GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI)	
Region	GEF Project ID
Asia	12289
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Solomon Islands	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
IUCN	IUCN
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Biodiversity	3/1/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
Taxonomy	
Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Partnership, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Targeted Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Species, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Coral Reefs, Wetlands, Mangroves, Rivers, Sea Grasses, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Climate resilience, Focal Areas	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
5,380,174.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
484,216.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
5,864,390.00	4,750,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

150,000.00	13,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 163,500.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 6,027,890.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

In the Solomons, degradation of forested watersheds through logging, mining, and unsustainable agricultural practices causes loss of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services. Increased erosion of steep slopes and loss of riparian vegetation creates increased sediment load in rivers which is transported to the sea where it also damages coastal ecosystems. These coastal ecosystems are also subject to a range of other threats including from urban coastal development, unsustainable fisheries, and climate change which together are degrading globally important coastal biodiversity including cetaceans, dugongs, sharks and turtles.

The project will take an integrated landscape and seascape (ridge to reef) approach in three distinct locations. The objective of the project is "Improved biodiversity management and restoration of degraded forests, freshwater and coastal ecosystems improve biodiversity status and restores ecosystem functions and services, supporting local livelihoods and community resilience through an integrated community-driven R2R approach". This objective will be achieved through a project with four components focusing on strengthening institutions and governance arrangements; building capacity for biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration; implementing restoration activities and alternative livelihood development; together with processes of knowledge management and communications. The project will reverse the previous trend in degradation of ecosystems through a combination of the following interventions:

- Develop national ecosystem restoration policy to support sustainable management
- Better decision making about logging and mining concessions by tribal land owners, chiefs and communities
- More sustainable agricultural and fisheries livelihoods
- Restoration of previously damaged watershed forests, riparian and coastal ecosystems

The project will engage a variety of stakeholders at national, provincial and site levels, necessary for successful implementation of activities and delivery of outputs. Project sites have been clearly targeted so

that biodiversity management and restoration of ecosystems will deliver clear global biodiversity benefits in terms of status of populations of globally threatened and endemic species, including plants, birds, bats, skinks, corals, cetaceans, dugongs, turtles, fish and sharks inhabiting these areas, as well as supporting increased resilience and more sustainable livelihods of local communities. The achievements of the project can be evaluated through three GEF Core Indicators:

3	Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare)	45,000
4	Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (hectare)	35,000
5	Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (hectare)	120,000

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

Restoration of degraded forests, freshwater and coastal ecosystems improves biodiversity conservation and restores ecosystem functions and services, supporting local livelihoods and community resilience through an integrated community-driven R2R approach

Project Components

Component 1: Governance, Policy and Institutional Strengthening for effective biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
600,000.00	529,723.00

Outcome:

1.Enhanced governance, stronger institutions, improved policy and guidelines, together enable effective management of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems in an integrated landscape-seascape (R2R) approach

Output:

1.1.1 Policy and Guidelines *review existing policy and guidelines regarding sustainable forestry and near-shore fisheries, as well as for OECM criteria, evaluation and certification; identify gaps or need for reform and develop plan to address those changes*

1.1.2* Multi-sector Dialogue and Planning: Multi-sector platforms established at the catchment level*

***1.1.3* ICZM:** *Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans Developed in Rua Sura and Honiara*

***1.1.4* Urban Planning and Ecological Zoning** *carried out by the Guadalcanal Provincial Government*

***1.1.5* Restoration Plans and Guidance:** *Gender-responsive National plans, protocols, guidelines and toolkits providing guidance on restoration techniques developed*

***1.1.6* OECMs:** *OECMs recognized and supported within an R2R context – the project will support pilot identification and recognition of at least 2-3 OECMs in both terrestrial and marine areas.*

Component 2. Capacity Development to enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,000,000.00	882,871.00

Outcome:

2.1 Capacity of relevant government agencies and other stakeholders to deliver and scale-up approaches to effective biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration is enhanced

Output:

2.1.1Training & Resourcing*: Training & relevant resources provided to target government ministries (MECDM), NGO and communities on specific restoration techniques as well as on sustainable livelihood activities that are linked to the ecosystem restoration*

2.1.2Mentorship*: Mentorship opportunities connecting experienced practitioners with emerging leaders in restoration efforts in the target landscapes/ seascapes established*

2.1.3Youth (Environment Graduate-Interns) Engagement*: Youth interns to work with MECDM to support implementation of project activities while gaining real-world working experience in early stages of professional career development supported*

2.1.4Higher education*: Master's degree research studies that focus on restoration in the target areas supported*

Component 3: Ecosystem Restoration with an R2R approach

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,000,000.00	2,648,613.00

Outcome:

3.1: Ecosystem Restoration and sustainable livelihood development conducted effectively and efficiently in forest, freshwater and coastal areas in an integrated R2R approach

Output:

3.1.1 Community-based planning: *Community level management plans for sustainable agriculture and forest land; and for sustainable fisheries (including identification of priority areas for restoration) developed*

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3.1.2 Forest restoration*: Assisted regeneration and tree planting initiatives in degraded forest areas, together with livelihoods linked to biodiversity management and restoration activities implemented*

3.1.3 Freshwater ecosystem restoration: *Interventions targeting degraded freshwater ecosystems implemented in riparian zones and wetlands, together with livelihoods linked to biodiversity management and restoration activities*

3.1.4 Coastal ecosystem restoration: *Interventions implemented for restoration in degraded marine sites, such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, together with livelihoods linked to biodiversity management and restoration interventions*

Component 4. Knowledge Management, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
369,210.00	325,965.00

Outcome:

4.1: Increased dissemination of knowledge, lessons learned, and good practices on biodiversity management, ecosystem restoration and R2R approaches

Output:

4.1.1 ***Gender-responsive knowledge management, communications, visibility and outreach:*** *products designed and delivered to key audiences through appropriate and effective channels*

4.1.2 ***Biennial national Stakeholder Symposium: A*** national symposium to update and map information, on which partners are implementing activities in each province, the programs and activities being carried out, and the specific communities or sites involved; as well as to share good experiences, lessons learned, and good practices organised

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund

Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
155,600.00	137,375.00

Outcome:

Regular monitoring documented in PIR, MTR and TE reports

Output:

Effective project implementation and adaptive management maintained through regular steering committee oversight, and project monitoring and evaluation.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Governance, Policy and Institutional Strengthening for effective biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration	600,000.00	529,723.00
Component 2. Capacity Development to enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration	1,000,000.00	882,871.00
Component 3: Ecosystem Restoration with an R2R approach	3,000,000.00	2,648,613.00
Component 4. Knowledge Management, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement	369,210.00	325,965.00
M&E	155,600.00	137,375.00
Subtotal	**5,124,810.00**	**4,524,547.00**
Project Management Cost	255,364.00	225,453.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**5,380,174.00**	**4,750,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The Solomon Islands are an archipelago of approximately 1,000 scattered islands in the Melanesian group of the Western Pacific. The islands are mostly rugged and mountainous with some low-lying coral atolls, and are home to exceptional natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Solomon Islands form a major portion of the Global Biodiversity Hot Spot and host a total of 37 KBAs including the Guadalcanal Watersheds and Marovo Lagoon.

The country has a more unique restricted range and unique bird species by area than any other place on earth. Seventy-two of the one hundred sixty-three land birds in the Solomon Islands are endemic or found in close neighboring islands . Most provinces hold at least one unique bird found only in that province. Many of these restricted species are also gravely threatened. With over 4500 species of flora, Solomon Islands forests are known as one of the world's richest sources of plant diversity with unique palms, orchids and climbing pandanus. Freshwater availability in Solomon Islands varies considerably, ranging from sizeable rivers to small streams from a high mountainous and dense rainforest islands to rainwater harvesting and thin fresh water lens of underground aquifers of the small low-lying atolls and islets. Coral reefs are unique ecosystems that not only provide habitat for other species (fish, turtle, dugong), but also provide protection and resilience against wave action, as well as supporting tourism. Coral reefs in the Solomon Islands are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, supporting valuable ecosystem goods including fish, shells, coral and other marine products and services such as fisheries habitat, tourism, medicine, and coastal protection.

Almost 46% of Solomon Islanders live below the poverty line and 52% of youth (15-24 years) are unemployed. 85% of Islanders depend on subsistence livelihoods, including agriculture, fisheries and forestry, with the same number having no access to formal financial services, while the rapidly growing population demands more food and income, putting additional strain on land and other resources. In the 2009 census, only 3% of women had completed tertiary education. On technical vocational education and training, 27% of the total enrolled students were women[1][1]. Only 7% of adolescent girls graduate from high school, one of the lowest rates in the world[2][2]. Women's functional literacy (14%) is lower than men's (21%), leading to their lack of technical business skills and financial literacy, which are often needed to access formal employment[3][3]. Such situations are worsened by the high prevalence of gender- based violence (GBV)[4][4]. In the Family Health and Safety Study in 2009, it was found that more than 60% of women experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime and faced their intimate partners' control over financial assets and access to basic services, including health care[5][5]. This number remained almost the same in 2023, where 64% of women aged 15-49 who have been in

relationships experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner[6][6]. Furthermore, the Solomon Islands is highly prone to natural hazards like cyclones, flooding, tsunamis and earthquakes. Climate projections show that Guadalcanal has a high chance of rising temperatures leading to lower agricultural production, lower fish catches, and degradation of reef systems; a high chance of rising sea levels leading to more frequent and intense inundation, lower agricultural production and reduction in freshwater availability; a high chance of heavier rainfall events with associated flooding; and a high chance of greater tropical cyclone impacts.[7][7]

The informal economy is a significant component of all socio-economic development. Almost 80 per cent of workers in the Solomon Islands operate in the informal economy. The majority of Solomon Islands people (80%) live in rural coastal communities. These communities rely heavily on the resources that coral reefs provide for their daily subsistence and cash needs. Rural Solomon Islanders also depend heavily on over 600 forest products for their subsistence livelihood and are increasingly gaining income from the sale of forest products such as rattan and ngali nuts and plantation timbers. Forests are also important for defining and maintaining the cultural identities and cultural values of Solomon Islands peoples. Currently, approximately 75 percent of women who live in the Solomon Islands are employed and are involved in subsistence or informal work. Women make up a large proportion of the workforce in the coastal fisheries supply chains, however there is little or no data available to measure the extent of their engagement, and many initiatives including training, awareness programs, and policies are not gender-informed and as such overlook the needs of women engaged formally and informally in the fisheries sector.

The economic dependency on round log export earnings is driving unsustainable forest degradation activities that threaten other forest resources and non-timber products necessary to community livelihoods. Commercial logging for round logs has caused extensive habitat and biodiversity loss except in the most inaccessible mountain areas. The rate of logging has continued to increase, impacting sensitive ecosystems that support livelihoods including water catchments and those areas prohibited by law such as the area above 400 meters above sea level. Commercially viable native forests are almost exhausted, and there is an urgent need to protect and restore the remaining forest and biodiversity. Development practices such as unsustainable logging and the traditional slash-and-burn method of farming in sensitive upper catchment areas have gradually degraded forested watersheds. Although riverine forests are legally protected, non-compliance by logging companies has led to occasional harvesting. Increased soil erosion has reduced the quality and capacity of rivers and streams, which in turn has resulted in excessive sediment being transported to the see and damaging coastal ecosystems.

Coral reef habitats are vulnerable to pollution, loss of water quality and sedimentation from land-based activities. They are also vulnerable to changes in sea temperature and pH, as well as extreme weather events, associated with climate change. Solomon Islands' reef, like those of many other countries, are under pressure from a combination of natural and human induced impacts such as climate change, increasing population and growing development. The impacts of logging, mining, and other land-based

extractive developments on water pollution and in the coastal marine environment is a huge challenge in many rural communities. Temporary logging wharfs built along the coastlines and in mangroves is a common sight throughout the country. During heaving rains, topsoil surface run-offs and sedimentation from inland often end up in rivers and streams and make their way into the coastal marine environment and coral reef . Excess nutrients may stimulate algal growth, which has a negative impact on coral reef. Nutrient-rich sediment plumes reduce water quality, which can impact coral reef by restricting the light required for coral growth and survival. Over the passing years, rapid harvesting of coral for the aquarium, curio, and lime trade results in the removal of specific coral types which, causes degradation and destruction of reef habitat, further reducing ecosystem resilience. Negative socio-economic effects are expected for communities' dependent on affected reef ecosystems for food and/or cash. New findings by researchers at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the University of Queensland (UQ) demonstrate that logging activity in Solomon Islands is associated with lower coral cover and structural complexity on adjacent reefs, as well as lower abundance of many types of fish commonly caught for food and sold at markets. The study[8][8] used cutting-edge methods for tracking soil erosion and sediment runoff from land to pinpoint areas where historically healthy reefs may have been negatively impacted by clear-cutting and deforestation. The maps that scientists generated also helped them identify currently healthy coral reefs that are at risk of impact should deforestation in sensitive areas continue on the island.

