

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR)

Region

Asia

GEF Project ID

11718

Country(ies)

Fiji

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

IFAD

GEF Agency Project ID

2000005355

Project Executing Entity(s)

Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways (MoAW)

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Project Executing Type

Government

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

12/18/2025

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

72

GEF Project Grant: (a)

8,226,629.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

781,529.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

9,008,158.00

Total Co-financing

25,362,869.00

PPG Amount: (e)

200,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

19,000.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

9,227,158.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approach, Indigenous Peoples, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Awareness Raising, Communications, Education, Public Campaigns, Enabling Activities, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Learning, Knowledge Exchange, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Fisheries, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Invasive Alien Species, Mangroves, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Tropical Dry Forests, Rivers, REDD - REDD+, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Forest, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Food Security, Small Island Developing States, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Mitigation

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

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. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The archipelagic nation of Fiji faces unique environmental and socioeconomic challenges. The project aims to address loss of biodiversity and ecosystem deterioration stemming from unsustainable practices, coastal development, and over-exploitation of forest, mineral and marine resources. The RESAR project, a joint initiative blending the proposed GEF financing and a USD 5.3 million IFAD concessional loan, along with cofinancing from other partners, seeks to transform the country's second largest island of Vanua Levu into a model of blue and green economic sustainability.

RESAR will mainstream integrated island management by implementing coordinated practices across terrestrial, coastal, and marine areas. The project will introduce climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and ecosystem restoration in priority landscapes, restoring degraded forest, mangrove, and agricultural lands. Activities will strengthen local value chains by linking agriculture and tourism, expanding market access for rural producers. Institutional capacity-building and knowledge management will support the adoption of sustainable practices across sectors, while partnerships will enhance collaboration across Fiji and the Pacific region.

The project's expected global environmental benefits include restoring 3,250 hectares of ecosystems, implementing sustainable practices across 134,000 hectares of landscapes, and mitigating 1.127 million tons of CO₂e emissions. Directly benefiting 26,300 people (half of whom will be women) RESAR will create a replicable model for resilient livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation in Fiji and beyond.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Improved rural livelihoods and climate resilience through sustainable blue and green production, improved market access and biodiversity protection.

Project Components

1. Holistic island management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
674,520.00	2,079,560.00

Outcome:

1.1: Alignment of actors, efforts, and resources for holistic island management.

Indicators and targets:

- Integrated Island Management Plan endorsed by three provincial councils and reflected in provincial strategic development plans (SDPs);
- (b) Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system tracking the Integrated Management Plan under implementation.
- (c) Three (3) agencies / sectors with work programmes and budgetary frameworks aligned with the Integrated Island Management Plan.
- (d) 133,500 ha of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (GEF8 CI 4.1)

Output:

1.1.1. Integrated Island Management Plan for Vanua Levu developed, endorsed, and institutionalized through updated provincial SDPs. incorporating biodiversity conservation priorities, climate change adaptation measures, ecosystem-based approaches, and environmental safeguards.

1.1.2. Financing and implementation arrangements for priority environmental and climate-resilient actions under the Integrated Island Management Plan actions agreed and reflected in provincial SDPs

2. Sustainable and market-oriented production from resilient systems

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,500,000.00	16,956,615.00

Outcome:

2.1: Increased sustainable and market-oriented production from resilient systems.

Indicators and targets:

- (a) 50% of households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities.
- (b) 2400 households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices.
- (c) 70% of households satisfied with project-supported services.
- (d) 70% of households reporting they can influence decision-making of local authorities and project-supported service providers.

2.2: Strengthened participatory conservation and restoration, higher adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient practices.

Indicators and targets:

- (a) 98,051 ha and (b) 50% of terrestrial key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Vanua Levu and Taveuni under community management.
 (c) Three (3) community led species action plans under implementation.
 (d) Ten (10) communities managing the conversion of marginalized land into agroecological, climate-resilient systems.
 (e) 3,250 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF8 CI 3).
 (f) 500 ha under sustainable management in production systems (GEF8 CI 4.3).
 (g) 1,127,542 tCO₂e of GHG emissions mitigated in the AFOLU sector (GEF8 CI 6.1)

Output:

2.2.1. Forests and freshwater habitats under improved management to benefit biodiversity with enhanced local livelihood opportunities.

2.2.2 Fiji's key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and keystone species better managed to reduce anthropogenic pressures and enhance ecological resilience under projected climate conditions, in alignment with the NBSAP.

2.2.3. Improved management of the impacts of agricultural land degradation (including abandoned sugar cane fields) and runoff on marine ecosystems and freshwater biodiversity.

3. Inclusive access to market and finance

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
500,000.00	1,541,510.00

Outcome:

3.1: Inclusive access to market and finance, including options to save and invest remittances.

Indicators and targets:

- (a) 35 rural producers' organisations (1050 total number of PO members, 525 women members, 315 youth members) engaged in formal partnerships/ agreements or contracts with public or private entities.
 (b) 66% of households reporting using financial services
 (c) 500 persons with new jobs/employment opportunities (250 female, 150 youth, 375 Indigenous peoples).

Output:

3.1.1. Rural enterprises have access to business development services.

3.1.2. Rural enterprises have access to finance.

3.1.3. Climate smart investments for agri-business, including eco-tourism, delivered.

4. Enabling policy and institutional environment

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
932,165.00	2,873,884.00

Outcome:

4.1: Enabling policy and institutional environment strengthened.

Indicators and targets:

- (a) Three (3) policy/regulatory instruments proposed to policy makers for approval, ratification or amendment.
 (b) Improved institutional capacities for MoAW and MoFF with respect to sustainable land management, measured using the project-adapted institutional capacity assessment scorecard.
 (c) 50% of respondents to knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey indicating that they or their group has received financial incentives (such as grants,

subsidies, or payments) to change land use practices

(d) 20 knowledge products developed and disseminated nationally; (e) of which five (5) showcase traditional knowledge.

Output:

4.1.1 Innovative policies developed.

4.1.2. Institutional capacities strengthened through training and support to extension services.

4.1.3. Innovative models for environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economic initiatives.

4.1.4. Knowledge management and communications implemented, with traditional ecological knowledge integrated in partnership with iTaukei Affairs.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
228,200.00	703,545.00

Outcome:

Project implementation and results strengthened through participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Output:

Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Holistic island management	674,520.00	2,079,560.00
2. Sustainable and market-oriented production from resilient systems	5,500,000.00	16,956,615.00
3. Inclusive access to market and finance	500,000.00	1,541,510.00
4. Enabling policy and institutional environment	932,165.00	2,873,884.00
M&E	228,200.00	703,545.00
Subtotal	7,834,885.00	24,155,114.00
Project Management Cost	391,744.00	1,207,755.00

Total Project Cost (\$)	8,226,629.00	25,362,869.00
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Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

Global environmental significance

The Republic of Fiji is an archipelagic nation made up of over 330 islands in the Western Pacific Ocean, situated within the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot. It encompasses a diverse array of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems which are home to a wide range of threatened and endemic species. The country's forested areas cover approximately 1,054,419 hectares, accounting for 58% of its total landmass of 1.8 million hectares. These forests serve as habitats for the majority of Fiji's endemic flora and fauna, with 35% of the country's 2,641 plant species being endemic. Fiji's vegetation varies across different altitudes. Cloud forests can be found at elevations of 600 meters or higher near the coast and 900 meters or higher inland. Upland rainforests occupy regions above 600 meters in both wet and dry zones. Lowland rainforests with broad-leaf trees exist in the wet regions of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, stretching from near sea level up to 600 meters in altitude. Dry forests are present in the dry areas of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, although many of these ecosystems have been adversely affected by fire and persistent grazing. Talasiga vegetation flourishes in fire-degraded environments, extending from sea level up to 1,000 meters in elevation. This type of vegetation emerges from once forested dry lowlands that have been degraded by fire and over-grazing, resulting in a mosaic of pyrophytic grasslands and savannahs. Mangrove forests, on the other hand, are commonly found in river estuaries along the coastlines.

Vanua Levu's unique ecosystems and biodiversity make it stand out within the Fiji archipelago. The island's geological history, diverse habitats and altitudinal gradients create distinct ecological zones that support high levels of endemism and intact forest systems. Safeguarding these values is essential for biodiversity conservation and for sustainable blue and green development in the Northern Division. Two design-phase studies underpin the spatial logic of this project: the *Vanua Levu Profile* (see **Annex L**), which describes biodiversity values across the island, and a preliminary *Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis* (see **Annex M**), which applies a weighted overlay and region selection to identify a balanced set high biodiversity areas outside from existing and proposed protected areas for improving management. These provide a defensible foundation for the proposed Integrated Island Management Plan.

Vanua Levu Island, the second largest island of Fiji, has an area of 5,556 square kilometres, with the central mountain range dividing the island into the wetter southeastern section and the drier northwestern region. Vanua Levu is divided into three provinces: Bua in the west, Macuata in the northeast, and Cakaudrove in the southeast; these three provinces comprise the Northern Division of Fiji. There are several key biodiversity areas (KBAs) delineated across the island (see **Figure 1**), including the 72,594-ha Wailevu/Dreketi Highlands KBA (Site ID 20326), extending across Macuata and Cakaudrove provinces and hosting several bird species, including the Shy Ground-dove (*Alopecoenas stairi*; IUCN Red List: Vulnerable VU) and the Long-legged Thicketbird (*Megalurulus rufus*; IUCN Red List: Endangered EN). The 7,633-ha Mount Kasi KBA (Site ID 23721), situated in an area of rich mineral resources, is of international significance because of the occurrence

of the critically endangered (IUCN Red List: CR) plant species of *Gardenia anapetes*, *Astronidium kasiense*, and *Metrosideros ochrantha*. The 23,360-ha Mount Navotuvotu KBA (Site ID 23724) is located in the south part of Bua Province and harbours the critically endangered plant species of *Gardenia anapetes* and *Astronidium inflatum*. The 5,882-ha Dogotuki Catchment KBA (Site ID 23740), one of the three catchments in Vanua Levu that were included in the GEF-5 ridge-to-reef project (GEF ID 5398) is located in the northeast part of Macuata Province and hosts the endangered Lau Banded Iguana (*Brachylophus fasciatus*) and the vulnerable plant species *Degeneria vitiensis*. Other terrestrial KBAs in Vanua Levu include Udu Point (Site ID 23735), Naicobocobo Dry Forests (Site ID 23727), Nasigasiga (Site ID 23730), the Waisali Dakua National Trust Forest (Site ID 23742), Mount Sorolevu (Site ID 23726), and Mount Nubuiloa (Site ID 23725). Among the terrestrial KBAs in Vanua Levu, less than 5% are under protection according to information contained in the KBA database.

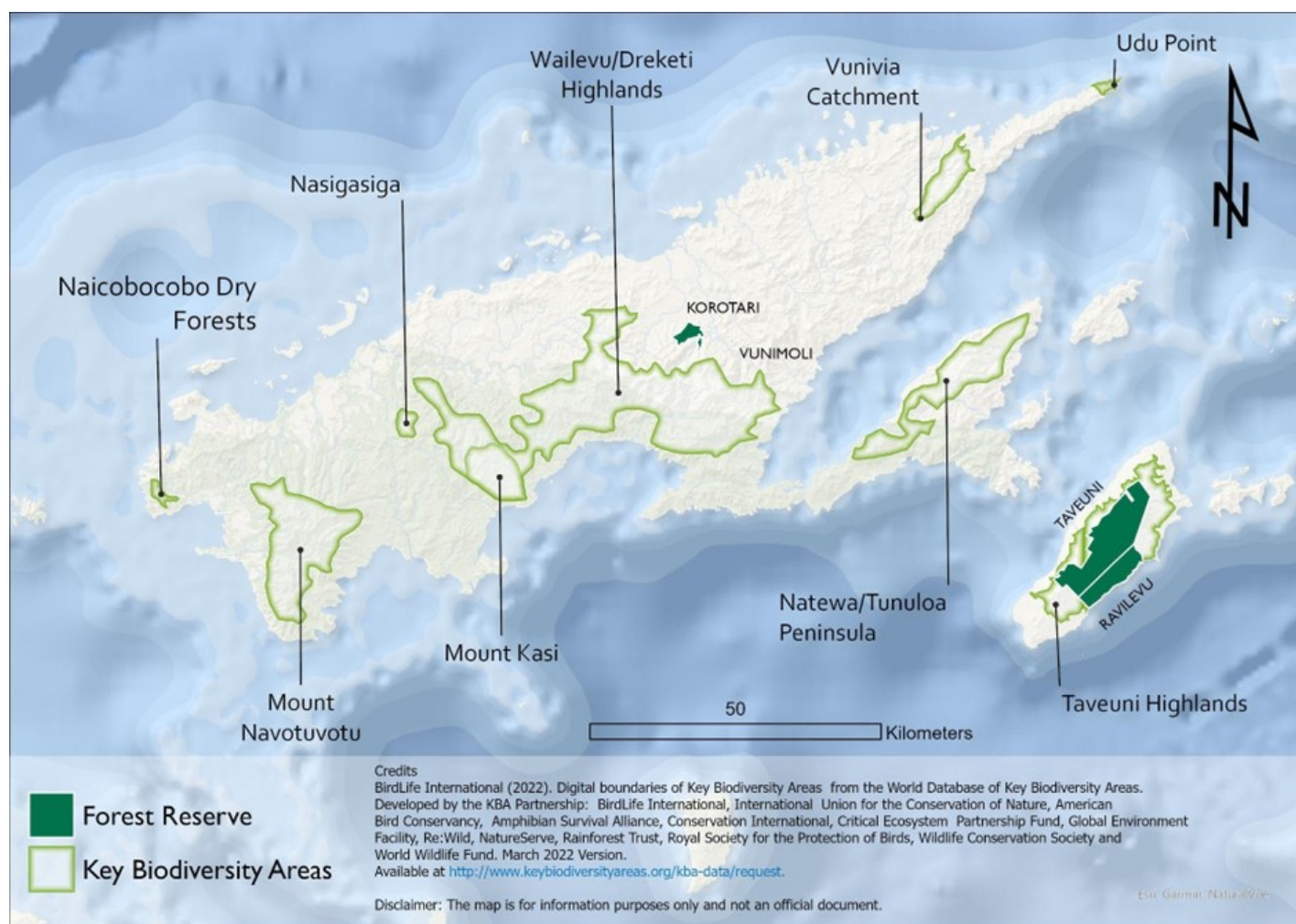


Figure 1: Map showing KBAs and forest reserves

There are also marine KBAs adjacent to Vanua Levu, including the vast Vatu-i-Ra Marine KBA (Site ID 31007), covering 554,385 ha between the southwestern tip of Bua Province and the northeastern shore of the island of Viti Levu. The 448,150-ha Namenelala Marine KBA (Site ID 31008) is situated off the southeastern coast of Vanua Levu, and the 365,094-ha Taveuni Marine KBA (Site ID 31009) is located between the northeastern coast of Vanua Levu and the island of Taveuni to the east. Also, the Great Sea Reef, referred to locally as Cakaulevu, the third longest continuous barrier reef system in the southern hemisphere, extends more than 200 km from the northeastern tip of Udu point in Vanua Levu to the northwest edge of Bua Province, and running across the Vatuiria passage and along the coastlines of Ra and Ba provinces. Together

with mangroves and seagrass meadows, these systems form connected nurseries and storm buffers that sustain coastal fisheries, protect households and support premium nature-based tourism.

As outlined in the *Vanua Levu Profile* (see **Annex L**), the island's landscapes and seascapes anchor biodiversity of Pacific and global importance. Natewa Bay holds spinner dolphins and migratory whales alongside unique coral and reef fish communities. The Great Sea Reef along the north coast supports at least twelve threatened species, including hawksbill and green turtles, reef sharks, manta rays, humphead wrasse and giant clams, and it functions as a nursery that sustains coastal fisheries for thousands of households. The Somosomo Strait is known internationally as the Soft Coral Capital of the World, linking coral biodiversity with high value dive tourism and local reef fisheries. The Ringgold Islands support large seabird nesting colonies and turtle breeding sites, providing critical habitat for migratory species in an intact offshore island system. Mangroves and seagrass meadows around Vanua Levu form an ecological triad with adjacent reefs, buffering storms, storing blue carbon and feeding reef fisheries through nursery functions. Protecting these assets on Vanua Levu keeps globally important biodiversity alive while safeguarding the food, jobs and storm protection that local families rely on.

The National Context: Fiji's Blue and Green Economies

The agriculture and tourism sectors have been the leading drivers of Fiji's economy and among the key pillars of green growth frameworks for the country. Among Pacific Islands, Fiji leads the tourism industry, attracting more than 40% of all international arrivals to the region.^{[1]¹} The tourism industry contributes about 40% (both directly and indirectly) to Fiji's GDP and has emerged as one of the key sectors and a significant contributor to economic growth. Apart from job creation and income generation, the sector has also contributed to infrastructure development.^{[2]²} In 2023, Fiji's tourism sector thrived, hosting 929,740 travellers, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by 4% and contributing USD 3.3 billion to the economy. Direct tourism has added value to the Fijian economy in 2023 of USD 1499.3 million. Tourism revenues have shown significant growth. From April to December 2022, 587,406 visitors arrived and contributed FJD 2.098 billion (approx. USD 0.93 billion) to the economy. This industry reduces poverty and promotes citizen well-being and social welfare development. Approximately 120,000 jobs are supported in this sector, representing 36.5% of the total employment in 2022.

Agriculture also remains key to the prosperity of rural people and to the country as *the sector supports the livelihoods of 27% of Fiji's population and is the main source of work for more than 83% of Fiji's rural population* [3]. Agriculture plays a crucial role in Fiji's economy, contributing to income generation, employment, and food security. Agriculture accounts for around 7% of Fiji's GDP and employs approximately 27% of the population. The sector is particularly significant for rural communities, providing livelihoods for over 83% of Fiji's rural population. Key agricultural exports, such as sugar, coconuts, and tropical fruits, contribute to Fiji's foreign exchange earnings and economic growth.

As reported in the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census (2020FAC)^{[4]⁴}, there were 70,991 agricultural (including crop & livestock, fisheries, and forestry) households counted, consisting of a total of 300,861 household members, of whom 51.7% were male and 48.3% were female. The total area of farmland was recorded at 194,768.6 ha, with 54.1% operated under traditional ownership (Mataqali, Tokatoka, Yuvusa, Kovukovu), 23.7% under native lease, 13.9% under freehold, 6.0% under lease from the State, and 2.1% under informal arrangement, and only 0.2% without any legal or other arrangement. The largest number of households (65%) have agricultural land that is less than 1 ha, and 21% of households have land more than 1 to 3 ha. Only 0.5% of households have more than 50 ha of agricultural land. Ensuring food security is a critical issue for Fiji, given

its reliance on imported food. Strengthening the agricultural sector can help improve the country's self-sufficiency in food production and support a vital component of Fiji's social fabric, with strong linkages to the well-being of its people and the nation's economic prosperity.

The blue economy, referred to in Fiji's National Climate Finance Strategy 2022^[5] as the "use of ocean resources – such as fisheries and coastal ecosystems including mangroves, sea grass, and coral reefs – to support ecosystem health and improved livelihoods". In a study made in 2015 on the value of environmental services from marine and coastal resources in Fiji, the cumulative total was USD 1,101 million to 1,121 million per year, with the largest contributing services coming from tourism (coral reef and lagoon) at USD 458.9 million per year and ocean (carbon sequestration) at USD 406.99 million per year.^[6] Fiji has strong international brand recognition and is in a favourable position to leverage blue economic development with its unique natural resources.

Fiji has also been making strides in developing its green economy, which focuses on sustainable and ecofriendly practices across various sectors. Some notable initiatives and areas of focus include the following:

- **Organic and sustainable agriculture:** There is a growing emphasis on promoting organic farming, agroforestry, and sustainable agricultural practices. This not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also supports food security and livelihoods, particularly in rural areas.
- **Ecosystem services and natural resource management:** Fiji recognizes the economic value of its ecosystems and is working to better manage its natural resources. This includes efforts to protect biodiversity, promote sustainable forestry, and explore opportunities for revenue generation through ecosystem services.
- **Renewable energy:** Fiji has set ambitious targets for renewable energy generation, aiming to increase its share of electricity from renewable sources. Efforts are being made to diversify beyond hydropower, with investments in solar and other clean energy technologies.
- **Climate change adaptation and resilience:** As a small island nation, Fiji is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country is taking steps to enhance its resilience, such as investing in climate-smart infrastructure and improving disaster risk management.

Overall, Fiji's commitment to a green economy reflects its recognition of the importance of sustainable development, both for its people and the planet

Strengthening the Blue and Green Economies

The important production sectors of agriculture and tourism require sound management and sustainable use of Fiji's valuable and sensitive biodiversity and natural resources. Unsustainable agriculture practices have led to land degradation, loss of valuable biodiversity, deterioration of coastal and land ecosystems and reduction of carbon stocks. Increasing climatic variability heightens the risk profile of existing production systems. Low productivity, uncertain market access, including access to finance, all threaten the future of agri-food security in the country

There are also under-developed economic linkages between the agriculture sectors. In a 2018 study by the International Finance Corporation^[7], specific fresh produce items were identified that have potential import replacement by local producers, reducing the sector's and country's heavy dependence on imported food supply. There were, however, several constraints identified in the IFC report, including inconsistent supply, seasonality of produce available locally, poor quality of products, lack of food safety standards, and lack of networking between hotels, local producers and suppliers. The objectives in that 2018 study regarding import replacement and self-reliance have not been achieved and are a priority for this project.

Vanua Levu Assets Powering the Blue and Green Economy

Vanua Levu has received less public and private investment than Viti Levu, which has left market linkages thin and raised transaction costs for producers. Yet tourism on the island already offers formal employment and enterprise opportunities, particularly for women. In addition, the World Bank's forthcoming tourism development operation on Vanua Levu is both timely and catalytic.^[8] The opportunity is to shape growth so that natural capital becomes the basis for value creation. The specific assets that anchor this opportunity are set out below.

Vanua Levu concentrates natural assets of exceptional value to biodiversity and to livelihoods. The Great Sea Reef along the north coast is a globally significant hotspot that supports at least twelve threatened species and serves as a nursery that sustains coastal fisheries for thousands of households. Natewa Bay and the Somosomo Strait hold unique coral and reef fish communities, spinner dolphins and migratory whales, and they link biodiversity directly to high value dive tourism and local reef fisheries. The Ringgold Islands add an intact offshore system with large seabird nesting colonies and turtle rookeries that strengthen fisheries and eco-tourism potential. Mangroves and seagrass meadows around Vanua Levu complete the picture by buffering storms, storing blue carbon that can be monetized and feeding adjacent reefs through nursery functions, which together underpin household food security and the island's blue economy.

These ecological assets create tangible market opportunities when managed well. Despite its assets, Vanua Levu has historically lagged behind Viti Levu in development and infrastructure. This gap is an opportunity to shape island development so that growth depends on keeping reefs, forests and mangroves intact, while shifting demand from imports to high quality Vanua Levu produce, coupling sustainable fisheries with certification and premium tourism experiences, and directing market rewards to communities that steward these assets. Agri-tourism then provides a practical pathway for farm diversification that links villages to visitor markets and keeps more value on the island.

Key nationwide drivers

Several interconnected root causes are driving increased threats to island ecosystems and livelihoods in Fiji. Development pressure continues to grow in the country from tourism, agro-industries, and housing, coupled with poorly planned development, leading to over-exploitation of forest, mineral, and marine resources, including removal of forest cover through agricultural conversion, logging, and mining operations. These threats are causing a multitude of problems, including loss of biodiversity and carbon stocks, fragmentation of habitats, and deterioration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, e.g., from increased levels of siltation and pollution.

The IUCN 2021 assessment identifies invasive species and agriculture as the top terrestrial threats.^[9] Unsustainable agricultural practices are leading to increased erosion, run-off of agrochemicals, decreased soil fertility and poor pest and disease management. Market shifts have driven rapid expansion of yaqona while sugarcane has declined, and many cane fields are now abandoned.^[10] These trends reflect Fiji's diminishing share of the global sugar market, lower subsidies and non-renewal of native land leases for cane plantations.^{[11]³}

Abandoned cane lands present a practical opportunity for diversified farming and agroforestry, invasive species control, targeted renewable energy siting, reforestation and nature-based tourism. Repurposing these lands can strengthen the green economy and improve resilience.

