Transforming Nauru?s Food Systems through Climate Smart Agriculture

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11368
Countries
Nauru
Project Name
Transforming Nauru?s Food Systems through Climate Smart Agriculture
Agencies
UNDP
Date received by PM
2/6/2025
Review completed by PM
6/18/2025
Program Manager
Asha Bobb-Semple
Focal Area
Multi Focal Area
Project Type
FSP

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7/9/2025

Cleared.

7/3/2025

Thank you. Please also make this change to the uploaded version of the Pro Doc. The current version dated June 17th needs to be revised and re uploaded as we will need to circulate the Pro Doc to Council.

6/28/2025

Follow up comment.

UNDP is not included in the General Child Project Information table - field Project Executing Entity ? please add one row and include UNDP.

3/14/2025

Yes

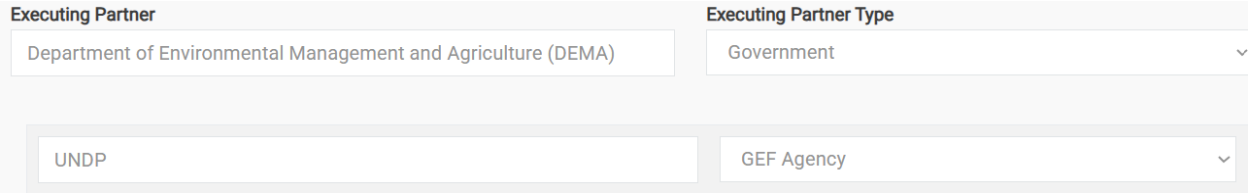
Agency Response

8 Jul 2025

UNDP has been added as an implementing partner in (1) Information table (page 1) and (2) Total Budget & Workplan (page 104) of the ProDoc

2 July 2025

UNDP is now included in the table



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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/16/2025

Cleared

4/14/2025

Thank and apologies for the error. Yes we will accept the Rio Marker to be '1' and not '2' for CCA. The Rio Marker is currently showing as '2' in the CEO Endorsement Request (both for the first submission and the current submission). Please adjust.

3/14/2025

Not fully. We do not expect the the RIO Marker to be '1' for CCA as the FSIP is not an Adaptation program. Please adjust to '2'.

Agency Response

10 Apr. 2025

b) This comments is unclear. RIO Marker 1 means Significant Objective: the objective is deliberately considered and mainstreamed into the project, but it is not the principal reason for undertaking the project. But you suggest to make the rating 2 - Principal Objective: the objective is the main focus and fundamental reason for the activity.

Probably you mean to adjust RIO Marker for CCA as 0?

13 May 2025

Thank you! This is clear now. The Rio Marker for CCA corrected to 1, CEO ER, p. 2

2. Project Summary.
a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?
b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?
c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent program goal and approach?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/14/2025

Cleared.

3/14/2025

a) Yes

b) Yes

c) No. Please briefly include how the project will be linked to the program through engagement under the GCP and the broader contribution of this child project to the overall program goals.

Agency Response

10 Apr. 2025

Thank you! We added the following sentence to the Project Summary sections in CEO ER, p.3; and ProDoc, p. 2 in response to your request:

The project will directly engage with the FS IP through the Global Coordination Project (GCP) by actively sharing best practices, innovations, and lessons learned on soil restoration, agroforestry, and community-based CSA initiatives in a SIDS context, thereby directly contributing to FS IP goals of catalyzing transformative changes toward resilient, sustainable, and biodiversity-inclusive food systems at local, national, and global levels.

3. Project Description Overview
a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?
d) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/14/2025

Cleared

3/14/2025

a) Not fully, please make the project objective concise.

b) Not fully, see comments below and under Question 5.

c)Not fully. The components as described in the project overview table are not all aligned with the overall FSIP program approach and theory of change. Please see comments below for consideration

i) We note the use of CSA as an approach to be taken to transform food production in Nauru. Beyond CSA and if looking at the landscape of food production in Nauru, what additional approaches could be integrated into the project to ensure the food production is also conducted in a manner that is nature positive, maintains existing ecosystems and pollution free. As noted in the FSIP, a core logic of the program is the focus on integrated landscape management. Based on this premise, is there consideration for a more integrated/wholistic approach at the policy level which is not exclusive to CSA and which can also help to fulfill other benefits such as food security etc.?

ii) In reviewing the FSIP PFD, Component 2 on improved and increased financing deployed in support of food system transformation and Component 4 on KM in connection with the GCP, do not appear to be reflected in the project description overview. In particular we recommend separating the Outcome related to development and deployment of financial instruments, from the Outcome related to the application of better land management approaches on the landscape.

d) Yes

e) Yes

f) Yes

Agency Response

10 Apr. 2025

(a-i) Thank you very much for your valuable feedback. While Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is a central approach in the project, the design explicitly integrates multiple additional strategies to achieve transformative impacts at the landscape level through integrated landscape management (ILM):

Holistic Policy Development and Integration (Outputs 1.1.1 and 2.1.4): The project supports a comprehensive and integrative approach at the policy level by developing essential national guidelines, strategies, and plans (Output 1.1.1), such as the Food Security Guidelines for Households, Integrated Pest Management Guidelines, Fertilizer Management Guidelines, and the National Sustainable Livestock Feed Production Strategy. These policies extend beyond CSA to holistically address biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, water management, pollution control, and resilience to climate impacts, ensuring alignment with broader sustainable development frameworks. Moreover, through Output 2.1.4, the project promotes policy coherence by supporting an agricultural market development plan and enhancing local economic frameworks, strengthening local value chains, and aligning with broader sustainable development and biodiversity conservation goals.

Additionally, the project incorporates several other complementary ILM strategies, such as:

Soil Restoration and Ecosystem Rehabilitation (Output 2.1.1), addressing legacy degradation from phosphate mining and providing ecosystem-based solutions for land rehabilitation.

Climate-smart Agroforestry (Output 2.1.2), integrating productive agriculture with biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.

Innovative community-based agricultural and livestock initiatives through small grants (Output 2.1.3), promoting local resilience, innovative and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, and sustainable livelihoods.

Sustainable Market Development (Output 2.1.4), establishing a new agricultural markets, promoting sustainable economic development, and reducing dependency on imported food.

Integrated Pest/IAS Management and Fertilizer Management, explicitly targeting biodiversity and ecosystem health within agricultural landscapes (Output 1.1.1, Outputs 2.1.1-2.1.3).

Finally, the strengthened Agriculture Sector Partner Group (ASPG) (Output 1.1.2) will coordinate efforts across various sectors, including agriculture, environment, water, and health, fostering a cohesive and integrated approach to landscape management and sustainable development.

