention during the PPG Phase. The language of several Outputs was substantially rephrased to reflect products and services generated by the Project and increasing the clarity of the language around biodiversity and ecosystem services. Additionally, Outputs were rephrased to better reflect how they will contribute to the achievement of Outcomes. Refer to Annex A above for all changes to the language of hierarchic results.</p> <p>Community engagement and mechanisms to gain community support were strengthened through Output 3.2 (community-based planning of forest restoration), Output 2.5 (Financial incentive mechanisms), Output 3.1 (community-based planning and management of Anibare Bay Protected Area), Output 4.4 (Awareness campaigns), etc.</p> <p>Lessons from other projects were synthesized through an extensive study and have been reflected in the Project Document.</p>
<p>The planned activities generally appear sound and well-tailored to achieve the objective, although the objective uses the language of ecosystem services, whereas the biodiversity conservation aspects of the proposal does not translate the conserved biodiversity into ecosystem services. This relationship between biodiversity conserved and ecosystem services provided is not made clear. Note that there are inconsistencies between the project indicative description and the later description of components - in the indicative description component 2 has a large capacity-building component and component 4 doesn't, whereas in the description of components component 4 is also about capacity-building.</p>	<p>The inconsistencies were corrected in the Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request.</p>
<p>Map showing topside and bottomside would be helpful for reader in understanding the island's situation.</p>	<p>Map has been inserted in the Project Document.</p>

<p>The figure of 500 local people benefiting (p42) is not justified in any way - what is the basis of the reasoning here? Who are they and how will they benefit?</p>	<p>The number of beneficiaries has been revised to 1,910. This is the registered population of the four districts, where project activities will take place. They will benefit from restoration, capacity building, SLM, and financial incentive mechanisms.</p>
<p>It might be helpful to have the map in Fig 6 in main body of proposal for easier understanding of the geophysical context.</p>	<p>Several maps demonstrating land use, biodiversity assets and Project intervention sites are shown in the main body of the Project Document.</p>
<p>Are lessons learnt from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described? Not explicitly - the project does clarify various earlier efforts that have resulted in little change but says little about what the lessons from these efforts are. More clarity on this so that this project doesn't fall into the same traps would be very welcome.</p>	<p>The PPG Phase conducted an extensive review of similar GEF concepts, evaluations of GEF projects in Nauru and information from non-GEF interventions to inform project development. A detailed report has been prepared (separately provided Appendix 23, and its key findings are reflected in the Project Document in Appendix 20 Knowledge Management, and in the present GEF CEO ER document under Section 8 Knowledge Management. Lessons learnt were translated into recommendations for and were duly reflected in project development.</p>
<p>There is no explicit theory of change and fleshing this out would be helpful.</p>	<p>The Project Document contains in Section 3.4 an elaborate Theory of Change following UNEP's ToC Guidance.</p>



Regarding the description of components of work, some questions:

(i) Note that the legislative change and EIA/SEA are also approaches for mainstreaming biodiversity - this is not being pursued through land use planning alone (arguably LUP alone is not adequate to mainstream biodiversity). In component 2, the land use aims of the restored lands are not made clear. It seems clear these are to be used for agriculture, but it also says the newly restored soils will be planted with seeds that were known to grow there, which would suggest restoring components of native ecosystems. Can this be clarified?

(ii) Also, if these lands are all privately owned, what is the role of the landowner here? This is not discussed beyond the brief statements in the project indicative outline that they will be included.

(iii) What is the aim of the study to assess the economic impact of degraded land? what is done with the findings and how do they contribute to achieving the objectives?

(iv) Re component 3, earlier the project indicates virtually all land is owned freehold - so how will protected areas be established on these lands? If these lands are privately owned, has any consideration been given to more flexible/innovative forms of PA, such as incentive mechanisms for private PAs or community-managed ones, in choosing to establish state-run PAs?

(v) While establishing sound management plans is clearly necessary, note that writing something into a plan does not ensure it happens: text such as "The management plans will contain provisions to ensure that encroachment and hunting do not happen in the identified areas" seem to imply that it does. Ensuring these don't happen takes community buy-in and support, as well as the more obvious mechanisms like enforcement (mentioned later).

(vi) In component 3 and 4, it would be good to see much more attention to strong community engagement in both planning and implementation of these activities from the outset, to encourage buy-in and durability of the outcomes. Component 4 in particular is rather one-way and top-down, which is unlikely to foster real community support and ownership of the outcomes i.e., rather than just informing" and "encouraging" the community about or to do certain things, it would be helpful to see this component involving asking them why these practices happen and what they think could reduce them, and asking them what they need to effectively help conserve them

(i) The Project Document takes due notice of the fact that environmental assessment processes are instruments of biodiversity mainstreaming. The Project Document clarifies that land restored through component 2 will be used for agriculture, horticulture and agroforestry, whereas landscapes restored through component 3 will be used for sustainable forest management to benefit biodiversity.