Inadequate land and resource management is compounded by limited access to technical extension support, finance, and diversified market opportunities, which discourages investment in climate adaptive production and post-harvest activities. Remoteness and connectivity issues add to challenges to market access.

The primary threats to marine biodiversity, outlined in the 2021 IUCN report, are biological resource use, climate change, commercial coastal development, and pollution. Improper waste management has been a persistent challenge in Fiji from a variety of sources, including industrial areas, shipyards, oil storage depots, food processing, sewage, and urban and rural solid wastes as well as from agriculture.

Climate and natural hazards intensify every other driver. Fiji is highly exposed to cyclones, with large economic costs. Storms account for a significant share of mangrove loss, and coral damage was recorded after Cyclone Winston at depths of 20 to 30 metres. In agriculture, storm damage, water stress, erosion, nutrient loss and changing pest and disease profiles are growing concerns. Much farmland sits in coastal areas exposed to tidal surge, seawater intrusion and sea level rise, and smaller households are especially vulnerable due to limited adaptive capacity.^[12]

Additional Key drivers on Vanua Levu and Taveuni

On Vanua Levu and Taveuni, the main pressures are land conversion, logging and agricultural expansion, including the cultivation of yaqona into remaining forests. Additional pressures include invasive species, climate stress, and overuse of resources. These pressures sit over an already fragmented mosaic of intact forest, secondary growth and degraded lands in and around KBAs (see **Annex X: Vanua Levu Profile**). In Kubulau and Wairiki districts, the local KBAs have lost their buffer zones and forest loss comes right to the edge or into the KBA boundaries.

Degradation cascades from ridge to reef. Forest clearance and slash and burn practices reduce soil fertility and carbon, increase erosion and deliver sediment to rivers and coasts. The Dreketi District is a special case where former bauxite mines left exposed soil and incomplete restoration, which elevates sediment loads and water quality risks. The result is higher flood risk and chronic stress on coral systems in Natewa Bay and along the nearshore of the Great Sea Reef. The kuta wetlands in Macuata, Dreketi, and Kubulau districts are also sensitive to runoff from degraded lands. Where pressure is managed through qoliqoli stewardship and locally managed areas, ecosystems show signs of recovery, which underlines the value of integrated land and sea measures.

Agricultural shifts amplify these pressures. Yaqona has expanded while sugarcane has declined, and large tracts of former plantations and other cleared land now host invasive plants. This is the case in two Macuata districts where many cane fields now sit idle because leases have expired and landowners have not renewed them. Abandoned cane lands present a practical opportunity for diversified farming and agroforestry that restore soil and water functions and raise household income, especially where there are linkages to market demand from tourism and premium buyers. In Vuna district in Taveuni, freshwater is scarce, and cultivation is pushing into mid-capability land (Classes IV to VI), so the plan must prioritize soil conservation and water management.

Land tenure is a structural driver on Vanua Levu and Taveuni because most land is iTaukei customary (80%). Collective decision making, lease cycles and boundary norms shape where clearing happens, how quickly land use can change and whether abandoned lease lands are restored or drift into invasive cover. This tenure pattern helps explain why abandoned cane areas persist, why invasive species spread in some districts and why effective solutions require island scale coordination rather than isolated sites.

Invasive alien species (IAS) are major drivers of biodiversity loss on Vanua Levu and Taveuni, affecting forest regeneration, altering fire regimes and displacing native flora and fauna. Co-benefits of IAS control

through the project's restoration and community management interventions strengthens biodiversity outcomes and reduces long-term management burdens.

Climate and hazards intensify every other driver. From the wet southeast to the drier northwest, storms on Vanua Levu drive slides and runoff into Natewa Bay and the Great Sea Reef, while surge and saltwater intrusion hit mangroves and coastal farms; the first impacts are felt by families who rely on these ecosystems for food and income. More frequent events like Cyclone Winston shattered coral down to 20 to 30 metres and set back reef recovery for decades, undermining reef fisheries and dive tourism.

Marine pressures mirror those on land. Biological resource use, coastal development and pollution, including poor waste management, affect nearshore habitats. Reducing land-based runoff and managing fishing pressure in priority areas are essential to hold the line on reef health and to sustain coastal fisheries that thousands of households rely on.

These drivers are precisely why an integrated island approach is needed on Vanua Levu and Taveuni, so that land, freshwater and coastal actions are planned together and linked to markets that reward good stewardship.

Baseline policies, projects and initiatives

Fiji's National Development Plan (2017-2036) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2020-2025) emphasise the importance of integrating conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making and mainstreaming these issues across all sectors. Key sectors have indeed initiated such mainstreaming. The five strategic priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture's 5-year Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028 reflect the interlinkages between sustainable production and sound natural resource management and are also closely aligned with the proposed project strategy: SP1 (*Improve food and nutrition security for all Fijians*), SP2 (*Increase farmer household income for sustainable livelihoods*), SP3 (*Improve the adoption of sustainable resource management and climate-smart agriculture*), SP4 (*Establish and improve commercial agriculture*), and SP5 (*Improve quality of public sector performance and service delivery*). Forest conservation and sustainable management, including the implementation of REDD+ initiatives, are important aspects of the Ministry of Forestry's Operational Plan 2023-2024. The strategic priorities of the Fiji Tourism Plan 2022-2024 also focus on sustainability, including conservation and the interconnected social, cultural, and economic aspects. The Ministry of Fisheries Strategic Development Plan 2019-2029 includes strengthening coastal fisheries, generating benefits for communities in terms of food security and local employment, as well as incorporating marine protected areas in the management of fisheries.

The Government of Fiji is currently in the process of updating the NBSAP, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The proposed Integrated Island Management plan (Component 1) provides the sub-national vehicle to operationalize the updated NBSAP and GBF targets on the ground, so that policy commitments translate into prioritized hectares for protection, restoration, and improved management.

The Government of Fiji has identified import substitution as a key strategy to boost the country's economy, promote sustainable agriculture, and support the tourism sector. By encouraging local production and reducing reliance on imports, Fiji aims to retain more tourism revenue within the country and create new employment opportunities. The Reserve Bank of Fiji's Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility (ISEFF) plays a crucial role in this strategy by providing concessional funding to eligible businesses involved in import substitution, exports, public transportation, and renewable energy projects. This facility has been successful in assisting businesses, and its allocation has been increased to meet the growing demand. One example of import substitution efforts in Fiji is the focus on increasing local fresh produce production to meet the demands of the tourism sector. By reducing the food import bill and supporting local farmers, this initiative not only contributes to the green economy but also enhances the country's food security. Overall, the interdependence between the tourism and agriculture sectors in Fiji highlights the

importance of identifying opportunities for collaboration and driving demand for locally grown produce. This will ultimately create new markets and promote sustainable economic growth in the country. Specifically, this baseline creates demand pull for high-quality local production and services; **Component 2 (Outcome 2.1)** and **Component 3** convert that pull into climate-smart adoption, value-chain partnerships, and finance, while **Component 2 (Outcome 2.2)** safeguards biodiversity and reduces land-based runoff.

Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) includes a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below business-as-usual levels by 2030. According to its REDD+ National Strategy, Fiji will achieve this through improving forest management and conservation, implementing agro-forestry and reforestation initiatives, enhancing coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and seagrass meadows, and strengthening climate resilience in the agriculture sector. The Fiji National REDD+ Programme is supported by international partners, including the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). These partnerships help Fiji access technical assistance, capacity building, and financial resources to implement its REDD+ strategy and contribute to achieving its NDC targets. Through its NDC and REDD+ program, Fiji is taking significant steps to adopt climate-smart agriculture, with emphasis on the promotion of practices in crop management, livestock and sugarcane farming and fisheries (target 5); prioritisation of nature-based solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change and natural disasters (target 7); and conservation of natural environment and biodiversity wealth, enabling sustainable long-term provision of ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration potential (target 10). Outcome 2.2 channels restoration and sustainable land management toward Fiji's AFOLU mitigation pathway. Component 4 complements this by developing practical policy instruments to lock in emissions benefits and biodiversity outcomes, including conservation leases and guidance on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Conservation leases in this context refer to voluntary, time-bound agreements between landowning units and implementing entities that formalize conservation or restoration commitments in defined areas. Where communities elect to use them, such leases clarify roles, responsibilities, and benefit-sharing arrangements and may include structured support such as technical assistance, livelihood diversification assistance, or performance-based incentives. They are intended to formalize management transitions in areas facing active degradation pressures, rather than to replace customary stewardship practices that are already functioning effectively.

The iTaukei Land Trust Board has released the Master Land Use Plan for the Greater Northern Region (Vanua Levu and Taveuni) 2020-2040. This plan contains important provisions, including restrictions of any land use activities in areas beyond 35 degree slopes and areas above 650 m elevation; environmental screening for any proposed development in areas designed as key biodiversity areas; encouragement of multi-stakeholder engagement, collaboration and consultation; encouragement of sustainable tourism and sustainable development of places of natural beauty; ensuring the Greater Northern Region is self-sustaining in terms of food security; and conservation of watershed areas. These provisions are directly reflected in **Component 1**, namely through the development of the proposed Integrated Island Management Plan.

The IFAD “**Blue Economy and Green Community Development (BE-GREEN)**” Programme”, financed through a USD 5.3 IFAD highly concessional loan to the Government of Fiji, is a blended initiative with the GEF-financed RESAR project. The BE-GREEN/RESAR initiative is directly complementary to the “**Vanua Levu Tourism Development Programme**”, a major investment funded by the **World Bank**, focusing on building connectivity, improving tourism infrastructure and services, and development of micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSME). This investment is counted as baseline to be leverage in this project. The Tourism Master Plan to be developed under the World Bank programme will be an important part of the Integrated Island Management Plan under **Component 1**. **Component 3** leverages improved connectivity and tourism demand to de-risk private investment in inclusive value chains, while **Outcome 2.2** finances nature-based buffers that reduce negative externalities from increased visitation and roadworks.

Civil society organisations are working on several complementary initiatives in Vanua Levu, including those associated with GEF-financed projects. The Taveuni Highlands KBA is one of the conservation sites included in the GEF-7 project (Safeguarding Marine & Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO) – GEF ID 10675), which is being executed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Conservation International (CI) as the GEF implementing agency. WWF has more than 20 years of experience working in Vanua Levu, including implementation of catchment management plans for the Ba and Labasa catchments, as well as in the Dreketi River and Estuary. Recently, WWF is leading the design and implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded “Coral Reef Resiliency Program”, which aims to enhance resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities through ecosystem-based adaptation within Fiji’s Great Sea Reef. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has also been actively engaged in the island, including spearheading the development and implementation of the ecosystem-based management plan for Kubulau District. The organisation is also currently working in five customary fishing grounds in the country, conducting stock assessments and promoting a national level approach to managing coastal fisheries, and completing a study on the potential for OECMs in the country. Live & Learn is currently working on three initiatives in Vanua Levu, including the first REDD+ implementation project in the country, focused on a 4,000-ha forest area, trading on the voluntary carbon market, under a conservation lease registered with the iTaukei Land Trust Board. The project will coordinate with these partners to avoid overlap and to scale what works, using the Integrated Island Management Plan (**Component 1**) as the common spatial and results framework for co-financed delivery.

The GEF portfolio around Vanua Levu includes UNDP LMMA 9944, FAO CBNRM 9880 and UNDP IAS 9095 projects. Together they provide experience on locally managed areas, community resource governance and invasive species control that this project will coordinate with and build on. The UNDP sustainable land management terminal evaluation also highlights the need for stronger cross sector coordination and consistent community participation.

The UNDP-GEF “Ridge to Reef (R2R)” project (GEF ID 5398), included intervention sites in all three provinces of Vanua Levu. The TE for this R2R project recommended a shift from scattered demonstrations to island scale integrated management with stronger institutionalization.^[13] This project operationalizes that shift by using Component 1 to set island wide priorities with an integrated plan, Outcome 2.2 to implement high value conservation and restoration in priority places, Component 3 to connect producers and community enterprises to reliable markets and finance, and Component 4 to embed the approach in provincial SDPs and national frameworks.

Finally, two design-phase diagnostics completed during the project preparation phase provide baseline evidence for the intervention logic. The rapid baseline Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey documents strong concern among Vanua Levu communities for land and freshwater health and high awareness of tree planting, but low uptake of mangrove restoration and water conservation. Only about one third of respondents reported receiving a grant or subsidy to change practices, which signals limited resources to adopt improved methods and technologies. The survey also shows uneven access to extension support and decision influence for women and youth, which the project will address through inclusive planning and service delivery (see **Annex O: Baseline rapid KAP survey report**).

The baseline Institutional Capacity Assessments for the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways (MoAW) and the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries (MoFF) identify gaps in management, coordination and monitoring that reduce the effectiveness of extension and limit consistent adoption of climate smart and biodiversity friendly practices. The assessments recommend clearer roles and routines for cross-sector coordination, a simple monitoring and verification system for ecosystem and practice outcomes, and better linkage between plans and budgets. These findings shape the design of Component 4 and the service and the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting functions that support delivery under Components 2 and 3 (see **Annex N: Baseline institutional capacity assessment report**). These capacity gaps also highlight the need to strengthen monitoring and reporting functions so that subnational institutions and communities can track ecosystem conditions and biodiversity and livelihood outcomes using consistent methods.

A breakdown of how these two design-phase diagnostic tools are used in project development is presented below.

- **Component 1** uses the baseline KAP survey findings to set participation, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and inclusion benchmarks and to define a practical M&E approach that tracks adoption and ecosystem outcomes from village to island scale.
- **Outcome 2.1** targets training and advisory services to low uptake practices identified in the baseline KAP survey, notably restoration and water conservation, and links adoption to market and finance incentives.
- **Outcome 2.2** applies the capacity and monitoring recommendations, so restoration and protection outputs are tracked consistently across priority sites.
- **Component 3** addresses the incentive gap shown in the baseline KAP survey by expanding value chain finance and results-based grants that reward verified adoption and quality.
- **Component 4** implements the baseline institutional capacity assessment recommendations on management, coordination and monitoring so that services improve and evidence flows back to planning and budgeting.

Leveraging knowledge and learning from ongoing and past initiatives

The project design explicitly builds on, and will continue to draw structured learning from, a substantial portfolio of complementary initiatives in Vanua Levu and across Fiji. The GEF-7 SAMBIO project provides community-based conservation models, species management experience, and KBA governance approaches that RESAR will adapt and scale through the Integrated Island Management Plan. Lessons from the GEF Ridge to Reef project, particularly the need for consolidated ridge to reef planning, consistent monitoring, and reduced fragmentation of site-level interventions, directly informed Component 1 and the development of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. WWF and the Wildlife Conservation Society bring tested tools for catchment management, coastal resilience and locally managed marine areas, which shape restoration packages and participatory approaches under Component 2. The Ministry of Forestry's Emission Reduction Programme and Reforestation of Degraded Forests Programme contribute restoration models, carbon accounting methodologies and monitoring protocols that will be integrated into nature-based solutions.

RESAR will actively leverage these initiatives as learning platforms through technical working groups, joint monitoring activities and harmonized approaches to ecosystem assessment and community engagement. The project's knowledge management and communications plan under Component 4 institutionalizes these linkages by supporting cross-project synthesis, production of knowledge products and dissemination of tested practices to provincial and national systems. Through these mechanisms, RESAR converts past investments into a coherent learning architecture that supports scaling, adaptive management and long-term sustainability.

Baseline climate trends and projections

Fiji is experiencing climate-related changes, and projections indicate continued increases in climate risk over the project lifetime. Assessments aligned with the IPCC and regional Pacific science show ongoing warming of approximately 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius by mid-century, more frequent very hot days, intensifying rainfall variability with both heavier extreme rainfall events and longer dry spells, and sea level rise rates in Fiji that exceed the global average. Tropical cyclone hazards, including damaging winds, heavy rainfall and storm surge, are expected to continue posing major threats to ecosystems, infrastructure and rural livelihoods. These climate trends heighten risks for Vanua Levu by increasing erosion and sedimentation during intense rainfall,

reducing agricultural productivity during extended dry periods, damaging forest and tree crop systems during cyclones and exposing coastal communities, tourism assets and mangroves to inundation. This baseline of rising climate pressures justifies the project's focus on integrated land and seascape planning, climate smart production and restoration, resilient value chains and adaptive learning across Components 1 through 4. Detailed climate projections, observed trends, and sector-specific impact pathways are described in **Annex T** (*Baseline climate trends and projections*).

Project goal and development objectives

The project introduces an integrated island approach on Vanua Levu and Taveuni that strengthens rural incomes and resilience while improving the management of land, freshwater and coastal ecosystems. The first development objective is to protect globally significant biodiversity and secure ecosystem services on Vanua Levu through a participatory Integrated Island Management plan that guides measurable restoration and improved management and, in doing so, supports livelihoods, food security, nutrition and climate resilience. The second development objective is to increase incomes and expand access to services and opportunities for farmers and community enterprises on Vanua Levu by linking climate smart production to reliable markets, value chains and finance. National policy alignment and knowledge work will support uptake across Fiji, while direct results and core indicators are counted on Vanua Levu to match the geography of delivery.

Barriers to Achieving Project Objectives

Progress toward these objectives is held back first by fragmented planning and finance. Planning, budgets and data sit in sector silos, so actions remain site by site and do not add up across the integrated ecosystems of Vanua Levu and Taveuni. Spatial priorities are not agreed, and financing is not sequenced to follow them. **Component 1** produces an Integrated Island Management plan that sets island wide priorities and a financing sequence, while **Component 4** aligns policy and institutions, so the plan is implemented.

The baseline KAP survey and institutional capacity assessments conducted during the project preparation phase confirm capacity, adoption, and service gaps compound the problem. Communities report low uptake of restoration and water conservation and limited access to grants or subsidies to change practice, while the capacity assessment shows weak management, coordination and monitoring across services. Extension coverage is uneven, technical guidance for climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly practices is inconsistent, and there is no simple system to monitor and verify ecosystem outcomes. Together these findings explain why site by site gains do not persist or scale, and they justify the project focus on improved incentives, stronger services and a simple monitoring and verification system that links plans to budgets. **Component 2 (Outcome 2.1)** strengthens services, producer skills and adoption, **Component 4** upgrades institutional capacity and knowledge systems, and **Component 1** establishes baselines and a practical approach to monitoring, reporting and verification for the plan.

Tenure and transaction costs also slow delivery. Most land is iTaukei customary, so consent and agreements take time and skills, and former lease areas can sit idle and drift into invasive cover. **Component 1** builds inclusive planning and agreement pathways with landowning units and **Component 4** supports fit-for-purpose instruments such as conservation leases and clear guidance for customary and state lands.

Many priority places have no pathway to restoration at scale. Riparian zones, eroding slopes, abandoned cane belts, wetlands and legacy sites need linked land and water action to reduce runoff and recover habitats, yet programmatic delivery is missing. **Component 2 (Outcome 2.2)** provides that restoration and protection pathway, guided by the integrated island management plan, so that actions deliver measurable global environmental benefits.

Limited buyer demand and infrastructure gaps lower the expected returns to adopting and maintaining sustainable practices. Producers face inconsistent demand and high transaction costs to meet tourism and premium buyer standards, and value chain finance for diversification and agroforestry is limited. **Component 3** strengthens value

chains, partnerships, finance and essential post-harvest and market access infrastructure, while **Component 2 (Outcome 2.1)** supports producer organization and quality systems.

Climate and hazard risk dampens investment. Cyclones, heavy rain and surge damage farms and reefs and raise recovery costs, which reduces willingness to invest in improved practices without nature-based buffers. **Component 2 (Outcome 2.2)** supports restoration of mangroves, wetlands, riparian zones and slopes that buffer storms, **Component 1** brings risk informed decision-making and sequencing, and **Component 4** provides guidance and options to finance maintenance.

Competing land uses near sensitive habitats increase erosion and habitat pressure where cash crops expand onto mid capability land at the edges of key biodiversity areas. Practice standards and codes are not yet clear or widely used. **Component 1** sets spatial and corridor priorities, **Component 4** issues simple practice standards and codes of practice for sensitive areas and crops, and **Component 2 (Outcome 2.1)** supports adoption through training and services.

Finally, social and knowledge barriers persist. Women, youth and socially marginalized groups do not always have equitable opportunities to participate or influence decisions, and awareness of biodiversity values and pollution impacts is uneven. A comprehensive Environmental, Social and Climate Management Plan (ESCMP – see **Annex F.1**) has been developed to guide the implementation team on ensuring environmental, social, and climate risks are managed in accordance with national and IFAD social and environmental standards, ensuring social inclusion is mainstreamed across all components, as well as safeguarding of environmental assets, and strengthening resilience. Moreover, **Component 4** strengthens inclusive decision making, knowledge management and communication, and links traditional ecological knowledge with modern practice so uptake is broad and lasting.

Incremental reasoning

Without the combined GEF and IFAD investment. Under business-as-usual, land and seascapes on Vanua Levu and Taveuni continue to be managed site by site rather guided by an integrated island-scale approach. Forest loss continues to creep towards KBAs, invasive alien plant species spread on cleared and fallow land, and abandoned agricultural areas remain unmanaged. Riparian zones and eroding slopes keep sending sediment into rivers and coasts, increasing flood risk and placing chronic stress on mangroves and reefs. Nearshore fisheries feel that pressure as habitat quality declines and recovery after storms slows.

Producer services improve only in pockets. Extension and finance remain uneven, so small producers adopt climate smart practices slowly and struggle to meet the quality, volume and traceability that premium buyers and tourism outlets require. Market links form in a few local nodes but do not hold at scale. Women, youth and socially marginalized groups continue to have uneven access to services and decision making.

Institutional gaps persist. Without an Integrated Island Management plan, spatial priorities are not agreed, and financing is not sequenced. Restoration of wetlands, legacy mining sites, abandoned cane belts and KBAs proceeds only when *ad hoc* funds appear. There is no simple system to monitor ecosystem outcomes, so lessons are not captured, and maintenance is not financed. Tenure realities and transaction costs slow agreements, and practice standards for sensitive areas are applied inconsistently.

The result is a slow erosion of natural capital and resilience. Biodiversity at the edges of priority habitats declines, carbon gains are foregone, nature-based buffers are thin, and households face growing exposure to climate and market shocks. Even with ongoing government strategies and donor projects, the absence of an island wide plan and a programmatic pathway mean fragmented efforts and rising opportunity costs for both people and nature on Vanua Levu and Taveuni.

With the combined GEF and IFAD investment. With the blended GEF and IFAD funding, Vanua Levu shifts from project-by-project effort to an island wide program. An Integrated Island Management plan is prepared, endorsed and used to set spatial priorities that link uplands, rivers and coasts. The plan draws on the *Vanua Levu Profile* (see **Annex L**) and the *Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis* (see **Annex M**)

completed during the project preparation phase, and it is embedded in provincial strategic development plans and aligned with national frameworks such as the NBSAP and REDD+. Financing is sequenced to those priorities so work starts where risks and benefits are highest.

This “with project” scenario addresses validated gaps identified in the baseline diagnostics rather than relying on untested assumptions. Integrated approaches are justified by the documented need for cross-sector coordination and shared monitoring systems. Restoration and soil and water conservation measures address specific degradation risks identified in the Vanua Levu Profile and the climate baseline. Climate smart production and value chain interventions respond to the adoption gaps and incentive limitations documented in the baseline KAP survey. Institutional strengthening responds directly to capacity gaps identified in the baseline Institutional Capacity Assessments. These validated baseline constraints provide a measurable reference point against which incremental improvements in ecosystem condition, practice adoption and institutional performance can be tracked.

On the ground, producer services expand and are tied to clear practice standards. Small producers adopt climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly methods with support from extension, producer organizations and simple guidance for sensitive areas. Restoration packages move from concept to delivery. Degraded and abandoned agricultural land shifts to diversified agroforestry. Riparian zones and eroding slopes are stabilized to cut sediment. Native vegetation is restored to form corridors near sensitive habitats. Wetlands and mangroves are recovered where they buffer storms and store carbon. Nearshore fisheries are managed with communities so that land measures and coastal measures reinforce each other.

Markets begin to reward good stewardship. Value chains are built that connect reliable volumes and quality to tourism demand and premium buyers. Accessible finance options reduce the cost of adopting improved practices and post-harvest handling. Strengthened capacities and partnerships help small producers meet buyer requirements and keep benefits fair for women and youth. Institutions become fit for purpose. Policies and codes that support the integrated island management plan are developed and submitted for approval. A practical system for monitoring, reporting is set up that combines mapped polygons, practice checklists and periodic field checks. This allows the project to claim direct global environmental benefits with confidence and to avoid double counting.

