# GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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## General Project Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title | |
| Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR) | |
| Region | GEF Project ID |
| Fiji | 11718 |
| Country(ies) | Type of Project |
| Fiji | FSP |
| GEF Agency(ies): | GEF Agency ID |
| IFAD | |
| Executing Partner | Executing Partner Type |
| Ministry of Agriculture | Government |
| Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | Government |
| GEF Focal Area (s) | Submission Date |
| Multi Focal Area | 9/18/2024 |
| Project Sector (CCM Only) | |
| Taxonomy | |
| Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biodiversity, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas | |
| Type of Trust Fund | Project Duration (Months) |
| GET | 72 |
| GEF Project Grant: (a) | GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) |
| 8,226,629.00 | 0.00 |
| Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) | Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) |
| 781,529.00 | 0.00 |
| Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) | Total Co-financing |
| 9,008,158.00 | 13,200,000.00 |
| PPG Amount: (e) | PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) |
| 200,000.00 | 19,000.00 |
| PPG total amount: (e+f) | Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) |
| 219,000.00 | 9,227,158.00 |
| Project Tags | |
| CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No | |

Project Summary

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

The archipelagic nation of Fiji faces unique environmental and socioeconomic challenges. The proposed 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 10 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 150,000 hectares of landscapes and 500 hectares of marine habitats, and mitigating 1.127 million tons of CO2 emissions. Directly benefiting 20,000 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.

## Indicative Project Overview

### Project Objective

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.

### Project Components

#### 1. Mainstreaming integrated island management

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Technical Assistance | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 674,520.00 | 1,000,000.00 |

Outcome:

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

Preliminary indicators:

- Updated strategic development plans (SDPs) for the three provinces of Vanua Levu.

  Funding allocated for implementation of priority actions outlined in the SDPs.

Output:

**1.1.1**. Integrated island management plan developed and endorsed.

**1.1.2.** Building and strengthening partnerships for implementation of priority interventions.

## 2.Incentivizing resilient production, conservation and ecosystem restoration

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Investment | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 5,500,000.00 | 2,900,000.00 |

Outcome:

**Outcome 2.1**: Enhanced market-oriented sustainable agribusiness development.

Preliminary indicators:

Households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities.

Number of persons, HHs, Cooperatives reporting adoption of new or improved inputs, technologies or practices.

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

Preliminary indicators:

Change in the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

Change in Ecosystem Integrity Index; or Status of Key Biodiversity Areas.

GEBs:

3,250 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration.

150,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices (including 8,000 ha under sustainable management in production systems).

500 ha of marine habitat under improved practices.

1,127,542 tCO2e of GHG emissions mitigated.

Output:

**Output 2.1.1**. Promoting Agribusiness diversification (agri-value chains/coops, training, CSA, entrepreneurship).

**Output 2.1.2**. Demonstrating green village and ecotourism.

**Output 2.1.3**. Strengthening agri-extension services (training, CCA, traceability, literacy, planning).

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

**Output 2.2.2.**

Fiji's key biodiversity areas and keystone species better managed and protected against climate change and anthropogenic impacts, in alignment with the NBSAP

**Output 2.2.3**. Better manage impacts of agricultural land degradation (including abandoned sugar cane fields) and runoff on marine ecosystems and freshwater biodiversity

## 3. Supporting upper value chains and resilient market access

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Investment | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 500,000.00 | 6,500,000.00 |

Outcome:

**3.1**: Increased downstream resilient value chain investments and improved market access.

Preliminary indicators:

Rural producers' organisations engaged in formal partnerships, agreements or contracts with public or private entities.

Rural producers' organisations/business entities reporting an increase in sales, particularly women led entities.

Private sector offering improved and diversified high value market opportunities.

Output:

**3.1.1**. Enhancing market knowledge and entrepreneurship (post-harvest, e-commerce, food and nutrition safety).

**3.1.2**. Climate-smart investments (agri facilities, agro-forest processing, farm to market, green technology).

**3.1.3.** Access to finance, with targeted focus on women (credit enhancements, matching grants, financial product piloting, incubation facility).

## 4.Strengthening the enabling environment

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Technical Assistance | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 932,165.00 | 1,500,000.00 |

Outcome:

**4.1**: Systemic change and sustainability fostered through institutional strengthening, knowledge management, communications and learning.

Preliminary indicators:

Change in institutional capacities (capacity scorecard).

Number and dissemination of knowledge products generated.

Output:

**4.1.1**. Capacity building (Agriculture, Environment, Forestry, Tourism).

**4.1.2**. Knowledge management, communications, learning, SSTC, traditional ecological knowledge (collaborating with iTaukei Affairs).

## M&E

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|

| Technical Assistance | GET |
|---|---|
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 228,200.00 | 500,000.00 |

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. Mainstreaming integrated island management | 674,520.00 | 1,000,000.00 |
| 2.Incentivizing resilient production, conservation and ecosystem restoration | 5,500,000.00 | 2,900,000.00 |
| 3. Supporting upper value chains and resilient market access | 500,000.00 | 6,500,000.00 |
| 4.Strengthening the enabling environment | 932,165.00 | 1,500,000.00 |
| M&E | 228,200.00 | 500,000.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **7,834,885.00** | **12,400,000.00** |
| Project Management Cost | 391,744.00 | 800,000.00 |
| **Total Project Cost ($)** | **8,226,629.00** | **13,200,000.00** |

Please provide justification

# PROJECT OUTLINE

## A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

The 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 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 more wet 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, 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 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.[1]

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 Tavenui Marine KBA (Site ID 31009) is located between the northeastern coast of Vanua Levu and the island of Tavenui 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 Vatuira passage and along the coastlines of Ra and Ba provinces.

Fiji's unique ecosystems and biodiversity make it stand out among other island nations. The country's geological history, diverse habitats, and various climate zones contribute to its unique ecosystems. Some standout features include: ***High levels of endemism***: Many of Fiji's species are found nowhere else on Earth, particularly its flora; ***Unique marine environments***: Fiji's extensive coral reef systems are home to a vast array of marine life, including numerous endemic species - the Great Sea Reef, the third-longest continuous barrier reef system in the southern hemisphere, is an excellent example; ***Altitudinal variation***: Fiji's mountainous terrain creates distinct altitudinal zones, each hosting specialized plant and animal species; ***Intact forest systems***: A large proportion of Fiji's landmass is still covered by

natural forest, providing habitats for numerous rare and endangered species. Safeguarding Fiji's unique ecosystems is essential for conserving its rich biodiversity and promoting sustainable blue and green development

**Fiji's Blue and Green Economies: An Integrated Socioecological System**

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.[2] 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.[3] 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*[4]. 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)[5], 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 farm land 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[6] 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.[7] 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[8], 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 island has received less attention in the last decades in terms of investments and developments compared to the main island of Viti Levu, where the capital city of Suva is located. Tourism, in Vanua Levu offers formal employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women. The World Bank analysis suggests that an increase in tourism sector GDP is associated with reductions in poverty[9]. The intersection of the agriculture sector and the rich natural environment (marine and land) in Vanua Levu has a high potential for economic opportunities in the agri-tourism and eco-tourism sectors. Agri-tourism can be an effective pathway for farm diversification.

**Key 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 top threats to terrestrial biodiversity described in an IUCN 2021 assessment are invasive species and agriculture.[10] Unsustainable agricultural practices are leading to increased erosion, run-off of agrochemicals, decreased soil fertility and poor pest and disease management. Fluctuations in market demand and prices for certain crops and commodities are also among key drivers of these threats. One such crop that has dramatically expanded in production due to increased demand is yaqona (kava). The production of yaqona has increased from 2.149 million tons in 2004 to 13.790 million tons in 2021.[11] This is contrasted with the decrease in sugarcane production, from 2.971 million tons in 2004 to 1.417 million tons in 2021, with the combined area of harvest falling from 66,000 ha to 34,000 ha over that timeframe. The contraction of sugarcane production has been attributed to Fiji's diminishing share of the global sugar market and decreasing international subsidies. These trends have been coupled with the expiration/non-renewal of native land leases for cane plantations,[12] leaving many of the cane fields abandoned.