Governance issues include fragmented institutional arrangements, and coordination continues to be a challenge across sectors. Additionally, there is inadequate and outdated governance framework that prevents integration between all sectors. The land tenure system in Solomon Islands is such that most land is customary owned. Land is divided according to each clan and family and consent must be obtained before accessing or entering into development. Water resources are therefore also tied to land.

Underlying Drivers of Ecosystem Degradation

The Solomon Islands State of Environment report 2020[9][9] stated that the country's environment and heritage is under increasing threat from a number of drivers such as population growth, economic development, and global climate change. These drivers are critical and need to be managed to ensure sustainability into the future. These drivers include:

1. Population growth: This is a major driver of environmental change. The most recent Solomon Islands census (2019) showed a total population of approximately 721,455 people and the population has grown rapidly over recent decades. The rate of growth peaked during 1976–1986 at 3.4% annually but has decreased to 2.3% in the most recent period. The Solomon Islands population is predominantly young, with about 60% of the population under 25 years and a median age of 19.8 years. In response to this, the project will proactively engage youth including through internships with the government, support for masters degree research, and awareness-raising and capacity-building of young tribal chiefs.

2. Economic Development: In 2018, approximately 43% of GDP was derived from a) agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and b) industry (including mining, water etc). showing the continuing importance of natural resources/ecosystem services in economic development. There is increasing revenue from the mining sector. In response to this the project will support communities to develop more sustainable models of agriculture and fisheries practices.

3. Climate Change: The climate change projections for the Solomon Islands have sea level projected to rise 7-18 cm by 2030, and 40-89 cm by 2090 (very high confidence); annual mean temperatures and extremely high daily temperatures are projected to increase by up to 1.0°C by 2030, and up to 4.0°C by 2090 (very high confidence); mean annual rainfall will increase slightly (low confidence), with more extreme rain events (high confidence); decreases frequency but increased intensity of tropical cyclones (medium confidence); continued ocean acidification (very high confidence); increased coral bleaching (very high confidence). Climate change will influence the delivery of ecosystem functions and services, and further exacerbate the human impacts. In response to this, the project will conduct restoration activities in terrestrial, inland water and coastal areas, all of which will help enhance community and ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

4. Traditional and contemporary values and lifestyles: Environmental change is also influenced by existing cultural norms and people's attitudes and approaches towards issues such as environment, development, and the meaning of sustainability. Some examples are:

- Land and marine ownership and access: Customary land tenure and customary marine tenure arrangements, and the way these interact with the roles of national and provincial government, can have profound effects on the character and acceptability of environmental change and the permitting (or otherwise) of development proposals. Land and marine area ownership and access also determine gender participation in resource use and in decision making forums relating to management. In particular younger generations tend to have more consumer-driven attitudes and are looking for ways to benefit financially from their land and marine resources. They are increasingly open to agreeing to logging and mining concessions, and if they are to choose more sustainable resource management pathways they need to be assured that conservation will also generate income for them over the long-term such as through PES schemes, etc.
- Public attitudes to sustainability: People may be unaware of the connection between their actions and the long-term consequences, an example is the connection between waste management (litter, burning) and public health. Other examples include understanding the link between forest degradation and reduction in availability of pollinators essential for their fruit orchards; and how the life cycles of important fish species depend on the existence of different types of habitat. These connections need to be recognised and absorbed into public attitudes and behaviour.
- Inclusiveness: Ensuring that relevant people are involved in decision-making can help to promote widespread support for effective environmental management. This includes involvement of women and youth and traditional leaders, alongside other stakeholders.
- Corporate attitudes and responsibility: Businesses in the private sector must play their part by adhering to customary practices, as well as national and provincial laws and regulations, and promoting best practices for working conditions and environmental sustainability.

The above drivers apply across all of the selected project target sites. They underpin the challenges of environmental management and the sustainable development aspirations. Environmental priorities for

Solomon Islands are largely driven by these factors that add to other pressures on natural resources from forestry (logging), fishing and mining and the lack of control and effective management regimes over environmental effects. Urban development increases pressure on land use and land-use planning to manage environmental effects. Key utilities such as access to water and sanitation need to be well managed to avoid effects on water quality (freshwater and coastal) and human health. An important factor is the need for political will and support for investment for appropriate infrastructure, sustainable financing, and innovative means for public–private partnerships in urban areas such as Honiara.

In response to this, the project will work with tribal chiefs and communities to enhance understanding of longer-term trade-offs and the costs and benefits of community decisions regarding approval of logging and mining concessions on their tribal lands

Some of the major issues related to effective management of forests, rivers and coastal areas for sustainable development of the Solomons have begun to be addressed through the cross-sectoral planning and management initiatives of the GEF Pacific IWRM and R2R Projects as well as other country and site specific projects. However significant needs still exist and have been identified within a Ridge to Reef context.

If these issues are left unaddressed, then it is likely that watershed forests will continue to be degraded by logging, mining, agriculture and other developments, thereby increasingly threatening the globally significant biodiversity these forests contain and reducing the ecosystems services they provide. Erosion will increase and water courses will more and more be subject to more rapid inflows of run-off water and increased sediment load, altering the hydrological conditions, damaging aquatic biodiversity and again impacting the essential ecosystem services they provide. Ultimately excess sediment will accumulate in the coastal area smothering coral reefs and seagrass, once again impacting biodiversity and reducing ecosystem functions and services essential for the well-being of coastal communities.

To address these issues, the country needs to establish effective governance at integrated landscape-seascape scales, together with monitoring, compliance and enforcement mechanisms. Forest regrowth must be ensured following human and natural disturbances, whether through reforestation/enrichment, site rehabilitation activities or natural regeneration, while riverine and coastal ecosystems must also be restored and better protected/managed. Degradation can be reversed through restoration and rehabilitation. Restoration programmes should be made part of the national economic development programme. Collaboration between the forestry sector and the Ministry of Environment is key factor to undertake any successful forest restoration and rehabilitation programmes.

Furthermore, interagency cooperation and coordination must be promoted, especially between the agriculture and forest sectors to address shifting cultivation and agricultural expansion into natural forested areas. In coastal areas collaboration between the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Environment will be important for coastal zone restoration; while for freshwater systems restoration, involvement of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification will also be important.

Barriers to effective ecosystem restoration in an R2R approach

The achievement of integrated ecosystem restoration in an R2R approach is constrained by a number of barriers which apply across each of the project selected target sites, as follows:

1) Institutional and governance arrangements that are not effectively supporting integrated approaches between landscapes and seascapes
2) Government capacity is not sufficient to support effective restoration at meaningful scale
3) Limited experience, models and access to approaches and technologies for restoration exist at the local level
4) Dissemination of knowledge around ecosystem restoration and R2R approaches is not very widespread

The situation and context described above justifies the need for a new initiative focusing on Biodiversity management and restoration of degraded forest, freshwater and coastal ecosystems in an integrated landscape-seascape or ridge to reef (R2R) approach. R2R is integrated approach to Natural Resource Management (NRM) from the upper watershed to the coast - an approach based on the acceptance that everything is connected and therefore should be managed in an interconnected way. The approach recognises that:

- Activities in the watershed, such as logging, agriculture, hydropower and other developments will lead to impacts in the lower lying areas, floodplains and coastal areas, mediated through the river basin system
- An holistic approach to integrated planning and implementation of interventions in the basin will help to address the source of problems affecting priority ecosystems

The approach of this project aims to support and empower community-driven processes to:

- Improve the status of globally important biodiversity and the ecosystem functions and services generated by biodiversity, through protection, sustainable management and restoration of critical ecosystems throughout each R2R landscape-seascape; and:
- Reduce land-based pollution into coastal areas – including sediment loads from soil erosion, nutrient pollution from agriculture, and plastic pollution from urban areas, which are major contributors to coastal degradation
- Increase resilience of people and ecosystems to climate change and natural disasters, particularly in the more densely populated coastal areas.

Other alternative approaches that might have been used would include:

- focusing on each type of ecosystem in isolation rather than in an integrated manner
- focusing on top-down legislation and regulation rather than community-based approaches
- emphasizing protected areas as the main vehicle for protecting biodiversity

However, the community-driven integrated landscape-seascape (R2R) approach was selected as the most appropriate approach for a number of reasons:

(i) The R2R approach is already known in the Solomon Islands where it is extremely relevant and appropriate due to the following overall conditions:

- Solomons includes a large number of small islands- Islands have high mountains with steep slopes, located close to the see
- River basins are therefore relatively short with rapid movement of water from the headwaters to the coast
- Unsustainable logging and agriculture in upper watersheds have increased soil erosion and sediment load in rivers which is transported to the coast
- Sediment impacts coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs and reef associated ecosystems, which are the breeding and nursery grounds of many commercial fish species key to local livelihoods, income and economy.

(ii) The approach is fully in line with government priorities including the Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Strategic Action Framework (2021-2026) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (currently being finalised).

(iii) Under customary tenure systems land and natural resources are not owned by individuals or households but are held collectively by communities, typically defined by kinship and descent rather than geographic proximity. Decisions regarding land and resource use are therefore made collectively, usually through consensus although certain individuals, such as traditional leaders or elders, may exert greater influence. Because customary ownership and tenure are formally recognized in the constitution these systems remain influential through both social convention and statutory law. As a result, and for both practical and ethical reasons, effective on- the-ground conservation requires the full participation and consent of local communities.

(iv) Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is also a fundamental component of land and resource management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Embedded within customary tenure systems, TEK informs land-use practices, resource governance and conflict resolution and provides guidance on sustainable approaches such as rotational agriculture, traditional fishing methods and forest stewardship. TEK also encompasses practices including taboo or restricted areas, seasonal harvesting rules and protection of totemic species, all of which contribute to the conservation of critical habitats and species and support long-term ecosystem health.

(v) Major legislative reform is currently ongoing in both the forestry (Forestry Amendment Bill, 2025) and mining (Mineral resources Bill, 2025) sectors. In both cases the direction is to further empower communities in relation to decision-making around logging and mining concessions. In this situation the approach of

raising awareness and developing capacity of communities to understand the pros and cons and trade-offs inherent in these decisions, and to be able to discharge their rights effectively in an informed manner, is an appropriate approach.

(vi) Despite the identification of biological priorities and the existence of enabling legislation, progress toward the establishment of formal protected areas has been limited with only 0.11% of marine areas and 2.4% of terrestrial areas included in formal protected areas. This reflects, in part, the limitations of conventional protected area models in contexts characterized by customary land and resource tenure, as well as constraints in government capacity. In response, alternative approaches centred on community-managed conservation have been increasingly adopted in both terrestrial and marine environments.

(vii) Government and civil society organizations have promoted locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) as a means of empowering communities to sustainably manage coastal and marine resources. These community-managed protected areas are typically small in scale, often focused on reef and nearshore marine habitats, but collectively play an important role in biodiversity conservation and local resource governance.

The rationale for incremental funding by GEF relates to the following points:

(i) **Endemism:** Solomon Islands have an extremely high degree of endemism. Many of the species whose status will improve because of this project are globally valuable because they are found nowhere else in the world – if they are not conserved in the Solomons they will ultimately disappear from the planet, and so the costs for their protection and management should not be borne by the Solomons alone

(ii) **Migratory Species:** Many other species whose status will improve are migratory species including migratory birds, fish, turtles and cetaceans, their conservation in the Solomons provides biodiversity benefits to other countries extending far beyond the Solomons national boundaries

(iii) **The Double-Chain Effect:** The Solomons archipelago consists of two parallel island chains. This geography acts as an 'evolutionary pump,' where species jump between islands, isolate, and rapidly evolve into new forms. This is a rare evolutionary phenomenon which only occurs in a limited number of places on earth

(iv) **Marine 'Seed Bank':** Ocean currents around the islands (like the South Equatorial Current) help disperse coral larvae and fish eggs to other parts of the Pacific, making the Solomons a critical source for reef recovery across the Pacific Ocean.