(ii) The Project Document clarifies that virtually all land is privately owned and therefore decisions on land use rest with the landowners, who thus play a crucial role. Landowners will be engaged through multiple channels as described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and using the financial incentive mechanisms provided through Output 2.5 will receive assistance in overcoming the hurdle to engage on SLM.

(iii) The study on the economic impacts of land degradation will be used for (a) taking informed decisions on land use as part of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Output 1.2), (b) voluntary LDN target setting through Output 4.5, (c) preparation and budgeting of the Nauru Restoration Action Plan through Output 4.5.

(iv) During the PPG Phase a substantial proportion of land to be included in the PA that was considered to be of undetermined ownership and thus under state control was confirmed to be in private ownership. At the same time, a substantial proportion of the proposed PA along the steep escarpment between the Topside and Bottomside is government-owned. The PA approach followed by the project is defined in the Project Document as a co-management approach with the strong involvement of the concerned local community and of landowners. The approach builds on the well-established government lease payments for phosphate mining, which will be redesigned to fit conservation objectives.

(v) Along with the preparation of various management plans (Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan, Anibare Bay Protected Area Management Plan, Nauru Restoration Action Plan), all concerned project activities contain the establishment of empowered governance structured based on a co-management approach involving local communities. Clear governance arrangements, along with strong monitoring and enforcement and an enabling environment will ensure the implementation of plans.

(vi) As described above, all activities were designed reflecting strong community engagement based on FPIC procedures.



<p><i>Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?</i></p> <p>Yes, although little attention to institutional and governance aspects.</p>	<p>The Theory of Change, including the assumptions made have been elaborated and are spelled out in Section 3.4 in the UNEP Project Document.</p>
<p><i>Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?</i></p> <p>No, this is not explicitly addressed.</p>	<p>Project Document Section 3.5 ?Risk analysis and risk management measures? contains several adjustment strategies, e.g., for non-compliance on behalf of the government with the declaration of a Protected Area, challenges in financial management, land tenure issues, etc. Additionally, the Project contains a COVID-19 Strategy which spells out necessary adjustments in case Nauru experiences COVID-19 related impacts that affect the Project.</p>
<p><i>What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?</i></p> <p>In assessment of risks the proposal states "Within the process of developing the policy framework and institutional capacity, such as the MLUP, climate change consideration will be taken into account including extreme weather events, especially for drought. In designing integrated land and water management measures, information regarding historical and current rainfall as well as the rainfall variability will be taken into consideration in analyzing viable interventions ? i.e. type of vegetation for revegetation, etc.". It is not very clear exactly how climate change risks are taken into account in developing policy frameworks, and whether future as well as past rainfall patterns are being considered.</p>	<p>Please refer to the answer to before last comment for detailed and explicit explanations on how activities will be implemented to increase the Project's resilience to climate change.</p>
<p><i>Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?</i></p> <p>It is innovative in the approach to restoring land, given the specific and unique situation facing Nauru. It is not particularly innovative in other ways, using quite standard approaches of PA establishment, legislative reform, capacity building, cross-government integration etc. But in the local context, these do appear important innovations. It does engage the private sector, which may be somewhat innovative.</p>	<p>We fully concur with this assessment and have reflected it under the relevant section of the present GEF CEO ER document.</p>
<p><i>Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?</i></p> <p>Yes, this is reasonably clear, although the whole issue of gaining community buy-in and engagement is not particularly strong.</p>	<p>Gaining community engagement and buy-in will be ensured through the implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which was developed during the PPG phase (please refer to next answer).</p>

*Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?*

Stakeholders have been identified, and this section indicates they will all be involved, but this has no detail on how. Their involvement is not highlighted in relevant sections that describe the components, so it is hard to see that such involvement is really built in to the thinking here.

A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, spelling out specific tailor-made engagement by stakeholder category, engagement tools and methods, timings, responsibilities and budgets, along with specific measures for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to overcome engagement hurdles, has been prepared. Additionally, the Theory of Change Section (ProDoc 3.4) describes specifics of stakeholder engagement.

*Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?*

Yes, potentially, given the patriarchal system. While the project says women will play a full and equal role there is no specific attention paid to how they will be involved exactly, whether they will face barriers to participation, and how such barriers will be overcome.