Declining sugar cane production in Fiji presents a unique opportunity to transition towards a greener economy. As many sugar cane fields are being abandoned, this land can be repurposed for sustainable agriculture practices or other eco-friendly initiatives. Some examples of how this transition can contribute to the green economy include:

***Diversified agriculture***: The land can be used to grow a wider variety of crops, reducing the country's reliance on sugar cane and promoting food security.

***Control of invasive alien species (IAS)***: Revitalizing and repurposing abandoned sugar cane fields would also represent a control measure for reducing the spread of IAS.

**Sustainable farming**: Implementing sustainable farming practices on these lands can help reduce environmental impacts, improve soil health, and increase resilience to climate change.

***Renewable energy***: Some of the land could be used for renewable energy projects, such as solar or wind farms, to support Fiji's clean energy goals.

***Reforestation/afforestation***: Abandoned sugar cane fields can be reforested, e.g., through agroforestry systems, to enhance carbon sequestration, promote biodiversity, improve water quality and provide alternative livelihood opportunities.

***Ecotourism***: Developing ecofriendly tourism projects on these lands can generate revenue while promoting environmental conservation.

By repurposing abandoned sugar cane fields for sustainable initiatives, Fiji can seize the opportunity to strengthen its green economy and create a more resilient and prosperous future

Inadequate land and resource management, exemplified by land and coastal ecosystem degradation and unsustainable agricultural practices, is exacerbated by limited access to technical extension support and diversified market opportunities, thus hampering investments in resilient, market responsive and climate adaptive production, post-harvest and other downstream activities. Farmers also must cope with the impacts of climate change and increasingly severe and prolonged weather events that threaten their livelihoods and food security. Remoteness and connectivity issues pose challenges to market access.

Proactive land and resource management is essential to address the challenges faced by Fiji's agricultural sector. By tackling land and coastal ecosystem degradation, promoting sustainable farming practices, and enhancing access to technical extension support, Fiji can create opportunities for resilient, market-responsive, and climate-adaptive production. Investing in diversified market opportunities will help farmers and coastal communities become more economically secure and better equipped to handle climate change impacts. Additionally, improving connectivity and market access is crucial for rural areas, ensuring farmers can thrive despite remoteness and weather-related challenges.

With these efforts, Fiji can transform its agricultural sector into a model of sustainability, resilience, and prosperity for its people.

Land tenure is an important aspect of the socioecological systems in Fiji. Customary (i.e., iTaukei) land ownership refers to land areas and traditional fishing grounds (*qoliqoli*) that are retained by rights to a clan-based system (*mataqali*), which is further divided among family members and other individuals within the clan. Approximately 80% of the land area in Fiji is native, i.e., retained by the iTaukei, the state holds 7-10%, and the remaining 8-10% are freehold lands, which have shifted in ownership in recent years to include iTuakei owners, as well as non-indigenous Fijians, foreign residents and companies.

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 change and natural disasters are also key drivers, as Fiji is vulnerable to the associated risks, with particularly high exposure to hazards associated with tropical cyclones. The country is ranked 116$^{th}$ out of 191 countries in the 2024 INFORM Risk Index.[13] From 2010 through 2022, Fiji sustained 20 cyclones, for example, with some studies estimating that the economic significance of these tropical cyclones costs around 5% of GDP per year.[14] Natural disasters have caused significant damage to coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystems. For example, 77% of mangrove loss in the country over the period from 2001 to 2018 was attributed to tropical cyclones.[15] Reports following the devasting Cyclone Winston in 2016 describe damages to corals 20 to 30 m below the surface.[16]

With respect to agriculture, crop losses associated with storm damage is a particular concern, as is water resource availability and seasonality, increased soil erosion and loss of nutrients, and changes in pest and disease profiles. Moreover, much of the land utilised for agriculture is situated in coastal areas that are affected by tidal surges, seawater intrusion, and sea level rise. Smaller farming households are markedly more vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change due to limited adaptive capacities.

There are also additional risks to food security and nutrition stemming from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. For instance, the supply of subsistence protein to poor households may be reduced as a result of the possible loss of coastal fisheries. And supply disruptions of imported food, which Fiji is heavily dependent on, often occur in times of natural disasters. Moreover, the impacts on human populations are generally considered to not be gender neutral, with women and children facing higher risks due to differences in time use between men and women and constraints on women's opportunities due to lower access to credit and limited representation in decision-making.

The tourism sector in Fiji is also directly impacted by climate change and climatic variability, e.g., rising sea levels and exacerbated coastal erosion may reduce the quantity and quality of recreational environments, and the expected increased cost of international flights may render travel to Fiji less affordable for some tourists.[17] And there are direct threats to the resort areas themselves, including tourism infrastructure and tourist safety.

**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 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat partnered with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Government of Fiji, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to host the sub-regional Dialogue on NBSAPs for Pacific countries in Fiji from 18 – 21 March 2024.

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.

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).

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.

The RESAR project will also seek to leverage two major investments planned for Vanua Levu, i.e., the Vanua Levu Tourism Development Programme which is funded by the World Bank, and a Rural Road Upgrade Project funded by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. Both projects focus on building connectivity across the island with the World Bank’s investment also focusing on tourism and related SME development.

Civil society organisations are working on several complementary initiatives in Vanua Levu, including those associated with GEF-financed projects. The Delaikoro protected area 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) is 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. 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.

Other GEF-financed projects that are complementary to the proposed GEF-8 project include the UNDP-GEF project "Strengthening Fiji's Network of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) to Support Globally Significant Marine Biodiversity" (GEF ID 9944); the FAO-GEF project "Community-based Natural Resource Management Project" (GEF ID 9880); and the UNDP-GEF project "Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets" (GEF ID 9095). Lessons learned from completed GEF projects, for example the UNDP-GEF "Ridge to Reef (R2R)" project (GEF ID 5398), which had intervention sites in Vanua Levu, were taken into consideration in the initial development of this proposed GEF-8 project. Among the lessons learned documented in the terminal evaluation report of the R2R project[18], the importance of clearly defining the spatial and inter-sectoral aspects of the systems was highlighted, as well as the need to ensure sustainability structures are developed, as such integrated approaches require time horizons extending beyond project implementation timeframes. The terminal evaluation report[19] of the UNDP-GEF sustainable land management project (GEF ID 3396) documents the challenges associated with coordinating meetings across various sectors at levels of government, as well as difficulties in obtaining consistent involvement of local communities due to competing interests, apathy and lack of trust.

**Incremental reasoning**

**In the absence of GEF and IFAD investments**, Vanua Levu's terrestrial and coastal resources will continue to face increasing threats, leading to biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. While the government has adopted sustainable development strategies and receives donor support, the current compartmentalized planning and funding approach is insufficient to achieve integrated, multi-stakeholder collaboration necessary for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and resilient livelihoods. Small producers will lack the incentives, capacities, and resources to adopt sustainable practices, resulting in increased vulnerability and pressure on sensitive ecosystems, such as forest conversion and over-exploitation of resources. Coordination constraints between the agriculture and tourism sectors will also remain unresolved, hindering potential economic and environmental benefits. Endangered species and carbon stocks will be negatively impacted under the business-as-usual scenario. Without proper intervention, biodiversity loss will continue, and the ability to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration will be diminished.