This integrative and cross-sectoral approach ensures the project's contribution to the FS IP goals by catalyzing transformative changes toward resilient, sustainable, and biodiversity-inclusive food systems, while also enhancing national food security and ecosystem resilience.

This explanation has been added to the CEO ER into a new subsection the Project Integrated Landscape Management Approach, p. 19.

The project objective has been made more concise and now reads as; To transform Nauru?s food systems and enhance national food security through nature-positive production, resilient and climate smart practices and associated value chains.

.(ii)

Thank you for your valuable observation and recommendation. We fully understand your point regarding the importance of clearly reflecting FS IP Component 2 (Improved and increased financing deployed in support of food system transformation) and Component 4 (Knowledge management and engagement through GCP).

However, based on our consultations, analyses, and the specifics of Nauru?s context, we intentionally integrated financial mechanisms (Output 2.1.4: Sustainable Agricultural Market) closely with the practical application of improved land management and agriculture practices (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 2.1.3) as fully complementary initiatives. This integration ensures that investments in land restoration, agroforestry, CSA and biodiversity-friendly practices are directly incentivized and sustained through market mechanisms, thus fostering long-term adoption by farmers and stakeholders and avoiding fragmentation in implementation.

In the case of Nauru, a very small island nation with limited institutional capacities and complete lack of an agricultural market, it is particularly beneficial to align market development directly with practical CSA applications, creating tangible, mutually reinforcing benefits on the ground. We fully acknowledge that Output 2.1.4 (Sustainable Agricultural Market) directly contributes to FS IP Component 2. However, given Nauru's specific context, including its small geographic size, limited institutional and farming capacity, and lack of agricultural market, it is practical and strategically more effective to embed financial instruments within the existing Outcome 2.1 rather than create a separate Outcome with just one Output 2.1.4.

Regarding the GCP engagement (FS IP Component 4), the project already explicitly integrates this within Output 3.1.2 (Gender-inclusive knowledge management, lessons sharing, and dissemination via the CSA Knowledge Portal). This output clearly emphasizes knowledge exchange, innovation, and coordination with the Global Coordination Project (GCP), promoting the sharing of lessons and best practices regionally and globally.

Nevertheless, we fully acknowledge your point regarding explicitly highlighting these linkages. Thus, we added the following to the project Component 2 description in CEO ER, p. 12; and ProDoc, p. 22:

Also, the project Component 2 contributes to FS IP Component 2 Improved and increased financing deployed in support of food system transformation through the establishment of a sustainable and nature-positive agricultural market mechanism in Nauru, which creates economic incentives and market opportunities, attracts private sector engagement, and facilitates increased investment in climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly agriculture in Nauru.

Also, we strengthened the project Component 3 description with the following, CEO ER, p.12:

Under this Component the project will support Nauru?s participation in FS IP governance mechanisms (global/regional steering committees and assemblies) and in regional and global platforms and fora of relevance. Specifically, through the Component, the project will engage in collective action, KM, and South-South cooperation by actively sharing lessons and best practices on gender-inclusive CSA with other FS IP countries and the Global Coordination Project (GCP). The project will participate in regional knowledge-sharing platforms, webinars, and conferences organized by the GCP, contributing to collective learning across SIDS (via SPREP as the currently proposed regional node). Adequate budget allocations were made to support this Component.

4. Project Outline
A. Project Rationale
a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/14/2025

b) Cleared.

3/14/2025

a) Not fully.

i)The barriers described relate to CSA in particular rather than food systems as a whole. Please revise accordingly.

ii) We note and commend the Annex 22 analysis on the food and livestock sector. Given this information, please indicate the value chains (or foods) that will be used as entry points to transform the food system in Nauru and why the particular value chain (s) have been selected.

b) This is not clear in the narrative. Please include.

c) N/A

Agency Response

10 Apr. 25

(a-i) Thank you for your comment. We recognize your point about explicitly reflecting the broader food system threats; however, the key threats impacting the overall food system, including ecosystem degradation.

In response to the comment we changed the barrier section title to reflect broader food system and agriculture barriers: Barriers for development of agriculture and enhancing food security in Nauru. Also, we revised the key barrier titles as the following:

Barrier 1: Weak stakeholder coordination, capacity and governance for agriculture and support of sustainable food production system in Nauru

Barrier 2: Inadequate integration of agriculture into the national sustainable development

Barrier 3: Low stakeholder awareness on agriculture benefits and healthy nutrition, loss of traditional nutrition knowledge, and inadequate perception of agriculture as marginal activityThe content for each barrier was revised accordingly to reflect situation with agriculture and food security in Nauru.

The changes have been made in the CEO ER, pp 10-11; and Prodoc, pp. 13-16

(ii) Thank you for highlighting this point. Based on the analysis in Annex 21, stakeholder consultations, and the detailed project description, the project explicitly targets the following key value chains as entry points for transformative changes in Nauru?s food system (subsection Selected Value Chains for the CSA Project in Nauru has been added to CEO ER, pp. 20-21 and Prodoc, pp. 29-30):

Vegetable and Fruit Production (Outputs 1.2.2, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, and 2.1.4): Vegetables (e.g., tomatoes, eggplants, leafy greens, beans, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, cabbages) and fruits (e.g., papayas, bananas, mangoes, pandanus, coconuts, guava, pineapples, dragon fruits, breadfruits, lemons, passion-fruits, and noni) are central value chains because they directly enhance local nutrition, reduce dependency on imported foods, are culturally relevant, and suitable for Nauru?s agro-climatic conditions. These are specifically targeted through CSA Learning Farms (Output 1.2.2), CSA agroforestry plantations (Output 2.1.2), innovative community-based farming initiatives (Output 2.1.3), and the establishment of a sustainable local agricultural market (Output 2.1.4).

Agroforestry (Output 2.1.2): Agroforestry was strategically selected due to its multifunctionality, enhancing agricultural productivity, soil fertility, ecosystem restoration, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity benefits. The agroforestry plantations will specifically integrate species such as coconuts, breadfruits, moringa, nitrogen-fixing trees, and other medicinal and fruit trees, providing multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Livestock and Local Feed Production (Outputs 1.1.1 and 2.1.3):
The livestock sector, particularly pigs and poultry, holds strong cultural importance and local economic potential. The project targets this value chain through sustainable local livestock feed production planning (Output 1.1.1) and support for innovative sustainable livestock management

practices at the community and farm level (Output 2.1.3), significantly enhancing food security, nutritional diversity, and local economic resilience.

Bees and Honey Production (Output 1.2.2): Beekeeping and honey production have been specifically selected as a pilot due to their significant potential to support biodiversity (particularly pollinators), enhance crop yields through improved pollination, and provide additional nutritional and economic benefits. The feasibility study and pilot activities on beekeeping (Output 1.2.2) aim to assess and potentially scale this value chain, further supporting sustainable agricultural productivity and biodiversity conservation.

