

Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI)

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
12289
Countries
Solomon Islands
Project Name
Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI)
Agencies
IUCN
Date received by PM
3/4/2026
Review completed by PM

Program Manager
Celine Augereau ep Coisy
Focal Area
Biodiversity
Project Type
FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

- a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?
- b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

a) Cleared.

03/30/2026

a) Not cleared. The project still does not clearly explain in which ways it will address the drivers of BD degradation. Please precise how the component 1 will identify bad practices or incentives and will help developing guidelines and new policies to warranty sustainable restorations. The project seems now to also develop sustainable livelihoods. Please clarify the narrative in a way that it does not only designate restoration but also different activities related to sustainable planification, management and practices.


b) Cleared

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. GEF funding supports strategies that respond to drivers of BD loss. Restoration activities are supported within integrated landscape approaches that address those drivers and that improve the status of biodiversity. The current design does not demonstrate the landscape approach that would be adopted to guide the actions of restoration that should lead to sustainable results in the status of the biodiversity. Please clarify the project design, consistently with Programming directions in regards of restoration activities.

<https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-r-08-29-rev-01>

b) Not cleared. Please remove the text from the field "Project Sector" because this only needs to be filled out for projects including Climate Change Mitigation.

| General Project information  | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|------------|
| Project Title: | Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI) | | |
| Region: | Asia | GEF Project ID: | 12289 |
| Country(ies): | Solomon Islands | Type of Project: | FSP |
| GEF Agency(ies): | IUCN | GEF Agency ID: | IUCN |
| Executing Partner: | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECCOM) | Executing Partner Type: | Government |
| GEF Focal Area (s): | Biodiversity | Submission Date : | 3/1/2026 |
| Project Sector (CCM Only): | Mixed & Others | | |

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

a)Component 1 has been revised and an extra output and details added regarding policies and guidelines. The narrative has also been revised to clarify the livelihood activities and community based planning as well as agricultural and fisheries practices.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

a) Thank you very much for your comment. The document has been significantly revised in both the project rationale section and the programme description section to demonstrate that the restoration activities are just one of several approaches used, and are nested within an overall approach to biodiversity management in integrated landscapes and seascapes which addresses key drivers and that will ensure the delivery of GEBs

b) Thank you very much for your comment. As advised, we have removed the text from the Project Sector section in the word version of the PIF as well as the online version

2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. The narrative has been improved with clarification of drivers of BD degradation. It states that it will address drivers of BD loss with it doesn't indicate how. Still is missing a description on how the project will reverse the trends. Please complete. Please also complete the summary giving the details of GEBs by CI, in numbers of Ha targeted. (see comments below on CI 1,2, 4 and 5).

03/12/2026

Not cleared. The summary does not really explain how the project will tackle the drivers of degradation of watershed and thus, how the investments in restoration activities will be sustainable, will improve status of the biodiversity and provide long-term benefits. Please provide justification. Please, also, complete providing the GEBs to be generated by the project.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

The summary now makes it more explicit as to how the project will address the drivers:

Underlying these proximate threats are several ultimate drivers including:

- population growth with a high proportion of young people;
- economic and livelihood dependence on agriculture, fisheries, logging and mining with limited alternative livelihood options;
- contemporary changes to traditional lifestyles and values; and

- climate change.

The project will implement improved management of biodiversity including restoration of degraded ecosystems, addressing the drivers through:

- engagement of youth as an important force for biodiversity management and sustainable development;
- sustainable livelihood development for communities in areas of globally significant biodiversity;
- awareness raising of tribal leaders around decision making on approving logging and mining concessions in their tribal lands, especially the younger generation of leaders
- Restoration activities which directly improve resilience to climate change impacts.

The project can address the drivers in specific target areas, however, it cannot be expected that the project will reverse the trends in any of the drivers reversing national population dynamics, macro-economics and climate change are not possible in this project.

If the reviewer is in fact referring to reversing the previous degradation of watershed forests, rather than reversing the drivers underlying this degradation (though the comment does not make this clear?) then this is achieved by a combination of:

- Better decision making about logging and mining concessions by tribal Chiefs and communities
- More sustainable agricultural livelihoods
- Restoration of previously damaged watersheds

All of which are key interventions of the project. Additional text has been added to the summary clarify this.