The proposed new initiative would build on previous completed and ongoing GEF investments including the UNDP Pacific regional R2R project and the IUCN EREPA project, as well as earlier relevant GEF projects of WB, UNDP and FAO GEF Agencies. It would also include reviewing implementation of the existing Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Strategic Action Framework (2021-2026) – assessing progress made in

implementation, lessons learned, and best practices developed and applied, as well as identifying obstacles and challenges in implementation, and how they may be addressed.

The project will develop a practical example of supporting the implementation of the Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Strategic Action Framework (2021-2026) through support to community-led implementation of ecosystem restoration in forest, river and coastal ecosystems in selected target catchment(s). This will be carried out together with development of more sustainable agricultural practices and fisheries based livelihoods of target populations supported by community-based agriculture and forest land management and fisheries management plans, which will reduce future ecosystem degradation pressures, ensuring that the restoration activities carried out will be sustainable. In addition, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Planning will be carried out in the Marovo Lagoon, and Ecological Zoning will be developed in the Bloody Ridge/Lungga River Catchment. These plans will be developed in a participatory manner with representation of all stakeholder groups.

The project will focus on three integrated landscape-seascape areas

1. **Marovo Lagoon** and catchments (Key Biodiversity Area, proposed World Heritage Site, part of Coral Triangle).

   Marovo Lagoon is the largest double-barrier enclosed lagoon in the world[10][10]. Located in the New Georgia Islands between Vangunu and Nggatoka, it covers 700 km^2. It is part of the he Marovo-Tetepare Complex encompassing more than 1,600 $km^2$of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. It is a landscape of dormant volcanoes, rugged interior ranges, extensive lagoon systems and numerous islands, encompassing some of the best examples of all coral reefs, estuarine and island complexes, mangrove forests, and sea grass beds, as well as a great diversity of forest types including montane forests and some of the last remaining tracts of lowland rainforest. The area is home to globally outstanding marine biodiversity. The Marovo-Tetepare Complex includes a full ecological transition, from the mossy montane forests of the highest peaks of Vangunu caldera (1008m) to the coastal shoreline. One of the key features of interest is the high degree of compression in forest zones compared to other big mountain ranges in nearby New Guinea. On Vangunu, mossy forest occurs at elevations as low as 700m, whereas in New Guinea this vegetation zone begins at 2000m.

   The proposed *Marovo Lagoon World Heritage Area* (Tentative List) is considered an area of globally outstanding marine biodiversity and conservation value[11][11]. Reef sites at the edge of the lagoon were

surveyed in 2014[12][12]. The sites with the highest Live Coral Cover (LCC) in the Western Province and second highest in the Solomons were on the exposed side of the fringing reef near Marovo Lagoon measuring an average of 49% LCC. The exposed side of the fringing reef of Marovo Lagoon had an average of 38% LCC. The sites with the lowest live coral cover were found near Munda with an average of 18% LCC.[13][13] The critically endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nests throughout the area in significant numbers. Two other species of marine turtle, including the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are known to feed in seagrass areas. The vulnerable Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) are also present although in low numbers[14][14]. The complex is located within BirdLife International's Solomon Group Endemic Bird Area (EBA) which is recognized for its globally outstanding avian endemism. On an area basis, this EBA has more endemic bird species than anywhere else on earth. Jared Diamond's early work on the endemic White-eye birds (*Zosterops* sp.) of the New Georgia group has resulted is a classic textbook example of speciation and island biogeography[15][15].

The human history of the area is approximately 30,000 years old, now supporting a population of nearly 11,000 people distributed throughout more than 50 villages throughout the Marovo Lagoon, who are the traditional landowners of the area. The people speak the Marovo language, an Austronesian language spoken in the New Georgia Group, on islands in the lagoon and on the neighbouring islands of New Georgia, Vangunu and Nggatokae. They live mainly by subsistence agriculture and fishing[16][16]. Highly dependent on the rich marine and forest ecosystems for subsistence and livelihoods, these landowners have a detailed traditional knowledge of the area. The rich marine areas and rainforests act as natural storehouses for food, housing materials, medicinal plants and raw materials for house construction and canoes. The men from Marovo Lagoon are known to be skilled carvers, and these maritime and forest environments also play definitive roles in the cultural identity and spiritual lives of the people and their communities. The lagoon is a popular destination for diving and is a tourism hub for travellers from Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United States.

The traditional owners of the area have historically exercised their customary ownership to ensure effective sustainable management of these important marine and terrestrial ecosystems. However, while it is a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status, several critical threats jeopardize its unique biodiversity and the livelihoods of the communities that depend on it.

1. Logging and Sedimentation

Unsustainable logging is widely considered the most immediate and visible threat.

- **Runoff:** Heavy machinery and forest clearing expose fragile soils. Tropical rains wash this loose earth into the rivers and then directly into the lagoon.
- **Reef Smothering:** The resulting 'sediment plumes' settle on coral reefs, blocking sunlight and effectively 'choking' the coral polyps, which leads to reef death.
- **Chemical Pollution:** Some logging operations use chemicals that leak into the water table, affecting both marine life and the safety of drinking water for locals.

2. Overfishing and Resource Depletion

As the local population grows and the need for cash income increases, the lagoon's resources are being harvested at unsustainable rates.

- **Export Pressure:** Species like sea cucumbers (beche-de-mer) and giant clams are heavily targeted for Asian markets. These have faced multiple bans by the government to allow stocks to recover, though enforcement remains a challenge.
- **Aquarium Trade:** The collection of live coral and tropical fish for international aquariums has further pressured specific reef ecosystems.
- **By-catch:** A shift toward more modern fishing gear has increased the amount of non-target species being killed accidentally.

3. Climate Change and Ocean Warming

Like many Pacific ecosystems, Marovo is on the front lines of global climate shifts.

- **Coral Bleaching:** Rising sea surface temperatures cause corals to expel their symbiotic algae. If temperatures remain high for too long, the coral dies. Significant bleaching events have been tracked with increasing concern leading into 2026.
- **Sea Level Rise:** Rising waters threaten the low-lying islands within the lagoon, leading to coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion into the freshwater 'lenses' used for drinking and gardening.

4. Agricultural Expansion (Palm Oil)

The conversion of logged-over land into industrial plantations, particularly **oil palm**, introduces a new set of risks:

- **Fertilizer Runoff:** Excess nutrients from fertilizers cause algal blooms. These blooms consume the oxygen in the water, creating 'dead zones' where fish cannot survive.
- **Pesticides:** The heavy use of herbicides and pesticides in plantation management can have toxic effects on the lagoon's delicate invertebrate populations.

Current conservation efforts in the Marovo Lagoon are largely centered on **Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)**. Because most of the land and sea is under customary ownership, successful conservation depends on the local communities rather than just government regulation. To assist local communities in the face of these contemporary resource pressures, several community-based organizations and international conservation organizations have been active in working in partnership with local communities to develop more sustainable resource management practices. Financial and technical support from WWF and Conservation International has led to the establishment of a long-term endowment fund to ensure the continued operation of the protected area and support a staff of rangers to ensure its appropriate management. A conservation agreement with the University of Queensland was signed with the communities on Gatokae to protect the remaining rainforest areas. There are also several smaller community-managed areas throughout the Marovo Lagoon, some of which have previously received support from University of Queensland, WWF, Conservation International and the American Museum of Natural History. The Nature Conservancy was also engaged in marine survey work of the area and worked to establish community-managed marine protected areas. Chubikopi is a community-managed marine area in the Marovo Lagoon that was established to support sustainable fisheries while protecting critical habitats, including seagrass meadows for dugongs. Management plans for this area, alongside nearby Munda, have been endorsed to enhance local conservation. The WCS programme in Marovo Lagoon focuses on LMMAs, protection of leatherback turtle nesting sites, capacity building of local rangers and monitoring impacts of climate change on corals and fish stocks. Other important initiatives relevant to this area include:

Reef-Positive Finance & Sustainable Livelihoods: A major new initiative (piloted in 2025–2026) involving WWF-Pacific, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) intends to move away from 'grant-only' conservation toward a 'blue economy.' It provides grants and technical support to local 'reef-positive' businesses—such as sustainable fisheries, ecotourism, and regenerative agriculture—to reduce the community's reliance on logging and overfishing, using 'blended finance' to help local banks lend to sustainable businesses that traditionally seem too 'risky' to fund.

The **GEF Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project** is active in several provinces, including Western Province (where Marovo is located), mapping seagrass beds which are critical for dugong populations and act as a massive carbon sink, and integrating 'dugong safeguards' into community management plans to prevent these animals from being caught in nets or losing their habitat to logging-related sedimentation.

Several organizations maintain a long-term presence on the ground:

- **The Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA):** While focused on the neighboring Tetepare Island (part of the same complex), they run a world-class ranger program that monitors the lagoon's borders to prevent poaching and illegal logging.
- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** They focus heavily on 'Ecosystem-based Adaptation,' helping Marovo communities map their reefs and establish *tabu* (restricted) areas where fishing is banned to allow stocks to replenish.

- **Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP):** A local NGO that bridges the gap between international funding and village-level action, ensuring conservation stays in the hands of the traditional landowners.

To address the environmental threats and underlying drivers an integrated landscape-seascape (R2R) approach will be applied in the project focusing on the specific sites of

(i) Michi islands and Michi upland forest area, Central Marovo Region, Vangunu Island

This area was part of the Initial WWF CBRM programmes in the 1990s, and UQ Marine Management Project from 2000-2015. Its coastal mangrove forests, seaweed /seagrass/were part of the National Mangrove Carbon Assessment supported by SPREP/GIZ under the MACBLUE project in Solomon Islands in 2024.

(ii) Marovo Islands and Northern Vangunu Island comprising Chumbikopi Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) and Coastal mangrove forest areas; Chumbikopi upland forest areas and Chea CBRM

Activities to be undertaken in both areas include:

- Strengthening Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)/Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)
- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop reef and mangrove -positive enterprises (possibilities include aquaculture, nature-based tourism, seaweed farming, crab banks, etc. and will be more fully explored in the PPG phase)
- Coral reef restoration (coral gardening and nurseries) and mangrove restoration (for biodiversity, livelihood and climate change resilience benefits)
- Awareness raising and sensitization of tribal chiefs and communities on issues relating to long-term costs and benefits of logging concessions
- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop sustainable agriculture and add value to agricultural products
- Establishment/restoration of riparian buffer zones
- Reforestation of upper watershed areas

In addition, good practices and lessons learned will be shared with other projects and agencies working across the larger Marovo-Tetapare landscapes and seascapes region.

2. **Guadalcanal Province: Ruasura islands and Rere River Catchment (Part of Coral Triangle; key stepping stone for migratory birds and marine species; part of Guadalcanal Highlands Key Biodiversity Area)**

The Rua Sura Islands, located off the north coast of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, are part of a delicate ecosystem that faces several interconnected threats. Rua Sura's position makes it a vital 'steppingstone' for marine and avian species moving across the Solomon Sea, meaning degradation here can have ripple effects on the broader regional biodiversity. The deep waters nearby are migratory corridors for cetaceans (including spinner dolphins) as well as for Hawksbill and Green turtles, and scalloped hammerhead sharks. The area provides feeding grounds for dugongs (a high conservation priority) and is known for spawning aggregations of Rabbitfish (Siganidae) which are culturally and economically vital for local communities. Rua Sura's coral reefs contain a portion of the 500 or so species known in the Solomons and provide vital breeding and nursery grounds for large numbers of fish species – as do the mangrove and seagrass areas found in the islands. The islands are critical stop-over points for migratory birds and homme to several endemic species. The islands also host endemic skinks and geckoes including the Prehensile-tailed skink.

As a small island group, Rua Sura's biodiversity—ranging from coral reef systems to coastal vegetation—is particularly vulnerable to both local human activity and global environmental shifts. Growing population pressure and increasing livelihood needs with a high reliance on coral reefs and forest lands and limited alternative livelihood options, are driving degradation. In the coastal areas this is leading to unsustainable harvesting and use of destructive fishing methods, while in the catchment areas logging and unsustainable agricultural practices are increasing erosion, sediment flow and nutrient into the rivers, and ultimately to the coast. Coastal development as well as sand and gravel extraction also contribute to habitat loss/degradation and increased pollution and waste entering the coastal environment. Climate change adds to the existing threats through sea level rise, more extreme weather events, and coral bleaching, etc. To address the environmental threats and underlying drivers an integrated landscape-seascape (R2R) approach will be applied in collaboration with the Ruasura Society (composed of tribes from Babusa to Aloa in Guadalcanal). This will include:

- Supporting integrated coastal zone management plans
- Establishing/strengthening Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)
- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop reef-positive enterprises (possibilities include aquaculture, nature-based tourism, seaweed farming, crab banks, etc. and will be more fully explored in the PPG phase)

- Coral reef restoration (coral gardening and nurseries) and mangrove restoration (for biodiversity, livelihood and climate change resilience benefits)
- Awareness raising and sensitization of tribal chiefs and communities on issues relating to long-term costs and benefits of logging concessions
- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop sustainable agriculture and add value to agricultural products
- Establishment/restoration of riparian buffer zones
- Reforestation of upper watershed areas

3) The Bloody Ridge and Honiara - Lungga River Catchment, including Barana and Mataniko (endemic tree, bird and bat species, proposed Biosphere Reserve)

The upper Mataniko/Barana catchments are of high conservation value due to the high species diversity of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The survey recorded 76 tree species within vegetation plots of which five are endemic: *Canarium salomonense, Ptychosperma solomonensis, Melastoma novae-georgiae, Physokentia insolita, Heterospathe solomonensis* and the endemic palm *Rhopaloblaste elegans.* Three endemic birds inhabit the catchment, one of which is a totemic bird to the local villagers and listed in the IUCN Red List as vulnerable i.e. the Solomon Sea eagle *Haliaeetus sanfordi* locally known as "manuchacha"[17][17].

Mataniko River catchment ecology is still intact at the upper catchment. The freshwater fauna is diverse and is a source of protein for villagers living upstream and the floral diversity provides several critical ecosystem services for the local communities.[18][18] However, ecological condition as well as number species of flora and fauna decrease moving downstream, with only more tolerant species surviving in areas heavily impacted by human activities and urban expansion[19][19]. Water quality is generally poor from the upper catchment to the lower reaches. This is not good for humans due to the presence of pathogenic organisms. There is a possibility that waterborne disease

will become more prevalent in the catchment soon[20][20]. In the upper catchment, gardening, farming, and milling of timber is obvious and landscape change is increasing. Along the riverside, human settlements are expanding and growing with the unmanaged deposition wastes into the river. All these activities cause stress to ecosystem goods and services of the catchment, which are diminishing relatively fast[21][21].

The biodiversity of Bloody Ridge faces several distinct threats:

1. Habitat Degradation & Encroachment

- **Illegal Settlements:** The park has historically struggled with 'squatters' or unauthorized residents. While recent enforcement has cleared many of these areas, the settlements previously led to land clearing and a buildup of household waste.
- **Unauthorized Gardening:** Local residents have used park land for subsistence farming. These 'illegal gardens' replace native vegetation with crops, leading to soil exhaustion and habitat fragmentation.
- **Illegal Access Roads:** A 2025 report highlighted that unauthorized vehicle routes are a primary driver of environmental damage, causing severe soil erosion and facilitating littering in remote sections of the park.

2. Chemical & Physical Pollution

- **Toxic Legacy of WWII:** Decaying unexploded ordnance (UXO) is a major environmental hazard. As metal casings corrode, they release toxic heavy metals like **arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury**, as well as explosive compounds like **TNT**, into the soil and groundwater.
- **Waste Management:** Because the ridge is a popular spot for social gatherings, 'anti-social activities' (specifically public drinking) have led to chronic issues with broken glass and plastic litter, which can harm local wildlife and degrade the soil.

3. Invasive Species & Landscape Changes

- **Grass Fires:** Frequent fires (often started accidentally or for land clearing) destroy native seedlings and allow fire-resistant invasive grasses to dominate the ridges, preventing the natural regeneration of the lowland forest.
- **Loss of Native Flora:** The shift toward imported food crops has marginalized indigenous plant species.

4. Climate Change & Natural Hazards

- **Erosion & Flooding:** Extreme weather events in the Solomon Islands accelerate the erosion of the ridge's thin topsoil. Increased rainfall also speeds up the corrosion of buried bombs and can wash contaminated sediments into nearby water systems.
- **Vegetation Stress:** Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns put additional pressure on the 'Sobehatunga' forest area (the local name for the forest owners' land), which is critical for carbon storage and regional biodiversity.

To address these threats, a Quadripartite MOU was signed in 2025 between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, and Solomon Islands National University (SINU). This partnership focuses on:

- **Reforestation:** Replanting native forests in valleys while maintaining historical grasslands on the ridges.
- **UXO Clearance:** Ongoing work by organizations like the HALO Trust to identify and remove explosives.

- **UNESCO Status:** Efforts are underway to have the area recognized as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** to provide international protection standards.

The reforestation efforts at Bloody Ridge are led by the **Solomon Islands National University (SINU)** in collaboration with government ministries. The project specifically focuses on a 'Framework Species Method,' which involves planting native trees that grow quickly and develop dense canopies to shade out invasive grasses.

Researchers conducted the Honiara coastal ecology baseline assessment in late July to August 2020. The coastal reef conditions of Honiara are relatively poor, with an overall average live coral cover being 5%. This coral cover estimate is alarmingly lower than the average cover range in other major archipelagic sites of the Solomon Islands. Live coral cover decreases from west to east Honiara, whereby findings indicated sand, silt, and dead corals with algae to be dominant in the central and east section of Honiara[22][22].The benthic communities mainly consist of sub-massive and massive forms of corals belonging to the genus Porites spp. A total of fifteen (15) genera and nine families of corals were recorded. Other common invertebrates recorded were *Laevigata laevigata, Holothuria atra, Diadema setosum, Niloticus niloticus, Acanthaster planci* and *Tridacna maxima**[23]***[23].A fish list was compiled and consists of thirty-one (31) species, twenty (20) genera and nine (9) families. Pomacentridae was the dominant family in species diversity and abundance. Pomacentrids are smaller non targeted fish species which are virtually common in most coastal and reef habitats. Targeted fish species were few (Labridae, Mullidae and Scaridae) and uncommon which may have been overfished by local fishers[24][24].

The survey results suggest dominance of algae overgrowth, sand and rubbles suggesting quality of water is polluted and contaminated with nutrient overloads and discharges. A small proportion of live. coral cover in the western end of Honiara, around Whiteriver and Kakabona suggests processes of dilution and dispersion more pronounced which enables cleaning of sediments and silts suspended in the water column thereby impacting on the coral growth[25][25]. However, the opposite trend of extremely poor growth of live corals in the areas adjacent to the main city area to Lungga suggest that the extent of the impacts was due to land-use activities, sediment/waste exported from upstream and local populations into the waterways. Fishers and locals who frequently fish from fishing grounds close by Honiara are affected because of relatively low numbers. of targeted fish species and the contamination levels exceeding safe thresholds in key strategic areas along the Honiara coastline[26][26].

The project will address the threats and underlying drivers through interventions including:

- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop reef-positive enterprises (possibilities include aquaculture, nature-based tourism, seaweed farming, crab banks, etc. and will be more fully explored in the PPG phase)
- Coral reef restoration (coral gardening and nurseries) and mangrove restoration (for biodiversity, livelihood and climate change resilience benefits)
- Skills training and small grants for local communities to develop sustainable agriculture and add value to agricultural products
- Establishment/restoration of riparian buffer zones
- Reforestation of upper watershed areas
- Setting proper urban plans & ecological zoning through Guadalcanal Provincial Gov't,
- Protection of national parks & wetlands within those areas under the Protected Areas Act,
- Developing engagement plans for various stakeholders to promote ecological and sustainable cities,

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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

Given the close inter-connections between land, water and coastal systems in Solomon Islands, the integration of watershed management and freshwater systems management with coastal area management is considered essential to foster effective cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of land, water and coastal uses. Such integrated approaches to freshwater and coastal area management have been termed 'Ridge to Reef' to emphasise the inter-connections between the natural and social systems from the mountain 'ridges' of volcanic islands, through coastal watersheds and habitats, and across coastal lagoons to the fringing 'reef' environment. Inherent in the approach is the philosophy of cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of freshwater use, sanitation, wastewater treatment and pollution control, sustainable land use and forestry practices, balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, hazard risk reduction, and climate variability and change. Similarly, the integration of communities, stakeholders, and national governments within such a cross-sectoral planning framework is described by Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a 'Community to Cabinet' approach. The project has been designed with these approaches in mind

The project will take a systems-based approach, including aspects of governance; innovation and learning; and multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration; to co-design appropriate restoration activity solutions grounded in community needs at the local level. When underpinned by knowledge and learning, an approach built on these pillars will facilitate the appropriate enabling environment created for lasting and scalable impact.

The project will work so that restoration activities are designed to be gender-responsive, empowering women and youth by enhancing their roles in environmental stewardship. In designing restoration activities, the project will also consider that the time burden of implementing restoration, and the benefits derived from restoration opportunities may not be equitably shared amongst different stakeholders and can potentially disrupt social dynamics. Restoration activities therefore need to be integrated through culturally and context informed measures to promote safe and sustainable benefits.

Gender mainstreaming in the project will ensure that disparities are addressed by actively involving women in the design, implementation, and evaluation of restoration interventions. For all training and capacity building efforts, the project will apply inclusive targeting, tailor support, and build capacity especially women. This will be achieved through dedicated, gender-sensitive training spaces and monitoring of inclusive participation and feedback.

Theory of Change:

The project's Theory of Change (ToC) and transformation logic articulated in Figure 1, is grounded on the premise that: **if** the project can strengthen policy frameworks and institutional arrangements; develop effective governance mechanisms connecting headwaters to coasts in the project target areas; provide guidance on sustainability and recognise community-based resource management in the form of OECMs (**Outcome 1.1**); and **if** sufficient capacity of government and other stakeholders can be put in place to support the initiative on the ground (Outcome 2.1); and **if** community-led restoration initiatives and development of sustainable livelihoods are successfully implemented in various ecosystem types both upstream and downstream (**Outcome 3.1**); and **if** knowledge and lessons in R2R and restoration approaches are disseminated widely through communications, visibility and outreach products (**Outcome 4.1**); **then** the project will be able to overcome the barriers preventing effective biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration, and this will lead to ecosystems will be restored to benefit globally important biodiversity, particularly endemic, endangered, and migratory species and the lasting resilience and well-being of communities in the project area.