The selection of these value chains has been guided by extensive stakeholder consultation, analysis of environmental suitability, cultural acceptance, economic viability, nutritional impact, and their strong alignment with Nauru?s national development strategies and policies.

Reasons for selecting these specific value chains include:

Local Feasibility and Community Acceptance: These selected value chains are culturally appropriate, have existing local knowledge and acceptance, and align with traditional dietary habits, facilitating widespread adoption.

Alignment with National Priorities and Strategies: These value chains directly support objectives articulated in Nauru?s National Food Systems Pathway (2021-2030), Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy (2020-2030), and the Agriculture Sector Strategy (2021-2030), enhancing alignment with national policy objectives and increasing government and stakeholder buy-in.

Resilience and Sustainability Potential: Vegetables, fruits, agroforestry products, and livestock are suited to Nauru?s climatic and soil conditions. They also contribute significantly to resilience-building by diversifying local production, improving ecosystem services, and reducing vulnerability to climate variability and extreme events.

Market Potential and Economic Viability: Vegetables, fruits, livestock products, and value-added agroforestry products have strong potential for local market absorption, providing sustainable economic incentives for farmers and households, thus creating a viable financial foundation for transformative practices.

b)
Thank you for your comment! The roles of different stakeholders, including private sector, are briefly described in the section Project Stakeholders, CEO ER, pp. 13-14. More detailed description of stakeholder roles is in the Stakeholder Engagement section in the ProDoc, pp. 62-69. Also, in response to your comment we included Key Stakeholders section in the CEO ER with detailed description of the project stakeholders, pp. 29-35.

5 B. Project Description
5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?
b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region? [If a child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach?
d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?
e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly

described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?
f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?
g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?
h) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?
i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?
j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?
k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?
l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?
m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/18/2025

Noted and cleared.

5/27/2025

In light of recent developments at the country level regarding the possibility of restarting mining, please indicate how the project intends to incorporate and consider these developments in terms of mitigative measures.

4/14/2025

1) Thank you for the responses. We recognize Nauru is in a unique situation given the size of the country, the high portion of degraded landscape and the significance of a key driver- phosphate mining. Against this backdrop we note the challenge with delivery of a high number of GEBs. Given this we recommend to ensure the project really attempts to:

i) apply the transformation levers to contribute or facilitate a change in how decisions are made at the national level with respect to sustainable use and restoration of the countries landscapes and ecosystems and within this context to support sustainable food production.

ii) focus on foods which are having or have the potential lead to a greater negative impact on the landscape

iii) connected to i) explore and implement where possible interventions which can influence or contribute to regulation of phosphate mining given the potential impact on food system pathways

2) Component 2- Please clarify what is meant by *Biodiversity friendly Climate Resilient Agriculture*

-Please clarify if any native non-agricultural species will be used in the restoration effort.

3/14/2025

a) Yes

b), c), d) Not fully. In addition to comments provided above please see additional comments below: (please ensure all changes are reflected in the results framework)

i) Component 1- How will the agencies/sectors responsible for driving environmental degradation of productive landscapes for food systems be incorporated into the intervention on coordination and policy coherence (Output 1.1.2)?

ii) In referring to the outputs of Component 1, what concrete policies, strategies, regulations will be adopted, revised or reformed to support integrated landscape management in order to facilitate better land use planning and management and by extension productivity.

iii) Output 2.1.3 are there opportunities for the private sector (buyers of produce -i.e. local markets or small scale commercial banking to be incorporated in this intervention?

iv) Component 3- Please strengthen the connection/interventions relate to the global coordination project to ensure there is a two way flow of information and participation in global activities of the program.

v) Please describe why this project approach was selected over others.

e) Not fully, please apply any additional narrative to this section when revisions are made to the sections above on ToC, rationale etc.

f) Yes

g) See comments below on the budget

h) Yes

i) Yes

j) Gender

k) Not fully. Please include linkages to the GCP.

l) This is not evident, please include, in particular considering the phosphate mining

m) Yes

Additional comment: Please share a bit more about the explicit reference to the GEF SGP and opportunities to leverage in project implementation.

Agency Response

10 Apr. 25

(b, c, d, i)

Thank you very much for this important comment. The project recognizes that addressing food system transformation in Nauru requires strong multi-sectoral coordination involving sectors responsible for land management, mining rehabilitation, water resource management,

environment, health, and infrastructure, which collectively influence the broader food production landscape.

Phosphate mining in Nauru is conducted by the Republic of Nauru Phosphate Corporation (RONPhos), a state-owned enterprise established in 2005 to manage the extraction of remaining phosphate deposits. Due to the significant depletion of phosphate reserves, mining operations have substantially decreased, with RONPhos focusing on extracting residual phosphate resources inside existing mining sites. Currently 80% of Nauru?s land area have been degraded due to past phosphate mining, making integrated rehabilitation efforts essential for the project's success. So, the company will not be able to destroy more productive landscapes in Nauru due to lack feasible deposits.

Specifically, Output 1.1.2 (strengthening the Agriculture Sector Partner Group - ASPG) explicitly engages multiple stakeholders including the Department of Environment, Department of Climate Change, Department of Commerce and Industry, Department of Lands, Department of Public Health, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, and other relevant agencies. This ensures inclusive, integrated decision-making and policy coherence, particularly targeting sectors contributing significantly to ecosystem degradation, water management, and pollution challenges that affect food production. The strengthened ASPG under Output 1.1.2 will therefore serve as the primary coordination mechanism to effectively align sectoral priorities, manage trade-offs, and foster coherent strategies and policies to address broader environmental degradation and support transformative food system outcomes.

The Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC), responsible for the rehabilitation and sustainable management of land degraded by phosphate mining activities in Nauru, is identified as a key stakeholder in this project. NRC will be actively engaged through participation in the Agriculture Sector Partner Group (ASPG) (Output 1.1.2), providing expertise, technical assistance, and coordination support for land rehabilitation activities.

This clarification has been added to description of the Output 1.1.2 in CEO ER, p. 24 and ProDoc, p. 38.

(ii)
Thank you for this valuable comment. Under Component 1, the project will concretely support the development and adoption of key strategies and guidelines essential for integrated landscape management, sustainable land use planning, and increased productivity. Specifically, under Output 1.1.1, the project will develop and adopt the following key guidelines and strategies:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guidelines, addressing invasive alien species, pest control, and reducing chemical pollution, directly contributing to ecosystem health and productivity.

Fertilizer Management Guidelines, aimed at optimizing fertilizer use, minimizing pollution, and improving soil fertility and agricultural productivity sustainably.