Harnessing the power of collaboration, the **GEF and IFAD investments** will drive an integrated island management approach in Fiji, tailored specifically to the unique challenges faced by small island developing states. This innovative strategy emphasizes bottom-up, people-centred partnerships among multiple sectors and stakeholders, while carefully considering ecosystem linkages and emerging threats. The integrated island management approach consists of several key components: Strengthening institutional coordination and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to effectively address environmental challenges; Enhancing local capacity and incentivizing sustainable farming practices to empower communities and promote long-term resilience; Protecting and restoring critical habitats and endangered species to preserve Fiji's rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems; Encouraging agroforestry and reforestation to boost carbon sequestration and mitigate the impacts of climate change; Developing sustainable value chains and connecting agriculture to the tourism sector to drive economic growth and support livelihoods in rural areas. By implementing this comprehensive, integrated approach, Vanua Levu will serve as a replicable model for other regions in Fiji. This groundbreaking initiative demonstrates that sustainable development outcomes can be achieved while conserving biodiversity, ensuring resilient livelihoods, and addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. Through robust interventions and strategic partnerships, the GEF and IFAD investments will create lasting positive impacts on Fiji's environment and its people, setting a new standard for sustainable development in small island nations.

**Objectives and barriers to achieving them**

The overall project goal is to support the sustainable growth and resilience of Fiji's rural economy through improved management of natural resources as well as enhanced agricultural climate-smart responsiveness and competitiveness for rural men and women. The project aims to achieve two specific development objectives, namely: (1) 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; and (2) To increase farmers' incomes and access to services and opportunities through connectivity to market-led and green productivity growth, diversification and marketing while building climate change resilience.

Based on a preliminary analysis made during the concept development through feedback gathered from initial stakeholder consultations and review of available secondary information, the following barriers have been identified that hinder achievement of the above-mentioned objectives

*Governance:* Prevailing sector-level compartmentalization and ineffective multi-stakeholder collaboration.

*Policy*: Lack of integrated approaches across connected landscapes that fall under different jurisdictions.

*Technical*: Limited capacities and under-explored diversified income-generating activities and poor adoption of sustainable approaches.

*Infrastructure*: Lack of productive infrastructure.

*Economic*: Poor access to market and green value chains and income diversification.

*Economic*: Insufficient incentives for small producers to engage in sustainable use practices.

*Financial*: Poor access to finance for essential agricultural investments.

*Social*: Inequitable opportunities for women, youth and socially marginalized groups.

*Social*: Limited awareness and knowledge e.g., regarding the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the impacts of improper waste management and other land-based sources of pollution to biodiversity habitats and ecosystem services.

A more in-depth barrier analysis will be made during the project preparation phase, informing the development of the more detailed project strategy.

Key stakeholders were consulted during the concept development phase, including officials at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries. Consultations were also made with representatives of civil society organisations who are managing and designing complementary projects. These organisations included Conservation International (CI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Live & Learn. The parallel development of the concept note for the IFAD Highly Concessional Loan has included field missions to Vanua Levu and discussions with local government, private sector and civil society partners there. Stakeholder consultations will continue in the project preparation phase, and a stakeholder engagement plan will be developed to ensure inclusive and effective stakeholder involvement throughout the project implementation phase. Additional stakeholders to be consulted include the

Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics; Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications; Ministry of Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources; Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management; Ministry of Fisheries; Ministry of Sugar Industry; IUCN; GIZ; Women in Fisheries Network – Fiji; Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF); private sector enterprises; farmer and fishing organisations and value chain actors; tourism operators; financial institutions among others.

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Project description

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

The project strategy prioritizes building Fiji's capacity to sustainably manage and conserve natural resources across landscapes and seascapes, addressing pressing environmental challenges driven by climate change and unsustainable practices. Agriculture plays a significant role in rural development in Fiji, as it is a key sector for improving food and nutrition security, enhancing livelihoods, promoting inclusive rural transformation and adopting sustainable practices. However, agriculture is not only one of the most important drivers of growth in rural development in Fiji, but also a key determinant factor in rural poverty reduction, food security and nutrition.

The four interconnected causal pathways depicted in the project's theory of change in **Figure 1** 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.

***Transforming Challenges into Opportunities: Harnessing Vanua Levu's Potential for Sustainable Growth:*** Vanua Levu, with its abundant natural resources and rich biodiversity, holds immense potential for sustainable development, particularly in the tourism sector. The region's tourism industry is poised to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, with opportunities for growth in eco-tourism and agri-tourism. Social unity, untapped income-generating activities, and improving intra-island connectivity provide a foundation for sustained growth and increased market integration for rural communities and farmers. The RESAR project aims to address these opportunities and challenges through three interconnected strategies:

Mainstreaming Integrated Island Management: Enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration and adopting integrated approaches across connected landscapes and seascapes to overcome governance and policy barriers, and identification of priority investments and public-private partnerships for initial implementation under Components 2 and 3.

Incentivizing Resilient Production, Conservation, and Ecosystem Restoration: Supporting sustainable practices that protect biodiversity and ecosystem services while fostering local livelihoods.

Supporting Value Chains and Resilient Market Access: Developing local value chains and improving access to markets, with a focus on climate-resilient agriculture and community natural resource management.

A key aspect of the project involves empowering indigenous communities, prioritizing women and youth, and promoting participatory planning through engagement with local institutions, communities, and government structures. These efforts are encapsulated in four interconnected causal pathways:

-Mainstreaming Integrated Island Management (Component 1): Overcoming sector-level compartmentalization and ineffective multi-stakeholder collaboration by engaging with local stakeholders in the development and implementation of an integrated island management plan that considers climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation.

-Incentivizing Resilient Production, Conservation, and Ecosystem Restoration (Component 2): Addressing environmental threats, including those resulting from invasive alien species, and promoting livelihood benefits through prioritized interventions.

-Supporting Value Chains and Resilient Market Access (Component 3): Fostering sustainable development by advocating for the endorsement of the integrated island management plan and incorporating it into strategic development plans.

-Empowering Communities and Prioritizing Socially Marginalized Groups (Cross-cutting theme 4): Ensuring the inclusion of indigenous communities, women, youth, and socially marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, in the planning and implementation process.

The GEF and IFAD investments in these components and strategies aim to build a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for Vanua Levu, maximizing the region's potential while preserving its unique ecosystems and biodiversity. By addressing challenges and transforming them into opportunities, Vanua Levu can serve as a model for sustainable development and a testament to the power of integrated island management. Causal pathway 1 (*Mainstreaming integrated island management*).

**Component 1** focuses on developing an Integrated Island Management Plan for Vanua Levu, targeting sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation. This plan will involve collaboration with the Division Commissioner, provincial governments, the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Tourism, and iTaukei Affairs, as well as local governments, civil society, and private sector partners. By consolidating data from existing resource inventories, forest and land analyses, and development plans, the project will provide a foundation for coordinated governance and targeted interventions in key areas, such as degraded landscapes, biodiversity hotspots, and protected areas. The integrated island management plan will be endorsed and institutionalized within provincial strategic development plans to ensure long-term implementation and funding. Specifically, the project will engage with the three provinces in Vanua Levu, facilitated by the Division Commissioner, in the development and implementation of an integrated island management plan. Using integrated land-use planning (ILUP) and landscape management (ILM) approaches, the project will coordinate sustainable practices across Vanua Levu's diverse ecosystems, facilitating monitoring and adaptive management. Building upon the existing participatory planning processes at the village level, ensuring equitable opportunities for women and socially marginalised groups will be paramount. The project will capture existing resource information and consolidated existing data sets, e.g., Northern Regional Master Land Use Plan, integrated village development plans (iVDPs), forest inventories, land suitability analyses, key biodiversity areas, degraded and idle agriculture land, degraded forest areas, areas affected by invasive alien species (IAS), river catchments, terrestrial and marine protected areas, drinking water sources, important tourism spots, ongoing and past intervention sites, etc. Additional information will be sourced during the project implementation phase, including through surveys. Data can then be used for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the project and facilitating adaptive management measures. Interventions will be prioritized based on environmental threats, livelihood benefits, cost efficiency, etc. To ensure sustainability, the project will promote and advocate for the endorsement of the integrated island management plan by the three provinces, integrating it into their respective strategic development plans (SDPs). Integrated village development plans (iVDPs) will also be strengthened, e.g., through enhanced focus on biodiversity conservation and adaptation priorities. The project will be supported by targeted public-private partnerships and sustainable financing efforts, including conservation leases and nature-based solutions The expected outcome of Component 1 is *alignment of actors, efforts, and resources for holistic island management,* fostering collaboration across sectors and stakeholders and paving the way for

sustainable development. Key GEBs include improved landscape management practices to benefit biodiversity, contributing to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