Tenure realities are handled through inclusive planning, free prior and informed consent, and instruments such as conservation leases where communities choose to use them. Conservation leases are applied selectively and on a voluntary, time-bound basis to formalize conservation or restoration commitments in areas facing active degradation pressures. They clarify roles, responsibilities, and benefit-sharing arrangements and, where applicable, may include structured technical or performance-based support. As transitional instruments, they are paired with livelihood diversification, value-chain strengthening, and institutional capacity measures to ensure that conservation commitments are embedded in durable economic and governance systems beyond any defined support period. Knowledge management and communications make lessons visible and accessible, and traditional ecological knowledge is brought forward through partnership with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and consultations with iTaukei.

By completion, Vanua Levu and Taveuni have a working Integrated Island Management Plan; the first wave of priority areas is under restoration or improved management; producers are linked to markets that value quality and sustainability; and the enabling policies and capacities are in place to maintain and scale results. Biodiversity outcomes are secured where they matter most, carbon is sequestered or emissions are avoided through land and coastal measures, and communities gain resilience through better practices and stronger value chains. The combined investment turns fragmented efforts into a coherent island model and delivers measurable gains for nature and people.

Additionality will be measured through GEF-8 Core Indicators and project-level monitoring linked to the Integrated Island Management Plan. Core Indicators 3 and 4 establish baselines for restoration and improved

land management; Core Indicator 6 establishes the baseline for carbon sequestered and emissions avoided; and Core Indicator 11 establishes the baseline for people benefiting. The project’s monitoring, evaluation and reporting system will track changes over the baseline scenario to ensure that claimed global environmental benefits reflect additionality relative to the documented “without project” trajectory.

Geographic targeting

BE-GREEN/RESAR aims to improve rural livelihoods and climate resilience through sustainable blue and green initiatives, enhanced market access and biodiversity protection. The IFAD BE-GREEN programme focuses on six districts of Cakaudrove Province (see **Figure 2**), and the GEF-financed RESAR project targets Vanua Levu and Taveuni on an island scale through an integrated island management approach.

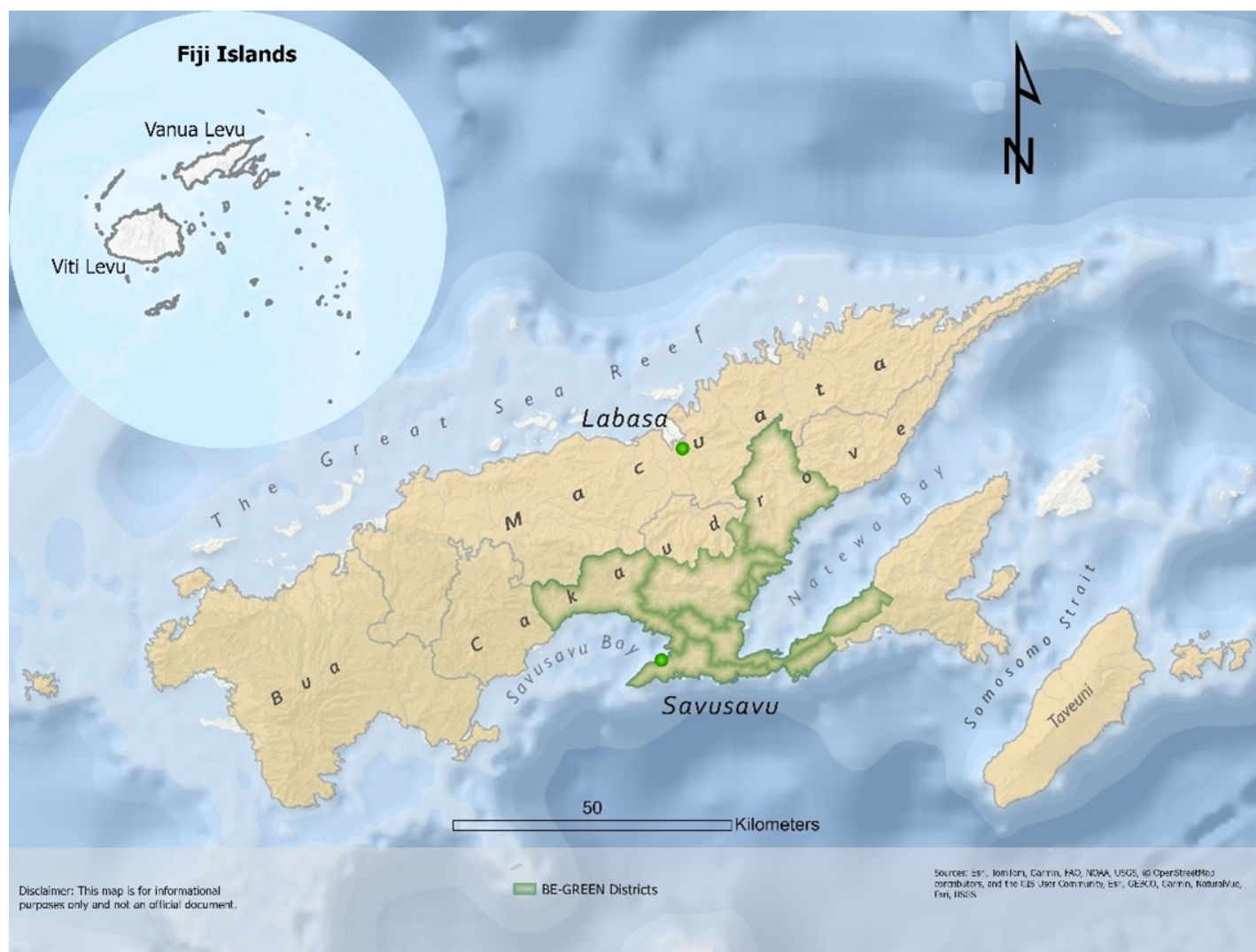


Figure 2: Map of Vanua Levu and Taveuni

The *Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis* (see **Annex M**) conducted during the project preparation phase applied a transparent methodology that combined available datasets, including KBAs, into a weighted overlay and then used the locate regions tool to identify areas of high biodiversity value. The findings of the analysis produced the scenario illustrated in **Figure 3**, which forms a preliminary foundation that will be further elaborated in the development of the Integrated Island Management Plan under **Component 1**.

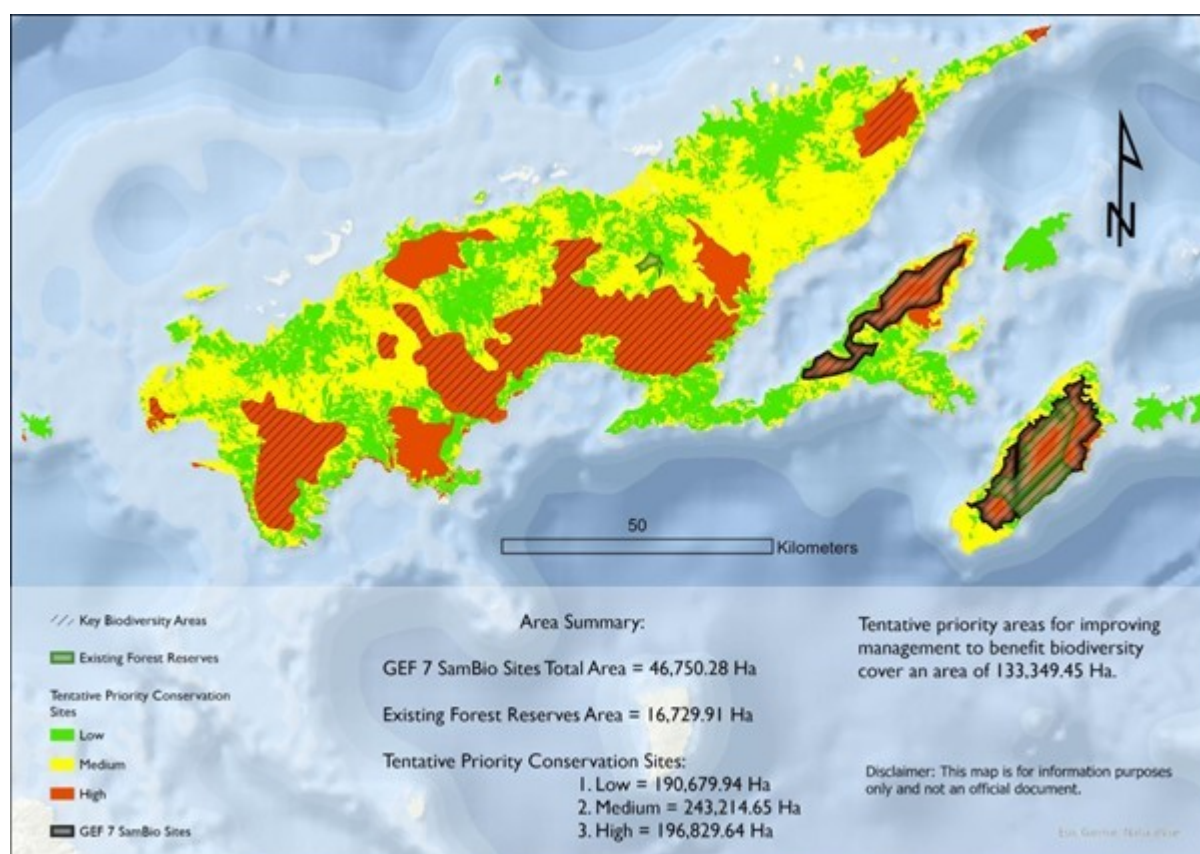


Figure 3: Results of the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis

Excluding existing forest reserves and KBAs earmarked for designation of protected areas under the GEF-7 SamBio project, the total area targeted for improved management to benefit biodiversity under GEF-8 Indicator 4.1 is approximately 133,500 ha. These landscapes will transition from business-as-usual conditions to defined and monitored improved management regimes through community management plans, biodiversity-sensitive practice standards, and integration into provincial planning and monitoring systems under Components 1 and 2.

Under Outcome 2.2, GEF resources will support the implementation of the Integrated Island Management Plan, including through facilitating community management of priority areas for improving management to benefit biodiversity. The criteria used to select the areas for field interventions and described in **Table 1**, and included high biodiversity value, connectivity opportunities, alignment with ongoing initiatives, limited previous investment, socioeconomic status, and scalability.

Table 1: Criteria for selecting priority intervention sites

Criterion	Description
High biodiversity value	Priority consideration to areas of high biodiversity value, including the ones identified in the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis. These include designated KBAs and ones being proposed by the Fiji KBA National Coordination Group.
Connectivity opportunities	The site, with investment, will promote connectivity to another KBA or other investments in adjacent areas that promote biodiversity conservation (e.g., gene flow).
Alignment with ongoing initiatives	Consideration was also given to aligning with government priorities, e.g., MoAW's areas earmarked for sustainable land management, MoFF's Emission Reduction Programme, coordinating with the activities in the target districts of the IFAD BE-GREEN project,

		and collaborating with the GEF-7 SamBio project – while not overlapping geographic localities.
Limited previous investment		The site has had little to no investment in the last 10 years to support globally significant biodiversity.
Socioeconomic status		Disadvantaged socioeconomic status of the local communities
Scalability		The interventions at the site (mataqali) are scalable at yavusa, district, provincial, island and national level.

Applying these criteria, the priority project intervention sites are listed below in **Table 2** and shown on the map in **Figure 4**. The identified priority intervention sites are based preliminary analyses and consultations conducted during the project preparation phase. Site selection will be validated during project implementation, through further consultations with local communities and other stakeholders.

Table 2: Selected project intervention sites for community management

Intervention site	Area (ha)	Features and significance
Naicobocobo Dry Forest	1,062	One of Fiji's last dry forest remnants, drought-adapted species, critical for ecosystem restoration.
Mount Navotuvotu	23,229	Montane forest, endemic orchids, restricted-range birds, important watershed.
Nasigasiga	1,550	Lowland rainforest fragments, Fiji ground frog, and riparian ecosystems.
Nakanacagi Bat Cave	22	Only known roost of Endangered Fijian Free-tailed Bat; high global conservation value. The 22-ha area is a bat sanctuary; however, habitat extends over a broad expanse of forest and agricultural ecosystems.
Wailevu/Dreketi Highlands (includes Mount Sorolevu, Greater Delaikoro)	72,188	Intact lowland/montane forests, endemic birds/reptiles, near the Waisali Forest Reserve, watershed functions.
Total area:	98,051	

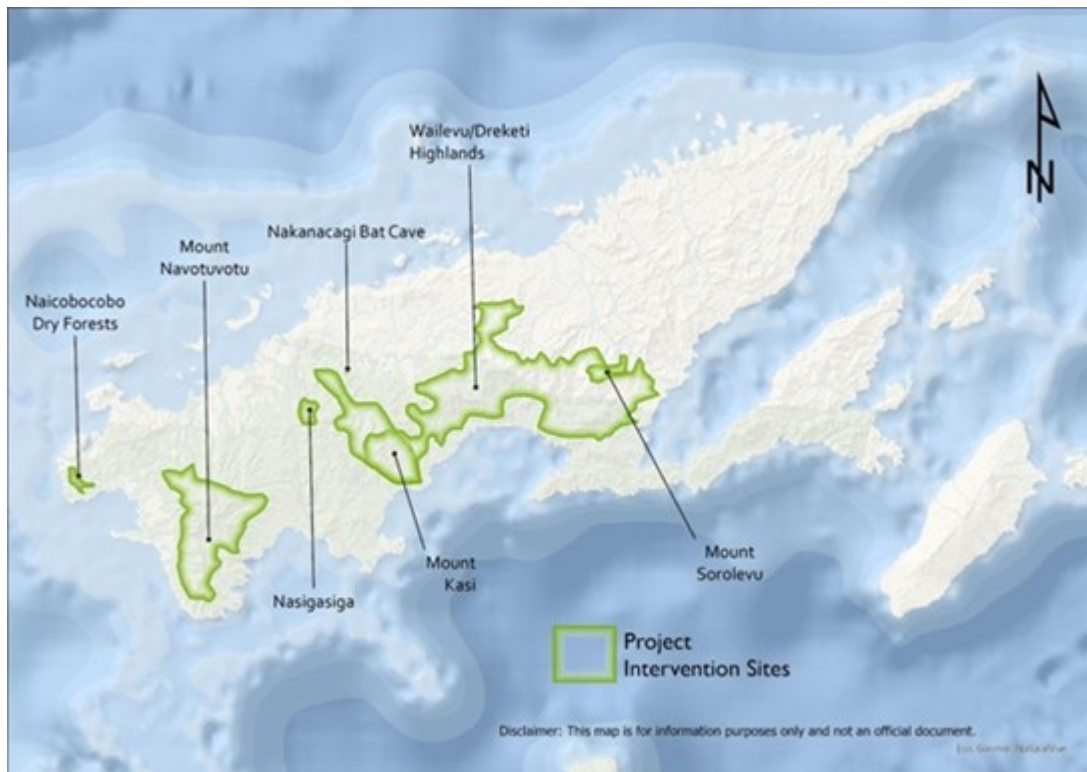


Figure 4: Map showing priority intervention sites for KBA community management

Sustainable land management and agricultural restoration interventions under Output 2.2.3 will be aligned with the districts targeted by the MoAW (see **Figure 5**).

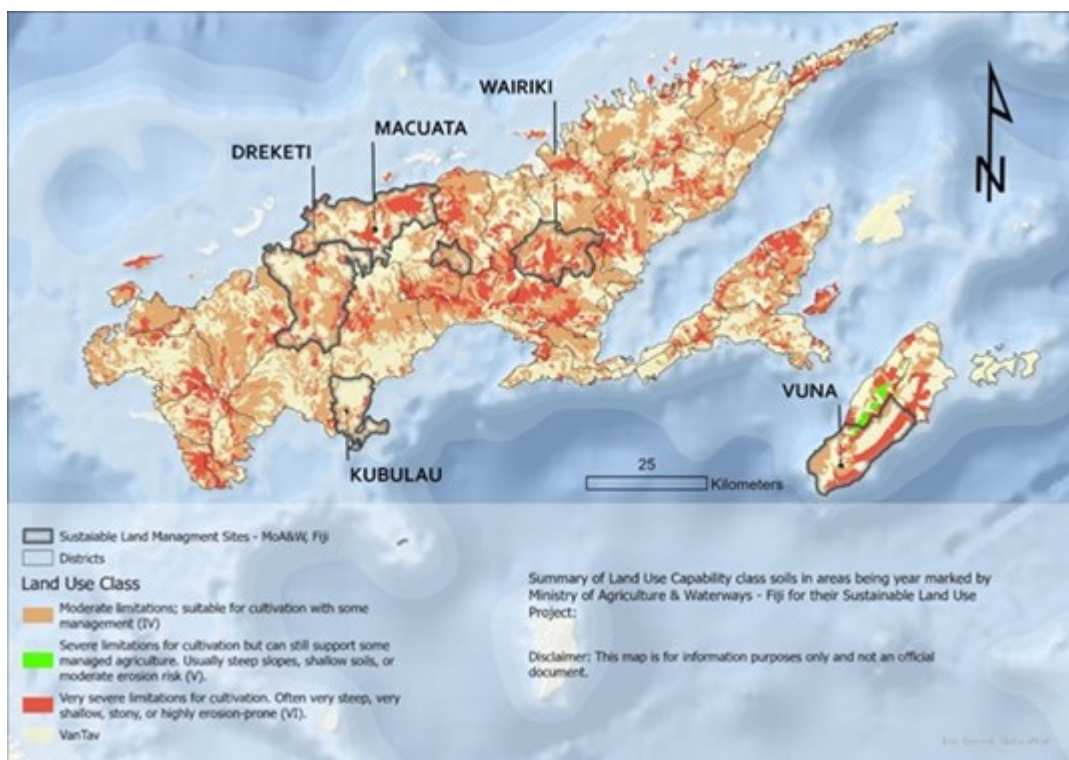


Figure 5: Priority districts earmarked by MoAW for sustainable land management interventions

Target groups

The target groups will be communities living within and surrounding the sites identified above. The project will target primarily subsistence and to a lesser extent semi-commercial farmers, prioritizing women and youth in both groups, based on their characteristics and specific needs.

The integrated island management planning process will be the main entry point for engagement of women and youth. Women's and youth groups will be closely associated with community-level planning and empowerment processes addressing governance, sustainable land management, production and environmental issues to ensure inclusive decision-making.

Selection of community facilitators will be made in consultation with local customary Mataqali leaders, encouraging inclusion of young men and women. Collective conservation, restoration, and sustainable land management actions will be implemented by community-based organizations, including women's and youth groups that will receive tailored capacity building and coaching both on biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices and also specifically on group/cooperative formation for accessing green value chains.

Gender Mainstreaming

A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan (see **Annex H**) have been undertaken to ensure that the design and implementation of the blended BE-GREEN/RESAR project are gender-responsive. The gender analysis assessed potential differences in roles, needs, access to resources, and decision-making opportunities between women and men in the project's target sectors and locations. The findings of this analysis have informed the project design, helping to identify opportunities to enhance women's participation and leadership, address potential barriers to equitable engagement, and ensure that project benefits are accessible to both women and men.

Based on this analysis, the Gender Action Plan outlines specific measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment throughout project implementation. These measures include actions to support inclusive participation in project consultations, capacity-building activities, and decision-making processes, as well as efforts to ensure equitable access to project-supported resources, knowledge, and livelihood opportunities. The plan also provides guidance for integrating gender considerations into project activities, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

To track progress, the Gender Action Plan includes a set of gender-sensitive indicators and targets aligned with the project's results framework. These indicators will be systematically monitored and reported throughout implementation, enabling the project to assess progress toward gender equality outcomes and make adaptive management adjustments where necessary. Gender-related results and lessons learned will be regularly documented and reported, including through the annual GEF Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) and other monitoring and evaluation outputs, ensuring accountability and continuous learning with respect to gender responsiveness.

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- [12] Mangubhai, S. 2016. Impact of tropical cyclone Winston on coral reefs in the Vatu-i-Ra seascape. Report No. 01/16. Suva: Wildlife Conservation Society.
- [13] Terminal evaluation report, January 2023, prepared by S. Black S. and A. Ferguson, with support from L. Tamata

B. 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 guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Theory of Change

The project turns fragmented, site by site effort on Vanua Levu into a single island program that secures biodiversity and ecosystem services while improving rural incomes. The change logic is simple. If the island agrees on where and how to act, and if producers and communities have services, finance and market pull to adopt better practice, and if high value areas are restored and protected, and if the enabling policy, institutional and knowledge systems are in place, then Vanua Levu will deliver measurable global environmental benefits and more resilient livelihoods. The sequencing is intentional: plan first, implement in priority places, connect production to markets, and lock gains in through policy and capacity.

The logic of the project is that a consensus-building, climate-informed and evidence-based Integrated Island Management Plan (Component 1) provides the spatial and institutional framework for action; restoration and climate smart production systems (Component 2) and inclusive value chains and finance (Component 3) translate this plan into household and ecosystem level changes; and an enabling policy, institutional and knowledge environment (Component 4) locks these gains in and supports adaptive learning. If these pathways proceed in parallel and are supported by inclusive governance, climate informed decision making and responsive institutions, then Vanua Levu can deliver durable global environmental benefits and resilience outcomes even under uncertain future conditions.

The four interconnected causal pathways depicted in the project's theory of change in Figure 6 were designed to respond to the specific barriers to achieving the proposed development objectives and to provide a logical strategy on how the project will deliver the expected outcomes. The evidence base for the causal pathways is supported from the baseline KAP survey and the baseline institutional capacity assessments completed during

the project preparation phase. These baselines identify where adoption is low, where incentives and services are weak, and what management and monitoring functions must be strengthened for sustained outcomes.

Pathway 1: A unifying island plan aligns actors and finance (*Component 1, Outcome 1.1*).

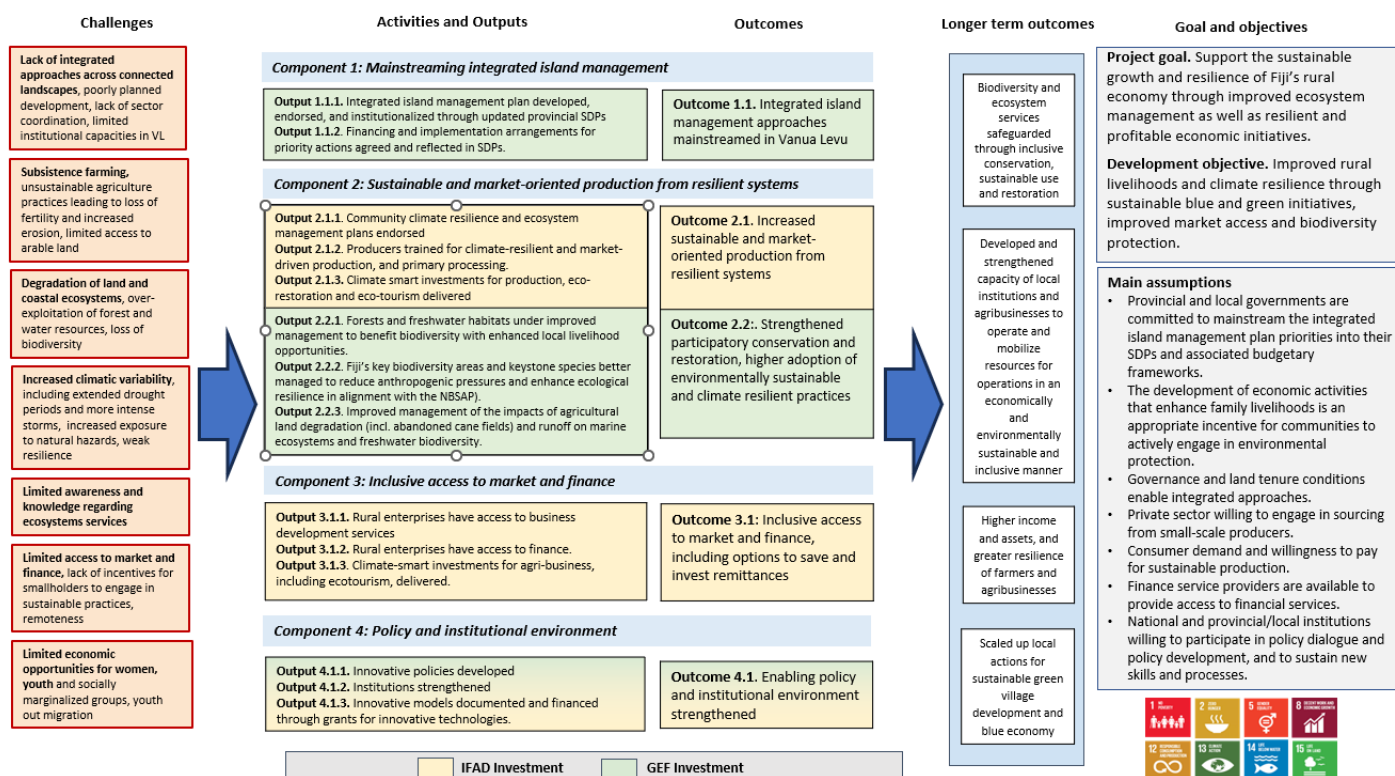
The island plan is the organizing device. It consolidates the Profile and the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions analysis into mapped priorities for protection, restoration and climate smart production. It is prepared through inclusive processes with FPIC and is endorsed through provincial SDPs so that national frameworks, including the NBSAP, NAP, and REDD+, can be operationalized in one place. If the plan is endorsed and tied to a simple monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system, then public budgets and partner funds can be sequenced to the same polygons and outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 are achieved, which removes the principal barrier of fragmented planning and finance.