Food Security Guidelines for Households, encouraging diversified and nature-positive food production at the household level, supporting household resilience and food security, while improving the integration of agriculture within local landscapes.

National Sustainable Livestock Feed Production Strategy, guiding sustainable production and utilization of local feed sources, enhancing productivity, reducing import dependency, and improving nature-positive land-use management.

These policies and strategies will be developed or revised with multi-sectoral participation coordinated through the strengthened Agriculture Sector Partner Group (ASPG, Output 1.1.2), thereby explicitly supporting integrated landscape management, coherent land-use planning, and sustainable agricultural productivity improvements across Nauru.
The following clarification has been added to the description of Component 1 in the Strategy section in ProDoc, p. 21; and CEO ER, p. 11:

Component 1 aims to (1) develop selected biodiversity-inclusive and nature positive CSA and food security guidelines, strategies, and plans complementary to existing agricultural policies to ensure effective mainstreaming of CSA in national development based on the Integrated Landscape Management approach (Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guidelines, Food Security Guidelines for Households, Fertilizer Management Guidelines, and the National Sustainable Livestock Feed Production Strategy);?
(iii)
Thank you for highlighting this important aspect. We have specifically included Output 2.1.4 (Establishment of Sustainable Agricultural Market) precisely to address market development and private-sector engagement in CSA in Nauru. This Output aims to create initial market mechanisms, attracting private-sector participation, generating economic incentives, and establishing critical local supply and value chains for agricultural products.
However, it is important to clarify that Nauru currently lacks an agricultural market, has no commercial banking, and faces significant constraints in private-sector engagement in agriculture. Furthermore, the private sector itself is nascent, with no well-developed agricultural market infrastructure. Output 2.1.4 directly responds to this critical gap by developing necessary market structures, facilitating small-scale processing, and strengthening local market linkages, creating foundational conditions for private sector participation.

Thus, while the current situation in Nauru limits direct large-scale private sector involvement at this initial stage, our approach explicitly targets incremental development of private sector participation through market establishment activities.

No changes have been made
iv)
Please, see our responses to the Project Summary and Component 3 comments above. Also, please, see description of the Output 3.1.2, CEO ER, p. 28. The Component 3 was strengthened as requested.

V)
Thank you for the comment! This description is located on p. 13 of the CEO ER. Please, find it below:

The "Transforming Nauru?s Food Systems through Climate Smart Agriculture" project offers distinct advantages over other potential interventions for addressing Nauru's unique environmental and socio-economic challenges:

Integrated Approach to Food Security and Environmental Restoration: Unlike projects that might focus solely on food production or environmental rehabilitation, this project simultaneously addresses food security, agro-ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience. By introducing biodiversity-friendly CSA, soil restoration, and agroforestry practices, the project builds local food systems while rehabilitating degraded land, thus tackling two of Nauru?s critical challenges?food insecurity and environmental degradation?within a single framework;

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer: The project emphasizes local capacity development by creating training programs and establishing nature-positive CSA Peer Learning Farms. This approach builds on local knowledge and engages the community in long-term skills development, making the project sustainable beyond its lifecycle. Other potential options, such as short-term food aid or external agricultural projects, may address immediate needs but often lack the sustainable, skill-building component required for resilience.

Alignment with National and International Strategies: This project is strategically aligned with Nauru?s national policies (e.g., National Sustainable Development Strategy, Nauru National Food Systems Pathway, National CSA Plan) and international climate and biodiversity commitments. This alignment ensures that project outcomes contribute to broader development goals, such as those outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Other options, particularly isolated or sector-specific interventions, may not support this level of cross-sectoral synergy or leverage existing national and regional policy frameworks.

Creation of an Agricultural Market and Economic Opportunities: This project uniquely includes the establishment of a nature-positive national agricultural market, fostering economic incentives for small-scale farmers and households to participate in food production. By developing a market for locally produced biodiversity-friendly goods, the project reduces reliance on imports, supports local livelihoods, and creates economic opportunities that strengthen Nauru?s economy. Other interventions might provide temporary economic relief but often lack the market-building component necessary for sustaining local nature positive food production and achieving long-term economic resilience.

E) Thank you! All the revisions made are described in the responses to the comments above.
G) The comment on the budget has been addressed below. See section 8.9.
j) No comments have been received yet
k) Please, see our responses to the Project Summary and Component 3 comments above. Also, please, see description of the Output 3.1.2, CEO ER, p. 28. The Component 3 was strengthened as requested with linkages to GCP.

l) Thank you! We agree. The following has been added to the Project contribution to the policy coherence section in the CEO ER, p. 30:

Additionally, the project identified policies historically contributing to environmental degradation and constraints to sustainable agriculture, e.g., Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust Act (governing phosphate revenue management, indirectly incentivizing mining without strong environmental safeguards historically), Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation Act (1997) (though primarily focused on land rehabilitation, historical gaps in integrated approaches to sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation have limited effectiveness), and Customs and Tariff Act (encouraging dependency on imported processed food through limited tariff incentives for local sustainable agricultural products). These problem policies are already addressed significantly by the Nauru National Food Systems Pathway 2021-2030, Climate Smart Agriculture Plan (NaCSAP) 2021-2025, and Island Wide Draft Master Plan. However, the project will contribute to the process through:

Developing and revising strategic guidelines and strategies (Output 1.1.1): The project explicitly develops integrated national guidelines and strategies (e.g., Food Security Guidelines, Fertilizer and IPM Guidelines, and Sustainable Livestock Feed Production Strategy) to address policy gaps and better align incentives towards sustainable local agricultural production, reducing dependence on imported processed foods;

Strengthening cross-sectoral policy coherence (Output 1.1.2): The project engages the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC) and relevant government departments through the strengthened

Agriculture Sector Partner Group (ASPG), ensuring that mining rehabilitation practices explicitly integrate sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and CSA approaches;

Establishing sustainable agricultural market structures (Output 2.1.4): By creating local agricultural market opportunities and value chains, the project reduces incentives established by import-focused policies, fostering local agricultural growth and economic diversification.

m) Thank you for your suggestion. The following has been added to the section Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, CEO ER, p. 36, based on the information already reflected in the ProDoc:

The project explicitly references the National GEF SGP, coordinated by Eco-Nauru, as a critical partner and leveraging opportunity. The SGP has been actively supporting community-level initiatives in Nauru, such as solar power installations, promoting sustainable agriculture such as piggery, chicken farming, kitchen gardening, and community-based businesses, directly benefiting local communities. During the project design phase, the SGP National Coordinator was consulted to identify synergies and avoid duplication. Building on these consultations, the FS IP Project will collaborate closely with SGP specifically under Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4. This collaboration aims to leverage the SGP's established local presence, grant management experience, and existing networks with grassroots stakeholders to achieve maximal impact on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and sustainable livestock development in Nauru. Furthermore, the FS IP Project will apply relevant best practices and lessons learned from SGP-funded initiatives to inform and strengthen the effectiveness of community-led CSA interventions under this project

13 May 2025
1. Thank you for recognizing the very particular operating context of Nauru. We tried to address your comments taking into account two key realities:

Legacy, not future, phosphate impacts: Primary deposits are now largely exhausted; mining no longer drives additional land cover loss, but it has left ~80 % of the island severely degraded and in urgent need of rehabilitation;

Agriculture is still small scale: Cultivation in Nauru is confined to a narrow coastal strip of < 4 km? and scattered household gardens and small farms, so current production exerts little additional ecological pressure.