Numbers of hectares for CI 3,4,5 were initially provided in the main text but have now also been added to the summary.

As already clarified in responses to the first round of comments the project is not working on creating new protected areas or improving management of existing protected areas so there is no need to use CI 1 or 2.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. The existing summary has been revised to explain how the project will address drivers and will improve the status of biodiversity, and identifying key GEBs to be delivered

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

b) Cleared.

03/30/2026

a) Cleared.

b) Not cleared. Please consider completing component 1 with engagement to develop a framework, to improve policy, or to develop guidelines for sustainable practices to avoid degradation to worsen. If it is not plan to address revision of forest or mining law, please precise for agriculture, or fishing how the project could address and change bad practices.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. Please clarify. The project objective should explicitly says how the project address drivers of BD loss.

b) Not cleared. Currently, the components and outcomes proposed do not address the drivers of environment degradation. To ensure long-term benefits and transformation in the current dynamic, the project needs to identify baseline and to propose components and activities to reduce pressions on environment. Please, consider developing component 1 and reinforcing policy work on planification, legislation and practices to decrease impacts of logging, mining, and unsustainable agriculture, in a multi sector approach. Consider developing plans and guidance on practices upstream, and detail how the project will involve other ministries and impacts on other policies.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

b) An additional output has been added to component one as suggested:

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.

Some additional text has been added in component 3, relating to sustainable fisheries, to highlight how this will address and change bad practices this now reads as:

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)

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a) The Objective has been revised to indicate that a range of different biodiversity management approaches will be used in the project, not just restoration, and taken together these approaches address the key drivers of biodiversity loss. However, it is our understanding that an objective is a statement of purpose ? of what will be achieved, but an objective statement is not required to explain HOW the results will be achieved

b) Components, Outcomes and Outputs have been revised to address drivers, reduce threats and ensure long-term benefits.

In component 1 an additional emphasis on planning has been introduced, including ICZM Plans; urban planning and ecological zoning in Guadalcanal, and restoration planning. As well as the formation of catchment-wide multi-stakeholder dialogue and planning platforms.

It is not the intention of the project to work on revision of forestry and mining laws. There is already an ongoing revision of forestry and mining laws in 2025-26. The new laws will further empower communities in decision-making about concessions ? the project focuses more on awareness-raising and capacity development of the communities so that they can effectively discharge their rights under the new law, while understanding the different cost-benefit trade-offs of their decisions.

More information is provided on the involvement of other ministries

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. There is an inversion between the 2 last outputs 1.1.4 and 1.1.5 between the Indicative project overview and the Description. Please correct to use the same wording between the 2 parts of the document, addressing that way the comment.

03/12/2026

Knowledge management and M&E have 2 dedicated components and fundings. Gender is integrated in the design, by enhancing women roles in stewardship, capacity building, in training and restoration activities. Specific targets and monitoring will be dedicated.

Please, strengthen Output 1.1.2 by ensuring that the plans, guidelines, and toolkits developed are gender-responsive. Please also ensure that gender experts and women?s organizations, to be identified through the stakeholder engagement process, are meaningfully integrated into the multisectoral planning platforms. With regard to training, mentorship, and education activities, please include a clear target for women?s participation. This target may be further refined and adjusted following the completion of the Gender Analysis.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

This has now been revised to use the same wording ? though these outputs are now 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 due to the addition of a new output 1.1.1 based on the above comment regarding policy

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

Output 1.1.2 has been strengthened as recommended -but note numbering has been changed and this is now Output 1.1.4

A full gender analysis and action plan will be developed in the PPG phase, together with a full stakeholder engagement plan. At this point it can be ensured that gender experts and womens organisations can be meaningfully integrated into the multi-sector planning platforms and clear targets for female participation will be set.