**Component 2** emphasizes resilient production systems that prioritize environmental sustainability, conservation, and restoration, targeting specific threats such as invasive species, degraded lands, and soil and water conservation challenges. The two expected outcomes from Component 2 are: *Enhanced market-oriented sustainable agribusiness development* (Outcome 2.1): Encouraging diversified income-generating activities and promoting sustainable practices in agribusiness; and *Strengthened participatory conservation and restoration* (Outcome 2.2): Empowering communities to engage in conservation and restoration efforts, promoting long-term environmental sustainability. This component will promote market-oriented diversification and productivity enhancement, through inclusive production clustering and farmer organization development and planning based on the selected value chain, facilitating access to quality inputs, technical skills training, financial and business literacy, and community based and market responsive women and youth entrepreneurship. Building upon the strengthened iVDPs and provincial SDPs under Component 1, this component will also demonstrate and deliver activities around green village and blue economy investments in eco-tourism through identification of anchor products (with village consent), the introduction and adoption of green technologies and waste management, village and coastal community participatory action planning and modelling for sustainable replication. Private sector and civil society partners will be actively engaged, to ensure linkages with ongoing initiatives and to foster enabling partnerships with small producers.

Component 2 will deliver enhanced environmental sustainability and climate adaptation through resilient agricultural practices and strengthened local conservation efforts. Expected outcomes include improved biodiversity management and strengthened community participation in ecosystem restoration. Specifically, under Outcome 2.1, the project will provide support for the delivery of agri-extension services, with key activities such as gender sensitive, technical training at farm level on climate adaptation and diversification inclusive of traceability, and climate smart applications and technology, and will also include a research-extension-farmers linkage and extension service delivery capacity building including logistical supports.

Under Outcome 2.2, the GEF resources would provide incremental funding to generate global environment benefits through initiating implementation of some of the priority interventions outlined in the integrated island management plan developed under Component 1, focusing on social inclusion and securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from communities before commencing activities. Women, youth, and socially marginalized groups will be ensured participation. Interventions will build upon and accelerate ongoing initiatives, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners. Potential interventions may include, establishment of terrestrial and marine other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (e.g., through conservation leases as part of the national REDD+ strategy), as well as nature-based solutions aimed at improving management and restoring forests and freshwater and coastal ecosystems to benefit biodiversity and enhance livelihood opportunities, such as Restoring riparian ecosystems with agroforestry-based systems; Rehabilitating idle sugarcane lands with diversified farming systems (including indigenous varieties); Implementing community composting initiatives to reduce pollution threats and produce organic fertilizer; Safeguarding buffer zones through the production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs); Revival of traditional varieties of wild food crops; Mangrove restoration and ecotourism experiences to raise awareness and support livelihoods; Reducing overfishing and poaching threats through alternative coastal fisheries and mariculture. Interventions under this outcome will focus on improving management of key biodiversity areas and keystone species and protect against climate change and anthropogenic impacts, in alignment with Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and contributing to the global targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Under Output 2.2.3, the proposed project will facilitate management of the impacts of agricultural land degradation, including abandoned sugar cane fields, and runoff on marine and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will link these interventions with ongoing efforts and promote sustainable

agribusiness development, participatory conservation, and ecosystem restoration. Key GEBs include landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems, degraded agricultural lands under restoration, degraded forest and forest land under restoration, marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity, and carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sector.

**Component 3** (*Supporting Upper Value Chains and Resilient Market Access*) tackles the economic barriers faced by small producers, including poor access to markets and green value chains, insufficient incentives for sustainable practices, lack of productive infrastructure, and limited access to finance for agricultural investments. This component aims to achieve *an increased downstream resilient value chain investments and improved market access* (Outcome 3.1). The RESAR project will collaborate with communities to identify pathways for shifting to more sustainable agricultural practices, critical investments, and market opportunities through participatory natural resource mapping and value chain analysis. The project will promote climate-smart agriculture and environmentally friendly practices, such as: Modern agricultural technologies (hydroponics, horticulture, oyster farming, beekeeping, and value addition in chocolate and coconut-based products); Diversification of on-farm and off-farm income-generating activities; Moving towards zero/limited pesticide usage; and Integration of indigenous knowledge systems with modern practices.

By providing gender-oriented technical assistance, training, and promoting participation in farmer organisations, target beneficiaries will establish more resilient and profitable market links, enhancing sustainable and resilient income. To facilitate systematic and impactful market integration, the project will emphasize inclusive value chains that offer opportunities for target beneficiaries as value chain actors or service providers. Links between upstream production and post-harvest activities with downstream market actors will be driven by identified market opportunities and growth expectations. Support is envisaged to include: Technical assistance in planning, production, and post-harvest infrastructure; Development of fair contracts; Membership in market networks; and Direct access to end-users, particularly in agri-tourism.

The RESAR project will also support investments in selected value chains that demonstrate direct participation and inclusive benefits for target beneficiaries. Potential credit access will be provided through value chain finance and partnerships with public and private financial institutions. Rural youth will be engaged through business skills development and entrepreneurship programs, such as youth incubation and challenge fund arrangements.

In summary, Component 3 seeks to overcome economic barriers and promote sustainable practices by improving market access, strengthening value chains, and supporting inclusive economic growth for Vanua Levu's small producers and rural communities. The outcome will be increased resilient value chain investments and improved market access.

**Component 4** (*Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Integrated Island Management*) focuses on fostering systemic change and sustainability through institutional strengthening, knowledge management, communications, and learning. The expected outcome under Component 4 is: *Systemic change and sustainability fostered through institutional strengthening, knowledge management, communications, and learning* (Outcome 4.1). Key interventions and activities include: Facilitating mainstreaming of integrated island management into national and sector-level strategies; Strengthening policy frameworks; Delivering sector-level capacity building (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism); Skills training and capacitating training centres; Strengthening extension service offerings; Providing capacity building for agribusinesses to supply the tourism sector sustainably; Developing an ecotourism code of practice; and

Exploring sustainable financing options, fostering partnerships, and enhancing capacities of local community organisations for fundraising.

Component 4 also addresses the limited awareness and knowledge of the linkages between land and sea-based activities. Guided by a knowledge management, communications, and learning strategy, the project will support national-level communications on priority programs such as the NBSAP, blue economy, and green village development. Knowledge products will be produced and disseminated, highlighting gender, youth, and social inclusion aspects. Awareness and communications activities may include school programs; community waste management awareness; making use of digital platforms, media posts and reports; field days, demonstration farm plots, and peer learning exchanges; trade fairs promoting agribusinesses and ecotourism experiences; collaboration with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to revitalize traditional ecological knowledge; and linking with complementary regional programs and sponsoring South-South Cooperation opportunities.

The four causal pathways and outcomes are mutually supportive, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing the challenges faced by Vanua Levu. The project strategy relies on close collaboration with sector-level initiatives and other partners, such as GEF-financed and non-GEF initiatives, national and local government units, landowners, the private sector, community-based organisations, civil society organisations, and academic and research institutions. By working together, these stakeholders will contribute to the adoption of sustainable production practices, biodiversity conservation, and improved livelihoods in Vanua Levu, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

**Assumptions and impact drivers**

Assumptions that directly related to the achievement of the project's immediate outcomes include:

-Stakeholders are committed to collaborate and share information.

-Target beneficiaries take interest and lead the process market led value chain and marketing

-Providing investment opportunities through enhanced and standard Eps/Coop/Fos to vulnerable farmers lead to inclusive sustainable rural livelihoods

-Finance solutions viable in Fiji

-Continuity of tourism development strategies; continuity of economic, social and market stability in absence of any climatic or pandemic calamity

-Governance and land tenure conditions enable integrated approaches

Consumer demand and willingness to pay for sustainable production

-Receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs

-Private sector enterprises and associations, as well as landowners share the strategic vision.

-The financing solutions are viable in the context of the circumstances in Fiji.

-Governance and land tenure conditions enable integrated approaches.

There are important impact drivers that are expected to facilitate progress along the causal pathways in the project's theory of change, namely:

-There is an increased awareness among decision makers about the role of effective management and sustainable use of natural resources offered by green and blue economic directions.

-The agricultural sector is willing to adopt more sustainable practices.

The immediate outcomes expected through the catalytic GEF funding and IFAD investment are envisaged to lead to the following longer-term outcomes:

-Biodiversity and ecosystem services safeguarded through inclusive conservation, sustainable use and restoration.

-Developed and strengthened capacity of local institutions and agribusinesses to operate and mobilize resources for operations in an economically and environmentally sustainable and inclusive manner

-Higher income and assets, and greater resilience of farmers and agribusinesses.

-Scaled up local actions for sustainable green village development and blue economy.

**Innovation, sustainability and scaling towards wider transformation**

The project incorporates innovative integrated approaches to natural resource management and sustainable use. Project investments in both private and public sustainable land management, conservation and restoration will safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services. Where possible these efforts at the community and individual level will be linked to value chain investments to provide a performance-based incentive for continuation.[20] Rehabilitating and repurposing idle sugarcane plots through adoption of diversified farming and restoring riparian zones with agroforestry systems have the potential for significant replication and upscaling across Vanua Levu as well as other islands in Fiji.

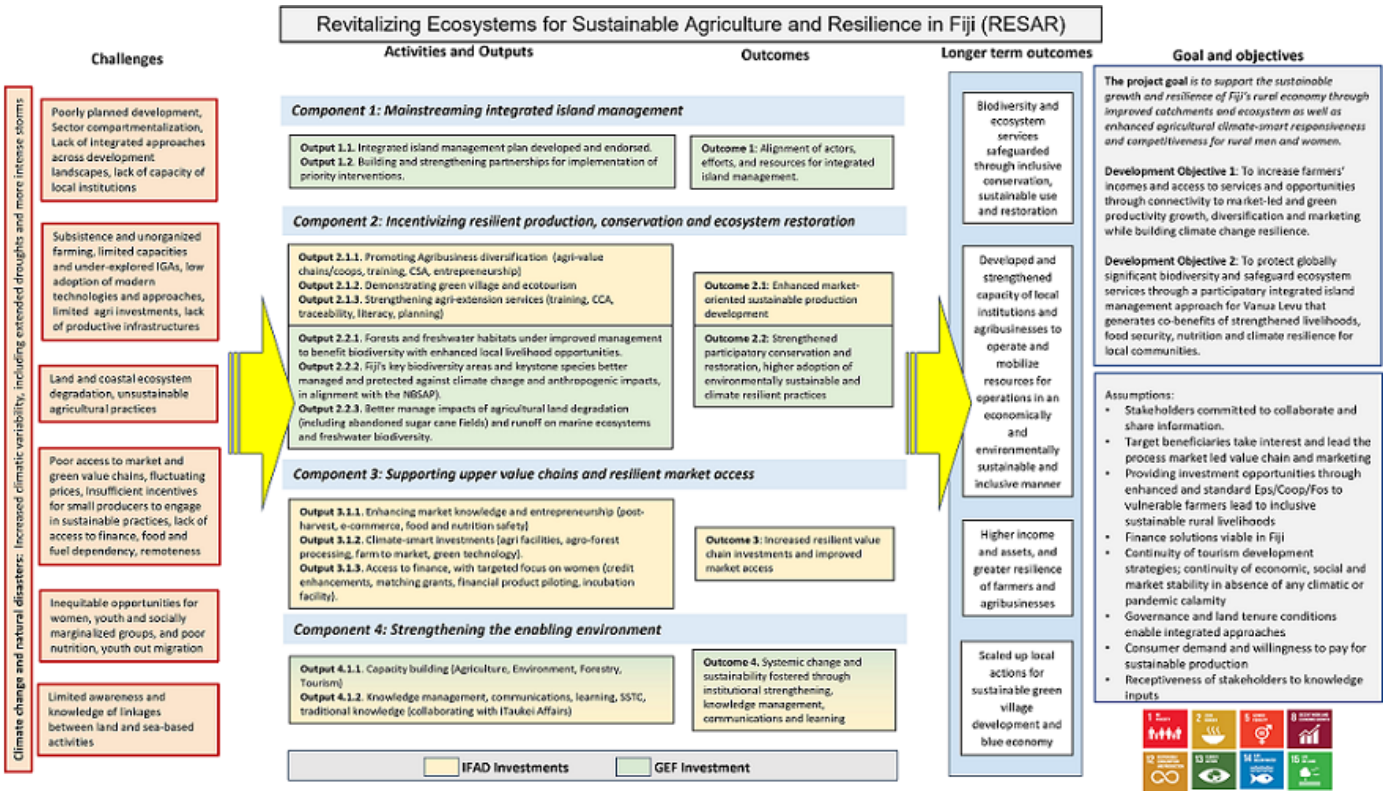
The project invests in developing self-sustaining and community-based farmer organisations and clusters and agri-entrepreneurs involved in production, aggregating, processing and marketing. This development of a market-oriented production system, rooted in market responsive, community driven participatory planning will facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships between the private sector, individuals and their organisations and communities. The initiative also focuses on building technical, business and financial literacies and capacities of individuals and producer organisations and an overall enhanced business environment will create better and expanded opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, particularly for youth, providing incentives to stay/return to the country instead of out migration. In addition, the project will promote partnerships with relevant private sector organisations and traditional and non-traditional rural finance organisations to strengthen sustainability prospects. An overall enhanced business environment will create better and expanded opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

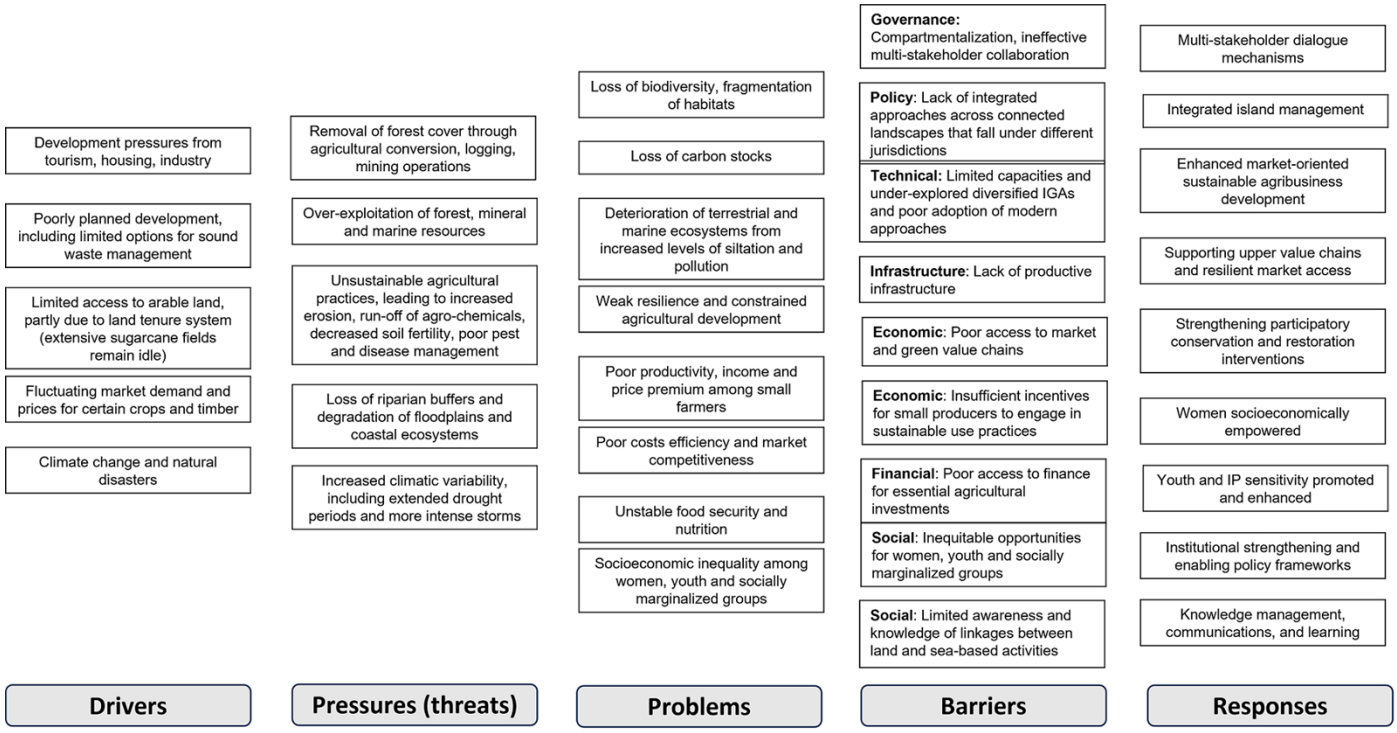
The project will seek to build on existing agricultural extension service support networks and strengthen their capacities were connected to the farmers and responding to their needs in diversified on-farm and off-farm income generating activities. Farmers will be encouraged to produce sustainably, in a climate smart way, by promoting soil health, nature-based solutions, and adaptation and agroforestry activities and investments.

A comprehensive exit and sustainability strategy will be developed at start-up to ensure all stakeholders have a common vision and understanding of sustainability requirements and modified and improved at MTR. Monitoring and evaluation of project results and development of knowledge products and replication guidelines on good effective practices will facilitate the continuation of the improved extension approach promoted beyond the project. Policy engagement will contribute to maintaining the project's high national relevance and consolidate sustainability of investments.

During the PPG phase, further considerations will be explored for scaling up of project achievements.

*Figure 1: Project theory of change*






Problem tree

## Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

The RESAR project will be managed by a Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Savusavu, Vanua Levu. Depending on available office space, the PMU is proposed to be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Office in Savusavu. The PMU will be responsible for all administrative and operational functions of the project. The PMU will be headed by a Project Director (PD) who will have responsibility for managing the whole project. The PD will be supported by two Technical Managers (TM), one to oversee GEF-related activities and the other the investment-related activities. The Technical Managers will be aided by technical specialists to support planning and implementation. This includes a technical specialist based at the headquarters of the MECC. The number of specialists and area of expertise will be established during the project design phase. The PMU will have a fully functioning back-office operation to carryout administrative and financial tasks related to disbursement and reporting of both the GEF and IFAD resources.

The PMU will report to a Project Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired by the MECC and MOA which will convene in Suva, Viti Levu. The PSC will provide overall guidance and oversight of the project to ensure it meets its objectives and that the activities of the different co-financiers are well integrated in planning and implementation.

Execution partners will be screened and selected during the project preparation phase. The partner(s) will be identified/nominated and discussed with the government. An institutional analysis of the partner(s) is required before or during the project preparation phase to have a better understanding on their capacities of possible service provision for the project.

The RESAR project will seek to leverage two major investments planned for Vanua Levu, i.e., the Vanua Levu Tourism Development Programme which is funded by the World Bank, and a Rural Road Upgrade Project funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Both projects focus on building connectivity across the island with the World Bank's investment also focusing on tourism and related SME development. The World Bank's Fiji Tourism Development Program in Vanua Levu mentions that entrepreneurship and employment in agriculture could support a more robust workforce and increase productivity, particularly for women-led micro-businesses.[21]

The project will also cooperate with the CI-GEF project (GEF ID 10675), e.g., promoting sustainable use of non-timber forest products within buffer zones of protected areas. There may also be opportunities to collaborate on capacity building and knowledge management related activities.

It will also be important to collaborate with ongoing initiatives of the key public sector partners, including the MoA, MECC, Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries, Tourism, etc., as well as with the local and international civil society organisations actively working in Fiji, particularly in Vanua Levu.

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3250 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

| Disaggregation Type | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cropland | 1,000.00 | | | |

### Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

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

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 140,000.00 | | | |

**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 | | | |

**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 $CO_2e$ (direct)** | 1128542 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (direct)** | 1,128,542 | | | |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | | | | |
| **Anticipated start year of accounting** | 2026 | | | |
| **Duration of accounting** | 20 | | | |

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

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (direct)** | | | | |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | | | | |
| **Anticipated start year of accounting** | | | | |
| **Duration of accounting** | | | | |

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

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

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

| Technology | Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF) | Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR) | Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

### Indicator 11 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 | | | |
| **Male** | 10,000 | | | |
| **Total** | **20,000** | **0** | 0 | **0** |

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

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, Ministry of Forestry, as well as provincial and local governments, during the project preparation phase.

Core Indicator 4: The area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (140,000 ha) represents the production landscapes covered by the Vanua Levu integrated island management plan. The project also aims to achieve an estimated 8,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems. The end target for this indicator also includes 2,000 ha other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), such as areas safeguarded because of certain traditional values that also provide positive biodiversity conservation outcomes, as well as conservation leases as part of the national REDD+ strategy.

Core Indicator 5. The area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity includes locally managed marine areas and marine OECMs, similar to the terrestrial ones, e.g., areas safeguarded because of certain traditional values that also provide positive biodiversity conservation outcomes.

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 3,000 households, or 13,200 corresponding household members22, 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 project beneficiaries will constitute 65% of subsistence farmers, 30% semi commercial farmers, and 5% of commercial farmers and emerging farmer and agri entrepreneurs, to reflect the interlinking of the value chain actors in the districts. The latter will be supported if they engage in providing just, transparent market opportunities contributing to benefit sharing for target group segments. 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) 50%.

## 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. Continued warming, sea level rise, and more frequent extreme weather events are expected to cause severe damage to infrastructure and negatively impact communities and livelihoods across Fiji.<br><br>Mitigation: The project will conduct a risk screening exercise for subprojects to avoid climate hotspots and to identify locally suitable activities. This exercise will also facilitate the identification of practical adaptation or mitigation measures to integrate into project activities.<br><br>Promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices will be emphasized to help farmers adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. Capacity-building initiatives will target farmers, extension workers, and government line agencies to enhance their understanding of climate change impacts and promote climate-smart practices. The project will provide support for climate-proof infrastructure. |
| 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 and marine ecosystem. 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, and iv) construction of infrastructure like roads to support settlements. A Social, Environmental, and Climate Assessment Procedure (SECAP) Review Note was developed during the PIF stage. It has described the baseline status and issues related to applicable safeguard standards. Additionally, the review note has detailed relevant policies, responsible institutions, and the monitoring and evaluation process. It will be further enhanced during PPG stage. Other relevant assessment will be conducted following the outcome of risk screening exercise. Mitigation: A comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Climate Management Plan (ESCMP) will be prepared during the PPG, 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 will be developed. In addition, a |

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| | | Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established at the project level. The project is anticipated to generate overall positive social and environmental benefits. Proactive targeting and support will be ensured to the poor and marginalized communities, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) 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 will be focused on agriculture lands, productive forest and marine, and coastal areas, ensuring no forest encroachment, degradation, and deforestation as well as no exploitation to protected marine zones. Mitigation: The project is anticipated to generate overall positive social and environmental benefits. Proactive targeting and support will be ensured to the poor and marginalized communities, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) through diversified production, value chain development, enterprises initiatives, skill development, and ecotourism. An implementation plan for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be developed to incorporate traditional practices and social and cultural values of IPs into project design and implementation. The project activities will be focused on agriculture lands, productive forest and marine, and coastal areas, ensuring no forest encroachment, degradation, and deforestation as well as no exploitation to protected marine zones. |
| Political and Governance | Moderate | Risk (political) Fiji's social and political landscape has undergone significant changes following the last election. 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, with the latter's Country Office established in Suva in last year. Senior level exchanges have been maintained and avenues of cooperation being explored. Mitigation (political): The IFAD Country Office will continue to explore the partnership in multi-dimension; the new design will bring 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, |

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| | | 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. |
| 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 |

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| | | 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 | 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. All such technologies will be explored during the design mission 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 implementation arrangements were designed centring the Ministry of Agriculture mandated for the sector development. Cooperation is foreseen 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 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 during the project preparation phase, matching organisational technical and fiduciary |

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| | | capacities with the requirements outlined in the description of the project strategy. |
| Fiduciary | 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 will be prepared during the design. Stakeholders will be consulted from planning to implementation and monitoring. FPIC will be conducted to work with IPs. The GEF agency for this project, IFAD, has a resident office in Fiji that has been steadily growing in recent years. Having the proposed GEF-8 project linked with IFAD's planned 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 during the project preparation phase. |
| 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 will be prepared during the design. Stakeholders will be consulted from planning to implementation and monitoring. FPIC will be conducted to work with IPs. The project will assess the government's GRM and adjust it in a project level. A GRM will be developed during the design and will be fully integrated to M&E and reporting system. |

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| Other | Moderate | Risk (macroeconomics): The economy of is projected to grow by 3.5 percent in 2024, after significant expanding by 20 percent in 2022 and 8 percent in 2023. Fiji experienced a significant economic growth with strong recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in the past three years The GDP has now surpassed 2019 levels, driven by a strong revival in tourist inflows, particularly from Australia and New Zealand. The economy is cooling 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 percent 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 a number of 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 percent 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. 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, expected to run from February to August 2024, is a civilian-led process that aims 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. |

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| 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

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

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

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

*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 rechange.

The project will also contribute to achievement of GBF targets, including Target 1 (through implementation of integrated island management approaches), Target 2 (degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems under effective restoration), Target 7 (reducing the impacts of pollution through adoption of sustainable landscape practices), Target 9 (encouraging customary sustainable use of wild species), Target 10 (ensuring areas under agriculture, fisheries and forestry are sustainably managed), Target 11 (protection from natural hazards and disasters through nature-based solutions), Target 14 (integration of biodiversity into planning and development processes), Target 19f (enhancing the role of collective actions, including by Indigenous peoples and rural communities), Target 21 (knowledge generated made accessible to multiple stakeholders), Target 22 (ensuring project activities are gender-responsive), and Target 23 (women and girls will have equal opportunities to participate in the project).

The RESAR 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).

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. 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.

The project is aligned to and supports the implementation of key government policies and plans including the National Adaptation Plan Framework, the Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda, the Green Growth Framework, and the Ministry of Agriculture's Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028. These policies and plans focus on building community resilience, generating higher and sustainable returns from the agriculture sector, improving community livelihoods, food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation. The RESAR project will also align with Fiji National

Sustainable Tourism Framework (2024-2033), which promotes the linkage between agriculture and tourism, and more locally the Savusavu Blue Town Model,[24] which aims to tie marine conservation to economic opportunities, along with a pioneering role in developing the circular blue economy.

Alignment of national policies will be more thoroughly examined and planned during the PPG phase.

Fiji's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020 includes adaptation targets focused on adoption of 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).

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.

Fiji's National Action Plan (NAP) to *Combat Desertification/Land Degradation and to Mitigate against Drought*[25], 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 way; increasing public awareness and capacity on sustainable land and forest management practices are important elements of the plan; there is an emphasis on the development of local level land use plans; and increasing the exchange of expertise and information is promoted. This project also provides a unique opportunity to link the sustainable land management activities to the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) agenda. Given the multi-focal area aspect of the project and the aim to take a landscape approach, Fiji can work on ensuring that productive landscapes continue to support their plan for import substitution, while also working on biodiversity mainstreaming.

The RESAR project responds to IFAD12 and 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.

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

**Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:**

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

Key stakeholders were consulted during the concept development phase from April-July 2024, including officials at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries. Consultations were also made with representatives of civil society organisations who are managing and designing complementary projects. These organisations included Conservation International (CI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Live & Learn. The parallel development of the concept note for the IFAD Highly Concessional Loan has included field missions to Vanua Levu in December 2023 and discussions with local government, private sector and civil society partners there. Specific stakeholders consulted during two separate missions during the PIF stage (IFAD financing and GEF financing) are listed in table below. During the PPG phase, consultations are planned with stakeholders in all three provinces of the project area, including community leaders, CSOs, community organisations, private sector enterprises and associations, and government agencies.

Regarding consultations with private sector partners, the IFAD loan design team has been engaging private enterprises and associations in various discussions. This includes input suppliers, extension service providers, and the tourism sector. The PPG will engage them from the very beginning. Consultations will also be held with other GEF agencies and partners to gain insights into learnings and best practices.

| Name | Organisation | Date Consulted |
|---|---|---|
| **1st Mission: 2 – 12 April 2024** | | |
| Mr. Kyle Stice | Executive Director, Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (virtual) | 02 April 2024 |
| Ms. Taina Naucukidi | Agriculture Officer (Cakaudrove), Ministry of Agriculture | 03 April 2024 |
| Mr. Nemia Leve | Regional Manager North, Fiji Agromarketing | 03 April 2024 |
| Mr. Marika Radua | Cakaudrove Farmers Association | 03 April 2024 |
| Mr. Epeli Tute | Farmer | 03 April 2024 |
| Ms. Jafila Fayreen | Savusavu Flower Artistic & Landscaping | 03 April 2024<br>05 April 2024 |
| Justin Hunter | J. Hunter Pearls Fiji | 03 April 2024 |
| Mr. Joeli Nataki | Farm Manager, KokoMana Fiji | 04 April 2024 |
| Ms. Atelina Ranadi | Office Manager, KokoMana Fiji | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Richard Markham | Co-Director (virtual), KokoMana Fiji | 04 April 2024 |
| Mrs. Anne Markham | Co-Director (virtual), KokoMana Fiji | 04 April 2024 |
| Ms. Delia Rothnie-Jones | Owner, Daku Resort/ Chairperson, Savusavu Tourism Association | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Audrey Whippy | Manager, Daku Resort | 04 April 2024 |
| Ms. Nowdla Keefe | Manager, Namale Resort | 04 April 2024<br>05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Lyn McClaren | Guest Experience, Nawi Island | 04 April 2024 |
| Ms. Selina | Yacht Help | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Wayne Annan | Manager, Koro Sun Resort | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Davesh Naicker | Factor Manager, Fiji Coconut Millers PTE Ltd | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Yaswan Narayan Sami | Supply Chains Manager, Fiji Coconut Millers PTE Ltd | 04 April 2024 |
| Mr. Atunaisa Laqeretabua | Senior Relationship & Sales Officer, Fiji Development Bank | 05 April 2024 |
| Mr. Sanaila Silimuana | Savudrodro Women's Cluster | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Silipa | Head of Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Noami | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Salome | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Vasemaca | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Kelera | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Nasa | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Loata | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Maria | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Vasemaca | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Mereoni | Women's Group, Levuka Village | 05 April 2024 |
| Mr. Jo Mainakavika | Farmer, Fiji Beekeepers Association | 05 April 2024 |
| Ms. Ranjeeta Chand | Farmer, Fiji Beekeepers Association | 05 April 2024 |
| Mr. Setareki Dakuiboca | Division Planning Officer, Office of Commissioner Northern Division, Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development | 05 April 2024 |
| Mr. Veilawa Rereiwasaliwa | Chief Executive Officer, Merchant Finance | 08 April 2024 |

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

## Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

## Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|---|---|---|---|

Medium/Moderate

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

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

Yes

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non-Grant | GEF Project Grant($) | Agency Fee($) | Total GEF Financing ($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IFAD | GET | Fiji | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation: BD-1 | Grant | 6,576,255.00 | 624,744.00 | 7,200,999.00 |
| IFAD | GET | Fiji | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation: LD-1 | Grant | 825,187.00 | 78,392.00 | 903,579.00 |
| IFAD | GET | Fiji | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation: LD-2 | Grant | 825,187.00 | 78,393.00 | 903,580.00 |
| **Total GEF Resources ($)** | | | | | | **8,226,629.00** | **781,529.00** | **9,008,158.00** |

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

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

## Indicative Focal Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Co-financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| BD-1-2 | GET | 2,913,128.00 | 2736574 |
| BD-1-3 | GET | 2,913,127.00 | 5736574 |
| BD-1-4 | GET | 750,000.00 | 1476912 |
| LD-1 | GET | 825,187.00 | 1624970 |
| LD-2 | GET | 825,187.00 | 1624970 |
| **Total Project Cost** | | **8,226,629.00** | **13,200,000.00** |

## Indicative Co-financing

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEF Agency | IFAD | Loans | Investment mobilized | 10000000 |
| Recipient Country Government | Government of Fiji | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 500000 |
| Recipient Country Government | Government of Fiji | Public Investment | Investment mobilized | 1200000 |
| Beneficiaries | Local Communities | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 500000 |
| Beneficiaries | Local Communities | Grant | Investment mobilized | 1000000 |
| **Total Co-financing** | | | | **13,200,000.00** |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The estimated project co-financing includes an IFAD Highly Concessional loan of USD 10 million, and an estimated Government of Fiji contribution of USD 1.7 million primarily in the form of in-kind contributions, taxes and duties. Beneficiaries and the private sector are also expected to contribute provisionally USD 500,000 (in kind and labour primarily) and USD 1,000,000 (cash and in-kind), respectively. Co-financing consultations will continue during the project preparation phase, and commitment letters will be annexed to the CEO endorsement request submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

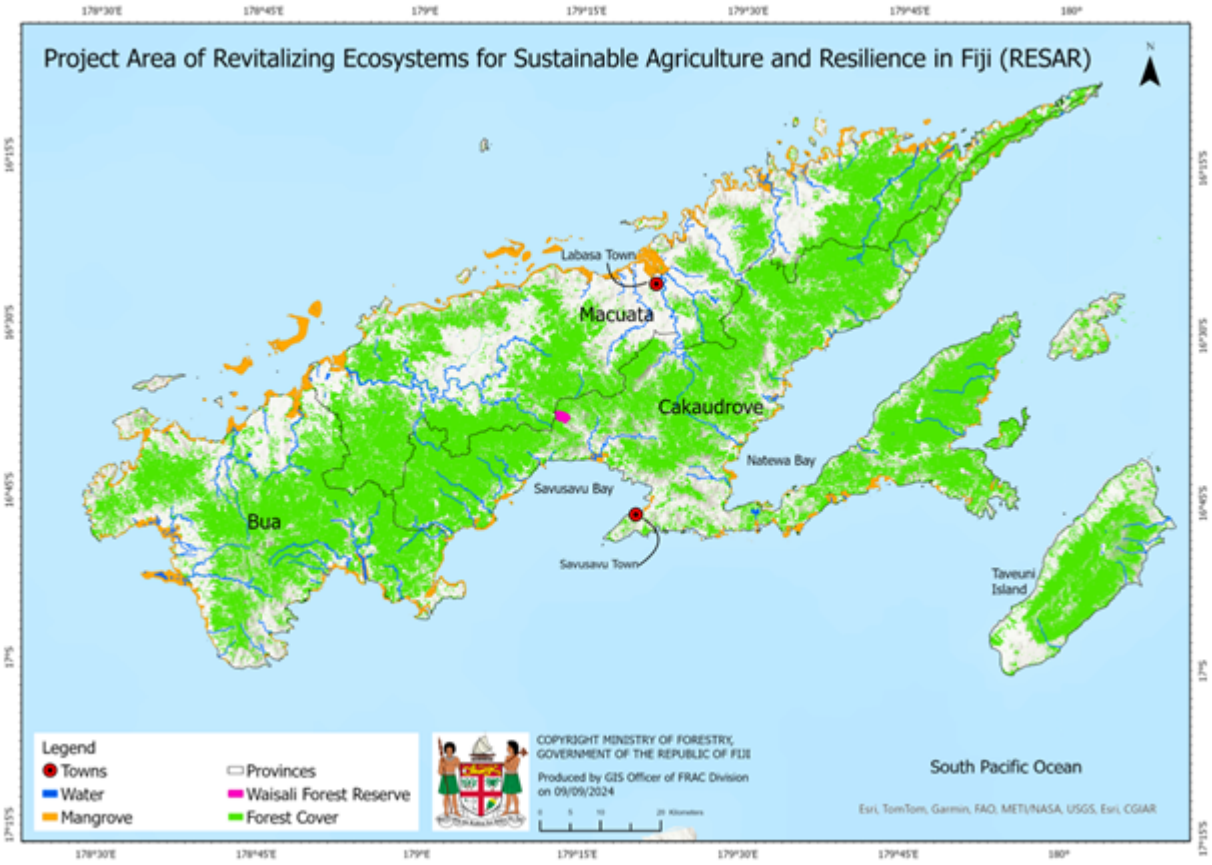
| GEF Agency Type | Name | Date | Project Contact Person | Phone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | Dr Sivendra Michael | 8/16/2024 | Permanent SecretaryMinistry of Environment and Climate Change | | |
| GEF Agency Coordinator | Janie Rioux | | EF Agency Coordinator IFAD | | j.rioux@ifad.org |
| Project Coordinator | Paola Palestini | | IFAD Project Coordinator | | p.palestini@ifad.org |

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

| Name | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dr Sivendra Michael | Permanent Secretar | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | 10/26/2024 |

## ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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




Vanua Levu: 16.35 South and 179.11 East.

## ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

| Title |
|---|
| 2000004863_secap_climate_worksheet_aba93a5fb56414fa165134891d84c090 |
| secap_environmental_and_social_worksheet |

## ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

## ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☒ Influencing models | | | |
| | ☐ Transform policy and regulatory environments | | |
| | ☒ Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making | | |
| | ☒ Convene multi-stakeholder alliances | | |
| | ☒ Demonstrate innovative approaches | | |
| | ☐ Deploy innovative financial instruments | | |
| ☒ Stakeholders | | | |
| | ☒ Indigenous Peoples | | |
| | ☒ Private Sector | | |
| | | ☐ Capital providers | |
| | | ☐ Financial intermediaries and market facilitators | |
| | | ☐ Large corporations | |
| | | ☒ SMEs | |
| | | ☒ Individuals/Entrepreneurs | |
| | | ☐ Non-Grant Pilot | |
| | | ☐ Project Reflow | |
| | ☒ Beneficiaries | | |
| | ☒ Local Communities | | |
| | ☒ Civil Society | | |
| | | ☒ Community Based Organization | |
| | | ☒ Non-Governmental Organization | |
| | | ☒ Academia | |
| | | ☐ Trade Unions and Workers Unions | |
| | ☒ Type of Engagement | | |
| | | ☒ Information Dissemination | |
| | | ☒ Partnership | |
| | | ☒ Consultation | |
| | | ☒ Participation | |
| | ☒ Communications | | |
| | | ☒ Awareness Raising | |
| | | ☒ Education | |
| | | ☒ Public Campaigns | |
| | | ☐ Behavior Change | |
| ☒ Capacity, Knowledge and Research | | | |
| | ☒ Enabling Activities | | |
| | ☒ Capacity Development | | |
| | ☒ Knowledge Generation and Exchange | | |
| | ☐ Targeted Research | | |
| | ☒ Learning | | |
| | | ☒ Theory of Change | |
| | | ☐ Adaptive Management | |
| | | ☒ Indicators to Measure Change | |
| | ☒ Innovation | | |
| | ☒ Knowledge and Learning | | |
| | | ☒ Knowledge Management | |