The following edits has been made:

Prodoc, Baseline Programs section, p. 11; CEO ER, p.9:

With primary phosphate reserves exhausted, the strategic planning and development challenge has shifted from regulating ongoing extraction to embedding rehabilitation and food system objectives in every post mining land use decision

Description of Component 1 in ProDoc, p. 20; and CEO ER, p. 25:

Additionally, ASPG will be formally mandated to act as the national Food Systems & Agricultural Land Restoration Decision Platform in Nauru to facilitate restoration of agricultural land through investment and donor-funded projects (direct application of the GEF Lever 1 ? Governance and Policy and GEF Lever 3 ? Multi-Stakeholder Dialogs).

Description of the Component 2 1 in ProDoc, p. 21; and CEO ER, p. 18:

Reports from each restoration and CSA activity under Component 2 will be submitted to the ASPG to inform and refine food security, CSA, and land restoration policies, plans and government decisions.

Description of the Output 1.1.1 in ProDoc, p. 38; and CEO ER, p. 24:

Once finalized, the four instruments will be reviewed and agreed by ASPG based on their contribution to national food security, CSA, and land restoration priorities.

Description of the Output 1.1.2 in ProDoc, p. 39; and CEO ER, p. 24-25:

Additionally, ASPG will be formally mandated to act as the national Food Systems & Agricultural Land Restoration Decision Platform in Nauru to facilitate restoration of agricultural land through investment and donor-funded projects (direct application of the GEF Lever 1 ? Governance and Policy and GEF Lever 3 ? Multi-Stakeholder Dialogs).

Description of the Output 2.1.1 in ProDoc, p. 44; and CEO ER, p. 27:

Reports from the land restoration activities will be submitted to the ASPG to inform and refine food security and land restoration policies, plans and government decisions (application of GEF Lever 1 ? Governance and Policy and GEF Lever 3 ? Multi-Stakeholder Dialogs)

Description of the Output 2.1.3 in ProDoc, p. 47; and CEO ER, p. 28:

Reports and actual results of the CSA projects will be reviewed by ASPG and used to inform and refine food security and agriculture policies, plans and government decisions (application of GEF Lever 1 ? Governance and Policy and GEF Lever 3 ? Multi-Stakeholder Dialogs)

ii)

We agree that, even at Nauru?s small scale, some food products?especially pigs & poultry, imported input vegetables and root crops grown on fragile soils?can create disproportionate pressure through nutrient run off, water use and invasive species pathways. The ProDoc therefore now (i) maps and ranks food value chains by ?landscape footprint risk?, and (ii) requires that all support to high risk foods be conditioned on low input/closed loop methods. Concrete insertions are set out below.

Selected Value Chains for the CSA Project in Nauru section of the Prodoc, p. 29; and CEO ER, p. 21:

The project will rank the value chains by potential negative impact on ecosystems. Three are designated High Risk Chains (HRC): (1) pigs & poultry where imported feed and waste mis management threaten run off, (2) fertilizer dependent short cycle vegetables on coastal sands, and (3) root crops on thin Topside soils. Project support to these chains will be strictly tied to the mitigation packages in Component 2 and the Guidelines under Output 1.1.1.

Output 1.1.1 in Prodoc, p. 38; and CEO ER, p. 25:

Collectively, the four policies will also consider and mainstream potential high risk value chains by mandating closed loop household production, biodiversity friendly pest management, strict nutrient caps with composted livestock waste, and locally sourced low impact feed, thereby converting pigs, poultry, and input heavy crops into regulated, low input climate smart exemplars.

Output 2.1.2 in Prodoc, p. 45; and CEO ER, p. 27:

The agroforestry sites will prioritize management of potential High Risk Chains via e.g. net zero piggery using biodigester slurry as vegetable fertilizer and breadfruit based pig feed trials.

Output 2.1.3 in Prodoc, p. 47; and CEO ER, p. 28:

For example, small grant proposals on poultry and pig farming will be considered as a priority if they (a) convert existing high input pig/poultry or root crop operations to the closed loop model; b) test local feed substitutions; or c) demonstrate run off capture/ reuse.

iii)
We appreciate the reminder to address phosphate mining within the food system lens. Please, kindly be aware that
Nauru?s primary phosphate deposits are essentially exhausted; no new pits are planned and the mining leases cover the same 80 % of ?Topside? that is already degraded. Consequently, there is no realistic pathway for additional land cover loss from new extraction of the residuals. The remaining activity is (i) secondary recovery of stockpiles and (ii) allocation of the NRC rehabilitation budget.

Project leverage therefore lies in agricultural land restoration and sustainable use, not restriction of existing mining activities that are currently minimal and decreasing. Rather than regulating an industry that is winding down, the project uses the mechanisms described in Components 1 and 2 to support soil restoration, sustainable agriculture, and safe food system outcomes as we described in our responses above.
2)
For this project we use the following definition of Climate Smart (or Climate Resilient Agriculture). Definition has been slightly edited in the Strategy section of ProDoc, p. 19; and Project Strategy section of CEO ER, p.11:

For this project nature-positive (biodiversity-friendly) and climate smart agriculture presents an integrated approach to managing landscapes?cropland, livestock, forests, and fisheries?that aims to achieve four main objectives: (1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes to enhance food security and reduces hunger, particularly in regions vulnerable to climate change; (2) adapting and building resilience to climate change through strengthening the capacity of agricultural systems to cope with and recover from climate-related stresses such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events; (3) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and enhance carbon sequestration; and (4) conserving and enhancing biodiversity by integrating nature-positive practices that restore soil, protect native species, and maintain ecosystem services essential for sustainable agriculture.