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

a) Cleared.

b) Cleared.

c) Cleared.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. There are no co-financing resources allocated to M&E (red rectangle below). There are not co-financing resources allocated to PMC (green rectangle below). For a co-financing of \$4,750,000, the correspondent 5% would be \$237,500 - please amend.

| Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|-----|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| M&E | Technical Assistance | Regular monitoring documented in PIR, MTR and TE reports | Effective project implementation and adaptive management maintained through regular steering committee oversight, and project monitoring and evaluation. | GET | 155,600.00 | | |
| | | | | | Sub Total (\$) | 5,124,810.00 | 4,750,000.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | | | | |
| | | | | GET | 255,364.00 | | |
| | | | | | Sub Total(\$) | 255,364.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | | | Total Project Cost(\$) | 5,380,174.00 | 4,750,000.00 |

b) Not cleared. The current budget does not show any contribution to PMC from co-financing. Please correct.

c) Currently from GEF financing it is under 5%. Please see comment above.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a) Thank you very much for your comment. As advised we have indicated the proportion of cofinancing for both M&E and PMC

As mentioned above, we have now shown contribution of cofinancing to PMC

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

a) Cleared. Thanks for your complements to the current situation description and for providing maps. Thanks for adding OECMs recognition in component 1. This output could probably help describing how sustainable practices will be implemented, as well as the planification and guidelines.

b) Cleared.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared.

- Please, for each different locations planned for the project, describe the situation of the landscape and seascape regarding degradations. Furthermore, the project pretend to address degradation issue through a landscape approach from R2R through forested watersheds to coastal ecosystems. But the 3 distinct locations are not integrating in an obvious manner the whole landscape from mountains to coast. The first one is a lagoon and does not integrate the terrestrial landscape upstream. Bloody ridge site does not also integrates the full watershed

from mountains to coast. Please consider clarifying the landscape included in the project and locations on a map to clearly see the full scope of the project from R2R.

- Please clarify current status of the biodiversity in the 3 locations to clearly assess the expected impacts of the project. Justify the global significance of the BD targeted by the project in each of the areas targeted (KBA, EBA, National parks, reserves...). Precise if they are part of protected areas or in buffer zones. For example, Marovo Lagoon is on the WH tentative list and should be protected at national level.

- It seems that most of the areas targeted are community managed. Please elaborate on this and precise if a designation as OECMs have been considered for those sites. From a system perspective that could be an interesting added value to the project to ensure sustainable restoration.

- Key drivers of BD are not well described from a system perspective in the situation analysis. Please clarify for each driver its location in the project and watershed, how it impacts the BD, and detail the impacts on BD.

- While the document recognizes 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", it does not explain how the holistic approach will address them. The document precises " The approach aims to:- Conserve Biodiversity and the Ecosystem functions and Services generated by biodiversity, through protection, sustainable management and restoration". But the description does not provide any clear elements to tackle source of degradation and to achieve those ambitions except restoration activities.

- Please consider adding an assessment of current policies that provide bad incentives for BD, or that impact badly BD.

b) Not cleared. Please precise barriers in addressing impacts of activities in the different location of the project, in the different economic sectors. Precise if some projects, previous or under implementation, have already addressed this issue and if some lessons learnt could be considered as enablers.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a) The situation of each landscape/seascape is now more fully described, and it has been made clear that in each case we are indeed talking about an R2R approach from watersheds to coasts. Improved maps have been provided. The current status of biodiversity has been described, mostly in qualitative terms as quantitative information is not always available. Global significance is identified through each area's designation/proposed designation as a KBA/IBA/World Heritage/Biosphere Reserve, being part of the Coral Triangle, etc. and the globally important endemic and threatened species that will benefit from the project have been identified.

Most of the areas are indeed based on community-based management approaches as throughout the Solomons land and resources belong to local tribal groups so CBNRM approaches are the

most appropriate and effective. OECMs are being considered and this is already included in Component 1.

The drivers have been better described, clarifying location and impacts.

Additional outputs addressing drivers and/or the way in which existing outputs actually address drivers (which may not have been elucidated clearly in the previous draft) have been included.

Similarly to the suggestion above to work on changes to forestry and mining legislation, the project however will not conduct an assessment of policies that provide perverse incentives for biodiversity, as that would then require an additional set of outputs and activities to address the findings of those assessments and develop policy reform. Legislative and policy reform is not a major intended outcome of the project, but improved governance, capacity, youth engagement and alternative livelihood development are. One project cannot do everything, and decisions need to be made about what should and should not be included to ensure the resources of the project are not spread too thinly.

b) A number of barriers have already been identified and a number of lessons learned have similarly been identified.

The same barriers apply at all the project target sites. A review of lessons learned suggests that none of those identified so far can really be considered as 'enablers' in addressing barriers

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

b) Cleared.