Pathway 2: Adoption of resilient, climate smart production at scale (*Component 2.1, Outcome 2.1*).

With the plan in place, services and incentives reach producers where they are. Extension and producer organization support focus on adoption of soil and water conservation, diversified agroforestry, and quality and traceability that meet buyer requirements. Community climate resilience and ecosystem management plans are endorsed, producers are trained, and climate smart investments are delivered, which drive the household level indicators in the matrix on access to services, adoption, satisfaction and influence. If services and investment arrive with clear practice standards for sensitive areas, then adoption sustains because costs fall and market rewards rise.

Pathway 3: Conservation and restoration deliver direct GEBs (*Component 2.2, Outcome 2.2*).

GEF resources fund the first wave of priority interventions from the island plan. Forests, riparian corridors, wetlands and mangroves are brought under improved management. Idle cane fields and other degraded areas are rehabilitated to diversified farming systems that reduce runoff and store carbon. Community managed areas and OECMs secure biodiversity outcomes in and around KBAs. If these interventions proceed with FPIC and inclusive governance, then the project delivers direct Core Indicators for hectares restored and under improved practices on land and in nearshore waters, and lifetime mitigation in the AFOLU sector. These gains are measured by the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system established under Component 1 and reported through the program platform.



Pathway 4: Markets and finance reward good stewardship (Component 3, Outcome 3.1).

The value chain work connects reliable volumes and quality to tourism demand and premium buyers and reduces transaction costs that have kept Vanua Levu at a disadvantage. Producers and rural enterprises gain access to business development services, finance and post-harvest and market access infrastructure. If transparent contracts and basic traceability are in place, then market confidence rises and households capture more value from climate smart and biodiversity friendly production. This reinforces adoption in Pathway 2 and helps sustain conservation and restoration in Pathway 3.

Enabling environment: policy, institutions, knowledge and inclusion (Component 4, Outcome 4.1).

Component 4 operates as a cross-cutting enabler that underpins all four pathways. Policy and regulatory instruments that reference the island plan are drafted and submitted. Institutional capacity is strengthened in the key ministries so that coordination improves and extension content and methods reflect the integrated agenda. A knowledge and communications strategy synthesizes evidence from the Profile and Irreplaceability work with traditional ecological knowledge, and the KAP baseline guides where awareness and service access are weakest. Inclusive decision making is built into planning and delivery so that women, youth and socially marginalized groups can participate and benefit. If these enabling conditions are in place, then results from Components 1 to 3 are institutionalized and scale through national programs. **Assumptions and impact drivers**

The theory of change rests on a small set of practical assumptions. National and provincial authorities remain engaged and are willing to share data and endorse the Integrated Island Management plan and its roll out. Traditional authorities and landowning units support participatory planning and free, prior and informed consent. Private buyers and tourism operators continue to demand sustainable products and services, and finance providers remain active in rural markets. Field delivery is not interrupted for long periods by major shocks, and a simple system for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting can be stood up to track core indicators and sub indicators. However, each outcome has its own set of specific assumptions that are described below.

Outcome-level assumptions

The key assumptions that underpin each outcome can be summarized as follows.

- **Outcome 1.1 (Integrated Island Management Plan endorsed and implemented):** assumes continued engagement of provincial councils and customary authorities, and that climate and biodiversity data remain accessible for planning.
- **Outcome 2.1 (Sustainable and market-oriented production):** assumes that households, including women and youth, are willing and able to adopt climate smart and biodiversity friendly practices when services, incentives and clear practice standards are provided.
- **Outcome 2.2 (Participatory conservation and restoration):** assumes that landowning units agree to community-managed KBAs and restoration measures through FPIC processes, and that nature-based solutions remain technically feasible under projected climate trends.
- **Outcome 3.1 (Inclusive access to markets and finance):** assumes that private agribusinesses and financial institutions perceive Vanua Levu as a viable and sufficiently de-risked investment landscape and are willing to enter partnerships with producer groups and rural enterprises.
- **Outcome 4.1 (Enabling institutional environment):** assumes that sector agencies have the mandate and capacity to apply new policy instruments, that coordination improves across ministries, and that knowledge products are taken up in practice by frontline staff.

These assumptions clarify what conditions must hold for each outcome pathway to function as anticipated and help distinguish between assumptions that the project can influence and those that remain external.

Within that frame, several impact drivers will move the pathways forward. For the island planning pathway, there is a policy window created by the ongoing update of the NBSAP and by the use of integrated programming to align focal areas and cofinancing. The design phase diagnostics already completed on Vanua Levu give stakeholders a shared evidence base and a practical start for agreement on priorities. Endorsement of the provincial strategic development plans then provides the administrative route to bring the plan into use.

For adoption, conservation and restoration, there are ready platforms to build on. Government priorities for sustainable land management districts focus attention and staff time. Community planning practice and locally managed areas provide entry points for riparian, wetland and mangrove restoration, for invasive species control, and for improved practice in production zones. Lessons from earlier projects on the need to sequence policy, capacity and coordination help avoid scattered demonstrations that do not add up.

For markets, value chains and finance, demand signals are strengthening. Tourism is recovering on Vanua Levu and national efforts to substitute imports with quality local produce are continuing. This creates steady pull for traceable, climate smart production and for certified sustainable seafood. Partnerships with financial institutions and enterprise service providers are already part of the country program, which lowers the barrier for rural enterprises and producer groups to invest in improved practices and post-harvest and market access infrastructure.

For the enabling environment, planned work on policy instruments, institutional capacity, and knowledge and communications is a driver in its own right. Policy and regulatory instruments that reference the island plan give a clear mandate. Capacity strengthening in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries portfolios improves coordination and the quality of extension content. A knowledge and communications strategy uses the design phase studies and the rapid KAP baseline to target awareness where it is weakest and to spread what works.

Participation in the GEF program platform supports results tracking and shared learning so that direct claims against core indicators are credible and do not double count.

If these assumptions hold, the impact drivers above will accelerate progress along the four pathways. By the end of the project the island will have an endorsed plan in active use, priority places under improved management or restoration, producers connected to markets that reward quality and stewardship, and institutions and knowledge systems capable of sustaining and scaling results.

Feedback loops and safeguards

Insights from the KAP survey, adoption trends and performance data feed back into the system. These findings are used to update the plan and adjust siting and methods. Market signals on quality and volume inform extension curricula and investment choices. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting combines mapped polygons, practice checklists and periodic field checks so that direct claims against GEF-8 Core Indicators are credible and do not double count. Strengthening monitoring and reporting capacities in provincial offices and community organisations allows local actors to track environmental and socio-economic changes and to use this information to guide adaptive management. These strengthened local M&E capacities are an enabling condition for sustained outcomes, allowing decentralised institutions to measure change and adjust actions as part of routine decision making. FPIC, tenure agreements and, where appropriate, conservation leases are used so that benefits and responsibilities are clear.

Continuous engagement of Indigenous peoples, customary authorities, women, youth and producer groups is assumed throughout implementation. Their feedback will inform adjustments to siting, restoration methods, extension content and value chain support. Embedding stakeholder perspectives in learning and adaptive management processes strengthens the robustness of pathways and the likelihood that gains are sustained beyond the project cycle.

Social norms, behavioural adoption and innovation risk

Social norms and values strongly influence land management decisions, adoption of green technologies and participation in value chains. Gender norms shape who controls land, who participates in producer organizations, and who adopts conservation or soil and water management practices that are new to the community. These normative factors therefore form part of the theory of change. The project relies on targeted engagement of women's groups, youth and customary leaders to shift these norms sufficiently to enable inclusive adoption and sustained practice change, consistent with insights from socio-ecological systems research that values and norms underpin system trajectories.

Assumptions related to private agribusiness and financial sector interest in Vanua Levu represent an innovation risk: the project seeks to influence these conditions through de-risking mechanisms, value chain facilitation and policy support under Components 3 and 4, but recognises that some factors (such as global commodity prices, investor strategies or macroeconomic shifts) remain outside project control and are therefore captured as residual risks in the risk table.

Scaling and innovation form part of the project's long-term logic. The model is designed to attract private sector investment and blended finance as its performance becomes evident, although some enabling conditions such as market stability and investor confidence remain external to the project. Components 3 and 4 strengthen incentives, coordination and institutional capacity, while the theory of change recognises that several innovation and scaling risks remain residual and are addressed in the risk table.

Additionality and stakeholder roles

GEF financing supplies the science-based prioritization, the first wave of restoration and protection, and the policy, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge systems that convert scattered effort into programmatic delivery. IFAD financing supplies adoption at household scale, value chain integration and finance that make improved practice stick. Together they move Vanua Levu from demonstrations to an island model that delivers measurable global environmental benefits while improving livelihoods.

The project strategy is predicated on effective cross-sectoral and multiple stakeholder collaboration. The primary focal agencies that will be engaged across the project interventions that address the challenges and threats outlined above in the Project Rationale section are described in the matrix below (see **Table 3**).

Table 3: Matrix of project interventions and primary focal agencies

Challenges/threats addressed by the RESAR project	Project interventions	Primary focal agencies
Lack of integrated approaches across connected landscapes, poorly planned development, lack of sector coordination, limited institutional capacities.	Development and implementation of Integrated Island Management Plan	Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development (MoRMD); Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
Subsistence farming, unsustainable agriculture practices leading to loss of fertility and increased erosion, limited access to arable land	Training for small producers on sustainable agricultural practices; climate smart grants for production and eco-restoration; improved management practices to benefit biodiversity.	Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways (MoAW), Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries (MoFF), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)
Degradation of land and coastal ecosystems, over-exploitation of forest and water resources, spread of invasive alien species, loss of biodiversity	Community management of KBAs	MoECC
	Restoration of degraded agricultural land	MoAW
	Restoration of forest land and wetlands/mangroves	MoFF
Increased climatic variability, including extended drought periods and more intense storms, increased exposure to natural hazards, weak resilience	Strengthening resilience through integrated management approaches (Component 1) and climate-resilient practices (Component 2)	Multiple (MoRMD, MoAW, MoECC, MoFF)
Limited awareness and knowledge regarding ecosystems services	Capacity building; knowledge management; communications	Multiple (MoRMD, MoAW, MoECC, MoFF, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs)
Limited access to market and finance, lack of incentives for smallholders to engage in sustainable practices, remoteness	Loans and investment assistance to Micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs)	MoAW
Limited economic opportunities for women, youth and socially marginalized groups, youth out migration	Capacity building for climate-resilient and market-driven production and processing; climate smart grants; community management of KBAs	MoAW, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs

While the information in the table above highlights the primary focal government agencies, the differentiated roles of community-based organizations, customary landowning units, civil society actors, MSMEs, private sector partners, and financial institutions are specified within the respective component descriptions below.

End state: By completion the island has an endorsed integrated island management plan in use; priority areas under improved management or restoration; producers linked to markets that value quality and stewardship;

and an enabling environment that can maintain and scale results. Biodiversity is better secured where it matters, carbon is sequestered or emissions are avoided through land and coastal measures, and households are more resilient. The causal pathways reinforce each other so that gains persist beyond the project cycle and provide a template that Fiji can adapt in other islands.

The project description in terms of components, outcomes, and outputs follows below.

Component 1: Holistic Island Management

This component establishes a whole-of-island Integrated Island Management plan for Vanua Levu (and Taveuni) as the central framework for aligning conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The Integrated Island Management Plan provides the organizing platform through which biodiversity protection, sustainable land management, and community-based adaptation are integrated, ensuring that environmental priorities are not fragmented but instead guide development pathways across the island. It responds directly to lessons from the Ridge to Reef project, where fragmentation across sectors and short time horizons limited sustainability, by embedding a long-term governance and financing framework into provincial systems. Climate projections and hazard information summarised in **Annex T** (*Baseline climate trends and projections*), including increased rainfall extremes, heightened cyclone intensity and sea level rise, will guide the spatial prioritisation and sequencing of actions in the Integrated Island Management Plan. These climate risks directly inform the selection of riparian corridors, upland restoration sites, coastal buffers and vulnerable communities that require targeted support.

The foundation of the project strategy is strengthened by two preparatory analyses completed during project design. The *Vanua Levu Profile* (see **Annex L**) consolidates data on ecosystems, climate risks, demographic and livelihood patterns, and governance arrangements, providing a holistic baseline. It highlights pressures such as logging, invasive alien species, land conversion, and climate hazards, as well as opportunities including eco-tourism nodes and idle agricultural lands suitable for restoration. The profile also identifies the institutional entry points for mainstreaming the Integrated Island Management Plan into divisional and provincial systems. The *Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis* (see **Annex M**) applied a transparent methodology that combined conservation datasets into a weighted overlay and then used the locate regions tool to identify high biodiversity value areas. The recommended balanced scenario produced priority areas for improved management that capture ecological diversity while maintaining feasibility for implementation. Together, these analyses ensure that the Integrated Island Management Plan is built on a defensible, science-based prioritization while also being grounded in socio-economic and governance realities.

The expected outcome (**Outcome 1.1**) of this component is the alignment of actors, efforts, and resources for holistic island management through an endorsed and institutionalized Integrated Island Management Plan. Development of the plan will be participatory, engaging the Division Commissioner, provincial governments, and line ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Tourism, iTaukei Affairs), together with local governments, customary institutions, civil society, and private sector partners. District- and village-level planning (iVDPs, yaubula committees, women's and youth groups) will feed upward into the island plan, ensuring equitable participation and free, prior, and informed consent.

The first output (**Output 1.1.1**) is the updating and approval of provincial strategic development plans (SDPs) that embed Integrated Island Management priorities. This will include consolidation of existing datasets (land use, biodiversity, forest inventories, iVDPs, water sources, tourism assets, and past interventions), filling of critical gaps through targeted surveys, and development of a monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system to track delivery of Core Indicators across Vanua Levu. The second output (**Output 1.1.2**) is the allocation of financing for priority actions within provincial and national budgets, supported by partnerships that include conservation leases, nature-based solutions, and eco-tourism ventures. Indicators for this outcome therefore include the endorsement of the Integrated Island Management Plan by all three

provinces, integration of Integrated Island Management Plan priorities into SDPs, and the proportion of priority actions with financing allocated.

Under Component 1, the project will promote an inclusive participatory governance mechanism that enables routine feedback from Indigenous peoples, landowning units, women's groups, youth and marginalised communities. This mechanism will allow stakeholders to raise issues, confirm or challenge assumptions, contribute to decisions on site prioritisation and methods and shape knowledge and communications efforts. These inputs will feed into adaptive management processes and updates of the Integrated Island Management Plan, strengthening ownership, transparency and sustainability of results.

By incorporating lessons and success stories from IFAD-supported community projects, the Integrated Island Management Plan ensures that biodiversity and climate objectives are advanced in tandem with improved rural livelihoods. In this way, Component 1 transforms fragmented community-level initiatives into a durable, island-wide framework that balances inclusive development with the generation of global environmental benefits.

Ministerial policy and coordination leadership anchors Component 1. MoRMD and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs provide strategic oversight, while provincial administrations embed Integrated Island Management priorities into SDPs. Community representatives, customary landowners, and civil society partners participate through inclusive planning and FPIC processes to shape and operationalize the Plan.

Component 2: Sustainable and Market-Oriented Production from Resilient Systems

This component operationalizes the Integrated Island Management Plan by combining resilient livelihoods with ecosystem restoration and conservation, ensuring that household incomes and biodiversity protection advance together. Building on the enabling framework established under Component 1, it delivers both socio-economic improvements through IFAD investments and measurable global environmental benefits through GEF financing.

The design of climate smart agricultural and livelihood practices under this component is shaped by the climate baseline presented in **Annex T** (*Baseline climate trends and projections*), including projected increases in drought duration and extreme rainfall intensity that already contribute to yield losses for taro, yaqona and other crops. The adoption of diversified agroforestry, soil and water conservation techniques and improved traceability systems helps producers maintain production and income under these changing conditions.

The first outcome (**Outcome 2.1**) strengthens sustainable and market-oriented production systems. Communities will prepare and endorse climate resilience and ecosystem management plans (Output 2.1.1) that guide collective adaptation actions. Producers will be trained in climate-resilient and market-driven practices (**Output 2.1.2**), including crop diversification, soil and water conservation, traceability, and post-harvest handling. Investments in climate-smart technologies and small-scale processing will expand adoption and support market access (**Output 2.1.3**). Indicators for this outcome include 2,400 households adopting climate-resilient practices, 50% (3,375) households with improved access to markets and facilities, and 70% of households reporting satisfaction with services and greater influence in decision-making. These results ensure that agribusiness growth remains inclusive and climate-resilient, especially for women and youth.

Gender mainstreaming under Outcome 2.1 will be tracked through the BE-GREEN monitoring framework, which includes output-level indicators on participation of women and youth in training, adoption of climate-resilient practices, and access to extension services. These indicators are reflected in the BE-GREEN/RESAR Gender Action Plan and inform project reporting, while the outcome-level indicators for Outcome 2.1 remain aligned with the BE-GREEN design document.

Climate driven pressures described in **Annex T** (*Baseline climate trends and projections*), including intensified erosion, greater sediment loads and cyclone related forest damage, justify prioritising the restoration of degraded slopes, riparian zones, wetlands and mangroves. These restoration packages reduce climate-related risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly in KBAs and adjacent production landscapes. Invasive species management will be integrated into restoration efforts, with site-specific measures such as targeted removal of invasive grasses and understory plants, suppression of fast-spreading invasive tree species and the use of native species planting to out-compete invasive flora. The restoration of degraded agricultural lands and forest areas will also contribute towards reduction and control of invasive alien species (IAS). These measures reduce regeneration pressure on degraded areas and support long-term biodiversity recovery.

The second outcome (**Outcome 2.2**) delivers these conservation and restoration benefits through participatory, community-led action. Conservation and restoration are pursued in tandem to maintain carbon stocks and deliver REDD+-related contributions to Fiji's NDCs. While restoration activities contribute towards rehabilitation of degraded riparian zones, wetlands, slopes and mangroves, conservation actions in Key Biodiversity Areas and remaining natural forest mosaics help secure existing carbon pools, preserve biodiversity and increase ecosystem resilience. The 3,250-ha restoration target prioritises high-impact areas identified through stakeholder consultations during the project preparation phase, the Vanua Levu Profile, and the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis, e.g., including degraded slopes, riparian zones, wetlands and mangroves where restoration is technically feasible and socially agreed. This area is calibrated to restoration costs, labour and adoption constraints identified in the KAP survey and is complemented by 134,000 ha of improved management through protection, better practices, and community-driven measures. The combined approach balances ambition with feasibility and ensures that restored areas are located where they deliver the greatest biodiversity, climate and ecosystem service benefits.

Activities will proceed with free, prior, and informed consent and ensure equitable participation. Implementation will target forests and freshwater ecosystems within high-priority KBAs identified in the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis, such as the Wailevu–Dreketi Highlands, alongside vulnerable ecosystems highlighted in the Vanua Levu Profile, including riparian corridors, mangroves, and dry forest remnants. Under **Output 2.2.1**, forests, mangroves, and freshwater habitats will be placed under improved management to benefit biodiversity while providing livelihood opportunities. Under **Output 2.2.2**, KBAs and keystone species such as the Fiji Crested Iguana, Natewa Silktaill, and hawksbill turtles will be safeguarded against climate and anthropogenic threats. Community management of KBAs will deliver co-benefits associated with mitigation of IAS that threaten native forest structure, riparian zones and coastal ecosystems, through monitored regeneration of forest ecosystems and localised control of priority IAS. These activities build on existing community practice and align with national IAS strategies. Under **Output 2.2.3**, idle cane fields and degraded agricultural lands will be rehabilitated with diversified farming systems and agroforestry, reducing runoff impacts on Natewa Bay and the Great Sea Reef.

These interventions provide the ecological and social foundation for the project's quantified global environmental benefits. Restoration of idle cane fields, riparian zones, and mangroves will account for 3,250 hectares under restoration (CI-3). Production landscapes managed under the Integrated Island Management framework will contribute to 134,000 hectares under improved management (CI-4), including 500 hectares adopting sustainable land management practices. Together, these interventions are expected to mitigate 1.127 million tons of CO₂e (CI-6) over the project lifetime, based on AFOLU interventions and IPCC default emission factors. These figures are preliminary and will be validated at CEO Endorsement once site baselines are confirmed.

In addition, the component contributes to direct benefits for households (CI-11). With IFAD reaching approximately 3,050 households (approx. 13,200 people), beneficiaries will include subsistence or semi-commercial farmers, fishing or handicraft producing households, and 100 emerging entrepreneurs or commercial farmers. Women will constitute half of all beneficiaries, with youth at 30% and Indigenous

Peoples (iTaukei) at 75%. The project will also ensure that women- and youth-led MSMEs gain fair access to value chains, linking livelihood improvements to inclusive and just market opportunities.

In sum, Component 2 ensures that Vanua Levu's development trajectory is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Through Outcome 2.1, households adopt climate-resilient production practices and gain market access; through Outcome 2.2, restoration and conservation interventions generate measurable global environmental benefits. By embedding these dual streams within the Integrated Island Management framework, the component links rural well-being directly to the protection of biodiversity, forests, and marine ecosystems, advancing Fiji's NBSAP targets and global commitments under the Kunming–Montreal GBF.

Component 2 is delivered through coordinated technical leadership and community implementation. MoAW, MoFF, and MoECC provide technical standards and extension support, while community-based organizations, producer groups, and customary landowners implement restoration and improved management measures. MSMEs and local enterprises operationalize sustainable production and value chain standards, with private sector buyers reinforcing biodiversity-sensitive practices through market incentives.

Component 3 (*Inclusive Access to Market and Finance*)

This component addresses the economic barriers that limit rural producers from benefitting fully from sustainable production systems. While Components 1 and 2 provide the enabling framework and strengthen household-level practices, Component 3 ensures that these upstream gains translate into inclusive market participation, access to finance, and resilient value chain development. Barriers such as poor access to green value chains, insufficient incentives for sustainable practices, lack of productive infrastructure, and limited access to financial services currently prevent smallholders from realizing the full value of their production.

Baseline surveys and assessments made during the project preparation phase confirm the need. The baseline KAP survey findings show strong concern among Vanua Levu communities for land and freshwater health and high awareness and uptake of tree planting, but low rates of mangrove restoration and water conservation. Resources are scarce: only about one third reported receiving any grant or subsidy to change practices. The baseline KAP survey and the institutional capacity assessments also identify management and monitoring gaps. Component 4 will strengthen these functions to improve the uptake and scaling of Component 3 interventions.

The expected outcome (**Outcome 3.1**) is inclusive access to markets and finance, including options to save and invest remittances. Communities and producer organizations will be supported to identify value chain opportunities through participatory mapping and analysis, emphasizing climate-smart, environmentally friendly practices such as hydroponics, beekeeping, horticulture, oyster farming, and value addition in products like chocolate and coconuts. Diversification of income-generating activities, reduced reliance on pesticides, and integration of indigenous knowledge with modern practices will help ensure that value chain growth is both environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Producer groups will protect and build on women's already active role reported in community consultations, and training will target low-uptake practices such as mangrove restoration and water conservation. Climate risks outlined in **Annex T (*Baseline climate trends and projections*)**, including damage to coastal tourism assets, cyclone related supply chain disruptions and increased volatility in production volumes, reinforce the need for resilient value chains and diversified rural enterprises. Strengthened links to tourism and premium buyers, climate resilient business development services and improved post-harvest systems help households manage climate driven uncertainty.

Under this outcome, rural enterprises will gain access to tailored business development services (**Output 3.1.1**), including training, technical assistance, and organizational support to strengthen their ability to operate as formal actors in value chains. Target beneficiaries will also be linked to post-harvest infrastructure and services that reduce losses and raise quality standards. Indicators include the formal engagement of 35 rural

producers' organizations (1,050 members, including 525 women and 315 youth) in contracts or partnerships with public or private entities.

Complementing these efforts, access to finance (**Output 3.1.2**) will be expanded through partnerships with public and private financial institutions, enabling households and enterprises to invest in climate-smart production and processing. Financial literacy training will be provided, and households will be encouraged to make productive use of remittances. The indicator for this output is that at least 66% of households report using financial services by project end.

Finally, targeted investments (**Output 3.1.3**) will support climate-smart agribusiness and eco-tourism ventures, enhancing both sustainability and market appeal. This closes the baseline gap on incentives for practice change by expanding value chain finance and results-based grants that reward verified adoption. These investments will be designed to generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. The project aims to create 500 new jobs (250 for women, 150 for youth, and 375 for Indigenous Peoples), ensuring inclusive participation in higher-value segments of the value chain.

In sum, Component 3 overcomes structural barriers by linking rural producers to fair and resilient markets, expanding access to finance, and delivering targeted investments in climate-smart enterprises. By embedding inclusivity in both market and financial systems, it ensures that the benefits of production improvements under Components 1 and 2 are sustained, scaled, and equitably shared across Vanua Levu's rural communities.

Progress on community practices and service reach will be tracked by repeating the KAP survey at project completion, using the same questions for comparability.

Private sector engagement drives Component 3. MSMEs, producer organizations, tourism operators, and aggregators serve as implementation partners, while financial institutions expand access to credit and investment. Government agencies provide regulatory alignment, quality assurance frameworks, and coordination support to enable scaling.

Component 4 (*Enabling Policy and Institutional Environment*)

This component fosters the systemic conditions that make integrated island management durable, namely policy alignment, institutional capacity, and a culture of learning. It is a joint outcome between **RESAR** and **BEGREEN**, ensuring that the governance and policy reforms needed to scale integrated approaches are advanced nationally while remaining grounded in Vanua Levu's realities. The work builds on two design-phase diagnostics: (i) baseline institutional capacity assessments for the **Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways (MoAW)** and **Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry (MoFF)**, which frame capacity gaps in coordination, extension, and community engagement (see **Annex N**); and (ii) a rapid **KAP survey**, which provides a people-centred baseline on awareness and access to services (see **Annex O**).

Component 4 will also strengthen the capacities of local institutions, including provincial offices, district administrations and community organisations, to support long term sustainability and local ownership of project outcomes. Training and mentoring will focus on planning, monitoring and reporting functions linked to the Integrated Island Management Plan. Local actors will be supported to track environmental and socio-economic indicators, interpret data and use results to guide management decisions. This local capacity strengthening is essential for sustaining restoration gains, maintaining improved practices and ensuring that knowledge and skills are transferred beyond the project cycle.

Together, these instruments anchor Component 4 in evidence and provide measurable starting points for improvement. The baseline institutional capacity assessments guide Output 4.1.2 on coordination and monitoring so that extension and advisory services perform better across sectors.

The expected outcome (**Outcome 4.1**) is an **enabling policy and institutional environment strengthened** so that integrated island management is mainstreamed into sector strategies and budget processes, and knowledge flows consistently from national systems to provinces, districts, and villages. In practice, this means that integrated priorities coming from Component 1 are recognized by policy, enabled by institutions, and communicated through coherent knowledge and extension services, which support implementation under Components 2 and 3 and sustains results beyond the project cycle.

The climate baseline and projections described in **Annex T** will help shape the project's knowledge products, monitoring routines and policy engagement. Updated climate information will support adaptive management, inform adjustments of the Integrated Island Management Plan and facilitate institutions in aligning guidance, extension services and regulatory instruments with emerging climate risks. Risk monitoring will be embedded into the learning agenda so that assumptions about climate risk and practice performance are routinely tested and adjusted where necessary.

Delivery is organized through four mutually reinforcing outputs. First, **policy and regulatory instruments for Integrated Island Management are developed and submitted for approval (Output 4.1.1)**. To reduce the risk that policy and regulatory instruments remain unenacted, the project will, to the extent possible, prioritize instruments that can be operationalized through existing administrative and sectoral mechanisms (e.g., ministerial directives, codes of practice, integration into provincial strategic development plans and annual work plans), rather than relying solely on lengthy legislative processes. Each instrument will be accompanied by a defined implementation roadmap, assigned institutional responsibility, and alignment with budget cycles to ensure practical uptake. Progress toward approval and operationalization will be reviewed semi-annually by the Project Steering Committee. Drawing on KAP survey evidence that communities perceive climate change, land conversion, and pollution as leading threats, the project will prepare at least three instruments that address these priorities, for example an **ecotourism code of practice** linking conservation standards to market access, **conservation-lease provisions linked to REDD+** for OECMs and buffer zones, and **biodiversity safeguards** integrated into agricultural extension and land-use guidance. Second, **institutional capacities of MoAW and MoFF are strengthened (Output 4.1.2)**. Based on the baseline institutional assessments and a standardized capacity scorecard, the project will improve cross-sector coordination, upgrade extension service offerings (including climate-smart content and participatory methods), and embed inclusive decision making so that women, youth, and customary institutions can influence local planning. Training centres and frontline extension will be capacitated to deliver the integrated agenda.

Third, **sustainable, climate-resilient economic models are implemented and codified for scale up (Output 4.1.3)**. Instead of one-off pilots, RESAR will deliver **scalable implementation packages**, for example green/blue village packages that connect eco-tourism with sustainable agriculture and coastal conservation. These packages incorporate structured financing models such as conservation leases or PES, used as voluntary, time-bound instruments to formalize conservation commitments in priority areas. Conservation leases will be applied only in areas facing demonstrable degradation or transition pressures, ensuring they reinforce — rather than displace — existing customary stewardship practices. Each package will also include SOPs, costed business cases, and uptake agreements (for example MoUs and budget lines) to enable replication through BEGREEN and provincial SDPs. A structured learning agenda, using before and after metrics, cost curves, and user feedback, will document the conditions for replication and inform national roll out. Fourth, **knowledge management and communications** are implemented, with **traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)** integrated in partnership with the **Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (Output 4.1.4)**. The project's *Knowledge Management and Communications Plan* (see **Annex J**) will guide the activities under this output, including production and dissemination of knowledge projects, showcasing TEK; produce gender- and youth-sensitive knowledge products; and deliver outreach through schools, digital platforms, field days, peer exchanges, and

trade fairs. This will link national messages such as the NBSAP, blue economy, and green village to provincial and community action. The knowledge management plan will also be used to assess whether risk mitigation measures are working, whether assumptions remain valid and whether new risks have emerged, rather than focusing primarily on communication products. Routine learning cycles will analyse risk monitoring data, performance information and adoption trends. These findings will feed into updates of the Integrated Island Management Plan, practice standards and extension content, providing a structured mechanism for adaptive management across all components.

The project will also seek structured knowledge exchange with relevant global and regional platforms, including the GEF Blue-Green Islands (BGI) Integrated Program community, given the alignment in integrated island management approaches. In relation to sustainable land management, RESAR will explore engagement with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) network to document and share SLM practices emerging from Vanua Levu and Taveuni. This will contribute Pacific Island experience to global SLM learning platforms while strengthening adaptive learning within the project.

Progress and indicators. Progress will be tracked against the results matrix while drawing directly on the diagnostics above. For **policies**, the indicator remains **three instruments proposed**, and each will explicitly reference the KAP-identified threats to demonstrate relevance. For **institutional capacity**, improvement will be measured via the **MoAW/MoFF institutional capacity scorecard** and triangulated with KAP-based perception metrics. An end-of-project KAP survey will be conducted, including (but not limited to) the questions included in the baseline survey. The metric that is captured in the results framework is how communities access incentives for changing land use plans, e.g., grant assistance, subsidies, or payments for ecosystem services, etc.). For **knowledge and communications**, the indicator on **number and dissemination of knowledge products** will be complemented by evidence of reach to user groups identified in the KAP, demonstrating closure of priority awareness gaps on climate change, biodiversity, waste management, and disaster risk reduction.

In sum, Component 4 converts integrated planning into policy, institutional, and knowledge systems that can carry the approach forward at scale. By aligning instruments, capacities, and communications, and by grounding targets in the institutional assessments and KAP baseline, it ensures that the gains from Components 2 and 3 are supported by a stable enabling environment and that integrated island management becomes part of how Fiji plans, budgets, and learns.

Component 4 is implemented through coordinated action by government agencies, civil society organizations, customary institutions, producer organizations, and private sector actors. MoAW, MoFF, and MoECC advance policy and regulatory instruments aligned with the Integrated Island Management Plan. Civil society organizations provide technical facilitation and monitoring support. Customary institutions, community groups, and producer organizations engage in policy dialogue and knowledge dissemination. Private sector actors and MSMEs contribute implementation feedback and market perspectives to ensure that enabling instruments are grounded in operational realities.

Innovation, sustainability and scaling towards wider transformation

The project's innovation lies first in how planning, siting and delivery are joined into a single island program. Component 1 uses the Vanua Levu Profile together with the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions analysis to turn dispersed data into mapped priorities for protection, restoration and climate smart production. Those priorities are then embedded in the three provincial strategic development plans so that actors and budgets can align to the same places and a simple monitoring, reporting and verification system can track what changes on the ground. This is not a stand-alone plan but a practical method for deciding where to act, what to do first and how to measure results.

Innovation also shows up in how livelihoods and conservation are linked.

Component 2 pairs restoration of riparian corridors, wetlands, mangroves and degraded farm land with production practices that reduce runoff and store carbon. In districts with idle cane fields the project supports diversified farming and agroforestry that improve soil and water functions while raising household income. Where communities choose to do so, other effective area-based measures and conservation leases create durable protection around key biodiversity areas and in buffer zones. The approach is designed so that ecological gains and household gains reinforce each other.

On the market side the innovation is to use real demand to sustain good practice. Component 3 connects producer groups and rural enterprises to buyers in tourism and to premium outlets that value quality and traceability. This requires simple practice standards, basic record keeping and modest post-harvest and market access improvements. The effect is to reduce transaction costs on the island and to send a clear signal that better practice earns a better price. As these relationships mature, finance becomes more accessible for climate smart upgrades and for small business growth.

Sustainability is built into the institutions, the money and the knowledge. Institutionally, endorsement of the island plan through the provincial strategic development plans gives line ministries and local government a mandate to use it, and policy instruments developed under

Component 4 reference the plan so that guidance, permitting and extension pull in the same direction. Financially, the plan sequences public and partner funds to priority polygons, conservation leases create a revenue stream for communities that choose them, and value chains that meet tourism and premium buyer standards keep private money flowing to producers who maintain quality and stewardship. On the knowledge side, the project uses a learning strategy that blends traditional ecological knowledge with the design phase diagnostics, and it uses the KAP baseline to target awareness and service access where they are weakest. Knowledge products are prepared in usable formats so that provincial officers, extension staff and community leaders can apply them without external support.

Scaling is both horizontal across the island and vertical through policy and programs. Horizontal scale comes from siting multiple interventions along corridors and catchments so that actions add up from ridge to reef. Vertical scale comes from the use of the provincial planning system and national frameworks to institutionalize the approach and from the program platform that allows lessons to move across agencies and partners. The project documents models that are ready for expansion, such as diversified farming on abandoned cane lands, riparian and wetland restoration linked to reduced sediment loads in sensitive bays, and tourism sourcing that rewards certified sustainable seafood and high-quality local produce. Replication beyond the project will depend on resources, but the combination of an endorsed plan, clear standards, working market links and a functioning monitoring system lowers the cost of taking the next step.

From the start the project sets an exit and sustainability strategy that is revisited at midterm. Roles and handovers are defined, data systems are kept simple enough to be managed locally, and financing options are laid out so that provincial and national budgets and private partners can continue delivery. By closing the loop between planning, delivery, markets and policy, the project creates conditions where results persist beyond the grant and where the Vanua Levu model can be adapted for other islands in Fiji.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project governance structure is described below and illustrated in the organogram in **Figure 7**.

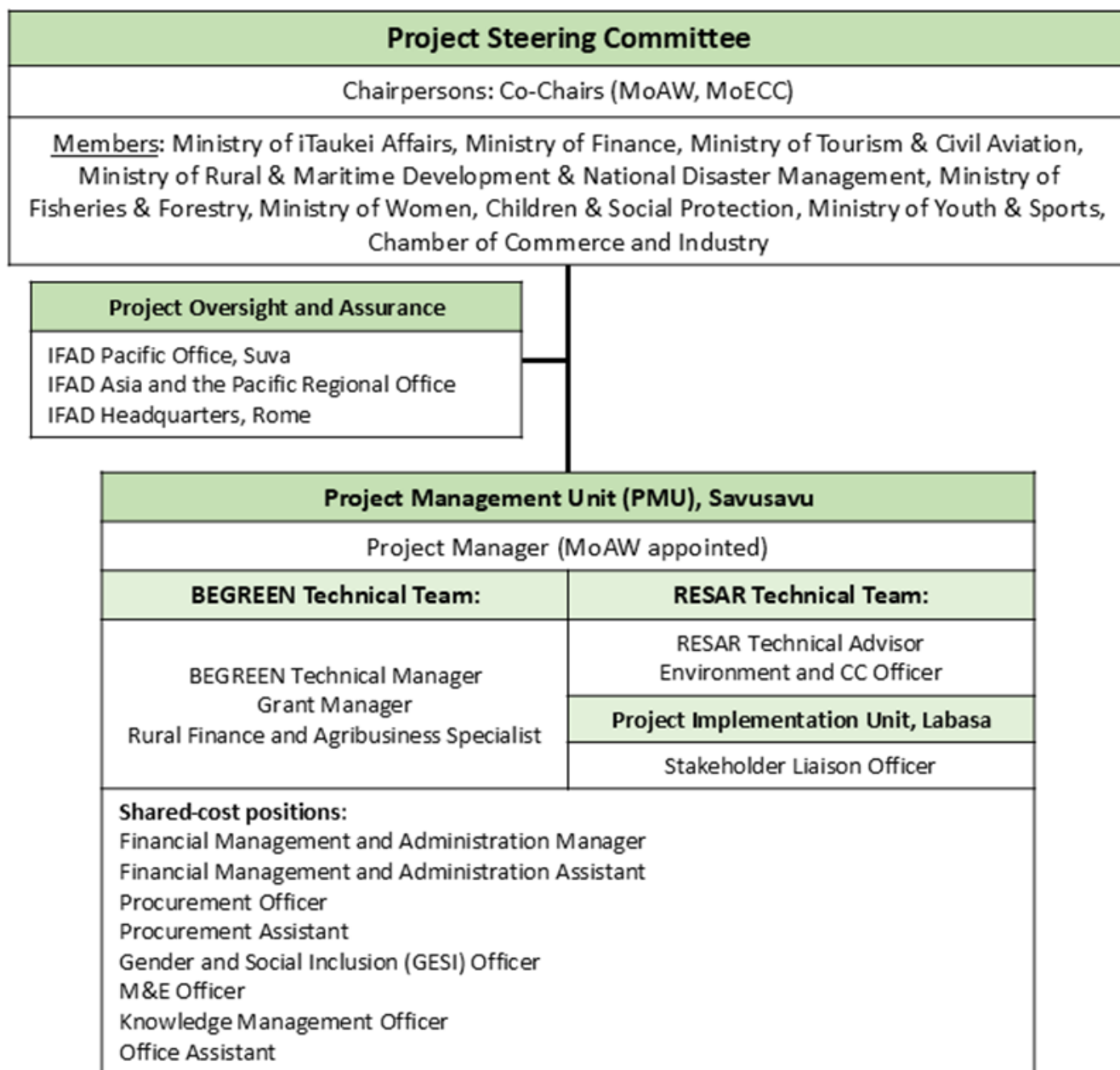


Figure 7: Project organogram

Project Steering Committee (PSC): A PSC will be established to guide project implementation, support coordination, ensure alignment with national priorities, and provide a venue for sharing good practices and addressing policy issues. It will be co-chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of MoAW and MoECC, and include representatives from Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways (MoAW): MoAW is the **Executing Agency** and will be responsible for overall accountability, oversight and coordination, and for the implementation of GEF and IFAD funds. It will cooperate with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), as well as

other government entities as necessary, notably the ministry of iTaukei Affairs. It will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) and Annual Procurement Plans (APPs) and will endorse Withdrawal Applications and Statements of Expenditure prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU), for subsequent approval by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

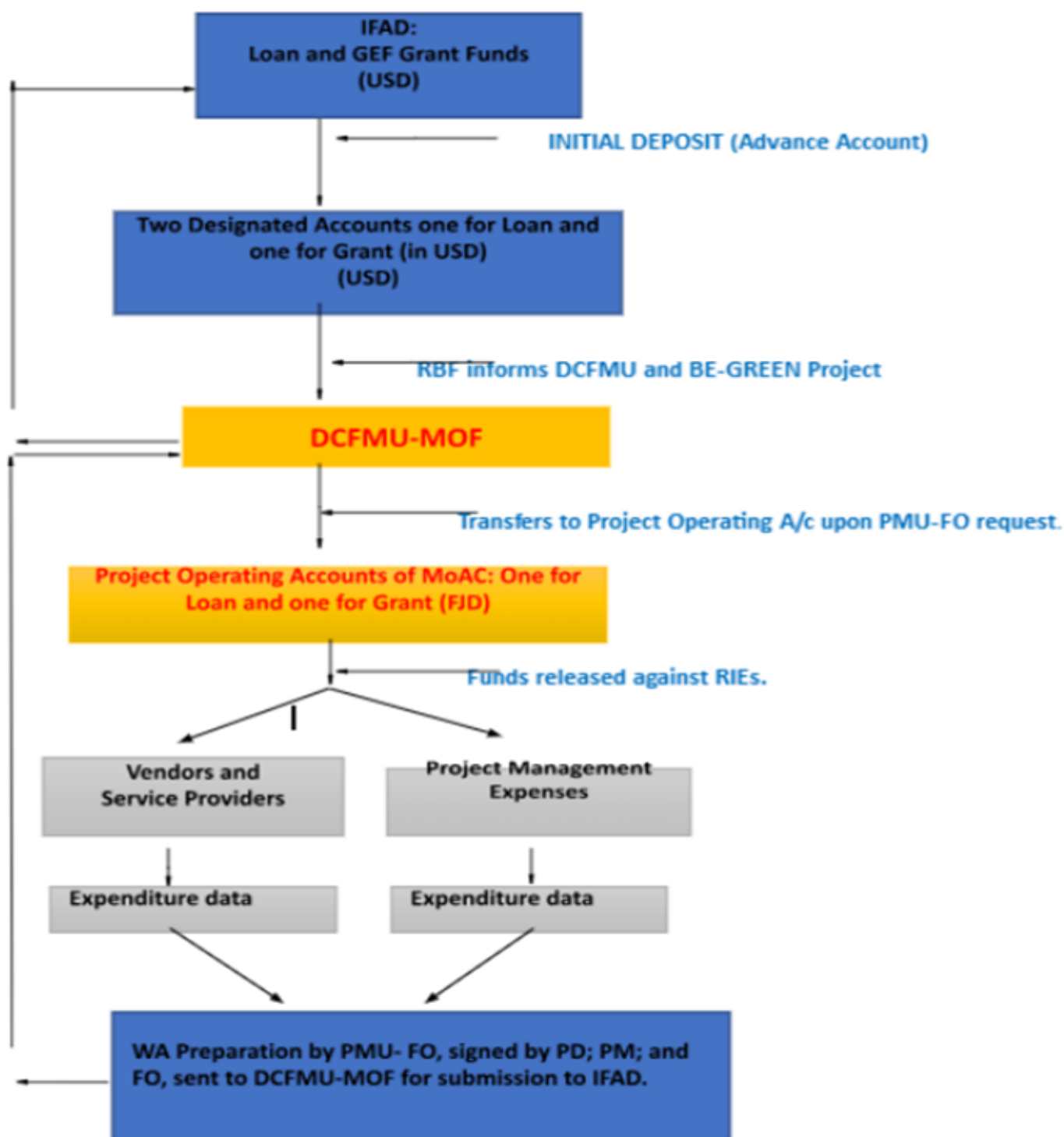
Implementation Partners. In addition to MoAW and MoECC, the other programme key partners include Ministry of iTaukei, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Fisheries, private sector entities, financial institutions, and youth organizations. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been vetted and Partners in Community Development in Fiji (PCDF) has been identified as an implementation partner. Additional implementation partners will be considered during project implementation.

Project Management Unit (PMU): A PMU will be established in Savusavu and hosted by MoAW Crop Extension Division. It will be responsible for carrying out project implementation responsibilities and will be fully accountable for project performance, the integration and utilization of IFAD and GEF funds, and stakeholder engagement and coordination. The PMU will be headed by a **Project Manager**, who will have responsibility for managing the project, ensuring synergies between GEF and IFAD financing, coordination with the Government of Fiji and other donor-funded activities (e.g., the World Bank Tourism Development Program in Vanua Levu), and regular consultations with the PSC and project partners. A **RESAR Technical Advisor** will provide strategic technical assistance in the implementation of project activities. An **Environment and Climate Change Officer** will be stationed in the MoECC office in Suva, working closely with ministry staff, ensuring synergies are operationalized, and facilitating scaling up of project results.

A **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)**, staffed by a Stakeholder Liaison Officer, will be established in Labasa, to liaise with Vanua Levu subnational government entities and facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration, e.g., in the development of the Integrated Island Management Plan under Component 1.

Financial Management and Procurement. MoAW will be responsible for Financial Management through the dedicated PMU. The project will adhere to the IFAD Procurement Handbook and Standard Procurement Documents.

Disbursement Arrangements and Flow of Funds. Disbursement arrangements and flow of funds are described below and illustrated in **Figure 8**.



DCFMU-MOF: Debt & Cash Flow Management Unit, Ministry of Finance
 RBF: Reserve Bank of Fiji
 (FJD): Fiji Dollar (Local Currency)
 MOAW: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways
 RIEs: Request to incur expenditure

To support the effective implementation of both the BE-GREEN and RESAR projects, two separate Designated Accounts (DAs) in US dollars will be established at the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF), the country's central bank. These accounts will be opened with the authorization of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Treasury Division, to facilitate the direct receipt of funds from IFAD.

With MoF approval, the Project Management Unit (PMU), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water (MoAW), will also open two Project Operating Accounts in Fijian dollars at a designated commercial bank one for loan proceeds and one for grant funds. These accounts will serve to manage funds transferred from the respective DAs and support the day-to-day implementation of project activities.

Initial advances will be disbursed by IFAD based on the forecasted six-month expenditure outlined in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). Subsequent disbursements will be made upon submission of Interim Financial Reports (IFRs) and Withdrawal Applications (WAs) via the IFAD Client Portal (ICP). All WAs will be subject to review and approval by the MoF prior to submission to IFAD for processing.

The Project Director, Project Manager and Finance Officer will be designated as co-signatories for all project bank accounts, ensuring appropriate oversight and accountability in managing disbursements.

To maintain clarity and ensure the proper segregation of funds, separate DAs will be maintained for each financing source. In addition, the Government of Fiji's counterpart contributions will be managed through a distinct local currency account. The AWPB will clearly identify the source and percentage of financing for each activity, thereby guiding the finance team in budget allocation and expenditure tracking.

Transfers of funds to other Implementing Partners (IPs) and participating agencies will be guided by the nature of the planned activities and the budgetary provisions specified in the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed between the PMU and respective implementation partners.

The PMU will be responsible for tracking and reporting all financial and in-kind contributions received from the Government of Fiji, project beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, ensuring full transparency and alignment with IFAD's financial management requirements.

IFAD Supervision: As the GEF Implementing Agency, IFAD is responsible for project oversight and assurance, which will be delivered by the IFAD country office in Suva and supported by the IFAD Asia-Pacific regional office in Bangkok and IFAD headquarters in Rome. IFAD will organize annual supervision missions, in collaboration with the PMU, implementation partners, and project stakeholders. The missions will assess and discuss project achievements, lessons learned, and compliance with the Financing Agreement. They will also identify innovations, evaluate progress on Multiphase Adaptive Programme (MAP) assessment criteria, and recommend improvements. Implementation support missions will focus on performance assessments and on assisting the PMU in addressing specific challenges. For continuity, a core team of recurring resource persons will lead the reviews, supplemented by specialists addressing unique needs.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Reporting: The project will implement a M&E system, to measure project results against targets in the project results framework; provide the PMU, MoAW, MoECC, and project stakeholders with data and analyses to assess project achievements, improve project performance, develop lessons learnt, and capture good practices and successful innovation; allow project stakeholders, in particular women and youth groups, producers' groups, cooperatives, and MSMEs, to make informed decisions for the development of profitable and sustainable activities; and support policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. The system will be accessible to project stakeholders; be harmonized with MoAW and MoECC information systems; be participatory and inclusive of youth, women and disadvantaged groups; and

support accountability upward (to the Government of Fiji, IFAD and GEF) but also downward (to project stakeholders and target groups).

The project will strengthen M&E capacities within provincial offices, district administrations and community organisations. Local actors will be trained to use simple geo-referenced reporting tools, practice checklists and ecological field monitoring methods to track environmental changes and socio-economic outcomes in their areas. These locally generated data will feed into the Integrated Island Management Plan's monitoring and verification routines and will support adaptive management at village, district and provincial levels. Strengthening M&E at the frontline ensures that knowledge and skills are retained locally and that results continue to be measured and used after the project concludes.

The project's result framework and monitoring and evaluation activities will integrate the project's indicators into the MoECC's national biodiversity framework, ensuring seamless data flow for UN Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) reporting and national environmental reporting obligations. Periodic joint review sessions between the project team and MoECC's Resource Management unit will be conducted to ensure that emerging data inform adaptive management and updates to the NBSAP and Fiji's national CBD reports.

Data analysis will support performance monitoring, problem detection, solution identification, and the tracking of good practices for sharing via the knowledge management system. Feedback loops on biodiversity data (e.g., species monitoring, habitat recovery, and restoration results) will inform adaptive management decisions during project implementation. Regular meetings will be held at various levels to review progress, discuss issues, and update project status. The PMU will prepare regular technical and financial progress reports, including the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), to the PSC for approval, followed by submission to the Government of Fiji, IFAD and GEF for review and approval.

An **M&E Officer**, co-financed by IFAD and GEF, will be assigned to the PMU to develop and manage the M&E system, and to provide capacity building and coaching in M&E for PMU staff and implementation partners. In accordance with GEF requirements, an independent midterm review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE) will be organized by IFAD and the Government of Fiji. The MTR will assess the GEF Core Indicator target progress and likelihood of meeting them by project completion; co-financing mobilized, and challenges faced; and analysis of implementation progress, stakeholder engagement, gender mainstreaming, risk management, and knowledge outcomes. The TE will provide an independent analysis of results achieved, progress towards impact, likelihood of sustainability, and lessons learned.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Cooperation with complementary initiatives and projects:

The project will cooperate with the following complementary initiatives and projects.

Project / Initiative	Synergies
IFAD “Blue Economy and Green Community Development (BE-GREEN)” Programme (Project No. 2000004863)	The BE-GREEN programme and the proposed GEF-financed RESAR project are designed as a blended initiative. The costs for the Project Manager and several of the PMU members are shared across the IFAD and GEF investments. A common steering committee will oversee the implementation of the blended initiative.
Emission Reduction (ER) Programme, Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries	The ER Program will focus on 20 districts on the islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni with an area totalling about 1,685,742 ha or about 90% of Fiji of critical terrestrial biodiversity. The ER program has a target to reduce 9,500ha of deforestation over the five years of implementation from 2021.
Reforestation of degraded forests (RDF), Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries	Programme to rehabilitate degraded/vulnerable forest areas and improve Fiji’s forest cover through replanting local indigenous species.
Sustainable Land Management Programme, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways	Programme that promotes the adoption of practices that minimize land degradation and improve soil health.
CI-GEF “Safeguarding Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO)” (GEF ID 10675)	The GEF-7 SAMBIO project has sites earmarked in Vanua Levu, creating opportunities to capture these areas in the Integrated Island Management Plan and collaborating on capacity building and knowledge management related activities. A formal coordination and knowledge-sharing mechanism between the SAMBIO and RESAR projects will be established, e.g., including joint validation of intervention sites, cross-learning on lessons and best practices, etc., to strengthen complementarity and policy alignment, and to ensure continuity between the GEF-7 and GEF-8 initiatives.
World Bank “Vanua Levu Tourism Development Programme” (Project No. P178694)	The World Bank programme is focusing on building connectivity, improving tourism infrastructure and services, and development of micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSME). The Tourism Master Plan to be developed under the World Bank programme will be an important part of the Integrated Island Management Plan under Component 1. Development of MSME complements the activities of BE-GREEN/RESAR under Component 2. And Component 3 leverages improved connectivity and tourism demand to de-risk private investment in inclusive value chains.
WWF-GCF “Coral Reef Resiliency Program” (GCF PP060)	The GCF-funded project focuses on enhancing resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities through ecosystem-based adaptation within Fiji’s Great Sea Reef. The project will cooperate with the WWF project on coastal and marine interventions, including supporting marine OECMs, and restoration of mangroves and coastal wetlands.
BIO-DEV, IUCN	Phase II of the BIODIV2030 was launched on 9 October 2025. Phase I project laid a strong foundation, with significant achievements made in securing voluntary biodiversity commitments from stakeholders in the kava sector of Cakaudrove Province. Moving into Phase II, the focus will expand to include sustainable exploitation of marine and inland fisheries, as well as the continued development of the kava sector. Phase II will emphasise policy reforms to better integrate biodiversity into public policy and promote sustainable coastal fisheries. It aims to foster competitive and inclusive industries while maintaining ecosystem protection.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCC.

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)
3250	3250	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	1,000.00	3,250.00		

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)
2,000.00			

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)
250.00			

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)
148000	134000	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)
140,000.00	133,500.00		

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8,000.00	500.00		

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)
		2,000.00			

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)

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)
		500.00			

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	1128542	1127542	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	1,128,542	1,127,542		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026	2026		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	10,000	13,150		
Male	10,000	13,150		
Total	20,000	26,300	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)

Core Indicator 3: The proposed end target for this indicator includes areas of degraded agricultural lands under restoration, e.g., areas where climate-smart agricultural practices are implemented, resulting in enhanced soil and water conservation, erosion control, improved vegetative cover, etc. Also, areas where idle sugarcane fields are rehabilitated through adoption of diversified farming systems. Restoration of degraded riparian zones and mangroves and other coastal ecosystems are captured under this indicator. Available information on the locations of degraded areas will be further reviewed and discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Ministry of Forestry, as well as provincial and local governments, during the project preparation phase.

Core Indicator 4: Core Indicator 4 (134,000 ha total) is composed of 133,500 ha under sub-indicator 4.1 (biodiversity-priority landscapes under improved management) and 500 ha under sub-indicator 4.3 (sustainable land management in production systems). The 133,500 ha represent landscapes where improved management regimes will be operationalized through endorsed community management plans, biodiversity-sensitive production standards, restoration measures, and integration into provincial strategic development plans and monitoring systems. These areas therefore meet the GEF-8 definition of "landscapes under improved practices" through documented management measures, institutional backing, and monitoring and verification mechanisms. The 500 ha under sub-indicator 4.3 reflect production systems adopting soil and water conservation, agroforestry, and rehabilitation practices aligned with Land Degradation focal area objectives.

Core Indicator 6. The preliminary estimates of lifetime direct GHG emissions mitigated are attributable to carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector through the improved landscape practices and restoration interventions. The anticipated start year of accounting is 2026.

Core Indicator 11. The estimated number of people benefitting from the GEF (and IFAD) investment represents the people who receive targeted support, including people receiving training on climate-smart agriculture; people receiving livelihood related benefits from diversified farming systems and agroforestry initiatives; landowners receiving payment for reduced emissions through REDD+ schemes; people benefitting from the sustainable use of non-forest timber products and/or coastal fisheries. The IFAD investment has the potential of directly serving and supporting 3,050 households and 100 entrepreneurs, or 12,300 corresponding people, covering more than 80% of the total farmer households in the project's intended districts. The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways has categorized farmers into subsistence, semi commercial and commercial farmers. Reflecting the distribution in the targeted areas, the 3000 project beneficiary households will constitute subsistence and semi commercial farmers, or fishing and handicraft households. Additionally, 50 households classified as low-income and getting transitional rental housing accommodation from the Public Rental Board in Savusavu district (including single mothers, persons with disabilities, landless or socially excluded) will be engaged through suitable activities such as floriculture or handicraft. Furthermore, 100 entrepreneurs or commercial farmers active in trading or processing from smallholders in the target districts will also benefit from project services, based on their potential to develop sourcing partnerships with producers or to engage as service providers. Enterprises, in particular women and youth led MSMEs, will also be considered beneficiaries in as much as they are intrinsically linked to smallholders in their respective value chains in a just and fair manner. Among the beneficiaries, women will account for 50%, youth 30%, and Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) 75%.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Risk: Fiji faces high vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. The country frequently experiences tropical cyclones, rising sea levels, floods, and landslides, making it one of the world's most vulnerable nations. Vanua Levu is particularly affected due to its geographical location. As outlined in the baseline climate trends in Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections), average temperatures in Fiji are projected to increase, extreme rainfall events are expected to intensify, and the dry season duration is projected to increase in parts of the Northern Division. These changes are projected to contribute to higher erosion and sediment delivery to coastal ecosystems, greater crop losses during drought and cyclone seasons, damage to perennial crops and increasing disruption to tourism and market access. Risk screening was carried out at the project preparation phase as part of the IFAD's Social, Environment, and Climate Assessment Procedure (SECAP) process which informed the

		adaptation and mitigation measures. Mitigation: Promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices and nature-based solutions such as agroforestry, restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and marginalized lands and riparian zones will be emphasized to help communities adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and build long-term resilience. Capacity-building initiatives will target farmers, extension workers, and government line agencies to enhance their understanding of climate change impacts and promote climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly practices. Climate resilience, and disaster awareness and preparedness will be embedded in the Integrated Island Management Plan at the island scale and in the Vanua plans at the local level. As described in Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections), restored riparian zones, wetlands and mangroves will help reduce erosion, sediment transport and coastal inundation associated with extreme events. The project will conduct risk screening for field interventions and incorporating practical adaptation or mitigation measures into the Integrated Island Management Plan and Vanua plans, as well as implementation of the field interventions to build and strengthen resilience. Even with strong design mitigation, Fiji's exposure to sea level rise, intensified rainfall, increased flood risk, higher temperatures and more frequent droughts means that residual climate risk remains. These systemic hazards operate on a continuum where the project can reduce but not eliminate climate risk; extreme events that exceed projected ranges would still affect restoration sites, infrastructure and rural livelihoods. The project therefore integrates ongoing climate risk monitoring into the knowledge management and adaptive management system so that site selection, restoration methods and practice guidance can adjust as conditions change.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Risk: Deforestation, unsustainable agriculture practice, use of chemical inputs, and overuse of natural resources are among the key threats to land, freshwater and marine ecosystems, resulting in land degradation, soil erosion, and proliferation of invasive alien species. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2025 states around 140,000 hectares of Fiji's native forests have transitioned to non-forest uses since 1967. This shift is primarily due to i) forest clearance for commercial agriculture and rural development, ii) both commercial and subsistence farming, iii) expansion of small settlements and urban areas, iv) abandonment of commercial plantations, and v) construction of infrastructure like roads to support settlements. A Social, Environmental, and Climate Assessment Procedure (SECAP) was conducted during the project preparation phase. The SECAP review note has detailed relevant policies, responsible institutions, and monitoring and evaluation processes. Mitigation: The project is anticipated to generate overall positive social and environmental benefits. A comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Climate Management Plan (ESCMP) was prepared during the project preparation phase, outlining issues and impacts related to biodiversity, cultural heritage, community health and safety, labour conditions, and Indigenous Peoples, among other SECAP standards. Furthermore, a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) implementation plan for Indigenous Peoples a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Gender Action Plan, and a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) have

		been established to guide project implementation. Proactive targeting and support will be ensured to the poor and marginalized communities, women, youth and Indigenous peoples through diversified production, value chain development, enterprises initiatives, skill development, and ecotourism. The FPIC implementation will incorporate traditional practices and social and cultural values of IPs into project design and implementation. The project activities focus on agriculture lands, productive forests and marine, and coastal areas, dissuading forest encroachment, degradation, and deforestation as well as no exploitation to protected areas. For any potential tangible cultural heritage sites within the KBAs, Chance Finds Procedures will be included in the restoration plans and incorporated in the sub-project specific ESCMPs to be implemented in collaboration with responsible national/local authorities.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Risk (political) Fiji's social and political landscape has undergone significant changes in recent years. The formation of a coalition government, led by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, marked a new chapter in Fiji's complex political history. This transition raised concerns about the strength of Fiji's democracy and witnessed tensions surrounding vote-counting and the potential for military intervention. In terms of development, Fiji has outlined a comprehensive National Development Plan with a vision of 'Transforming Fiji,' focusing on inclusive socio-economic growth, infrastructure, education, health, and climate resilience. The plan aligns with global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The partnership between the Government and IFAD is going into a new era of cooperation. Mitigation (political): The IFAD Country Office will continue to explore the partnership in multi-dimension; the blended project strategy brings in new inspirations on rural development and accelerating the agricultural transformation in a sustainable manner. Risk (governance): Fiji has established a comprehensive framework to ensure the adequacy of its financial institutions' policies and structures. The Reserve Bank of Fiji, as the central supervisory authority, has implemented a range of policies to maintain a sound financial system. These include the Banking Supervision Policy Statement No: 1, which outlines capital adequacy requirements for licensed financial institutions. Additionally, the Reserve Bank has set prudential supervision policies that cover various aspects of financial stability, such as corporate governance, cybersecurity risk management, and liquidity risk management. These measures are part of Fiji's commitment to align with international standards and promote a stable economic environment. Moreover, the country's efforts to combat corruption and enhance accountability are integral to its policy framework, as corruption is recognized as a significant barrier to achieving sustainable development goals. Overall, Fiji's policy and institutional framework reflect a proactive approach to safeguarding the integrity and stability of its financial sector. Mitigation (governance): The Government of Fiji has enhanced its efforts to prevent corruption by developing the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC), which outlines its roadmap for the next five years (2024–2029) in the Strategic Plan. This phase focuses on building systems of integrity,

		accountability and transparency in public and private institutions. The project governance structure, led by the Ministry of Agricultural and Waterways, as the Executing Agency, is inclusive of multiple stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and subnational entities across Vanua Levu and Taveuni. A multi-tier Grievance Redress Mechanism has been established and will be operationalized during project implementation.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Risk (policy alignment): The National Adaptation Plan Framework of Fiji aims to comprehensively address climate change by building environmental resilience, nurturing social improvement, reducing poverty, encouraging economic growth, and making Fiji less vulnerable to climate changes impacts. The NAP underpinned approaches such as: i) Leveraging the private sector, ii) Promotion of ecosystem-based adaptation options where appropriate, iii) Gender and human-rights based approach and, iv) Recognising rural and urban areas as separate but also linked area among others. The Green Growth Framework of Fiji, launched in 2014, encourages action at all levels to achieve integrated and inclusive sustainable improvement, strengthen environmental resilience, build social improvement, reduce poverty, support economic growth, food security and strengthen capacity to withstand and manage the adverse effects of climate change. The Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda complements the National Green Growth Framework and provides new dimensions by opening up to global innovations for climate-smart agriculture that generate both adaptation and mitigation benefits. Five agriculture development objectives have been set, namely: i) To build modern agriculture in Fiji as an organized system of producing, processing, and marketing crops, livestock, and aquaculture products, ii) To develop integrated production, processing, energy, and transport infrastructure support system for agriculture, iii) To improve delivery of agriculture support services, iv) To enhance capabilities to generate fund and secure investment through foreign investment, private public partnership, and other innovative business arrangements, and v) To improve project implementation and policy formulation capability within the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and its partner institutions. The MOAW's 5-year Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024-2028 was released in December 2023, and it aims to build a "A resilient, competitive, innovative and inclusive agriculture and sector". It is designed to contribute to the vision of the 20-Year Development Plan vision for "Transforming Fiji" into a progressive, vibrant and inclusive society. The Plan encompasses five strategic priorities, namely: (i) SP1 - Improve food and nutrition security for all Fijians; (ii) SP2 - Increase farmer household income for sustainable livelihoods; (iii) SP3 - Improve the adoption of sustainable resource management and climate-smart agriculture; (iv) SP4 - Establish and improve commercial agriculture; and (v) SP5 Improve quality public sector performance and service delivery. Mitigation (policy alignment): This risk is mitigated by the fact that, the project investments are fully integrated into the

		existing Government development planning, aligning with strategic and sector development priorities. Risk (policy development and implementation): There is a possibility that the government may lack the ability to create and execute sector policies that are effective potentially affecting the success of the project particularly under access to finance. Mitigation (policy development and implementation): The project will provide institutional capacity building, offer to support the participating agencies of the government in order to build their capacity in developing and implementing sector policies that are effective. Collaboration with stakeholders including farmers' organizations and private sector will provide assistance to the government throughout the project implementation.
Technological	Moderate	Risk: Technical feasibility on introduction of green technologies. Under its technical intervention of organized production under promotion of agribusiness diversification and green village set-up under demonstration of ecotourism and green village, green technologies such as greenhouse and hydroponic farming were mentioned by stakeholders consulted. Mitigation: Innovative technologies will be explored together with the target small producers and an agronomic and investment perspective and recommendation will be offered as to the most cost effective, resilient, investments to be considered.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Risk: The target beneficiaries primarily include rural farmers and fisherfolk. Many of these people have limited financial and business capacity. Mitigation: The project strategy focuses on delivering capacity building and investment assistance to local farmers and fisherfolk, increasing their resilience to climate change and macroeconomic disruptions.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	Risk: The project implementation arrangements were designed centring the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways mandated for the sector development. The project will cooperate with ministries and agencies responsible for environment and climate change, tourism, rural development, fisheries, women and youth development. The timely coordination is key to ensure the implementation effectiveness. Mitigation: The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established with representation from relevant agencies to guide the overall project implementation. IFAD seeks to invest in policy influence and sector development dialogue by working closely with the government and the donor community to establish and contribute to sector-wise and thematic dialogue platforms. The capacity of the execution partner(s) is an important requisite for ensuring the project objective and outcomes are achieved effectively and efficiently. Execution partners will be vetted, matching organisational technical and fiduciary capacities with the requirements outlined in the description of the project strategy.
Fiduciary	Moderate	The GEF agency for this project, IFAD, has a resident office in Fiji that has been steadily growing in recent years. Having the GEF-8 project linked with IFAD's investment project in the country will help ensure that dedicated staff will be available for effective project oversight and assurance. The fiduciary

		capacities of execution partners will be vetted prior to entering into contractual arrangements.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Risk: The project needs a collaborative effort from various governmental agencies with communities, MSMEs, service providers, private sectors, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and many other stakeholders. Meaningful consultations and adequate engagement to/with stakeholders are key challenges. Mitigation: A detailed stakeholder analysis and engagement plan have been prepared during the project preparation phase. A FPIC plan has also been developed, to guide engagement with Indigenous peoples. A multi-tier Grievance Redress Mechanism was developed during the project preparation phase, incorporating customary and government level systems.
Other	Moderate	Risk (macroeconomics): Fiji experienced significant economic growth with strong recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The economy cooled down in 2024 given less favourable base effects and a tighter fiscal stance as the government seeks to ease the country's high debt burden. For the budget policies to achieve development goals, additional gradual fiscal consolidation is needed going forward to rebuild fiscal buffers. As the most developed island nations in the Pacific, Fiji relies primarily on tourism which is the most important sector of economy as it accounts for more than 25% of GDP; sugar and textile exports are the other important sources of revenue. Despite of its many strengths, Fiji is prone to natural disasters and highly affected by climate change; it also faces several other challenges such poverty, access to basic services, high transport costs, and reliance on external markets due to its narrow resource bases. The country's debt rate is high, or 81.2% as of its GDP as of July 2023. More than 31% of the population lives under hardship line and the country is dependent on foreign aid and remittances. Mitigation (macroeconomics): Macroeconomic policy to focus on rebuilding room for policy response to shocks, steady reduction in debt ratios, a gradual normalization of monetary policy and structural reforms to boost growth, build resilience and tackle challenges like climate change and emigration. The project invests in diversified agriculture linking with agribusiness and upper value chain to harness the premium for rural households. The project will invest with climate smart asset and resilience building, in rural households linking the production and income generation to the tourism market of proximity. In medium term the project will seek to the import substitute market segment like meat, agri-commodities, fruits and vegetables. The project will contribute to the improved food and nutrition security, improved access to livelihood opportunities and services particularly for women and youth. Risk (fragility and security): Fiji's path to stability and security is being shaped by a pivotal defence and security review, initiated by Home Affairs Minister Pio Tikoduadua. This review was a civilian-led process that aimed to address the nation's internal security risks and define the military's future role. The process is marked by inclusivity, seeking a broad spectrum of views to strengthen

		national security, which is fundamental for sustainable development. With a history of ethnic tensions and political instability, Fiji's efforts towards a comprehensive security strategy underscore the importance of unity and resilience in facing both internal and external challenges. Mitigation (fragility and stability): The project will apply an inclusive targeting strategy, providing income generation opportunities in the hope of equitable sharing of economic growth among the target population. This will help to ease the level of tension at community level and contribute to maintaining the social stability in the country.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk rating for this project is Moderate. IFAD will ensure appropriate risk management measures are developed and implemented to effectively mitigate the identified risks, as well as unforeseen conditions.

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

Explain 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.

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.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed multi-focal project is aligned with the following GEF-8 BD and LD programming strategies. Under GEF-8 Biodiversity Objective 1 the project advances sustainable use, restoration and mainstreaming in priority sectors. It supports customary stewardship and community management, restores riparian and mangrove systems, and embeds biodiversity considerations in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. Under GEF-8 Land Degradation Objectives 1 and 2 it avoids and reduces degradation through sustainable land management and reverses degradation through landscape restoration, including diversified farming on idle cane lands, assisted natural regeneration, erosion control and soil and water conservation.

GEF-8 BD Objective 1: To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural resources (Goals A and B of the GBF). The project promotes sustainable use of biodiversity as part of the integrated island management approach, focusing on engaging Indigenous peoples and rural communities (*BD-1-2: Sustainable use of biodiversity*). The project strategy also has a strong emphasis on restoration and improved use of agricultural lands, as well as degraded forest and mangrove areas (*BD-1-3: Ecosystem restoration*). The integrated island management approach will help ensure land, freshwater and marine resources are used appropriately, and practices among production sectors are transformed to more biodiversity-positive to promote sustainable use of biodiversity (*BD-1-4: Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors*).

GEF-8 LD Objective 1: Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM) (Goals A and B of the GBF). Climate-smart agriculture is an integral part of the project strategy, aimed at transforming and reorienting agricultural systems to support food security and respond to climate change trends. Agroecological methods, including agroforestry and strengthening community-based natural resource management, will also be promoted to improve agroecosystem services.

GEF-8 LD Objective 2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration (Goals A and B of the GBF). The project strategy includes implementation of nature-based solutions restore and strengthen the target

landscapes-seascapes, e.g., including assisted natural regeneration of forest and mangrove areas, agroforestry models within riparian zones, and improved practices to enhance soil and water conservation, erosion control and groundwater recharge.

Alignment with national and regional priorities is strong. The project provides a subnational vehicle to implement the NBSAP in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Fiji's NBSAP (2020-2025) emphasizes the importance of integrating conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making and mainstreaming these issues across all sectors. The project strategy is closely aligned with NBSAP Principle 5 (Adopting an ecosystem-based management approach), aimed at maintaining healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems, incorporating economic, social and cultural values, and involve multiple stakeholders through participatory governance; Strategic Area IK1, e.g., providing support and training on biodiversity awareness and information dissemination; and Focus Area 6 (Sustainable Use and Development), reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use.

It supports the National Development Plan and the Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Development Plan 2024 to 2028 on sustainable production, market participation and service quality. It is consistent with the National Adaptation Plan framework, the updated Nationally Determined Contribution where nature-based solutions and climate smart agriculture are priorities, and with the National Sustainable Tourism Framework that promotes links between agriculture and tourism. On land use it respects the iTaukei Land Trust Board Master Land Use Plan for the Greater Northern Region.

Fiji's National Action Plan (NAP) to *Combat Desertification/Land Degradation and to Mitigate against Drought*^[16], although developed more than 20 years ago, contains objectives and performance indicators that are relevant according to current circumstances. For instance, the NAP calls for managing soil, water and flora sustainably and in an integrated manner; increasing public awareness and capacity on sustainable land and forest management practices; promoting local-level land use planning; and strengthening exchange of expertise and information. In addition to aligning with these priorities, the RESAR project will support the initiation of an LDN-aligned analytical and coordination process in Fiji. Restoration and sustainable land management interventions under Components 1 and 2 will generate spatial baselines, monitoring data, and practice-level evidence that can inform the establishment or refinement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under the UNCCD. Through coordination with the relevant national focal points and sector agencies, Vanua Levu will operationalize LDN principles in an integrated ridge-to-reef context, linking sustainable production, restoration, and biodiversity mainstreaming within a coherent landscape framework.

The proposed project is closely aligned with the principles of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), adopted through Decision 4/CP.23 during the UNFCCC COP23, which was presided over by the Government of Fiji. The KJWA addresses the following six interrelated topics across the agricultural sectors: soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change.

The project contributes directly to the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**. Component 1 operationalizes GBF Target 1 and Target 14 by establishing an Integrated Island Management Plan that sets spatial priorities and brings them into provincial strategic development plans with monitoring, reporting and verification. Component 2.2 delivers Target 2 and Target 10 through restoration and improved management in production and conservation zones and delivers Target 9 where customary sustainable use is strengthened around key biodiversity areas. Measures that reduce runoff, waste and nutrient loads contribute to Target 7. Component 4 advances Target 21 through knowledge and communications, Target 22 through gender responsive design, and Target 23 by ensuring women and girls have equal opportunity to participate and benefit. The package also supports Target 11 through nature-based buffers that reduce disaster risk. Together the components contribute to Goals A and B.

The project is expected to contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and

economic growth), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (life on land).

The project responds to IFAD13 priorities and is aligned with IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025 namely: (i) Increase poor rural people's productive capacities, (ii) Increase poor rural people's benefits from market participation and, (iii) Strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people's economic activities. The project will operationalise key elements of IFAD's *Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)* Strategy that recognizes the Pacific region's unique challenges and vulnerabilities to climate change and external shocks and strengthens their resilience.

[16] NAP compiled by the UNCCD National Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forests, Republic of Fiji, June 2007

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

Confirmed.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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 (\$)
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	6,576,255.00	624,744.00	7,200,999.00
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	825,187.00	78,393.00	903,580.00
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	825,187.00	78,392.00	903,579.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						8,226,629.00	781,529.00	9,008,158.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	160,876.00	15,283.00	176,159.00
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	19,562.00	1,858.00	21,420.00
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	19,562.00	1,859.00	21,421.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	7,377,158.00
IFAD	GET	Fiji	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,850,000.00
Total GEF Resources					9,227,158.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-2	GET	2,913,128.00	8981234
BD-1-3	GET	2,913,127.00	8981231
BD-1-4	GET	750,000.00	2312266
LD-1	GET	825,187.00	2544069
LD-2	GET	825,187.00	2544069
Total Project Cost		8,226,629.00	25,362,869.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forestry	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1382764
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forestry	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	17968695
Civil Society Organization	Live and Learn	Grant	Investment mobilized	352410
Others	Pacific Action for Climate transitions	Grant	Investment mobilized	109000
GEF Agency	IFAD	Loans	Investment mobilized	5300000
Total Co-financing				25,362,869.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Project co-financing has been confirmed from five different partners, including two recipient government agencies (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Forestry), IFAD as the GEF Agency, a civil society organization (Live & Learn), and the Pacific Action for Climate Transitions (PACT), a joint research centre between the Fiji National University and Monash University.

The in-kind contribution from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change corresponds to support for monitoring and evaluation and project management costs. The Ministry of Forestry has committed substantial public investment (investment mobilized) co-financing contributions, reflecting complementary investments including the Emission Reduction (ER) Programme, Reforestation of Degraded Forests (RDF) Programme, and the national REDD+ Programme. Apart from these public investments, the Ministry of Forestry has confirmed in-kind contributions supporting project monitoring and evaluation and project management.

The USD 5.3 million loan (investment mobilized) contribution from IFAD represents the BE-GREEN concessional loan to the Government of Fiji. The BE-GREEN and RESAR projects are developed as a blended, joint initiative, and the investments under BE-GREEN are distributed across Components 2, 3, and 4. Moreover, co-financing contributions for project monitoring and evaluation and project management correspond to shared PMU positions and operational expenses.

The grant (investment mobilized) contribution from Live & Learn corresponds to complementary activities under the REDD+ programme in Drawa Block, Vanua Levu being implemented from 2025 to 2032.

The grant (investment mobilized) co-financing from PACT corresponds to complementary capacity building and climate resilience programmes across Fiji, including in Vanua Levu.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	12/18/2025	Pierre-Yves Guede, Lead Climate and Environment Funds (AF, GCF, GEF)		p.guede@ifad.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	12/18/2025	Paola Palestini, GEF Technical Focal Point		p.palestini@ifad.org
Project Coordinator	12/18/2025	Candra Samekto		c.samekto@ifad.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Dr Sivendra Michael	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	10/26/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Objective / outcomes	Objectively verifiable indicators				Means of verification			Risks and assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline	Midterm target	End of project target	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Objective: Improved rural livelihoods and climate resilience through sustainable blue and green production, improved market access and biodiversity protection.	Indicator 1: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (ha) (GEF-8 CI 3) Aligned with GBF Target 2. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 6.	Zero, as no project-specific interventions yet in place	1,000 ha	3,250 ha	Restoration plans, M&E reports	Annual	PMU	<u>Risks:</u> Stakeholder reluctant to take part in restoration interventions. Natural disaster hazards. <u>Assumptions:</u> Effective stakeholder engagement; integration of climate change and disaster risk mitigation.

To protect globally significant biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services through a participatory integrated island management approach for Vanua Levu that generates co-benefits of strengthened livelihoods, food security, nutrition and climate resilience for local communities.	Indicator 2: Area of landscapes under improved practices (ha) (GEF-8 CI 4) Aligned with GBF Target 10. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 6.	0 ha under project-supported improved management regimes. iTaukei Land Trust Board Master Land Use Plan for the Greater Northern Region; preliminary analyses conducted during PPG phase.	134,000 ha targeted for improved management; includes 133,500 ha with biodiversity-sensitive management plans and practice standards developed and initial implementation underway; and 500 ha having SLM intervention plans under implementation	134,000 ha under defined and monitored improved management regimes, including: 133,500 ha under sub-indicator 4.1 (biodiversity landscapes); 500 ha under sub-indicator 4.3 (sustainable land management in production systems)	Management plan, M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Stakeholders reluctant to safeguard key biodiversity areas in production landscapes. Assumptions: Effective stakeholder engagement, demonstrate benefits.
	Indicator 3: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tCO ₂ e) (GEF-8 CI 6) Aligned with GBF Target 8	Zero GHG mitigated, as no project-specific interventions yet in place.	Estimation of end target of 1,27,542 tCO ₂ e (lifetime direct) confirmed	1,127,542 tCO ₂ e (lifetime direct)	Updated estimates of GHG emission reductions; M&E reports	Midterm, end of project	PMU	Risks: Improved management and restoration outcomes may not be met; practices revert to business-as-usual. Assumptions: Improved management and restoration outcomes fulfilled and maintained post-project.
	Indicator 4: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count) (GEF-8 CI 11) Aligned with GBF Targets 22, 23.	Zero, no people have yet benefitted from GEF investments	5,000 (of whom 50% are women)	26,300 (of whom 50% are women)	M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Project beneficiaries reluctant to participate; women and marginalized groups not actively engaged. Assumptions: Beneficiaries, including women and marginalized groups, actively engage in project activities.
Component 1: Holistic island management								
Outcome 1.1: Alignment of actors, efforts, and resources for holistic island management	Indicator 5: (a) Integrated Island Management Plan endorsed by three provincial councils and reflected in provincial strategic development plans; (b) monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system	(a) iTaukei Land Trust Board Master Land Use Plan for the Greater Northern Region; (b) No monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system in place	(a) Integrated Island Management Plan developed and being socialised; (b) monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system developed and under review	(a) Integrated Island Management Plan endorsed by three provincial councils and reflected in provincial strategic development plans; (b) monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system	Endorsed provincial SDPs; provincial council resolution minutes or letters of endorsement; Divisional Planning Office registry entry.	Annual	PMU	Risks: Political risks, provincial governments may disagree with the Integrated Island Management Plan priorities. Assumptions: Effective stakeholder engagement

	tracking the Integrated Management Plan under implementation. Aligned with GBF Targets 1, 14, 21. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 5.			tracking the Integrated Management Plan under implementation				and collaboration lead to mainstreaming of Integrated Island Management Plan into provincial SDPs.
	Indicator 6: Number of agencies/sectors with work programmes and budgetary frameworks aligned with the Integrated Island Management Plan Aligned with GBF Targets 1, 14. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 5.	0	Integrated Island Management Plan developed and being socialised	Three (3)	Sector level programming and budgetary planning; M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Ineffective mainstreaming of the Integrated Island Management Plan. Assumptions: Integrated Island Management Plan effectively mainstreamed, leading to committed funding for priority actions.
Component 2: Sustainable and market-oriented production from resilient systems								
Outcome 2.1: Increased sustainable and market-oriented production from resilient systems	Indicator 7: Number of households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities (percentage)	0	15%	50%	Baseline, Midline, Endline surveys	Baseline, Midline, Endline	PMU	The development of economic activities that enhance family livelihoods is an appropriate incentive for communities to actively engage in environmental protection. Governance and land tenure conditions enable integrated approaches.
	Indicator 8: Number of households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices (HH number / HH %)	0 / 0	600 / 25%	2,400 / 80%	Baseline, Midline, Endline surveys	Baseline, Midline, Endline	PMU	
	Indicator 9: Percentage of households satisfied with project-supported services (%)	0	30%	70%	Baseline, Midline, Endline surveys	Baseline, Midline, Endline	PMU	
	Indicator 10: Percentage of households reporting they can influence decision-making	0	30%	70%	Baseline, Midline, Endline surveys	Baseline, Midline, Endline	PMU	

	of local authorities and project-supported service providers (%)							
Outcome 2.2: Strengthened participatory conservation and restoration, higher adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient practices	Indicator 11: (a) area (ha) and (b) percentage of terrestrial key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Vanua Levu and Taveuni under community management. Aligned with GBF Target 10. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 5.	The Natewa/ Tunuloa KBA has a draft Management Guideline (2025); Taveuni Forest Reserve and the Ravilevu Nature Reserve have management plans which are expired.	(a) 98,051 ha and (b) 50% of terrestrial KBAs in Vanua Levu and Taveuni have community management plans developed	(a) 98,051 ha and (b) 50% of terrestrial KBAs in Vanua Levu and Taveuni have community management plans under implementation	Approved management plans, M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Communities reluctant to agree to management of KBAs; revert to business-as-usual practices. Assumptions: Effective community engagement in communicating and demonstrating benefits of community-managed KBAs.
	Indicator 12: Number of new community-led species action plans under implementation. Aligned with GBF Target 4. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 3.	Zero community-led species action plans. Government and NGO-led action plans for Fiji flying fox, red-throated lorikeet, Pacific sheath-tailed bat, Fiji free-tailed bat.	Three (3) community-led action plans developed	Three (3) community led species action plans under implementation	Approved action plans, M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Communities reluctant to agree to leading species action plans; unclear incentives. Assumptions: Effective community engagement and communication ; incentivized through partnerships and benefits towards community well-being.
	Indicator 13: Number of communities (e.g., farmer clusters, mataqali, etc.) managing the conversion-restoration of marginalized land (e.g., abandoned sugarcane, kava, and cocoa fields) into agroecological, climate-resilient systems. Aligned with GBF Target 2. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 6.	0	10 communities with conversion-restoration plans developed and under review	10 communities with conversion-restoration plans developed and under implementation	M&E reports, MOUs with landowners	Annual	PMU	Risks: Landowners reluctant to agree to sustainable use of marginalized lands. Assumptions: Landowners agree to the sustainable management of marginalized land.

Component 3: Inclusive access to market and finance

Outcome 3.1: Inclusive access to market and finance, including options to save and invest remittance	Indicator 14: Number of rural producers' organisations engaged in formal partnerships/ agreements or contracts with public or private entities, disaggregated by the overall number of PO members, number of women members, number of youth members	0	10 (315 total number of PO members, 160 women members, 95 youth members)	35 (1050 total number of PO members, 525 women members, 315 youth members)	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Private sector willing to engage in sourcing from small-scale producers POs continue to participate and actively engage with private sector entities to secure and improve markets and additional business opportunities.
	Indicator 15: Percentage of households reporting using financial services	46% (Reserve Bank of Fiji, Financial Services Demand Side Survey Fiji, 2020	50%	66%	Project M&E	Bi-annual	PMU	
	Indicator 16: Number of persons with new jobs/employment opportunities, disaggregated by gender, youth, and Indigenous peoples	0	305 (75 male, 75 female, 45 youth, 110 Indigenous peoples)	500 (250 male, 250 female, 150 youth, 375 Indigenous peoples)	Project M&E	Bi-annual	PMU	
Component 4: Enabling policy and institutional environment								
Outcome 4.1: Enabling policy and institutional environment strengthened	Indicator 17: Number of policy/regulatory instruments proposed to policy makers for approval, ratification or amendment. Aligned with GBF Target 14. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 5.	0	0	Three	Project M&E	Bi-annual	PMU	National, provincial and local institutions are willing to participate in policy dialogue and policy development and to sustain new skills and processes.
	Indicator 18: Improved institutional capacities for MoAW and MoFF with respect to sustainable management, measured using the project-adapted institutional capacity assessment scorecard	MoAW: CR1: 9 (75%) CR2: 15 (100%) CR3: 8 (89%) CR4: 6 (67%)	Capacity development activities under implementation	MoAW: CR1: 11 (91%) CR2: 15 (100%) CR3: 9 (100%) CR4: 8 (89%)	Institutional capacity assessment scorecard	Baseline, end of project	PMU (contracted service provider to administer KAP survey)	Risks: Ministry officials reluctant to engage in the project; turnover of staff. Assumptions: Effective stakeholder engagement leads to active engagement; focus is on

	across the following capacity result areas (CRs): CD1: Capacities for engagement; CR2: Capacities to generate, access, and use information and knowledge; CR3: Capacities for strategy, policy, and legislation development; CR4: Capacities for management and implementation; CR5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate. Aligned with GBF Target 20. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 5.	CR5: 4 (67%) MoFF: CR1: 9 (75%) CR2: 12 (80%) CR3: 8 (89%) CR4: 8 (89%) CR5: 6 (100%)		CR5: 5 (83%) MoFF: CR1: 11 (91%) CR2: 14 (93%) CR3: 9 (100%) CR4: 9 (100%) CR5: 6 (100%)				institutional capacity.
	Indicator 19: Percentage of respondents to knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey (disaggregated by sex) indicating that they or their group has received financial incentives (such as grants, subsidies, or payments) to change land use practices. Aligned with GBF Target 21. Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 1.	33%	Communities engaged in training and learning-by-doing in KBA management, sustainable land management, and other interventions.	50%	KAP survey	Baseline, end of project	PMU (contracted service provider to administer KAP survey)	Risks: Ineffective engagement of communities and extension services. Assumptions: Effective engagement with communities and extension services lead to improved knowledge and capacity to access incentives.
	Indicator 20: (a) Number and dissemination of knowledge products generated, and (b) number of which showcase traditional knowledge. Aligned with GBF Target 21.	N/A	(a) 10 knowledge products developed and disseminated nationally; (b) of which two (2) showcase traditional knowledge	(a) 20 knowledge products developed and disseminated nationally; (b) of which five (5) showcase traditional knowledge	Dissemination records, media posts, publications, conference proceedings, and M&E reports	Annual	PMU	Risks: Ineffective knowledge management limits dissemination. Assumptions: Knowledge strategy ensures timely dissemination.

	Aligned with Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Indicator 1.							
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ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
PPG consultants: Lead Design Expert; National Resource Management Expert; Biodiversity Expert; GIS Specialist; Economist	79,086.13	57,120.13	21,966.00
Flight and Field Visits of consultants and IFAD Country Team to conduct stakeholder consultations and collect baseline information	48,048.39	48,048.39	
Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, 3 July 2025, Commissioner Northern Division Office, Labasa	324.98	324.98	
Validation Workshop, 27 October 2025, Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva	3,323.41	3,323.41	
Completion of baseline studies including surveys and technical studies to define further field level activities: Studies to support understanding project baseline conditions such as (i) Biodiversity Impact Assessment; (ii) preparing a comprehensive Terms of Reference to conduct an environmental, social and climate risk screening and develop a site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (incorporating site-specific ESCMPs) for restoration of bauxite mine if necessary; (iii) estimate financial models to more accurately compare the incentives structures and financing modalities for selected improved management/restoration practices; and (iv) complement as needed the BE-GREEN baseline study to guarantee adequate coverage and representativeness for all the indicators included in the GEF logframe.	69,217.09		69,217.09
Total	200,000.00	108,816.91	91,183.09

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vanua Levu	-16.55	179.25	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Naicobocobo Dry Forest	-16.79	178.51	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mount Navotuvotu	-16.86	178.74	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nasigasiga	-16.68	178.91	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nakanacagi Bat Cave	-16.61	178.98	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Wailevu/Dreketi Highlands	-16.65	179.22	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Dreketi District	-16.70	179.26	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kubulau District	-16.90	179.07	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Macuata District	-16.50	179.25	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vuna District	-16.83	179.95	

Location Description:

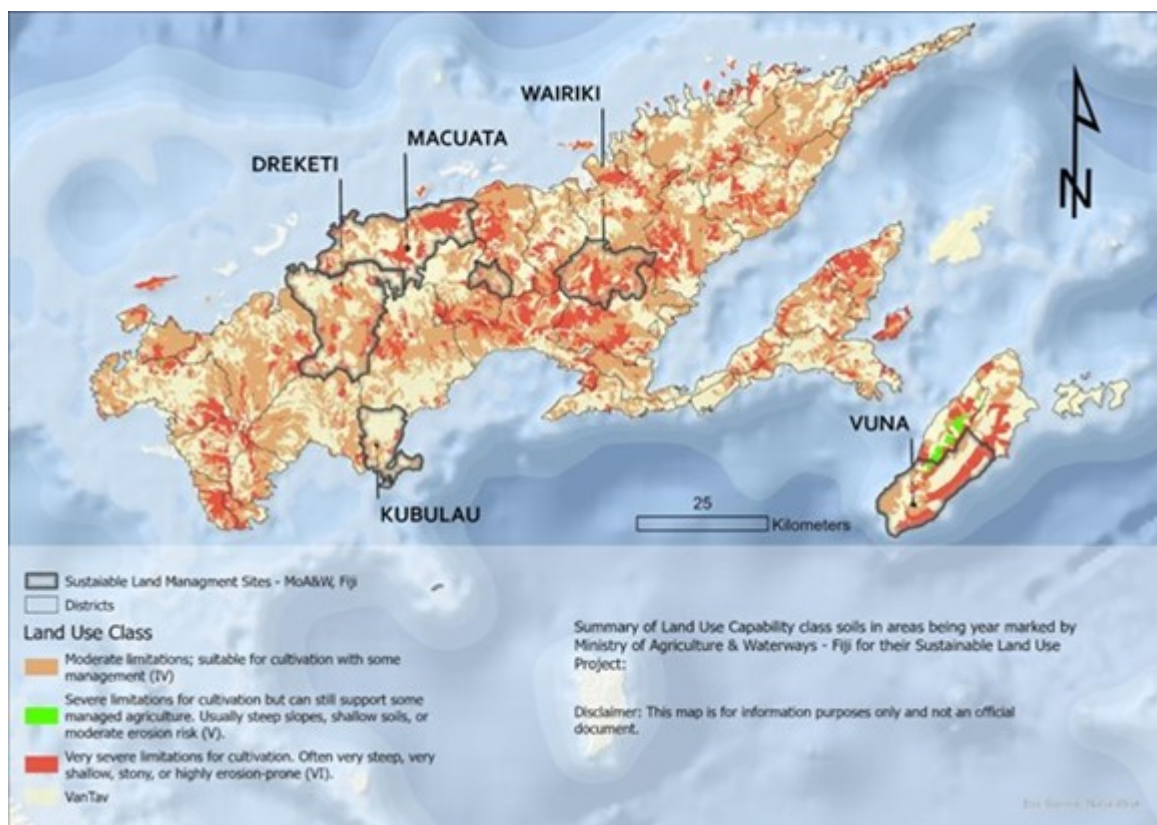
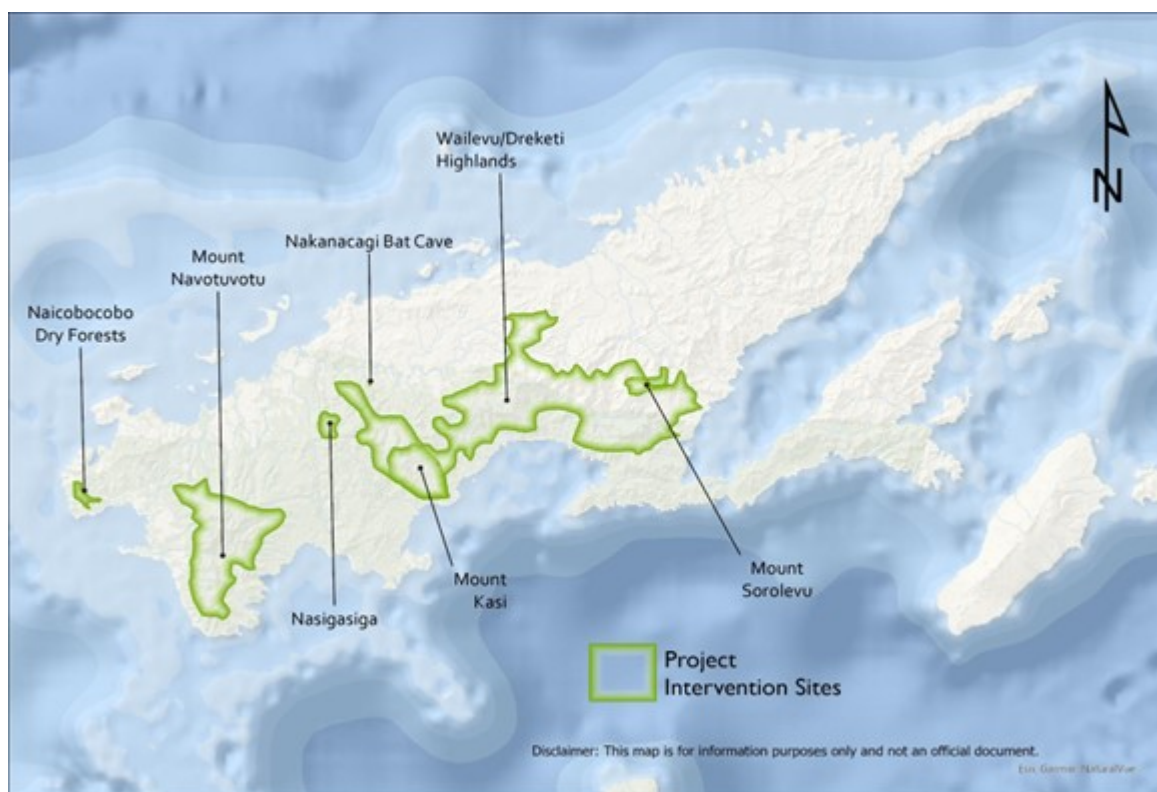
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Wairiki District	-16.93	178.67	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Fiji_GEF8_Annex F2_SECAP ESC Screening Matrix_BEGREEN-RESAR_Revised_071225

Fiji_GEF8_Annex F_SECAP REVIEW NOTE_BEGREEN-RESAR_Revised_071225

Fiji_GEF8_Annex F1_ESCMP_BEGREEN-RESAR_clean_051125

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Annex G: Budget table

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		ftn1
Goods										
ICT equipment for improving	ICT equipment for strengthening subnational conservation offices, enhancing capacities and collaboration mechanisms across Vanua Levu and Taveuni	50 000	0	0	0	50 000	0	0	50 000	MoAW
Equipment for strengthening capacities of extension services	Equipment for strengthening the capacities of extension services to deliver support to small producers, CBOs, and MSMEs, including, inter alia, digital extension equipment, portable soil and water	0	75 000	75 000	0	150 000	0	0	150 000	MoAW

	testing kits, demonstration equipment for sustainable agriculture, integrated pest management equipment, etc.									
Equipment for local communities	Equipment for local communities, facilitating KBA management, restoration interventions	0	60 000	0	0	60 000	0	0	60 000	MoAW
ICT equipment for project team	ICT equipment for project team, including laptops, communication equipment, etc.	0	0	0	27 500	27 500	0	0	27 500	MoAW
Sub-total, Goods									287 500	
Vehicles										
Rent or lease of vehicles for field activities	Rent or lease of vehicles for field activities	35 000	110 000	15 000	30 000	190 000		15 000	205 000	MoAW
Sub-total, Vehicles									205 000	
Grants/ Sub-grants										
Small grants (climate smart investments) for SLM and eco-restoration	Grants awarded to small producers or producer groups for sustainable land management, restoration of degraded agricultural land in areas not included in the target KBAs	0	225 000	0	0	225 000	0	0	225 000	MoAW
Small grants (climate smart investments) for agri-business and eco-tourism initiatives	Grants awarded to MSMEs and/or community-based organizations for agri-business and eco-tourism initiatives in communities not included in the target KBAs	0	0	225 000		225 000	0	0	225 000	MoAW
Sub-total, Grants									450 000	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity										

Executing partner services	Contract management of service providers, etc.	35 000	145 000	20 000	40 000	240 000	0	0	240 000	MoAW
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity									240 000	
Contractual Services – Company										
TA service provider for developing and implementing a feedback system for the integrated island management plan	Technical assistance for developing and implementing a monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system for the integrated island management plan	100 000	0	0	0	100 000	0	0	100 000	MoAW
Contracted partner for restoration of degraded agricultural land	Contracted partner for implementing restoration of degraded agricultural land	0	750 000	0	0	750 000	0	0	750 000	MoAW
Contracted partner for restoration of forest land	Contracted partner for restoration of degraded forest land, e.g., community nurseries, seed propagation, monitoring and maintenance, NTFP management	0	850 000	0	0	850 000	0	0	850 000	MoAW
Contracted partner for restoration of wetland and mangrove areas	Contracted partner for restoration of degraded wetlands and mangroves	0	250 000	0	0	250 000	0	0	250 000	MoAW
Contracted partner for sustainable land management interventions	Contracted partner for SLM interventions (e.g., integrating livestock with crops, terracing, windbreaks, reduced tillage, mulching, etc.)	0	450 000	0	0	450 000	0	0	450 000	MoAW
Contracted partner for community well-being initiatives	Contracted partner for community well-being initiatives (e.g.,	0	600 000	0	0	600 000	0	0	600 000	MoAW

	protection of water sources, NTFP added value, erosion control, ecotourism services and experiences, etc.)									
TA service provider for grant making implementation	Technical assistance for grant making implementation	0	25 000	25 000		50 000	0	0	50 000	MoAW
TA service provider for business planning support	Technical assistance delivered to MSMEs and CBOs for business planning support regarding agri-business and ecotourism initiatives	0	0	35 000	0	35 000	0	0	35 000	MoAW
TA service provider for community KBA management: Naicobocobo Dry Forest	Technical assistance delivered for facilitating community KBA management; design and oversee implementation of restoration; oversee livelihood and community well-being initiatives	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	MoAW
TA service provider for community KBA management: Mount Naotuvotu	Technical assistance delivered for facilitating community KBA management; design and oversee implementation of restoration; oversee livelihood and community well-being initiatives	0	150 000	0	0	150 000	0	0	150 000	MoAW
TA service provider for community KBA management: Nasigasiga	Technical assistance delivered for facilitating community KBA management;	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	MoAW

	design and oversee implementation of restoration; oversee livelihood and community well-being initiatives									
TA service provider for community KBA management: Nakanacagi Bat Cave	Technical assistance delivered for facilitating community KBA management; design and oversee implementation of restoration; oversee livelihood and community well-being initiatives	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	0	0	75 000	MoAW
TA service provider for community KBA management: Wailevu-Dreketi Highlands	Technical assistance delivered for facilitating community KBA management; design and oversee implementation of restoration; oversee livelihood and community well-being initiatives	0	300 000	0	0	300 000	0	0	300 000	MoAW
TA service provider for sustainable land management design and implementation oversight	Technical assistance delivered for design and implementation oversight of sustainable land management interventions	0	175 000	0	0	175 000	0	0	175 000	MoAW
TA service provider for knowledge management and communications	Technical assistance supporting implementation of knowledge management and communication plan	0	0	0	150 000	150 000	0	0	150 000	MoAW
TA service provider for follow-up KAP survey	TA service provider for conducting and interpreting	0	0	0	25 000	25 000	0	0	25 000	MoAW

	follow-up KAP survey									
Sub-total, Contractual Services – Company									4 110 000	
International Consultants										
International M&E Consultant - Midterm Review	International M&E Consultant - Midterm Review (25 days x \$600/day)	0	0	0	0	0	15 000	0	15 000	MoAW
International M&E Consultant - Terminal Evaluation	International M&E Consultant - Terminal Evaluation (25 days x \$600/day)	0	0	0	0	0	15 000	0	15 000	MoAW
Sub-total, International Consultants									30 000	
Local Consultants										
Community and District Facilitators	Facilitators supporting engagement with local communities, district officials, local producers, MSMEs and CBOs	75 000	200 000	50 000	0	325 000	0	0	325 000	MoAW
Biodiversity Consultant	Biodiversity Consultant (170 days at \$400/day)	20 000	48 000	0	0	68 000	0	0	68 000	MoAW
Spatial Planning Consultant	Spatial Planning Consultant (150 days at \$400/day)	60 000	0	0	0	60 000	0	0	60 000	MoAW
Traditional Knowledge Consultant	Traditional Knowledge Consultant (150 days at \$400/day)	12 000	30 000		18 000	60 000	0	0	60 000	MoAW
GIS Consultant	GIS Consultant providing mapping and data analysis services (130 days at \$400/day)	20 000	32 000	0	0	52 000	0	0	52 000	MoAW
Local M&E Consultant - Midterm Review	Local M&E Consultant - Midterm Review (25 days x \$400/day)	0	0	0	0	0	10 000	0	10 000	MoAW
Local M&E Consultant - Terminal Evaluation	Local M&E Consultant - Terminal Evaluation (25 days x \$400/day)	0	0	0	0	0	10 000	0	10 000	MoAW
Local M&E Consultants - misc. M&E activities	Local M&E Consultants - misc. M&E activities (100	0	0	0	0	0	40 000	0	40 000	MoAW

	days x \$400/day)									
Sub-total, Local Consultants										625 000
Salary and benefits / Staff costs										
RESAR Technical Advisor	Technical Advisor at US\$30,000 per year	22 500	126 000	9 000	22 500	180 000	0	0	180 000	MoAW
Environmental-CC Officer	Environmental-Climate Change Specialist at US\$30,000 per year	22 500	126 000	9 000	22 500	180 000	0	0	180 000	MoAW
Stakeholder Liaison Officer	Stakeholder Liaison Specialist at US\$25,000 per year	18 750	105 000	7 500	18 750	150 000	0	0	150 000	MoAW
Project Director*	Project Director* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	95 760	95 760	MoAW
Financial Management and Administration Manager*	Financial Management and Administration Manager* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	60 192	60 192	MoAW
Procurement Assistant*	Procurement Assistant* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	55 725	55 725	MoAW
M&E officer*	M&E officer* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	60 544	0	60 544	MoAW
KM officer*	KM officer* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	60 544	60 544	MoAW
Finance Assistant*	Finance Assistant* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	33 024	33 024	MoAW
Procurement Consultant*	Procurement Consultant* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	42 840	42 840	MoAW
Office Assistant*	Office Assistant* (shared cost with the IFAD BE-GREEN project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	20 320	20 320	MoAW
Sub-total, Salary and benefits / Staff costs										938 949

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings										
Stakeholder workshops	Stakeholder workshops associated with the development of the integrated island management plan (convened at division, province, district, and village levels)	100 000	0	0	0	100 000	0	0	100 000	MoAW
Technical assistance service provider for delivering training and capacity building (institutional partner, NGO, or other entity)	Training delivered to small producers on sustainable land management (SLM) and restoration	0	35 000	0	0	35 000	0	0	35 000	MoAW
TA service provider for delivering training on social and environmental safeguards	TA service provider for delivering training on social and environmental safeguards	0	40 000	0	0	40 000	0	0	40 000	MoAW
TA service provider for delivering capacity building to CBOs for ecotourism, agri-business added value, etc.	TA service provider for delivering capacity building to CBOs for ecotourism, agri-business added value, etc.	0	115 000	0	0	115 000	0	0	115 000	MoAW
TA service provider for delivering capacity building to institutional partners	Technical assistance delivered to MoAW (including extension offices), MoECC, MoFF, and other institutional partners	0	0	0	275 000	275 000	0	0	275 000	MoAW
National inception workshop and report	National inception workshop and report	0	0	0	0	0	11 328	0	11 328	MoAW
Subnational inception workshop and report	Subnational inception workshop and report	0	0	0	0	0	11 328	0	11 328	MoAW
Project steering committee meetings	Project steering committee meetings	0	0	0	0	0	10 000	0	10 000	MoAW
Sub-total, Trainings, Workshops, Meetings									597 656	
Travel										

Travel and allowances for field activities	Travel and allowances for field activities	55 000	175 000	25 000	65 000	320 000	0	0	320 000	MoAW
Travel and allowances for regional learning exchanges, South-South Cooperation, conferences	Travel and allowances for regional learning exchanges, conferences	0	0	0	72 000	72 000	0	0	72 000	MoAW
Travel and allowances - Midterm Review	Travel and allowances - Midterm Review	0	0	0	0	0	10 000	0	10 000	MoAW
Travel and allowances - Terminal evaluation	Travel and allowances - Terminal evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	10 000	0	10 000	MoAW
Travel and allowances - misc. M&E activities	Travel and allowances - Terminal evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	25 000	0	25 000	MoAW
Sub-total, Travel									437 000	
Other Operating Costs										
Audiovisual and print production	Production of information packages, training materials, knowledge products, communication materials	48 770	78 000	4 500	165 915	297 185	0	8 339	305 524	MoAW
Sub-total, Other Operating Costs									305 524	
Grand Total		674 520	5 500 000	500 000	932 165	7 606 685	228 200	391 744	8 226 629	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

The table below presents actions taken in response to comments from the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Project Identification Form (PIF). Date of screen: 26 November 2024.

STAP comment	Action	CER location
To strengthen the project rationale, STAP proposes describing how the project will link to ongoing and past initiatives, particularly to leverage knowledge and learning.	The project rationale section includes discussion on how RESAR leverages knowledge, datasets and lessons from SAMBIO, R2R, ER Programme, RDF Programme, WWF, WCS and the World Bank tourism programme.	Section A: Project Rationale - Baseline Initiatives
Climate change risks and trends should be a central feature of the	During the project preparation phase, a baseline analysis of climate trends and projections was	Annex T (Baseline climate trends and

project. Climate trends and projections should inform the integrated management plan for land and forests (component 1), better land management and biodiversity practices (component 2), value chain and agribusiness development (component 3), and knowledge management plans (component 4). STAP recommends undertaking a robust climate risk assessment and embedding the results throughout the project design. The World Bank's climate risk screening is recommended.	conducted. This analysis is annexed to the CER, and the findings are incorporated into the project design, positioning climate change as a central driver of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.	projections); Section A: Project Rationale
	The description of Component 1 describes how spatial prioritisation and sequencing in the Integrated Island Management Plan will be informed by the climate projections outlined in Annex T, i.e., the integrated island management planning processes will be climate-informed and responsive to project hazard patterns and future conditions.	Section B: Project Description - Component 1 / Outcome 1.1; Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections);
	Component 2/Outcome 2.1: The design of climate smart agricultural practices under Outcome 2.1 will be informed by projections in Annex T, i.e., production and livelihood interventions will address quantified climate risks and crop vulnerabilities.	Section B: Project Description - Component 2 / Outcome 2.1; Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections);
	Component 2/Outcome 2.2: The description of the restoration interventions under Outcome 2.2 highlight how priority will be given to vulnerable areas, e.g., riparian and upland ecosystems prone to erosion, i.e., connecting restoration logic to climate hazards, improving the robustness and justification for restoration packages.	Section B: Project Description - Component 2 / Outcome 2.2
	Component 3/Outcome 3.1: The description of Outcome 3.1 explains how climate risks, including disruptions to tourism and supply chains, inform the design of resilient value chains and market pathways, to reduce climate driven income volatility for rural households.	Section B: Project Description - Component 3 / Outcome 3.1
	Component 4/Outcome 4.1: The description of outputs and activities under Outcome 4.1 explain how knowledge management, communications, institutional learning, and policy updates will be informed by climate trends and future conditions.	Section B: Project Description - Component 4 / Outcome 4.1
Because Fiji is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, has an economy that is highly dependent on connecting to agricultural markets (83% of the population depends on agriculture), faces increased pressure on its natural resources from tourism, agricultural expansion and mining, and possibly other factors, STAP recommends developing simple narratives during the project design to assess the key interactions between drivers, and help identify interventions that are robust to negative change. STAP elaborates on how to design projects relying on future narratives in this advisory document.	During the project preparation phase, a baseline analysis on climate trends and projections was conducted. The following three future narratives were considered, to highlight how uncertainties in key drivers outside the project's direct control could evolve and interact over time: Narrative 1: Hotter and drier interior; Narrative 2: Wetter and more erosive conditions; Narrative 3: Coastal and economic pressure. The activities under project Components 1 through 4 were also assessed qualitatively against these future narratives. The analysis includes a description of how climate, land use and market drivers interact to amplify risks on Vanua Levu, and an assessment of the robustness of project interventions across the three narratives.	Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections); Section B: Project Description – Theory of Change

	The description of the project Theory of Change in Section B of the CER indicates that key response options and causal pathways were informally tested against the three future narratives to ensure they remain robust under uncertainty in climate, markets and land use.	
The theory of change can be strengthened in several ways, so it serves as a monitoring and knowledge management tool and articulates the project logic. This includes:		
Link assumptions to specific outcomes.	Outcome-level assumptions are described under the “Assumptions and impact drivers” section of the Theory of Change narrative description in Section B of the CER. The outcome-level assumptions clarify what conditions must hold, as well as facilitates project M&E for adaptive management.	Section B: Project Description – Theory of Change
Identify risks, such as risks associated with meeting an assumption (e.g. what are the potential risks associated with Fiji being a financially viable option for private agribusiness investors – which of these innovation risks can be captured in the theory of change, and which risks are residual and need to be listed in the risk table).	The narrative description of the project Theory of Change includes a sub-section on “Social norms, behavioural adoption and innovation risk”, which explains how gender norms, customary authority structures and social values influence adoption of climate smart practices and green technologies. This sub-section also clarifies agribusiness engagement as an innovation risk and identifies which elements can be influenced by the project and which are residual risks reflected in the risk table.	Section B: Project Description – Theory of Change
Articulate the logic associated with the theory of change. Currently, this logic narrative is missing.	The Theory of Change narrative includes a description of the project logic, explaining how Components 1–4 deliver global environmental benefits and resilience.	Section B: Project Description – Theory of Change
Build in social aspects that underpin the logic – such as gender norms associated with land management practices, adoption of green technologies, or measures that reduce sensitivity to flooding, and drought (e.g. soil and water conservation practices new to the community). Refer to <i>Leimona, B. et al</i> for a further look into how values and norms are integral to socioecological systems.	The Theory of Change narrative includes descriptions on gender norms, customary authorities and social values as determinants of adoption.	Section B: Project Description – Theory of Change

Establish a robust baseline to measure and track additionality effectively. As currently stated, incremental reasoning relies on several assumptions that need to be validated (e.g., integrated approaches applied in the project will lead to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient livelihoods, and strategic partnerships will lead to lasting positive impacts on the environment and people).	The incremental reasoning narrative in the project rationale section describes baseline conditions using evidence from the Vanua Levu Profile, Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis, baseline KAP survey, and baseline Institutional Capacity Assessments, thus establishing a clear, evidence-based baseline scenario by validating key assumptions through diagnostic tools, and ensures that additionality can be monitored through quantifiable indicators.	Section A, Project Rationale – Incremental Reasoning
When completing the risk table, do not repeat risks that should have been accounted for in the project design – for example, climate risks, the examples provided under environmental and social risks, and political and governance risks. Essentially, the current set of context risks in the risk table should form part of the project design. The risk table should be used to address the risks that may still occur despite good project design and the appropriate mitigation measures. Refer to STAP’s upcoming information note on “clarifying risk in GEF projects,” which will be listed in the publication section of STAP’s website.	An introductory paragraph to the risk table outlines the distinction between risks incorporated into project design (climate, environmental and social, governance) and residual risks that may persist if assumptions do not hold or if events exceed expected ranges. The distinction between design risks and residual risks is well taken. At the same time, in a island context such as Fiji, many systemic risks (including climate hazards, environmental and social conditions, and governance dynamics) operate along a continuum. Even with strong design mitigation, these risks may still generate residual effects if underlying assumptions do not hold or if events exceed expected ranges. For this reason, the CER retains the original risk factors and their associated mitigation measures to provide a complete and transparent view of risk management. However, in line with STAP guidance, the risk table has been clarified to highlight where risks have been incorporated into project design and where residual risks remain despite mitigation. This allows the risk section to reflect both the intention of STAP’s recommendation and the practical realities of operating in a climate-vulnerable small island developing state.	Section, Project Description – Risk table
A few more issues related to risk:		
It is highly unlikely that residual climate risks will be moderate. According to future projections (in the next decade or even for 2050), Fiji is highly vulnerable to sea level rise, flood impact, and increased temperatures which can influence drought.	Climate risk screening was carried out at the project preparation phase as part of the IFAD’s Social, Environment, and Climate Assessment Procedure (SECAP) process. A moderate risk rating was maintained. A baseline analysis of climate trends and projections was conducted, and the project activities proposed under Components 1 through 4 were assessed qualitatively against three future narratives described in the baseline analysis.	Section, Project Description – Risk table; Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections)
Recommend assessing how, and whether, progress has	The narrative of Outcome 4.1 mentions how the climate baseline and projections described in Annex	Section B, Project Description – Component 4 / Outcome 4.1;

been made in addressing risks, or whether new ones have arisen, in the knowledge management plan. The plan should focus on learning strategies to assess the need for adaptive management and much less on communication and knowledge products, which is the current focus.	T will help shape the project's knowledge products, monitoring routines and policy engagement. Updated climate information will support adaptive management, inform adjustments of the Integrated Island Management Plan and facilitate institutions in aligning guidance, extension services and regulatory instruments with emerging climate risks. Risk monitoring will be embedded into the learning agenda so that assumptions about climate risk and practice performance are routinely tested and adjusted where necessary.	Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections)
Several innovation risks depend on scaling, such as crowding in private-public investment, and scaling the effects of sustainable agriculture for climate mitigation and climate adaptation benefits. STAP recommends addressing these innovations in the project design, ideally through a separate theory of change on scaling.	The Theory of Change narrative includes a separate sub-section on "Social norms, behavioural and innovation risk", articulating the scaling logic, including conditions for replication, private sector crowding in and innovation risks that lie partially outside project control. Remaining residual risks are described in the risk table.	Section B, Project Description – Theory of Change; Risk table
Conservation alongside restoration efforts is essential to sustain REDD+-related Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets through forest management. While restoration focuses on rehabilitating degraded ecosystems, conservation ensures the protection and sustainable management of existing forests. This dual approach is critical for achieving Fiji's NDCs, as it helps maintain carbon stocks, preserve biodiversity, and enhance the resilience of forest ecosystems.	The Outcome 2.2 narrative under the description of Component 2 highlights how conservation protects existing carbon stocks and biodiversity while restoration increases sequestration and resilience, i.e., conservation and restoration are pursued in tandem to maintain carbon stocks and deliver REDD+-related contributions to Fiji's NDCs.	Section B, Project Description – Component 2 / Outcome 2.2; Annex T (Baseline climate trends and projections)
Suggest specifying further interventions that will help mitigate invasive species. Currently, the proposal does not mention interventions to address this issue, despite being recognized as a key threat to biodiversity (see component 2).	The description of the interventions under Outcome 2.2 highlights how the restoration of degraded agricultural lands and forest areas will also contribute towards reduction and control of invasive alien species (IAS). These measures reduce regeneration pressure on degraded areas and support long-term biodiversity recovery. Also, community management of KBAs will deliver co-benefits associated with mitigation of IAS that threaten native forest structure, riparian zones and coastal ecosystems, through monitored regeneration of forest ecosystems and localised control of priority IAS. These activities build on existing community practice and align with national IAS strategies.	Section B, Project Description – Component 2 / Outcome 2.2

STAP welcomes the continuation of stakeholder consultations during the project implementation phase. During this stakeholder process, the project developers are encouraged to embrace Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes to ensure broad ownership and sustainability. This should include participatory governance approaches that allow for continuous stakeholders' feedback and input into the project's interventions.	The narrative of Component 1 outlines how the project will promote an inclusive participatory governance mechanism that enables routine feedback from Indigenous peoples, landowning units, women's groups, youth and marginalised communities. This mechanism will allow stakeholders to raise issues, confirm or challenge assumptions, contribute to decisions on site prioritisation and methods and shape knowledge and communications efforts. These inputs will feed into adaptive management processes and updates of the Integrated Island Management Plan, strengthening ownership, transparency and sustainability of results	Section B, Project Description – Component 1
In addition to technical training for farmers and producers, STAP recommends explicitly building the capacities of local institutions (e.g., local government and community organizations) to support long-term sustainability and ensure knowledge transfer. This should include strengthening monitoring, reporting, and evaluation (M&E) systems at the local level (suggestion for component 4), which can track the project's environmental and socio-economic impacts.	The capacity gaps identified in the baseline institutional capacity assessments conducted during the project preparation phase highlight the need for strengthening local monitoring and reporting. This is reflected in the Project Rationale section. The “Feedback loops and safeguards” sub-section under the Theory of Change narrative describes how strengthened local M&E capacities are an enabling condition for sustained outcomes and allow decentralised institutions to measure change and adjust actions as part of routine decision making. The narrative of Component 4 / Outcome 4.1 in the Project Description section includes training of provincial, district and community actors in environmental and socio-economic monitoring, to build local-level M&E capacity and to ensure that environmental and socioeconomic impacts can be tracked by decentralised institutions, supporting long-term sustainability and adaptive management.	Section A, Project Rationale; Section B, Project Description – Theory of Change; Section B, Project Description – Component 4 / Outcome 4.1
A minor point: Is restoring 3,250 ha of land reasonable for the project? It seems small.	The narrative of Outcome 2.2 in the Project Description outlines how the restoration target prioritises high-impact areas identified through stakeholder consultations during the project preparation phase, the Vanua Levu Profile, and the Irreplaceability and Locate Regions Analysis, e.g., including degraded slopes, riparian zones, wetlands and mangroves where restoration is technically feasible and socially agreed. This area is calibrated to restoration costs, labour and adoption constraints identified in the KAP survey and is complemented by 134,000 ha of improved management through protection, better practices, and community-driven measures. The combined approach balances ambition with feasibility and ensures that restored areas are located where they deliver the greatest biodiversity, climate and ecosystem service benefits.	Section B, Project Description – Component 2 / Outcome 2.2