-

Yes, the native non-agricultural species will be used in land restoration activity. The following has been added to the Output 2.1.1 in Prodoc, p. 43; and CEO ER, p. 27:

The phytoremediation will apply native flora such as Pandanus?tectorius, Cordia?subcordata, Guettarda?speciosa and Sesbania?grandis (all naturally occurring on Nauru but not cultivated for food), which act as pioneer or nurse species to stabilize soil, provide shade and habitat, and jump?start ecosystem recovery

17 June 2025

Thank you! Given the project?s focus on sustainable agriculture, it is not expected to be directly impacted by the potential new mining plans of the Nauru Government. Further, given the technical focus of this project on food systems, there is limited space to influence the government?s future decisions pertaining to Phosphate mining. However, the following edits have been made in ProDoc and CEO ER in response to potential threat to Nauru?s ecosystem of mining of last intact habitat in Nauru and its indirect influence on the project activities:

Under 'Direct Threats for Nauru?s Ecosystems and Communities': we added "Since beginning of 2025 government is considering extraction in the only remaining undisturbed area in Nauru?.

Future scenarios for Nauru:

Scenario 1 (Slow Growth, Slow Climate Impacts): " Facing ongoing revenue shortfalls, no successful new industries and the slow onset effects of climate change, Government may aim to expand phosphate extraction to the island?s last untouched plateau for fiscal relief?.

Scenario 3 (Slow Growth, Rapid Climate Impacts) ? "With diversification stalled coupled with the challenges of accessing aid that is unresponsive to the devastating impacts of climate change, authorities revive plans to mine the remaining unexploited deposit as an emergency cash source, compounding ecological vulnerability amid accelerating climate stress?.

Baseline policies and programs in Nauru to address the threats for ecosystems and local communities via CSA:

"While the Master Plan was drafted on the assumption that primary phosphate reserves were exhausted, Government?s recent consideration (2025) of opening the single remaining unmined plateau means the Plan should be revised accordingly.

Project Risks - added the following: "Also, Government may consider mining the island?s last intact plateau, causing fresh land degradation, that would have substantial impact on Nauru?s ecosystems as a whole but may only insignificantly affect some project activities.

Mitigation measures: " To address emerging threat of new mining, the project will avoid any activities in and in the nearest proximity of the new mining sites to ensure sustainability of the project outputs?

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project
a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?
b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?
c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).
d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/21/2025

Cleared

3/14 /2025

a) Yes

b) Please refer to the updated GEF guidelines on Minimum Fiduciary Standards and Agency Fee Policies, which criteria for exceptions for GEF Agencies to carry out the dual implementation and

execution roles. Noting this case falls into Criteria ii), execution services are to be limited to administrative, financial and procurement support only. Please make the necessary adjustments to the list below and ensure these changes are reflected in the Letter of Request from the OFP and relevant project documents.

2. The execution services provided by UNDP are expected to include:[1]

- Identification, recruitment, and contract management of international and national consultants as detailed in the Project Document or as agreed by the Project Board during implementation
- Procurement of required goods and services as detailed in the Project Document
- Engagement of responsible parties to implement project activities as detailed in the Project Document or as agreed by the Project Board during implementation
- Organization of training sessions for the IP, PMU, and Responsible Party for technical assistance and capacity building on project execution
- Provision of financial services, including processing of payments for the project contracts concluded with UNDP, which includes the creation of vendors and payment reconciliation
- Provision of risk management services and technical advisory on social and environmental safeguards
- General project management services in line with UNDP rules and procedures

c) Yes

d) Yes

Agency Response

13 May 2025

Thank you for this comment. We have discussed this with the OFP and the IP for the project, and with them reviewed and rationalized the execution support services to reflect the three categories - procurement, financial and administrative. Please do see the attached revised request letter from the OFP and draft LOA for execution services.

5.3 Core indicators
a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?
b) Are the project?s targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/21/2025

Cleared.

4/14/2025

b) Thank you for the comprehensive feedback.

-Is there a possibility to utilize the land that is planned for SLM under the UNEP/GEF Ecosystem Restoration Project?

3/14/2025

a) Yes

b) Not fully.

i) We note the GEB targets, which are already low, have been reduced for Core indicator 4 and are now '0' for Core Indicator 5. Please clarify and we recommend to consider increasing the GEBs.

ii) Please provide additional information on the portion (%) of degraded land which will be positively impacted by the project.

Agency Response

10 Apr. 25

(b-i)

Thank you for this important comment. We acknowledge your suggestion regarding Global Environmental Benefit (GEB) targets, particularly for Core Indicators 4 and 5.

Following careful assessment and detailed consultations with national stakeholders and implementing partners, the target for Core Indicator 4 (Landscapes under improved management) was decreased to 10 hectares, reflecting the maximum achievable area under the current constraints in Nauru. Given Nauru?s extremely limited land area, severe land degradation from historic phosphate mining, and limited availability of productive land suitable for project interventions, the adjusted target represents the practical maximum feasible within the project context.

Regarding Core Indicator 5 (Area of marine habitat under improved practices), after careful assessment and stakeholder consultations, this indicator was revised to zero, as the initial rationale?mitigating impacts from free-roaming pigs on marine and coastal habitats?was found no longer applicable. Currently, there are no free-roaming pigs on coastal or marine ecosystems in Nauru, due to recent effective control measures. Therefore, the project?s focus has been adjusted strictly towards terrestrial ecosystems, aligning with the highest national priorities and maximizing achievable biodiversity and food system impacts within the limited available terrestrial landscape.

Furthermore, it is essential to emphasize that project implementation in Nauru inherently incurs extremely high costs, driven by the necessity to import almost all equipment, agricultural inputs, and technology required, as the island lacks local manufacturing and significant agricultural infrastructure. Additionally, costs associated with land restoration initiatives, particularly on former phosphate mining lands, are significantly elevated due to the intensive remediation processes required for rehabilitation and soil regeneration under harsh local conditions.

We appreciate your recommendation to maintain ambitious targets; however, considering Nauru's very limited land availability, significant historical land degradation, and current conditions and

high costs, the revised targets reflect the maximum feasible impact achievable under realistic and implementable scenarios. However, if new opportunities arise during the project implementation the project will make all efforts to overachieve the targets and thesewill be reported in the PIRs.

(ii)
Given the total area of land degraded by phosphate mining in Nauru is approximately 1,600 ha (80% of the Nauru?s area) the project will restore the land on ~0.2% of degraded land (3 ha under restoration through Output 2.1.1). It should be mentioned that land restoration is quite an expensive process in Nauru with average costs more than $1,000,000 per ha.

The clarification above has been added to the description of Core Indicators in CEO ER, p. 37

13 May 2025
Potentially, yes, it was discussed with UNEP/GEF Project. This project is mentioned as partner to the FS IP project in Nauru. We added the following to the Output 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 description in Prodoc, pp. 43-44 and CEO ER, p. 27:

To deliver the Output the project will collaborate with the UNEP/GEF project ?Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Nauru? (GEF ID 10161, 2024 2029) to leverage the lands rehabilitated under that initiative.