03/30/2026

a) Cleared.

b) Not cleared. There are still comments to address to ensure sustainable investments in restoration activities. See comments above. And clarify the narrative in a way that it does not only designate restoration but also different activities related to sustainable planification, management and practices, in particular in agricultural lands.

d) Cleared.

03/12/2026

a) No. Please develop.

b) Not cleared. See different comments in box 1 to 4. The project does not address the drivers of degradation.

c) Cleared.

d) No please detail the stakeholders involved and their roles related to project objectives and components. Precise in particular how the community-based groups, associations, and civil society organizations will be part of the different activities from decisions, management to restoration on the ground.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

b)The comments above have now been addressed

Additional text has been added in the rationale section of the narrative:

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.

Following on from this, a new output has been added to component 3 as follows:

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.*

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a)This has now been developed, and 7 specific points have been used in the explanation.

b)As explained in the responses to comments above the project has now been substantially revised to address drivers more clearly.

d) A table of stakeholders identifying the specific roles of each one has now been included

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

04/14/2026

Cleared.

04/13/2026

a) Not cleared. The diagram for ToC has disappeared from the project document. Please reintroduce the diagram.

b) Cleared.

03/30/2026

a) Not cleared. Please address the comments still pending on addressing drivers of BD loss and update the ToC including them in the narrative logic.

b) Not cleared. Thanks for complements added in the project design. See comments above on Component 1 and update. Clarify what is the definition, and what are the criteria of OECMs in the local context of Solomon Islands. Precise the areas are going to be recognized, upstream the natural areas already community-managed or upstream in the watersheds were there are activities (agriculture, forestry...)?

Cleared for Component 3 and 4.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. Please address comments above on drivers of BD loss to be addressed, and on the integrated landscape approach to improve status of the biodiversity, and update the ToC. The ToC does not clearly demonstrate the impact of the project on drivers of BD loss and how actions to be implemented will be sustainable and will generate benefits in status of BD.

b) Not cleared. See comments above on eligibility and update the project in the different components.

- Component 1 should better deliver changes in policy, legislation and practices that impact the 3 locations, before just considering areas of degradation and ways to restoration.

- Component 3 should clearly demonstrate how it will deliver benefits on status of biodiversity. Please consider including monitoring of the status of the BD for each areas targeted to clearly follow and assess results. Please also describe what processes will be implemented for protected or rare species that will be produced and used in the activities. Please, precise precautions taken to avoid introduction of IAS in the project activities.

- Component 4, please explain how the project can be used as a production of knowledge, and will work with research institutes and universities to monitor or participate in activities, and how the lessons learnt can be used by education ministry to improve knowledge and scholar curriculum.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 14 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

Kindly note that the TOC has been uploaded in the portal as well as the track changes and clean versions of the revised word documents.

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a)The pending comments have now been addressed, and the ToC revised accordingly.

b)Component 1 has been updated. Additional text has been added regarding OECMs as follows:

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.

In addition, changes have been made to outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.6 to provide more explanation of project interventions relating to OECMs as follows:

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*

1.1.6. 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.*

But at this stage it is not possible to identify precisely where OECMs might be recognised, and the total area to be recognised. This will need to be explored in much more detail during the PPG phase.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a) the changes made to all the comments above and now more clearly demonstrates the impact of the project on drivers of BD loss and how the actions will be sustainable and generate BD status benefits

b) Outputs have been modified and additional outputs included in light of all of the above comments

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

Cleared.

03/12/2026

Not cleared. Please see comments above on eligibility and ToC, and provide reasoning since baseline scenario to project design.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. A section has now been added on incremental cost reasoning

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

a) Cleared. The expected executing partner is the Ministry of Environment (MECDM).

b) NA

c) Cleared.

d) Cleared. Please see comments on Component 4 to improve links with universities and research entities to better take profit of the project's knowledge production.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. This is duly noted and will be taken into consideration during the PPG

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBS (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

04/15/2026.

Cleared.

04/14/2026

Not cleared. Please enter the right indicators in the portal not only in Excel file. CI 5 and 5.3 are still not filled in the portal view. The right CI for marine OECMs is 5.3 (there is a mistake in the excel sheet).

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

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

4/14/2026

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at f |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|

It also seems that some areas that have not yet been formally designated as protected areas could be considered as OECMs. Please clarify if the OECMs are areas in community managed protected areas or in a kind of buffer zones of those areas. This will considerably change the impact of the project.