The PPG Phase developed a detailed Gender Analysis, Strategy and Action Plan based on stakeholder consultations. Key contents of this document are included in the Project Document. The Project considers gender through: (a) Context, including the Theory of Change, which identifies 'land use decisions taken by men' as one of the several root causes contributing to the environmental problem. The Theory of Change identifies gender as a driver ('empowered women play an active role in land use decisions?'), which can be partially influenced by the Project and reinforces stakeholder commitment towards biodiversity conservation and SLM. This in turn contributes to integrated landscape management and the sustainable use of biodiversity as the Project's main objective and ultimately to the Intermediate State and to higher level impacts. (b) Implementation, including several Outputs that contain gender-sensitive activities. These include Activities 1.1.3 (gender mainstreaming in policies developed by Project), 1.2.1 (equitable representation of women on Nauru Integrated Land Use Committee), 1.2.2-1.2.3 (gender-responsive development of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan), 1.2.4 (Gendered impacts considered in Strategic Environmental Assessment of NILUP), 2.2.1 (Sex-disaggregated valuation of ecosystem services), 2.3.3 (gender-responsive trainings on SLM), 2.4.4 (engagement of women in community of restoration), 2.4.5 (gender-specific preference and acceptance of SLM and restoration technologies), 2.5.2 (micro-credit groups with all female membership), 2.5.3 (financial incentives targeting women's groups), 3.1.1 (Protected Area management committee with female membership quorum), 3.2.1 (sex-disaggregated prioritization of tree species for propagation and restoration), 4.1 (entire Output targeting gender, including Gender Action Plan), 4.2.9 (monitoring of implementation on Gender Action Plan), 4.4.3 (school environmental clubs reflecting special needs of girls and boys), 4.5.3 (Nauru Restoration Action Plan reflecting women's and men's priorities). (c) Logframe, which includes gender-specific or sex-disaggregated beneficiary indicators and targets at the Outcome level (Indicators 2.2, 4.1), and (d) Budget.

<p><i>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?</i></p> <p>The first risk is not clearly specified - what are the land tenure issues and why would they lead to lack of community buy-in?</p>	<p>The land tenure issues and how they may prevent community buy-in are explained in Project Document sections 2.1 Background and context, 2.5 Stakeholder mapping and analysis &amp; Appendix 21 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, 3.4 Intervention logic and key assumptions, 3.5 Risk analysis and risk management measures, 3.8 Sustainability, 3.11 Environmental and Social Safeguards, Safeguard Risk Identification Form (Appendix 15).</p>
<p><i>Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?</i></p> <p>To some extent the whole approach of fostering land restoration increases resilience to climate change, but this issue needs more explicit attention, particularly in the context of rising sea levels.</p>	<p>Climate change adaptation and building of resilience were internalized in project development. Apart from discussing and considering experienced and expected climate impacts, explicit activities considering resilience measures to address climate risks were included. These include the consideration of Climate Change in the Project's Theory of Change, preparation of legislation in full consideration of climate change impacts and building resilience (Activity 1.1.3), explicit climate-responsiveness, including to sea level rise and resilience focus of the Nauru Integrated Land Use Plan (Activity 1.2.3), trainings on social and environmental impacts of climate change (Activity 1.5.2), design and piloting of SLM technologies and restoration in a climate responsive manner based on a climate vulnerability assessment (Activities 2.4.1 ? 2.4.3), climate-resilient landscape restoration (Activity 3.2.3), climate-responsive Nauru Rehabilitation Action Plan (Activity 4.5.3). In addition, climate risks have been given explicit attention in the Project's social and environmental safeguards assessment.</p>
<p><i>Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?</i></p> <p>More would be welcome.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, the PPG Phase conducted a very extensive review of comparable GEF projects globally as well as of past projects in Nauru. Conclusions were translated to specific recommendations and followed up in project development.</p>

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: US\$ 150,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent to Date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
<b>Personnel component</b>			
Project Design Expert/Team Leader	75,000	52,500	22,500
National Expert (Land Use and Biodiversity)	35,000	20,398	14,602
<b>Training component</b>			
Workshops*	25,000	5,433	0
Stakeholder consultations and surveys	15,000	1,445	0
<b>Total**</b>	150,000	79,776	37,102

\* Three workshops were held during the PPG: Inception Workshop (15-16 July 2020), Technical Design Workshop (22 October 2020) and Final Validation Workshop (15 December 2020).

\*\* The PPG unspent balance of up to USD 33,122 will be allocated to activities no later than one year from start of project implementation.

## ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

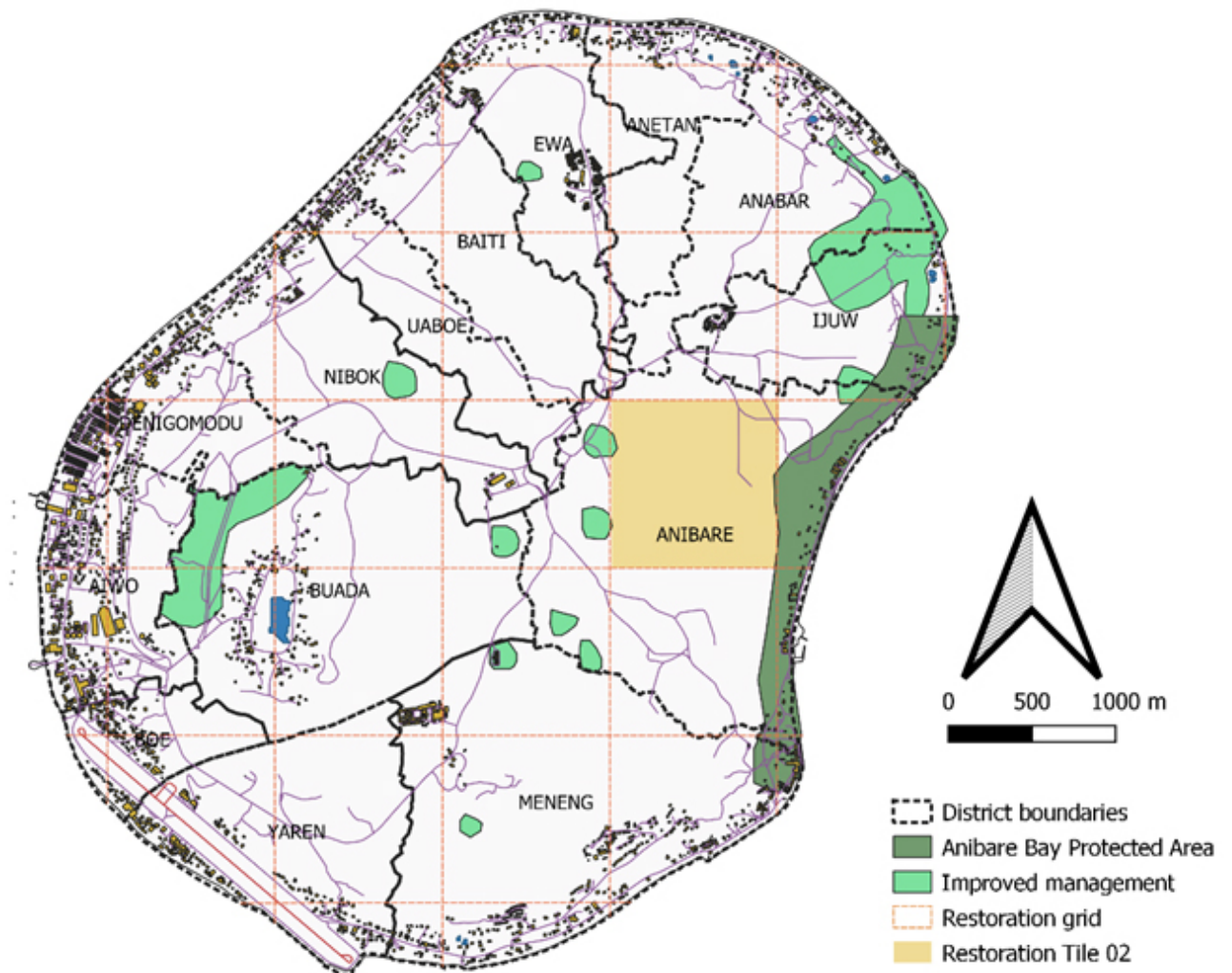
Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

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## ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Nauru consists of a single island located at 0°31'S and 166°56'E in the Central Pacific, 41 km south of the Equator between the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, isolated by 400 km from its closest neighbor. Project intervention sites are spread across the island as presented in the map below.



Areas of project intervention by category (geospatial data partially sourced from [nauru-data.sprep.org](http://nauru-data.sprep.org)).

## **ANNEX F: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**

Detailed GEF budget, please refer to documents

? Appendix 1, UNEP-GEF Project Document

? Separately provided Appendix 29, UNEP-GEF Project Document (MS Excel UNEP-GEF budget template)

Separately provided Annex I, GEF-10161 CEO ER (MS Excel GEF budget template)