5.4 Risks
a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/11/2025

Cleared.

3/14/2025

a) Please apply a rating for the Political and Governance related risk.

b), c) Yes

Agency Response

10 Apr 25

Political and Governance is rated as Moderate. CEO ER, p. 38; ProDoc, p. 54.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities
6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy? b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/14/2025

a) Yes

b) Mostly, please refer to the comments above.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

We tried to address all your comments provided above.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/21/2025

Cleared

4/15/2025

Follow up comment.

- Can you specify how the project is supporting Targets 1 & 2 of the KMGBF, in particular as there are no longer any GEBs under sub-indicator 4.1?

-Please clarify what is meant by ' *biodiversity-inclusive and effective CSA management into the sustainable use of Nauru?s areas'?*

3/14/2025

Please indicate how this project may be aligned with Nauru's NDC and LDN targets.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

Thank you for the comment. Nauru has not established specific Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets yet. However, we added the contribution to the country?s NDC as the following (CEO ER, p. 42):

Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2021-2030: by restoring degraded land and promoting climate-resilience agricultural practices the project directly contributes to NDC by

?further development of potential scalable long-term food security initiatives? and ?testing soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques?;

13 May 2025
It has been clarified in the CEO ER as the following, p.50:

Target 1: The project contributes to GBF Target 1 by integrating biodiversity-inclusive management processes into the sustainable use of Nauru?s landscapes. Through its focus on CSA, the project emphasizes the establishment of agroforestry systems that enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. By collaborating with national stakeholders, the project supports the development and implementation of guidelines and plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation into land use and agricultural practices, ensuring that these areas are managed sustainably.

Target 2: the project contribute to the target via restoration of agro-ecosystems destroyed by phosphate mining (the project target to resto agro-ecosystems on 3 ha of former mining site)

-how this project may be aligned with Nauru's NDC and LDN targets:

Corrected as (CEO ER, p. 50): biodiversity-inclusive and effective CSA management into the sustainable use of Nauru?s landscapes.

Under biodiversity-inclusive and effective CSA management the project understand the following definition mentioned above in the Strategy section:

For this project nature-positive (biodiversity-friendly) and climate smart agriculture presents an integrated approach to managing landscapes?cropland, livestock, forests, and fisheries?that aims to achieve four main objectives: (1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes to enhance food security and reduces hunger, particularly in regions vulnerable to climate change; (2) adapting and building resilience to climate change through strengthening the capacity of agricultural systems to cope with and recover from climate-related stresses such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events; (3) reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and enhance carbon sequestration; and (4) conserving and enhancing biodiversity by integrating nature-positive practices that restore soil, protect native species, and maintain ecosystem services essential for sustainable agriculture.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response

7 D. Policy Requirements
7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response
7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
3/14/2025

i) Please ensure that the indicators included in the Gender Action Plan are reflected in the project results framework.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

Thank you for your comment. Please, be informed that currently PRF has 5 gender-dissagregated indicators, specifically:

Mandatory Indicator 4 (GEF Core Indicator 11) ?Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people).?

Indicator 7 ?% of CSA training participants reporting application of CSA techniques in practice? with 49%women targeted

Indicator 8 ?Number of farmers and community members that practice at CSA Peer Learning Farms established by the project, people/year? with 49% women targeted

Indicator 10 ?Total number of households and private farms that started to consistently produce agricultural and livestock production using CSA approaches? with 40% female-led households targeted;

Indicator 12 ?% of Nauru?s population demonstrating improved awareness about healthy food and nutrition and positive attitude to CSA and traditional nutrition knowledge? with 49% women targeted

Please, kindly remember that in PRF we keep Outcome level indicators demonstrating transformative change in the policy, capacity, management, etc. The Annex 10. Gender Analysis and Action Plan has Output level indicators that are important for delivery of the project Outputs (project products and services). Their Outcome projections are already fully reflected in the five Outcome indicators above.

Considering the restrictions on the total number of indicators allowed by GEF and UNDP in the PRF?and the requirement to include exclusively Outcome-level indicators?we therefore recommend clearly differentiating GAP indicators from the main PRF and maintaining them separately in Annex 10.

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response
7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response
8 Annexes
Annex A: Financing Tables
8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7/10/2025

Cleared.

7/9/2025

The revised table has not been inserted in the portal version of the CEO Endorsement Request. Please insert.

6/28/2025

Please provide detailed information using the eligible categories presented in the Guidelines.

4/18/2025

Please further break-down the current two big items into expenditure categories i.e. consultants, workshops/meetings, travel, etc... as relevant.

3/14/2025

i) As requested, please ask the Agency to present detailed information using the eligible categories included in Guidelines.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

The PPG utilization status has been presented as is the general practice of UNDP, in a format used in many other recently CEO-Endorsed projects. Do you have a preferred format or template for the more detailed expenditure categories being referred to in the comments?

13 May 2025

Revised as requested.

2 July 2025

PPG expenditures table has been revised, per page. 59, in the CEO ER, and pasted in the below table.

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent To date*	*Amount Committed*
Preparatory technical studies/desktop reviews including conducting the SESP analysis, development of SES management plans, gender analysis and action plan, ESMF, development of the stakeholder engagement plan			
International Consultants: 1. GEF Project Development Specialist / GEF PPG Team Leader; 2. Safeguards Specialist ; 3. Livestock (Pig and Poultry) Production Specialist ; 4. Crop Production and Soil Specialist;	94,000	94,000	0
Local consultants : 1. Gender and Capacity Development Specialist ; 2. Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement Consultant	32,500	32,500	0
Final deliverables from both International and national consultants: 1. ProDoc, 2. CEO ER request 3. SESP and ESMF ,4. Technical reports, 5. PPG inception and validation reports			
Conducting missions to the target sites for data collection/consultation with the target communities, mission of national & international consultants			
Travel (conducting missions to the target sites for data collection/consultation with the target communities, mission of team leader & livestock specialist, crop specialist, safeguard specialist, and gender specialist)	47,250	11,606	35,644
Validation & stakeholder consultation workshops			
Stakeholder Consultation workshops, validation workshop at the district & national level, inc. supplies , communication & audio equipment	17,000	10,000	7,000
Assessing the capacity of the executing partner			
Audit	9,250	0	9,250
Total	**200,000**	**148,106**	**51,894**

10 Jul 2025: PPG table has been updated (by separating the lines between Intl and local consultants).

8.3 Source of Funds
Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?
Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?
e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/21/2025

Cleared

4/18/2025

Please see follow up comment below.

According to the GEF Cofinancing Guidelines, UNDP should be categorized as the "GEF Agency" rather than the "Donor Agency" since UNDP is implementing this project. Please adjust.