04/13/2026

a) Not cleared.

- Thanks for your comment on OECMs and status of areas targeted. You still can plan a target at this stage for CI 4.5 and 5.3 and adjust the level at PPG stage.

- Please address the previous comment for CI 3.1 and 3.4, and on CI 5 and adjust the target level during PPG phase if needed.

03/30/2026

a) Not cleared. The component 1 planned to recognize and support OECMs. Consistently with this output, CI 1.1 and 4.5 for contextual indicator for terrestrial parts, and CI 2.1 and 5.3 for contextual indicator for marine parts, should be tagged for creation of new protected areas. For areas community-managed formally recognized: On the WH website for tentative list designating Marovo lagoon, it is written that "Legislative protection for many of these areas is being pursued through provincial ordinances that support customary management". If they are legally protected as written through provincial ordinances, please consider tagging CI 1.2 and 2.2 and adding Ha for Improvement of protected areas. Please consider clarifying also status for the 2 other natural areas targeted and community managed and add consistently number of Ha.

The project plans activities of restoration in mangroves and wetlands : please tag CI 3.4. It seems also that agricultural areas will be targeted: "Livelihoods linked to biodiversity management which addresses key threats and underlying drivers, 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.); and to develop sustainable agriculture and add value to agricultural products (these options will be more fully explored in the PPG phase)". If so, please tag CI 3.1.

If Marine areas are targeted in planification, improvement of practices, outside of the protected areas, please tag CI 5.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. Please clarify if some areas targeted by the project scope (especially after updating the project) are terrestrial or marine protected areas. If such, please add CI 1 and CI 2.

b) Cleared.

Agency's Comments

IUCN 15 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

Thank you very much. As advised, we have corrected the entries in the portal as well as numbered the OECM related indicator as 5.3 correcting it from 5.4 in the core indicators worksheet.

Thank you very much for your comment on the OECMs. Kindly note that all these OECMs are in community managed areas and not in PAs or buffer zones of PAs.

IUCN 14 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

Kindly note that the updated core indicators worksheet has now been uploaded and the revisions also reflected in the track changes and clean versions of the PIF.

Targets now added for 4.5 and 5.4 (marine OECMs is 5.4 in the Excel version of the core indicators sheet that I have, not 5.3?)

Previous comments on CI 3.1 and 3.4 now also addressed.

For CI 4 there only appear to be two sub-indicators in the worksheet 5.1 is fisheries certification and 5.4 is marine OECMs. Through the project will work with local communities to improve fisheries management, this will not be through a certification process. Other types of improved practices in marine areas may include better management of coral reefs and seagrasses

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

Kindly note that by definition, OECMs are not protected areas and so therefore do not require the use of CI 1 and 2. A separate indicator on hectares of terrestrial and marine OECMs that might be recognized during the project timeframe will be developed, but this will only be possible in the PPG phase.

Please also note that legislative recognition of community-management rights is not the same as formal designation of a protected area.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. The project will not be working with formal protected areas for the reasons outlined in the newly added section that explains why this approach was selected rather than other approaches. The approach is one of community-based resource management. As a result, there is no need to include CI 1 or 2.

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?

b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

a) Cleared.

c) Cleared.

03/12/2026

a) Not cleared. Please complete for Financial and Business Model category

b) Cleared.

c) Not cleared. We note that IUCN has attached IUCN Preliminary ESMS Screening and an overall ESS risk is classified as Moderate.

1. Solomon Islands is a country listed on the WBG FY26 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations. Please ensure that the project conducted conflict and fragility assessment/analysis and integrating mitigation measures including capacity building activities and collaboration with local partners into the project design during PPG.
2. Please ensure identifying vulnerable population in the project areas and engaging with them during PPG and integrate their inputs into the project design.
3. Please ensure obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples about project design during PPG and throughout the project implementation including monitoring.
4. Please consider integrating existing Indigenous Peoples governance, ensuring security of tenure and territories and capacity building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a part of project activities, particularly in Component 1, 2 and 3.
5. Please also consider including monitoring indicators related to: Indigenous Peoples and local communities 1. governance, 2. capacity building, and 3. ensuring security of tenure and territories during PPG.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comments.

a) Kindly note that now the financial and business model category have been completed.

c)

1. The point is well noted and the intention taken to integrate capacity building activities with local partners during the PPG phase.