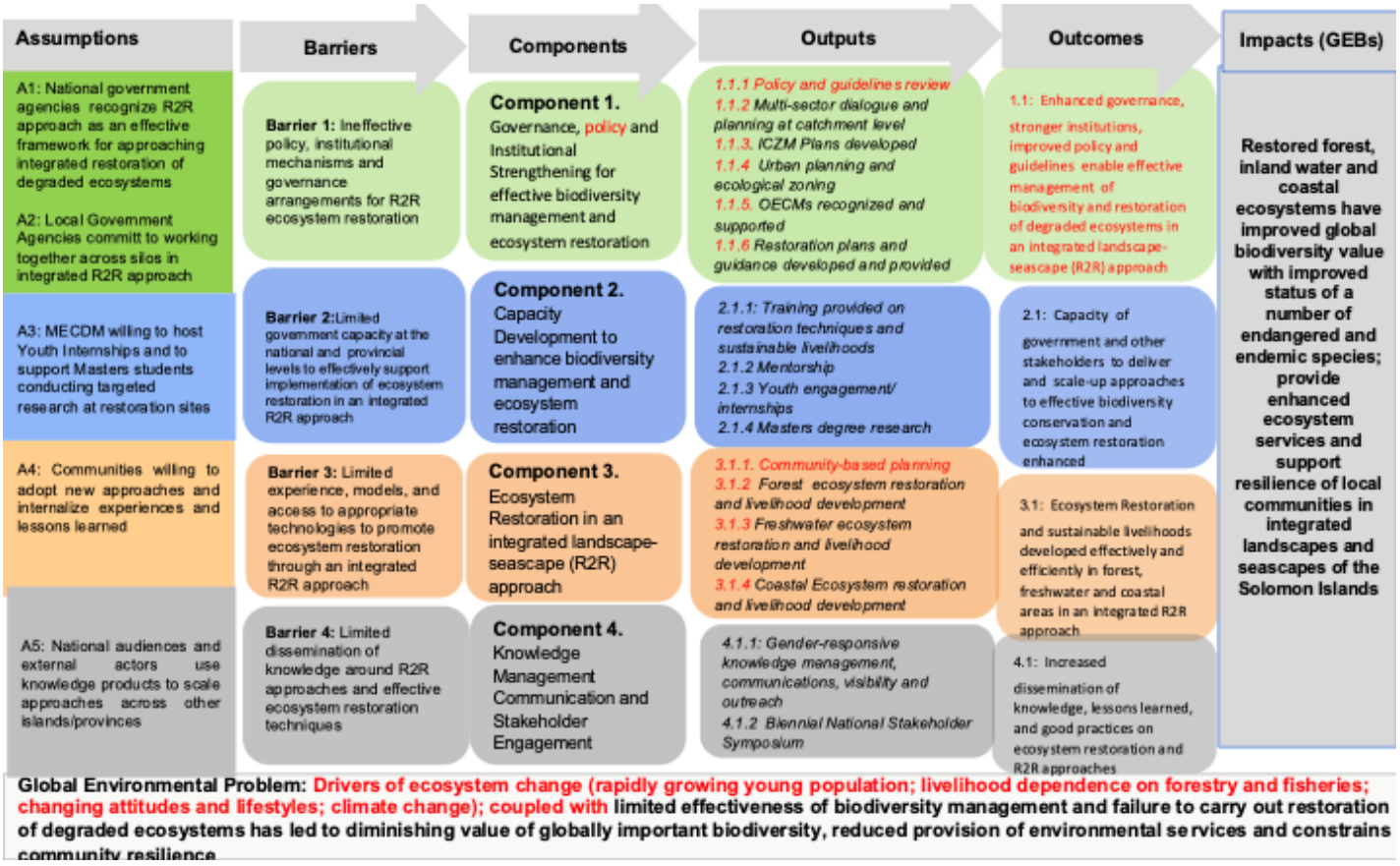

Figure 1: Theory of Change

Project Components and main outputs and activity areas

Component 1: Governance and Institutional Strengthening for Effective Biodiversity Management and Ecosystem Restoration

This component will focus on reviewing existing policy and guidelines related to sustainable agriculture and near-shore fisheries; updating governance structures; planning approaches; development of protocols and guidelines; and OECM approaches.

In the Solomon Islands, conservation is deeply rooted in customary land and marine tenure systems. Traditional practices, such as seasonal closures of fishing grounds (tabu areas) and community-managed forests, function as *de facto* OECMs. Policymakers and conservation partners are moving toward formalizing these community-led initiatives into the national OECM registry. The Solomon Islands is currently in the process of developing its 2026 State of Environment Report (as of March 2026). This report may provide momentum for the formal adoption of OECM criteria. However, the Solomon Islands faces challenges in institutional readiness. Transitioning from 'traditional practice' to 'formally reported OECM' requires a rigorous assessment process (documentation, evaluation, and reporting) that currently lacks dedicated national resources and standardized guidance. While there is interest, there is not yet a comprehensive, national policy that explicitly defines how an area is evaluated or 'certified' as an OECM.

Outcome 1.1: Enhanced governance, stronger institutions, improved policy and guidelines, together enable effective management of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems in an integrated landscape-seascape (R2R) approach

Outputs:

1.1.1 ***Policy and Guidelines:*** *review existing policy and guidelines regarding sustainable forestry and near-shore fisheries, as well as for OECM criteria, evaluation and certification; identify gaps or need for reform and develop plan to address those required changes*

1.1.2 ***Multi-sector Dialogue and Planning: M****ulti-sector platforms established at the catchment level*

1.1.3 ***ICZM:*** *Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans Developed in Rua Sura and Honiara*

1.1.4 ***Urban Planning and Ecological Zoning*** *carried out by the Guadalcanal Provincial Government*

1.1.5 ***Restoration Plans and Guidance:*** *National plans, protocols, guidelines and toolkits providing guidance on restoration techniques developed*

1.1.6 ***OECMs:*** *OECMs recognized and supported within an R2R context – the project will support pilot identification and recognition of at least 2-3 OECMs in both terrestrial and marine areas.*

Component 2. Capacity Development to enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration

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Outcome 2.1: *Capacity of relevant government agencies and other stakeholders to deliver and scale-up approaches to effective biodiversity conservation including restoration is enhanced*

This component will support capacity development through training, mentorship, youth engagement and support for higher education. A particular focus will be on awareness-raising of tribal leaders (especially younger generation leaders) on understanding the long-term implications and trade-offs inherent in approving logging and mining concessions in their tribal lands.

-

Outputs:

2.1.1 ***Training & Resourcing:*** *Training & relevant resources provided to target government ministries (MECDM), NGO and communities on specific restoration techniques as well as on sustainable livelihood activities that are linked to the ecosystem restoration.*

2.1.2 ***Mentorship****: Establish mentorship opportunities connecting experienced practitioners with emerging leaders in restoration efforts in the target landscapes/seascapes established*

2.1.3 ***Youth (Environment graduate interns) Engagement****: Youth interns working with MECDM in implementation of project activities while gaining real-world working experience in early stages of professional career development*

2.1.4 ***Higher education****: Support master's degree research studies that focus on restoration in the target areas supported*

Component 3: Ecosystem Restoration with an R2R approach

In each project target area restoration of forests rivers and coastal areas will be conducted in the same catchment to support a successful R2R approach

- **Forests in upper watershed areas:** Protection of watershed forests through the recognition and management of community forest reserves to reduce harmful erosion and increase other ecosystem services; as well as restoring degraded forests in key locations through tree planting and/or assisted natural regeneration

- **Rivers and wetlands in village and farmland areas:** Restoration planting of native vegetation along riverbanks to provide riparian buffers reducing riverbank erosion and collapse

- **Coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass in coastal areas:** Community management and restoration of coastal habitats for biodiversity conservation, livelihood sustainability and disaster risk reduction

The project will support local communities in managing resources sustainably through community-based resource management (CBRM) including Locally managed marine Areas (LMMAs). The approach to restoration will make use of demonstration/learning sites in more accessible locations. This may involve setting up a restoration demonstration station such as a mangrove nursery, or coral breeding/coral planting station in the coastal area, and native tree species nurseries in the terrestrial areas.

Livelihoods linked to biodiversity management which addresses key threats and underlying driers, as well as restoration will be supported. Skills training and small grants will be provided for coastal communities to develop reef-positive enterprises (possibilities include aquaculture, nature-based tourism, seaweed farming, crab banks, etc.) as an alternative to unsustainable fisheries practices; and to develop sustainable agriculture and add value to agricultural products as an alternative to unsustainable agricultural practices, especially in upper catchments; (these options will be more fully explored in the PPG phase). These interventions will be supported by the development of village-based agriculture and forest land management plans, and fisheries management plans.

In each site a key species inventory and abundance assessment will be conducted using both participatory and scientific methods, before restoration is planned and carried out. This will provide a baseline of biodiversity area to be restored which will also assist in the selection of species to be used in the restoration efforts. Subsequently post-restoration surveys will help identify any changes in key species that have occurred.

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Outcome 3.1: Ecosystem Restoration conducted effectively and efficiently in forest, freshwater and coastal areas in an integrated R2R approach

Outputs:

3.1.1 ***Community-based planning:*** *Village level management plans for sustainable agriculture and forest land; and for sustainable fisheries (including identification of priority areas for restoration) developed*

3.1.2 ***Forest restoration****: Assisted regeneration and tree planting initiatives in degraded forest together with livelihoods linked to biodiversity conservation and restoration activities implemented*

3.1.3 ***Freshwater ecosystem restoration:*** *Activities targeting degraded freshwater ecosystems in riparian zones and wetlands, together with livelihoods linked to biodiversity conservation and restoration activities implemented*

3.1.4 ***Coastal ecosystem restoration:*** *Restoration activities in degraded marine sites, such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, together with livelihoods linked biodiversity conservation and restoration activities implemented*

Component 4. Knowledge Management, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

Outcome 4.1: Increased dissemination of knowledge, including lessons learned and good practices on ecosystem restoration and R2R approaches

Under this component, the project will document, curate and catalogue the information and experiences generated throughout its implementation to promote lessons learned and inform future planning and implementation efforts in other islands and provinces of the Solomons. This approach to knowledge management will also help to inform project monitoring and adaptive management. Underpinning this component will be a knowledge management strategy and communications plan, both cognizant of gender considerations. Communications materials will be produced to align messaging, increase visibility and exposure at events, and data sharing will be facilitated. The project will also develop a knowledge management system and engagement strategy to share information on approaches to further promote ecosystem restoration and R2R approaches at the national levels as well as regionally and globally and will establish knowledge management vehicles (people, process and technology) to enable the transformation of information into know-how and use this to inform future planning exercises and efforts to better mainstream nature-based adaptation, as well as undertaking planning towards future replication and scaling. Partnership with the Solomon Islands National University (including through the provision of research students under Output 2.1.4 above), will provide opportunities to update university curricula based on the activities and results of the project.

Outputs

4.1.1 ***Gender-responsive knowledge management, communications, visibility and outreach delivered:*** *products designed and delivered to key audiences through appropriate and effective channels*

4.1.2 ***Biennial national Stakeholder Symposium Organized:*** Organize a national symposium to update and map information, on which partners are implementing activities in each province, the programs and activities being carried out, and the specific communities or sites involved; as well as to share good experiences, lessons learned, and good practices.

Across all components, the project will leverage the transformational levers of innovation and learning; multi-stakeholder collaboration; and governance and policies. It will also consider as well positive drivers of change as they each apply to the causal pathways to achieve these outcomes and systems transformation, and through this intervention logic the barriers will be removed, and the baseline will change. Taken together, the objective will be achieved, the project will address restoration needs, and global environmental benefits will accrue.

Global Environment Benefits

The Solomons are ecologically and evolutionarily unique in several ways, including:

- The Double-Chain Effect**:** The archipelago consists of two parallel island chains. This geography acts as an 'evolutionary pump,' where species jump between islands, isolate, and rapidly evolve into new forms.
- Marine 'Seed Bank'**:** Ocean currents around the islands (like the South Equatorial Current) help disperse coral larvae and fish eggs to other parts of the Pacific, making the Solomons a critical source for reef recovery across the ocean.
- Intact Primary Forest**:** Unlike many neighbors where industrial logging has been more extensive, the Solomon Islands still hold significant tracts of low-altitude primary rainforest, which are the primary habitats for their endemic giant rats and flying foxes.

The factors lead to Solomon Islands standing out primarily due to their endemism-to-area ratio. (While e.g. Papua New Guinea has more species overall due to its massive landmass, the Solomon Islands pack a higher concentration of unique life into a much smaller footprint).

The forest biomes of the Solomons are often referred to as the 'Galapagos of the Pacific' with Montane Cloud Forests, and Lowland Rain Forest, as well as Freshwater Swamp Forest (found on larger islands like Guadalcanal), and Mangroves. The Solomon Islands possess a unique freshwater biodiversity characterized by high endemism – including 14 endemic fish species - and a reliance on diadromy, where many species migrate between fresh water and the sea. At the same time, the marine biome can be referred to as the “Amazon of the seas” The Solomon Islands sit at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the global center of marine diversity, and supports over 500 species (76 genera) of coral and over 1,000 species of reef fish; found in a

range of fringing, patch, barrier, and atoll reefs. Solomons supports 60% of the world's coral species, in less than 1% of the ocean's surface. Solomon Islands provides critical habitat for six of the world's seven sea turtle species and various marine mammals like dugongs and whales.

The project target areas are global biodiversity hotspots, hosting some of the highest rates of endemism, and the highest diversity of coral species on the planet. The project will generate global environment benefits in terms of improved status of resident endemic and endangered forest, freshwater and marine biodiversity, as well as important migratory species, in the restored areas. Restoration activities will generate Global Environmental Benefits by ensuring that remaining populations of globally important species found in the area continues to have greater opportunities to recover as the availability of suitable habitat is increased. Key species benefitting include (but are not limited to):

- Endangered and endemic species of plants and trees including *Canarium salomonense, Ptychosperma solomonensis, Melastoma novae-georgiae, Physokentia insolita, Heterospathe solomonensis* and the endemic palm *Rhopaloblaste elegans*
- Endemic birds including Zosteropidae (white-eyes, 87% endemic), Meliphagidae (honeyeaters, 86% endemic) Monarchidae (Monarch flycatchers 73% endemic); Psittacidae (parrots, 63% endemic); and the Columbidae (pigeons, 51% endemic) as well as the Solomons sea eagle *Haliaeetus sanfordi*
- Endemic threatened species in the Pteralopex genus (Monkey-faced bats).
- Prehensile-tailed Skink (*Corucia zebrata*),
- endemic species of freshwater gobies within the subfamily Sicydiinae;
- migratory shorebirds including Bristle-thighed curlew (*Numenius taitensis*), Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), etc.
- Endangered coastal fish including Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Green bumphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*) and Humpback grouper (*Cromileptes altivelis*).
- Marine turtles including Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)
- Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)
- Cetaceans and sharks

While project resources will not be sufficient to enable detailed monitoring of populations of each of these species, a system will be developed which identifies changes either based on a sample of these species, and/or proxy indicators of ecosystem health. The approach will be developed in more detail in the PPG phase.

Selection of Project Sites

In the stakeholder workshop held on 04 February 2026, participants identified potential project sites based on their experience and knowledge of the status, threats and potential for restoration of forest, freshwater and coastal ecosystems in different provinces/islands. A long list of 12 sites was initially identified. (Table 1).

Table 1. Proposed sites for consideration suggested by working groups

Note: Black text = group1; green text = group 2; blue text = group 3

Province/ site location	Issues	Restoration opportunity	R2R Approach	Other initiatives	Other notes
Western Province, Marovo lagoon	Over-harvesting of marine resources, over logged areas,	CBNRM sites and restoration needed	Suitable for R2R approach	DEGRADATION	There is a Marine MPA in the area already
Isabel province	Mining and logging	Need for restoration in logged areas logging tenement areas/Tubi forest sites; Opportunity for monitoring of possible degraded forest areas requiring restoration; Restoration of mangrove areas that has been cleared for log ponds	R2R plan in place	SAFE- San Jorge and Lelegia (South-East) SUMITOMO research report trialling Tubi (nursery) restoration DEGRADATION	Learning from Isabel can be replicated in Choiseul
East Rennell	Bauxite mining	Need restoration		Will complement EREPA work	
Makira Province – 3 sisters island	Poaching and overharvesting	Coral and Mangrove restoration		Build on GEF5 IFMP, support PA sites	(biggest coral site, discovered during the pristine seas expedition)
Are'Are and South Malaita	Logging	Restoration of logged forest Mangrove restoration		Existing work on reforestation – MMGB, CBOs, SPREP, EREPA	
Temotu Province Santa Cruz Island	Logging Cyanobacteria outbreaks in coral reefs	Restoration of logged forest		Existing conservation work e.g. EREPA, WCS (Bezos)	Political will

Central province Ngella islands	Logging, overharvesting and climate change Main supply for reef fish at Honiara Central Market/Dynamite fishing an ongoing practice/Coral bleaching identified in barrier reefs within the provincial waters	Forestry, water catchment and coastal area restoration	Good potential for R2R approach But some concern doesn't have big forests, can this be suitable site for the R2R approach?	A number of existing marine resource management initiatives has been implemented by different stakeholders (WCS/MFMR etc) in a number of communities, thus a potential for doorway for funding support from GEF8. Veira's team are currently working with one of the communities to develop an NDF report for a butterfly species.	
Central Province Russell Islands	Coral bleaching, live coral exports Logging and overfishing	Logged areas need restoration	Good potential for R2R approach	Watershed links to IUCN ERAPA project Potential for tourism	
Guadalcanal, Mataniko and Lungga River	Large population in these areas	River restoration		Supporting documents/ paperwork from previous projects **(SPREP/SPC/City Council etc),** that can be complemented by GEF 8 activities.	
Guadalcanal, Bloody Ridge		Forest restoration		Good for demonstration programs (SINU look & learn),	
Guadalcanal, Kongulae catchment	Sedimentation issues in water catchment area				
Guadalcanal, Marau	Coral bleaching and climate change	Coastal and marine resources			

This long-list was then considered against multiple criteria, including:

- Biodiversity and livelihood value
- Need for restoration

- Local capacity and political will
- Other partners and initiatives active in the area
- Overall suitability for an R2R approach
- Alignment with the NBSAP, support for existing efforts, building on current baselines, and target sites where work is already underway, thereby expanding interventions that need additional support.
- Areas with no mining or logging developments but suffering from degradation due to unsustainable use. This is to avoid disputes that can potentially delay the project

As a result, three priority restoration sites were subsequently identified and endorsed by MECD - Marovo lagoon and catchments; Guadalcanal Province: Ruasura islands and Rere River Catchment, and Honiara: The Bloody Ridge (Lungga Rive Catchment, (including Baran and Mataniko).

In addition to the Executing Agency - the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), key stakeholders include a number of other ministries at the national level; provincial offices of forestry, fisheries, and environment in the project target provinces, and most importantly the local communities/local land owners, as well as community-based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the target provinces. Local communities will be responsible for leading many of the activities, supported by provincial government agencies, CBOs and NGOs, essential for ensuring sufficient capacity for effective implementation on the ground. The involvement of different key stakeholders in the project is shown in the table below:

Role of Stakeholders in the project

Ministry of Forestry and Research (MFR)	Collaboration on developing guidelines, protocols plans and handbooks for forest restoration
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR	Collaboration on developing ICZM plans; support for CBNRM approaches including LMMAs; collaboration on sustainable fisheries livelihoods for coastal communities, and coral restoration.
Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification	Collaboration on restoration of riparian zones
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MALD)	Collaboration on development of sustainable agricultural activities for communities in watershed areas
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Collaboration on restoration of bloody ridge and on coastal tourism related livelihoods especially in Morova

Ministry of Provincial Govt and institutional strengthening	Involvement in the establishment of integrated landscape-seascape dialogue and planning platforms
Provincial Gov't including provincial forestry office, provincial fisheries office, provincial environment office	Involvement in specific activities related to their mandate, in each target area
Solomon Islands National University (SINU)	Involved in forest restoration on Bloody ridge. Will provide research students to study the restoration activities in each target area
Solomon Islands Rangers Associations (SIRA)	Support for community rangers in LMMAs
Community-based organisations (CBOs) (specific CBOs to be identified in more detail in PPG phase)	Involvement in design and implementation of biodiversity management including restoration activities and sustainable livelihood development on the ground in target areas
Community/Resource owners/landowners and tribal leaders	Involvement in design and implementation, and direct beneficiaries of biodiversity management including restoration activities and sustainable livelihood development on the ground in target areas. Recipients of awareness-raising and capacity development activities.
The Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA):	Running a world-class ranger program that monitors the Marovo lagoon's borders to prevent poaching and illegal logging which the project will collaborate with and learn from
Ruasura Society (composed of tribes from Babusa to Aloa in Guadalcanal)	Involvement in design and implementation of biodiversity management including restoration activities and sustainable livelihood development on the ground in the Rua Sura target area.
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP)	NGO that bridges the gap between international funding and village-level action, ensuring conservation stays in the hands of the traditional landowners – the project will learn from them and seek their assistance where necessary
International NGOs – WWF, WCS, TNC, Ecological Solutions, World Fish.	May collaborate on specific activities in some project locations but more generally will be involved in exchanging information on approaches and methods, good practices and lessons learned. Will also provide a conduit to help promote replication and scaling up.
Development partners; SPREP, UNDP, WB, ADB, CTI, etc.	May collaborate on specific activities in some project locations but more generally will be involved in exchanging information on approaches and methods,

	good practices and lessons learned. Will also provide a conduit to help promote replication and scaling up.

Lessons learned from previous and ongoing initiatives will be integrated into the detailed project design, including:

- Community time - The tribal community have their own schedules and program everyday therefore there is a need to organize meetings or workshops in the time that suits them and rather than what is just convenient for outside stakeholders and organizations. Proper consultations with the community before organizing any community programme is key.
- High community expectations that may not be met - There are always monetary expectations from communities in relation to projects. Manage these expectations by frankly informing the community of what can be achieved, and what is outside the collaborative scope of work. Make things clear from the start, and only when all agree will the conservation /resource management work begin.
- Limited capacity for community management - Although a management committee might be set up to oversee activities and serve as point of contact for partners who work with them, there is no guarantee the committee has the needed skills. Projects should support orientation and training for newly established committees. Also, the number of existing management committees provides a great opportunity for peer-peer exchange and learning. Community facilitators /volunteers may add value for community liaison however consideration for incentives should ensure participation.
- Differences over ownership of potential Locally managed lands and seas - disagreement over land ownership extending to the marine environment is a common issue in Choiseul Province. For example, in the Rabakela conservation area two tribes have disagreements over land which affects the coastal conservation area. This case is being dealt with according to the tradition and culture of Choiseul, but the resolution process is time-consuming.
- Compatible livelihoods may be difficult to provide - Where feasible, aim to support livelihoods of communities who conserve their areas, especially where there is a clear opportunity cost incurred through conservation. Explore options to integrate ecotourism with conservation through building eco-lodges to collect some income from accommodation. Additionally, it may be possible to develop Eco-timber operation as an alternative to industrial logging in some areas.

- Disagreement within communities about conservation actions- Communities do not always agree and this can hinder the development of a plan. When communities are divided, help the process by providing advice and talking with the different parties involved. The community is encouraged to solve the problem internally. In most cases it is easier to deal with community disagreements than with tribal disagreements.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

No, IUCN will not play an execution role on this project

Collaboration with other GEF projects:

There is a provision under the constitution and the PA Act, for the establishment of a PA Trust Fund to be managed by MECDM. The GEF5 FAO IFMP will contribute seed money to the establishment of the fund. After it is set up there is a requirement in the Constitution for the government to provide a certain amount of budget to the trust fund. The project will coordinate with the trust fund regarding additional support for any protected areas in the target sites.

The four-year GEF6 – IUCN Project with MECDM Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in Solomon Islands (EREPA) focuses on critical areas of biodiversity and land degradation. The project goal is to "establish an effective network of protected areas to achieve healthy, productive and restored landscapes". To achieve this goal, the three main objectives are to: (i) support local communities to formally declare terrestrial protected area; (ii) promote the adoption of improved livelihood through improved agricultural practices and sustainable natural resource management; and (iii) establish an effective network of protected areas. The new project will collaborate with ERPA particularly regarding restored landscapes.

MECDM, MFMR and WCS convened the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) National Coordinating Committee (NCC) meeting for the first-time in April, 2025[1][27]. A significant outcome was the establishment of the Coral Reef Rescue (CRR) National Hub for coral reef conservation in the Solomon Islands, co-chaired by MEDCM and MFMR, and facilitated by WCS. The hub serves as a vital platform for stakeholder engagement, fostering collaboration, strategic co-planning, and promoting shared learning under its GEF funded CRR project that contributes to the WWF-led Global CRR Initiative. The project will engage with the hub as a platform for sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned. Both WCS and WWF – through their Regional Reef Rescue Project, have been carrying out coral replanting activities. This project will learn from the successful approaches developed and replicate them in project target sites where appropriate.

Collaboration with other non-GEF initiatives:

The European Union (EU) is a major development partner in the Solomon Islands, focusing on climate resilience, sustainable infrastructure, rural development, and governance, with initiatives that align to the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2035. Solomon Islands is the largest beneficiary of EU aid among the Pacific Island countries under the European Union's funding instrument for 2021-2027, Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). Key projects include: Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL); Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience (PACRES); Kiwa Initiative; and EU Solomon Islands Partnership for Resilience Building (SIRP).

WCS together with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); MECDM; the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) Unit; and local government are implementing a component of the EU-funded Pacific BioScapes project managing coastal and marine resources and adapting to climate change through ecosystem-based responses for integrated planning in the Central Province. While the work of the EU projects has a large focus on building resilience, especially through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), this has strong linkages to ecosystem restoration activities planned under this project. Approaches, experiences and lessons learned will be shared between the initiatives. In addition, mangrove policy is currently being developed with support from the government of Korea and a mangrove research centre is being established at SINU

IFAD is transforming rural livelihoods by improving food security, boosting nutrition, and strengthening climate resilience through sustainable agriculture. A key $20 million partnership, the Agricultural Investment for Markets and Nutrition (AIM-N) project, aims to assist over 18,000 people, particularly women and youth, in three provinces over a six-year period.[2][28] The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in the provinces of Choiseul, Isabel, and Western, benefitting an expected 18,330 people in 65 rural communities where subsistence farming is the main source of livelihood. Collaboration with this IFAD initiative will happen in any sites where there is overlap, focusing on livelihoods that are appropriate in relation to ecosystem restoration.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) $148.9 million Land and Maritime Connectivity Project is enhancing climate-resilient transport infrastructure across the Solomon Islands, aimed at improving safety, reducing travel times, and boosting rural economic growth. Key components include upgrading 12 rural wharves, rehabilitating roads, and implementing a sustainable shipping service. The Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID) works with the Central Projects Implementation Unit (CPIU) for project management. There may be overlap between these infrastructure development activities and project sites in Guadalcanal, in which case collaborative planning will be needed at least to ensure that planned infrastructure development does not impact ecosystem restoration. In some case the activities could be

complementary if ecosystem restoration can actually act as an NbS, providing better protection for the infrastructure, making it more resilient.

The World Bank Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement (CAUSE) II Project will invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and provide economic opportunities for local communities in the fastest-growing urban centres in the country—Honiara City, urban and peri-urban areas of the provinces of Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Western[3][29]. The objective is to improve access to climate resilient infrastructure and services, enhance economic inclusion, and strengthen the capacity of public authorities to deliver services in targeted urban centers[4][30]. The project will coordinate with CAUSE II in areas of geographic overlap with target sites.

Save the Children Australia / Green Climate Fund US$31.8 million The Knowledge, Action, Sustainability for Resilient Villages (SOLKAS) project with co-financing support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and in-kind support from the Government of Solomon Islands; will help children and communities in the low-lying Pacific Island nation adapt to the worsening impacts of the climate crisis. The project will include the incorporation of a climate change curriculum in schools; support for youth entrepreneurs to create new resilient livelihood opportunities; and increased food and water security for communities via support for climate resilient farming and water conservation[5][31]. The project is delivered in partnership with MECDM MFMR; the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening; Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development; and the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs[6][32]. The project will collaborate with SOLKAS on aspects of climate resilient farming and water conservation which may be appropriate in areas where ecosystem restoration is being carried out.

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[1] https://solomonislands.wcs.org/News/ID/24538

[2] https://solomons.gov.sb/solomon-islands-reaffirms-strong-partnership-with-ifad-to-invest-in-rural-people-and-food-security/ accessed 20 February 2026

[3] https://solomons.gov.sb/signing-of-cause-ii-to-strengthen-climate-resilience-and-economic-access-in-solomon-islands/ accessed 20 February 2026

[4] https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099092524120045484 accessed 20 February 2026

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[5] https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2023-press-releases/solomon-islands-new-climate-adaptation-project

[6] https://www.savethechildren.org.au/our-work/our-programs/international/fostering-climate-resilience

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
45000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	10,000.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
25,000.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30000	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
30,000.00			

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
To be identified	NA	5,000.00			

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100,000.00			

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

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

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

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

To be identified	NA	20,000.00			

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	37,647			
Male	37,647			
Total	**75,294**	**0**	0	**0**

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

For CI 3 and 4, sub-indicators 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 4.3 these figures were estimated based on the following considerations:

1. The mapped size of areas identified for proposed restoration programs and related interventions.

2. Lessons learned and practical experience from previous GEF projects, particularly the FAO Integrated Forest Management Project, which provided useful reference points for estimating scale and feasibility.

3. The flexibility of restoration management indicators, which are designed to accommodate broad management measures rather than relying solely on fixed or site-specific targets.

4. A preliminary identification of planned or ongoing activities by various partners across the different locations, which helped inform approximate coverage and scope.

For CI 4.5 and 5.4 estimates were developed based on existing information about community based management of areas, including LMMAs and their likely potential for recognition as OECMs, which will need to be further investigated in the PPG Phase

For Core Indicator 11: Number of beneficiaries has been calculated by using baseline data from the FAO food systems project which covers resilience support for Western region and Guadalcanal region.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Unpredictable weather and natural disasters are a risk to project implementation. When transport between islands depends on boats, there may be significant delays to activities caused by weather and sea conditions. In response the project will need to plan timing of project activities carefully, in consideration of 2-3 week weather forecasts
Environmental and Social	Moderate	GEF8 project in the Solomon Islands has a clear intention to positively impact upon the environment through an integrated Ridge to Reef approach.

		Nevertheless, some potential risks have been highlighted, principally of a social nature around the issues of gender and social inclusion. Firstly, while a gender-responsive approach is being employed, it is critical to ensure that the promotion of women does not exacerbate instances of gender-based violence. Secondly, while the project site-specific work will be community driven, it is critical that this work is inclusive to all community members so that no-one loses out on the basis of socio-economic disparities. As a result, the project should develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan. During the PPG phase, it is important that social baseline data is consolidated through consultations and balanced against a refined list of site-specific activities. For gender needs, a thorough analysis will be required to inform the project Gender Action Plan that can ensure the involvement of women in activities while minimising the risk of instances of GBV resulting from this involvement. Overall, the impacts of identified risks are site specific, their extent can be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty, few if any of them are irreversible, and mitigation measures could be readily designed and implemented to successfully address these concerns. Taking these factors into account, the project is rated moderate risk.
Political and Governance	Moderate	A national election scheduled for 2028 may cause delays to project startup. A national election may be held in April 2028, although the month is not yet confirmed. The project must start up quickly in Q1 of 2028 and ensure all necessary government agreements and permissions are in place well before the elections.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Political will and buy-in of provincial governments may be an issue. This was addressed in the selection criteria of target sites and so should be minimized.
Technological	Low	The project is not dependent on the use of complex or new technology. In restoration activities any technology used will be locally appropriate and easy to use for local people
Financial and Business Model	Low	The financial and business model of the project is not in any way complicated and doesn't pose any real risk
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The capacity of government to implement all project activities on the ground is somewhat limited, however the project design overcomes this through the use of youth interns and research students, as well as local CSOs and NGOS to assist execution
Fiduciary	Low	The financial procedures capacity of MECDM as the EA is suitable for GEF projects and they have been the EA for several GEF projects before this one. Additional Oversight will be provided by IUCN which has very robust business and financial systems
Stakeholder	Low	Stakeholders have been consulted and are interested in the project. A detailed stakeholder engagement plan will be developed in the PPG phase

Other	Low	Logistical challenges due to remote geographic location of some sites and high cost of transport. This has already been considered as a criterion in project selection, so the risk can already be clearly identified and planned for

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The assessed risk for different categories is evenly spread between low risk and moderate risk – in this case the higher option of moderate has been selected in order to be "on the safe side"

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will cleary contribute to the Goal of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area strategy that ' Globally significant biodiversity is conserved, sustainably used and restored', and particulalry the first objective under that goal, 'To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. Importantly, the project responds to the GEF-8 shift in the GEF strategy from investing in landscape and seascape management through the two distinct strategic entry points of protected area management and biodiversity mainstreaming to an area-based investment strategy to support integrated landscape/seascape management approaches that use multiple tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within large landscape and seascape mosaics. Consistent with the GEF mandate to generate global environmental benefits, the target landscapes and seascapes selected in this project contain globally important biodiversity. Within these integrated approaches opportunities to restore areas to ensure the persistence of globally significant biodiversity will be supported. - the project will fund cost-effective ecosystem restoration activities that improve the status of biodiversity and are part of integrated landscape management approaches. Embedded as a fundamental element in this approach is the central role of IPLC managed lands and waters and their contribution to improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and critical socio-economic benefits at local and national levels. The project will also help foster a multi-sectoral approach across government ministries.

The project is intended to focus primarily on biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration aimed at improving the status of ecosystems and globally imporant species. This initiative will involve rehabilitation and management guided by national targets and several KMGBF Global Targets

The project will contribute to a number of KMGBF targets as shown in table 2.

Table 2: Project contribution to KMGBF 2030 Global Biodiversity Targets

Section	Target	Key Objective	Project Contribution
Pillar 1: Reducing Threats to Biodiversity	**1**	**Spatial Planning:** Ensure all areas are under participatory, integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning.	The project will support the preparation of ICZM plans, as well as ecological zoning in the Bloody Ridge- Tenggu River site
	2	**Restoration:** At least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration.	The project contributes directly to restoration of terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems
	7	**Pollution:** Reduce pollution risks and impacts from all sources to levels not harmful to biodiversity (including 50% reduction in nutrient loss and pesticide risk).	The project will reduce land-based pollution including agricultural residues and plastics from entering the coastal areas
	8	**Climate Change:** Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification through nature-based solutions.	Through restoration of degraded forests, riparian buffer vegetation and coastal mangroves and coral reefs the project will; help build resilience to climate impacts
Pillar 2: Meeting People's Needs	**9**	**Sustainable Management:** Ensure sustainable management of wild species to provide benefits for people, especially those most dependent on them.	The project will support sustainable fisheries and LMME approaches in the coastal areas
	10	**Productive Areas:** Ensure agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry are managed sustainably.	The project will contribute through development of sustainable livelihoods in both terrestrial and marine areas
	11	**Ecosystem Services:** Restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people (e.g., regulation of air, water, and climate).	The ecosystem restoration of the project will increase the availability of ecosystem services
Pillar 3: Tools & Solutions for Implementation	**20**	**Capacity Building:** Strengthen capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific cooperation.	The project will provide capacity building for government, NGOs/CSOs, tribal chiefs and community members and youth
	21	**Knowledge Sharing:** Ensure best available data and traditional knowledge are accessible to decision-makers and the public.	The project has a strong knowledge management and communications component
	22	**Participation:** Ensure the full, equitable, and gender-responsive representation of indigenous peoples and local communities.	All local people in the project areas are indigenous peoples, and they will play a leading role in project implementation

Section	Target	Key Objective	Project Contribution
	23	**Gender Equality:** Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach.	The project will implement a gender-responsive approach in implementation. A Gender Assessment and Action Plan will be developed in the PPG Phase

The project also responds to national targets and strategies, including:

Solomon Islands National Restoration Target:
By 2030, restore 15% of degraded marine coastal ecosystems and 20% of degraded terrestrial areas (logged-over areas & agriculture & others etc.) and maintain the 20% of virgin forest through the reinstatement of the logging levies, as well as PES mechanisms, to the indigenous owners to carry out forest restoration activities such as augmented natural regeneration, enrichment plantings, mixed local timber species groves and agroforestry systems to allow the forest to regain its ecosystem functions and services as well as economic benefits to IPLCs.

Solomon Islands Ridge to Reef Strategic Action Framework (2021-2026): Through support to community-led implementation of ecosystem restoration in forest, river and coastal ecosystems in selected target catchment(s), the project will contribute to the following Strategic Actions of the R2R SAP (2021-2026):

Strategic Action 26 - Expand Forest rehabilitation, re-afforestation, and enrichment planting to enhance forest carbon stocks using local tree species.

Strategic Action 33 – Support and implement watershed and water sources protection and conservation activities for all ridge to reef projects. These protection and conservation activities to consider the different participation of women, youths, and other vulnerable members of the community.

Strategic Action 48 – Implement Locally Marine Managed Areas (LMMAs) and MPAs as an integral part of the ridge to reef approach.

Strategic Action 49 – Formulate community-based coral reef management guidelines as part of the MPA action plans. Community-Based management to be inclusive of women, youths, and other vulnerable members of the communities.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector:

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

A consultation workshop was held in Honiara on 04 February 2026 attended by 25 participants who activel;y engaged in discussions and contributed to selection of project target sites, description of key comoponents, identification of additional stakeholders, and identification of risks. The list of participants is shown in table 3.

Table 3: List of participants in stakeholder workshop

	Name	Organization
1	Rieka Kwalai	MFMR
2	Assaneth Buarafi	MFMR
3	Faye Siota	MFMR
4	Robert Mather	CONSULTANT
5	Agnetha -Vave Karamui	MECDM
6	Bill Apusae	LIVE & LEARN SI
7	Stephen Suti	IFMP
8	Slade Ririmae	WWFSI
9	Albert Kwatelae	SIRA
10	Nelly Kere	PMCU/MECDM
11	Cathy Unga	EREPA/MECDM
12	Wendy Beti	ECD/MECDM
13	Josef Hurutarau	ECD/MECDM
14	Veira Pulekera	ECD/MECDM
15	Freda Aluta	WVSI
16	Fredrick Dotho	ECD/MECDM
17	Thaddeus Siota	CCD/MECDM
18	David Boseto	ESSI/ESF
19	Claire Oiire	SPREP
20	Alista Talua	MAL-DOPM
21	Sammy Airahui	PMCU/MECDM
22	Joanne Aihunu	SPREP PEBACC
23	Barnabas Bago	UNDP
24	Sharon Tohaimae	SPREP PACIFIC BIOSCAPES
25	Nancy Raeka	PMCU/MECDM

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

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

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
IUCN	GET	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	5,380,174.00	484,216.00	5,864,390.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**5,380,174.00**	**484,216.00**	**5,864,390.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

13500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
IUCN	GET	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	150,000.00	13,500.00	163,500.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**150,000.00**	**13,500.00**	**163,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,027,890.00
Total GEF Resources					**6,027,890.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	5,380,174.00	4750000
Total Project Cost		**5,380,174.00**	**4,750,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)

Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	350000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1200000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forestry and Research (MoFR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Civil Society Organization	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1800000
Civil Society Organization	World Wide Fund for Nature Solomon Islands (WWF-SI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	750000
Civil Society Organization	Live & Learn Environmental Education	Grant	Investment mobilized	300000
Others	Global Green Growth Institute	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50000
Total Co-financing				**4,750,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

1. WCS:; 2. WWF; and 3. Live and Learn The investment mobilised are parallel cofinancing for project activities in the restoration sites

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Janie Rioux	2/28/2026	Josef Hurutarau		jhurutarau@mecdm.gov.sb

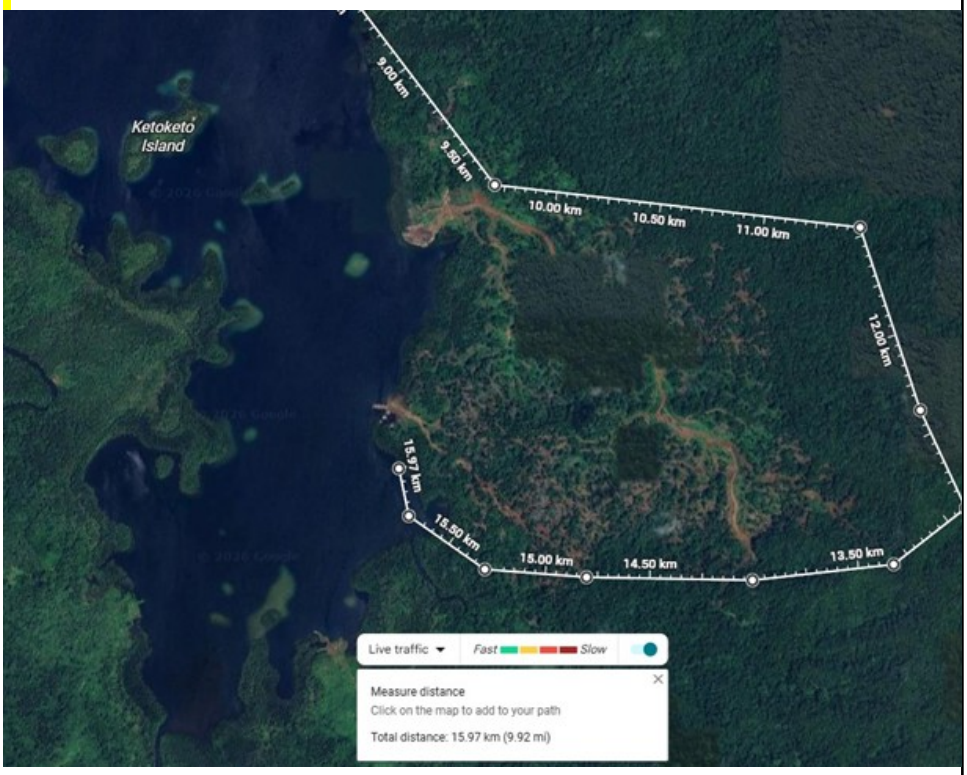
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Thaddeus Siota	Director, Climate Change Division/GEF OFP	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	2/23/2026

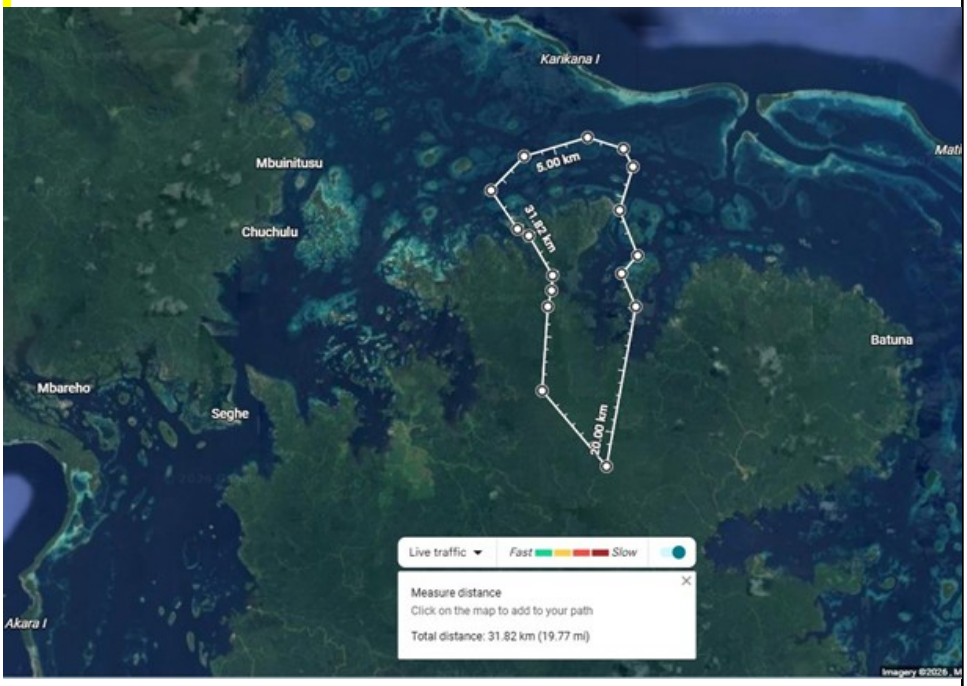
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

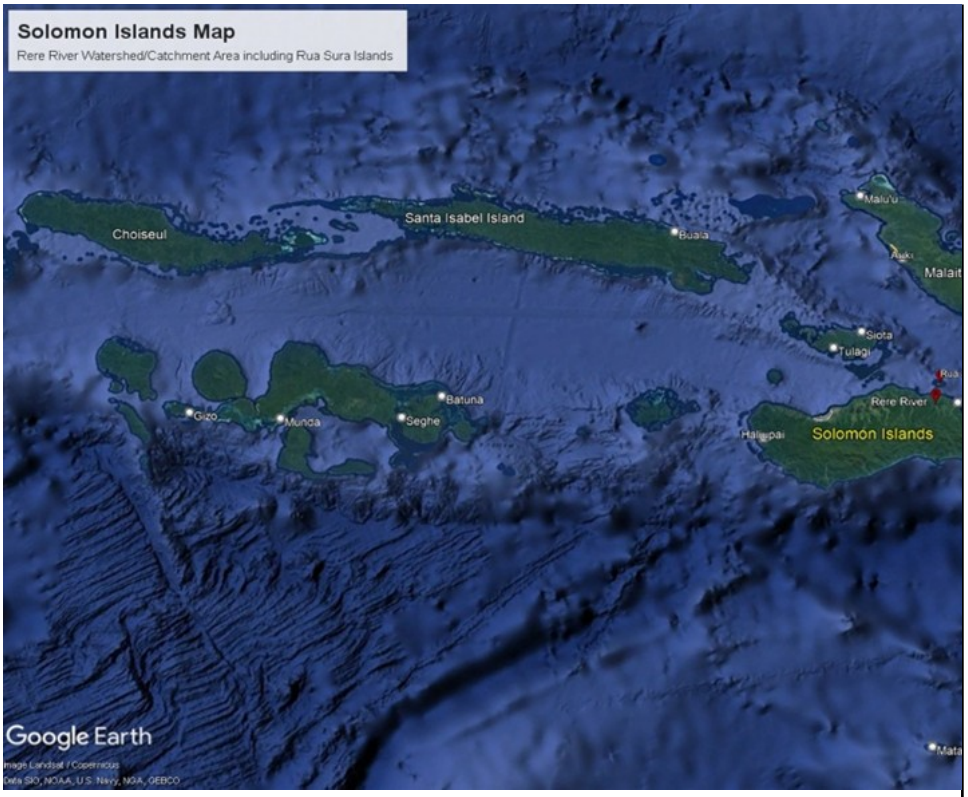
Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Name of Site	Description	Coordinates
Marovo Lagoon 	Located in the New Georgia Islands between Vangunu and Nggatokae	8.48°S 158.07°E.
Marovo lagoon (i) Michi Islands and Michi Upland Area	Central Marovo Region, Vangunu Island	



Marovo lagoon (ii) Chumbikopi Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM) and Coastal mangrove forest areas	Marovo Island & Vangunu	

And Chumbikopi upland forest areas  	forest area	
Rua Sura (or Ruasura)	An island located off the northeast coast of Guadalcanal, and associated terrestrial catchment	**Ruasura Islands** Latitude:9°30’30.95” S Longitude:160° 36’55.33” E **Rere River watershed:** Latitude:9°36’12.88” S Longitude:160° 32’54.26” E

 **As only five maps can be uploaded in this section, kindly note that the concerned second map is uploaded in the Roadmap Documents section titled,** *GEF ID 12289_Rura Sura_Map 2*		
Honiara: The Bloody Ridge – Lunga River Catchment **As only five maps can be uploaded in this section, kindly note that the concerned map is uploaded in the Roadmap Documents section titled,** *GEF ID 12289_Map_Honiara Bloody Ridge*	Including Barana area, Matanikoo, Lungga, Bloody Ridge and to the coast	9.46 S, 160.05 E

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

GEF8 Solomon Islands_R2R PIF_IUCN_Preliminary ESMS

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing models			
	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
Stakeholders			
	Local People		
	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities		
	Civil Society		
		Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
		Academia	
	Type of Engagement		
		Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications		
		Awareness Raising	
		Behavior Change	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	Enabling Activities		
	Capacity Development		
	Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	Targeted Research		
	Learning		
		Adaptive Management	
		Indicators to Measure Change	
	Innovation		
	Knowledge and Learning		
		Knowledge Management	
		Innovation	
		Capacity Development	
		Learning	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality			
	Gender Mainstreaming		
		Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
	Gender results areas		
		Participation and leadership	
		Capacity development	

		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Areas/Theme			
	Biodiversity		
		Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			Productive Landscapes
			Productive Seascapes
			Community Based Natural Resource Management
		Species	
			Threatened Species
		Biomes	
			Mangroves
			Coral Reefs
			Sea Grasses
			Wetlands
			Rivers
			Tropical Rain Forests
	Climate Change		
		Climate Change Adaptation	
			Climate Resilience
		Climate Finance (Rio Markers)	
			Climate Change Adaptation 1