3/14/2025

Not fully.

i) ?In-kind? is normally classified as ?recurrent expenditures?. Please request the agency to revise the ?investment mobilized? to ?recurrent expenditures? where ?type of co-financing? is indicated as ?in-kind?.

ii) The letter of cofinancing from Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture (DEMA) indicates total cofinancing amount of $43,496,000 in both grant and in-kind contribution. Please update the cofinancing to reflect the amount in the cofinancing support letter under both in-kind and grant categories. Please remove the other sources of co-financiers from the cofinancing table which do not have letter of cofinancing support.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

i) All cofinancing updated as per the confirmed letters from government and UNDP while correctly reflecting recurrent expenditures and investment mobilised:

Table 9. Co-financing

Co-financiers are confirmed as Government of Nauru (DEMA) and GEF Implementation Agency (UNDP).

II) Co-financiers are confirmed as Government of Nauru (DEMA) and GEF Implementation Agency (UNDP).

Other agencies that do not have letter of cofinancing support have been removed from the table.

13 May 2025

Corrected as ?GEF Agency?. CEO ER, p. 54, table Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Sources of Co-financing	**Name of Co-financier**	**Type of Co-financing**	**Investment Mobilized**	**Amount ($)**
Government	Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,796,000
		Grant	Investment mobilized	40,700,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	104,000
Total Co-financing				**43,600,000**

Annex B: Endorsements
8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:
Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework
8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?
b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)
c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?
d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?
e)[If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework, inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/18/2025

Cleared.

3/14/2025

a) Yes

b) Not fully.

i) The indicators aligned with Outcome 1.2 could be increased as they only reflect persons trained. There are currently no indicators which speak to institutional capacity beyond training. Please consider and include additional indicators.

c) No, please incorporate

d) Yes

e) Not fully. There are currently no indicators which specifically cover the link between the child project and the GCP in terms of KM work.

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

(b-i)

Thank you for your valuable observation. However, we have to clarify that Indicators 7 and 8 for Outcome 1.2 in the PRF explicitly capture deeper aspects of capacity development, not the people trained. Specifically, these indicators measure how many of trained individuals?government officers (DEMA), farmers, and community members?practically apply the acquired CSA skills (learned through Outputs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2) and demonstrate

increased motivation and interest in learning new techniques through active participation and effective skill application at the CSA Peer Learning Farms (Output1.2.2).

c) Thank you! The original PRF has 4 gender-disaggregated indicators: 4, 7, 8, 12. But in response to your comment we made one more indicator 10 gender-disaggregated (see PRF; Prodoc, p. 80):

Indicator 10. Total number of households and private farms that started to consistently produce agricultural and livestock production using CSA approaches (FS IP Outcome 3.3 Indicator):

MT Target: >= 100 (including 40% female-led farms and households)

EoP Target: >= 200 (including 40% female-led farms and households)

So, now the PRF has 5 gender-disaggregated indicators.

Thus, Indicators 7 and 8 effectively capture not just participation, but the real-world uptake, quality of skill application, and sustained interest among stakeholders trained under Component 1. The indicator values ware carefully verified with DEMA to be realistic and achievable. Please, kindly remember that Nauru is a very small nation and agricultural practices there are not considered as prestigious, useful, and profitable endevour.

E) Our apologies, but there is an Indicator 15. Participation of the country in FS IP Governing mechanisms, regional and global platforms and fora in the project framework (number of online and in person meetings) (FS IP Outcome 4.2 Indicator) in the PRF that cover exactly that.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates
8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/18/2025

Cleared.

3/14/2025

i) In Annex E on Project Map and Coordinates, the geographic coordinates are entered in degrees, decimal, minutes (DDM) format. Please provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format as per Geocoding User Guide (available through a link under Geolocation Information section).

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

Thank you! Coordinates are updated in the decimal degree format using WGS84 datum. Please, see an example below:

DEMA Menen Farm (-0.54711? , 166.94508?) and DEMA Buada Farm (-0.53597? , 166.92311?).

See Annex 3 for Prodoc and Annex E for CEO ER

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating
8.8 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/14/2025

Yes

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template
8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?
b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?
c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4/18/2025

Cleared.

3/14/2025

a) Not fully.

The budget lines bundle many positions / expenditures (see example below regarding the Chief Technical Adviser). Please ask the Agency to present itemized positions / expenditures so we can assess the reasonability of each budget line charged to project components / M&E / PMC. When resubmitted, we will review the budget table again and provide comments as appropriate.

b) Not fully.

i) We could not find any line item which funds interventions that will be undertaken together with the GCP or which links to the GCP and more specifically covers the cost of project personnel to attend GCP meetings. Please include.

ii) The current format included in the CEO Endorsement request Portal view (attached) is not easy to read, especially the columns related to components / figures (see below). Please amend.

iii) Unless we get the approval for UNDP to carry out executing functions (unknown at this time), UNDP should remove themselves from the column ?Responsible executing partner?.

v) The ?Grand Total? row lacks numerical information (see below) ? please ask the Agency to amend.

c) Yes

Agency Response

10 Apr.25

a) Please refer to the itemized budget table

b-i)Thank you! This is the line 34 in the budget: Travel for PMU and project partners to participate in the knowledge exchange events organized by FS IP GCP and other international projects and program: $21,000 * 6 years = $126,000 for Years 1-6 (Output 3.1.2.). We just added ?GCP? to the line description, Prodoc, p. 109; Annex 1. Project Budget.

ii) The Results Framework table was adjusted; however, there are limitations in the GEF portal. Since we have to align the table within the margin, some texts might have to be separated.

iii) As mentioned in the management arrangement in the ProDoc and Annex 13 ?Draft LOA between UNDP and IP requesting UNDP Support Services?, UNDP will execute some activities and be responsible for recruiting consultants for MTR and TE & an auditing company. We still have those activities listed under UNDP. The cost of those execution services will be financed through UNDP co-financing

v) The revised table is attached
Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes
8.10 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.
b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.
c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
Additional Annexes
9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation
Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7/10/2025

All comments addressed, the project is technically cleared.

7/9/2025

Follow up comment on PPG Expenditure table to be addressed.

7/3/2025

Follow up comments to be addressed.

6/28/2025

Please address follow up comments under Qu 1 and in relation to the PPG expenditure report.

6/18/2025

The project is technically cleared and recommended for CEO Endorsement.

5/27/2025

Not at this time. Please address the comment under Qu. 5B.

4/18/2025

Not at this time. Please address the comments above

3/14/2025

Not at this time, please address the comments above.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	**3/5/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**3/14/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**4/18/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**5/27/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**7/10/2025**	