2. The point is well noted, and it is the full intention to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are both understood and integrated into project design.

3. In engaging with local communities who have legal customary rights over their land and resources, the project will fully comply with Solomon Islands law, ensuring that FPIC is carried out through the project cycle from design into implementation.

4. The point made here is well taken. It should be acknowledged that communities in Solomon Islands have customary ownership of their land (accounting for around 85% of total land). On this basis, security of tenure is not a prime objective of the project to be addressed. However, it is critical that the project adheres to Solomon Islands law in recognising territorial and resource rights, ensuring that all community members are able to exercise these rights in relation to project interventions, including women, youth, elderly and disabled. Otherwise, the project acknowledges the need to engage with Indigenous Peoples governance and incorporate relevant capacity building activities into project design.

5. The comment is noted and will be addressed in the PPG phase (see comment 4. directly above in relation to security of tenure).

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

a) Yes, cleared.

03/30/2026

a) There are still comments to address to ensure that the project will be integrated, durable and transformative.

03/12/2026

a) No. Please see comments on the systemic approach and sustainability of the project.

b) Cleared. Yes, the scaling up is possible in other sites. Innovation is possible in integrated landscape management approach through community lead and at landscape level.

Agency's Comments

IUCN 07 April 2026

a) Thank you very much for your comment. All comments have now been addressed.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

a) Thank you very much for your comment. The systemic approach of the project has now been significantly revised through the changes made in response to all comments

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. Please see comments above.

03/12/2026

Not cleared. See comment in box 1 and update the project.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. All comments above have now been addressed

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

Based on the changes made we now believe that the project is in line with the GEF-8 programming Strategy on Biodiversity

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

Cleared.

03/12/2026

Not cleared. Please precise for targets involving IPLCs, women, used of biodiversity (i.e. 1, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22, 23).

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

A table has now been included, highlighting how the project contributes to each of these KMGBF Targets

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. Please answer the question in the portal.

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?

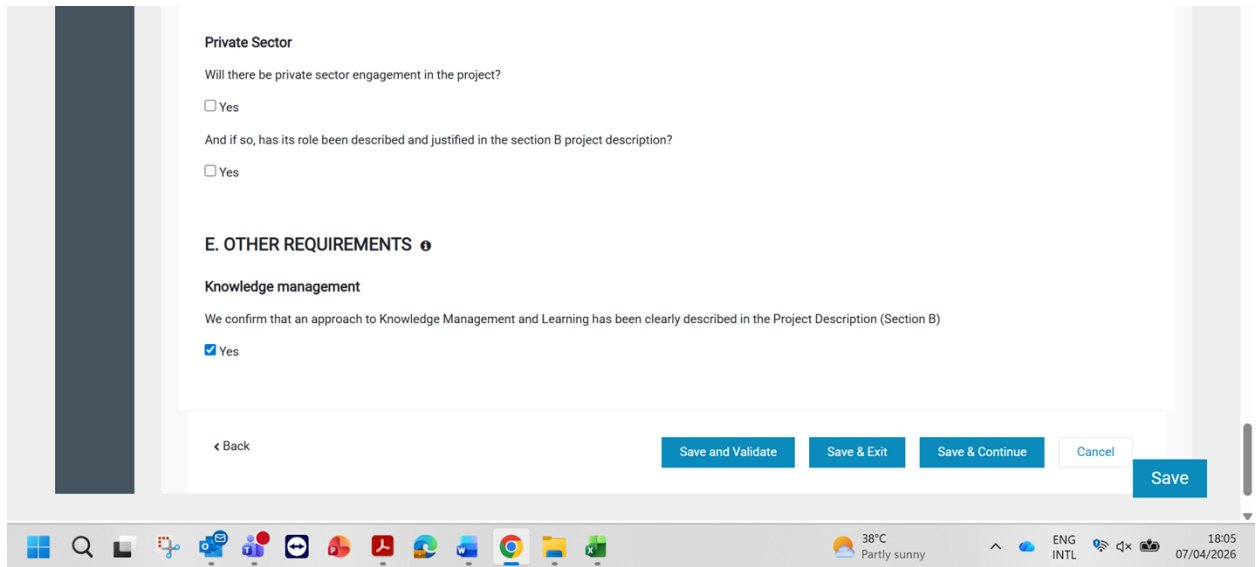
03/12/2026

Not cleared. Please precise for Private sector, engaged or not in the project.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. Kindly note that in the portal we have not answered as evident from the screenshot there is only an option to select Yes and there is no option to select otherwise. As of now there is no private sector engagement in the project.



IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. Kindly note that the private sector is not directly engaged in the project

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's CommentsCleared.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. There is still a mistake in the letter and verify the calculation before resubmitting because totals are wrong. Update with the portal.

| EF agency | Focal Area Source | Amount (in US\$) | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | GEF Project Financing | GEF Project Financing Agency Fee |
| ICN | BD STAR Allocation | 5,382,714 | 484,216 |
| sources | | 5,380,714 | 484,216 |

03/12/2026

Not cleared. Please correct the amounts in the General Portal Information or in the letter to be consistent:

- 5,382,714 is in the letter, while in the portal:

Grant: (a)

5,380,174.00

- In the letter :

$5,382,714 + 484,216 + 150,000 + 13,500 + 6,027,890 = 6\,030\,430$ USD

- Idem in the financing tables amounts are not consistent with the letter.

Please update either the portal or the letter.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. Kindly note that the corrected letter is now uploaded.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. The corrected LoE has now been uploaded.

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments

03/30/2026

Cleared.

03/12/2026

Please provide precise and readable maps of the 3 locations selected for the restoration activities showing clearly the whole landscape included in the project.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. Improved maps have now been provided

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments

03/12/2026

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments

04/13/2026

Cleared.

03/30/2026

Not cleared. The comment has not been addressed and the taxonomy sheet still has a lot of references not consistent with the project scope. I.e. remove references to Integrated programmes, protected areas if not part of the project, Financial and accounting...

03/12/2026

Not cleared. Please revise the taxonomy has a lot of references are not consistent with the project scope. I.e. remove references to Integrated programmes, protected areas if not part of the project, Financial and accounting...

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 7 April 2026

Thank you very much for your comment.

Kindly note that the corrected Taxonomy worksheet is now entered in Annex F section of the portal removing references that are not relevant.

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much for your comment. As advised, the taxonomy worksheet has been reviewed and revised.

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

04/15/2026

All the comments were addressed. The project is recommended for technical clearance.

04/14/2026

The project is not yet ready. Please address the comments.

04/13/2026

The project is not yet ready. Please address the comments.

03/30/2026

The project is not yet ready. Please address the comments.

03/18/2026

The project is not yet ready. Please address the comments.

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

1. In the development of the Gender Analysis and Action Plan, please ensure that the activities developed are included in the project documents, and that the GAP aligns with the project components. Please ensure that in the development of the results framework, gender-specific indicators are included to facilitate monitoring and reporting. Please make a reference to include in PIRs, MTRs and TE, reports on gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.
2. Solomon Islands is a country listed on the WBG FY26 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations. Please ensure that the project conducted conflict and fragility assessment/analysis and integrating mitigation measures including capacity building activities and collaboration with local partners into the project design during PPG.
3. Please ensure identifying vulnerable population in the project areas and engaging with them during PPG and integrate their inputs into the project design.
4. Please ensure obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples about project design during PPG and throughout the project implementation including monitoring.
5. Please consider integrating existing Indigenous Peoples governance, ensuring security of tenure and territories and capacity building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a part of project activities, particularly in Component 1, 2 and 3.
6. Please also consider including monitoring indicators related to: Indigenous Peoples and local communities 1. governance, 2. capacity building, and 3. ensuring security of tenure and territories during PPG.
7. It seems that some areas that have not yet been formally designated as protected areas could be considered as OECMs. Please clarify if the OECMs are areas in community

managed protected areas or in a kind of buffer zones of those areas. Please precise the criteria for designating OECMs in the context of Solomon Islands.

Agency's Comments

IUCN, 30 March 2026

Thank you very much. These comments are duly noted for the PPG phase.

Review Dates

| | PIF Review | Agency Response |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| First Review | 3/18/2026 | 3/30/2026 |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 3/31/2026 | 4/8/2026 |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 4/13/2026 | 4/14/2026 |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 4/14/2026 | 4/15/2026 |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | | |