

# Strengthen capacity to ensure transparency of action implemented and support received to implement Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)

**Review PIF and Make a recommendation**

## **Basic project information**

**GEF ID**

10449

**Countries**

Fiji

**Project Name**

Strengthen capacity to ensure transparency of action implemented and support received to implement Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

1/1/2020

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Milena Vasquez

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

MSP

## PIF

### Part I – Project Information

#### Focal area elements

**1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the project is aligned with the GEF climate change focal area strategy.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**Indicative project/program description summary**

**2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: The project is currently structured around one component with a single project outcome, but with three outputs, and each output seems to also have a set of sub-outputs. The project outcome reads like a more specific version of the project objective instead of an outcome associated to a project component. We would recommend the agency considers restructuring the project so that it is clearer. For example it could encompass three components (i.e. institutional arrangements, GHG inventories, MRV system to track NDC and support received), each with their associated outcome and set of outputs as described later in the PIF. We would also recommend changing the wording of the outputs so they are more specific than "technical support provided".

3/30/2020: The project structure has been adjusted. There are now three components with clearly articulated outcomes and outputs. Comment cleared.

**Agency Response**

**UNEP 03/24/2020:** This has been addressed in the PIF as advised, the logical framework is now structured around three components and outputs are thus more specific.

**Co-financing**

**3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, co-financing is not a requirement for CBIT projects. The in-kind amount shows a certain level of country ownership.

**Agency Response** N/A

**GEF Resource Availability**

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

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the proposed financing in Table D and agency fee are in line with GEF policies and guidelines. At this moment there are enough resources available to support this project.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**The STAR allocation?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: N/A. This project is requesting resources from the CBIT set-aside resources under the climate change focal area.

**Agency Response** N/A

The focal area allocation?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: N/A. This project is requesting resources from the CBIT set-aside resources under the climate change focal area.

**Agency Response**

N/A

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: N/A. This project is requesting resources from the CBIT set-aside resources under the climate change focal area.

**Agency Response**

N/A

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: N/A. This project is requesting resources from the CBIT set-aside resources under the climate change focal area.

**Agency Response**

N/A

Focal area set-aside?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, at this moment there are enough resources available to support this project.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**Impact Program Incentive?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: N/A. This project is requesting resources from the CBIT set-aside resources under the climate change focal area.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**Project Preparation Grant**

**5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the PPG requested in Table E is within the allowable cap for an MSP.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**Core indicators**

**6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: A general number is provided for core indicator 11 in Table F. Please provide a short description on how this number was estimated.

3/30/2020: Comment addressed.

**Agency Response UNEP 24/03/2020:** These numbers represent the individuals who will be involved in the project, mainly those working for the relevant Government agencies engaged in preparing the climate change reporting. The direct beneficiary of the project outputs and impacts are Government ministries and agencies who have the direct responsibility of tracking and reporting on GHG emissions and implementation of climate change action. The number is based on the staff in these ministries involved in the current process of NC and BUR preparation as well as the staff that would have to be engaged in the project to ensure the success of change being planned for. The total number of beneficiaries are conservative. The gender-based disaggregation is based on the current efforts of the government to ensure greater participation of women as outlined in the National Gender Policy. The current ratio of male to female is 3:2 in this group of stakeholders. The project will put in place systems to ensure women are actively encouraged to participate to achieve the targeted numbers of gender disaggregated beneficiaries.

**Project/Program taxonomy**

**7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the project is properly tagged.

**Agency Response**

N/A

**Part II – Project Justification**

**1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, these are properly described.

## Agency Response

N/A

### 2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

#### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

1/10/2020: Please provide additional details on the TNC and BUR projects currently under implementation. Please clarify the status of the TNC including its submission to the UNFCCC. Please comment on the delay of the BUR project, considering it was approved by the GEF in 2015 and only issued its initial disbursement in 2019. Please also comment on how the fourth NC project will coordinate (and whether it will be able to start up right away or if a similar delay is to be expected). Please clarify if these projects have developed ways for better coordinated and streamline the work to make their execution less onerous on the country, but more efficient.

3/30/2020: Comment addressed.

## Agency Response

**UNEP 24/03/2020:** The TNC has been finalized and is under consideration by the Cabinet for approval. The report was finalized Q3 of 2019 but due to a number of pressing issues the Cabinet has not been able to consider it. The BUR project was delayed primarily due to the restructuring process the Government of the day undertook in streamlining the government work. This also included the re-assignment of staff. As a result of the restructuring the ongoing projects, including the BUR (which at that stage was under the government approval process) were put on hold. This resulted in delays in project agreement document approval.

The Climate Change Division, which was earlier under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has now been reconstituted under Ministry of Economy. The Division has now regained its full strength of staff, as some of the earlier staff were reassigned to other responsibilities. The BUR project agreement with UNEP was finalized in early 2019. Currently the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) has been finalized and the project implementation has been initiated.

The Climate Change Division now has a permanent structure and arrangement, having three main thematic areas of work, which include Adaptation, Mitigation and Climate Finance. Each of the three sections has separate mandates and is responsible for the relevant projects. The Mitigation team (made up of three members) is responsible for reporting on National Commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention which includes the National Communications, BUR and NDCs. This organisation structure will ensure that no project/program/initiatives fall short of implementation. Further, we believe that this CBIT project will help strengthen the role of the division in overseeing and delivering on Fiji's climate change objective and commitments. This will also help to operationalize Fiji's recent Climate Change Bill, which is soon to be endorsed by Cabinet.

### 3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?



### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Overall, yes the alternative scenario is adequately described. However, based on our comments above regarding the structure of the proposal, we would expect this section to reflect any changes to Table B.

On Output 1, we would expect that any curriculum developed is specific to Fiji and the transparency systems developed through the project. Please clarify if training of trainers is being considered as well.

On Outputs 2, please take into account any risks associated with data and information storage and management that are specific to SIDS and Fiji. In other SIDS, the issue of natural disasters impacts on hard copies of data and information as well as on-site digital storage systems has been integrated into the project design, and could be relevant in this project as well.

On Output 3, please clarify how work under this output will link and coordinate with the update to the NDC and the REDD+ project. Please also clarify the scope of the support received tracking under 3.3. Would this include domestic and international resources? Would it focus on public expenditures? What about private sector financing?

3/30/2020: All comments above have been addressed.

### **Agency Response**

#### **UNEP 24/03/2020:**

Component 1 (former Output 1): Training of trainers in principle is one of the crucial aspects especially as the intent of this project is to foster sustainability. The project envisages development of training curricula and establishing it in one of the national institutions under Component 1. The curriculum will provide a permanent resource to the country where new staff and other interested in the subject matter would be provided training on the MRV. The development of curricula will be in close cooperation with the National Institute so that the staff of Institute will develop the capacity to be the Trainers. Further, the staff trained during the project will act as resource persons to provide training to future staff and stakeholders.

Component 2 (former Output 2): The point on risk on data and information is well taken and will be integrated into the project design at the full proposal development phase. The Government currently is cognizant of these issues and has data replication sites off-site which ensures that data is protected and affirms business continuity.

Component 3 (former Output 3): CCICD is the main agency responsible for developing and updating NDC and is also one of the main agencies' overseeing REDD+. Therefore, the outputs of the CBIT will be aligned to the on-going work of NDC update and REDD+. Moreover, the lessons learnt and gaps in sourcing information and data for the purposes for NDC update and REDD+ has been valuable in understanding the relevance and the need for this CBIT project which includes an appropriate system to capture and record.

The scope of tracking support received is limited to domestic and international public resources. However, with the on-going work under Climate Budget Tagging, this project will further contribute to informing the design of the CBT which includes the data management system for tagging and thus integrating the financial support received from international partners.

**4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the project is aligned to the CBIT programming directions.

**Agency Response**

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

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, the incremental reasoning is properly described. Please clarify on whether Fiji has any existing support or future plans to develop its capacity for transparency for information related to climate change impacts and adaptation.

3/30/2020: Transparency in adaptation is being addressed through the NAP process. Comment cleared.

**Agency Response UNEP 03/24/2020:** Fiji has developed its National Adaptation Plan and is now in the process of developing its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Adaptation. It is thus building a foundation to develop its capacity to better gather and evaluate information related to climate change.

**6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, but per the comment above, please provide a short explanation for the expected number of beneficiaries.

3/30/2020: Comment addressed above.

**Agency Response**

**UNEP 03/24/2020:** Please refer to our response to comment above (part I. question 6 of this Review Sheet), the explanation has been added in the PIF.

**7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up have been described. We expect these are further analyzed and developed during the project development phase.

**Agency Response N/A**

**Project/Program Map and Coordinates**

**Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes. This project is a national project.

**Agency Response**

**Stakeholders**

**Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Please add a yes next to "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities" and include in the table if they will be engaged.

3/30/2020: Ok.

### **Agency Response**

**UNEP 03/24/2020:** This has been addressed in the PIF, indigenous peoples are included in the table.

### **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes. By CEO Endorsement, we expect a gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment that identifies and describes any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address gender gaps and promote the empowerment of women that may be relevant to the proposed activity, as well as any corresponding gender-responsive measures.

**Agency Response UNEP 03/24/2020:** The suggestion is well noted will be addressed at the full project development stage as suggested

### **Private Sector Engagement**

**Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes. By CEO Endorsement please provide additional information on specific private sector stakeholders.

**Agency Response UNEP 03/24/2020:** Well noted. Information on private sector will be provided in the full proposal.

### **Risks**

**Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Please add consideration of climate change risks as well as the risk associated with limited bandwidth of government personnel as it related to the execution of several projects with limited number of people.

3/30/2020: Climate risks have been added and will be further assessed during PPG. Comment addressed.

**Agency Response UNEP 03/24/2020:** As suggested, this has been added to the risk table. During the full proposal development, proper consideration will be paid to minimize the impacts of the two aspects.

**Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Per our comments above, additional information on **how** the project aims to coordinate with enabling activities and relevant projects (blue carbon, REDD+ and budget tagging) under implementation is needed. Further, please comment in more detail on the expected execution arrangements.

3/30/2020: Additional details on coordination have been provided. Comment addressed.

**Agency Response**

**UNEP 03/24/2020:** This has been addressed in the PIF.

**Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, this project is aligned with its first NDC and climate change policies.

## **Agency Response**

### **Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: The project includes knowledge management approach for what is generated during implementation; however, there is no discussion of existing lessons and best practices that have informed the PIF and how the project plans to learn from existing relevant experiences. Please clarify.

3/30/2020: Comment cleared.

## **Agency Response**

**UNEP 03/24/2020:** The country has already moved away from project-based website and is integrating all climate change related information into the National Climate Change Portal. The effort is to socialize this as one stop for all key information to all stakeholders. Project based website has limited reach and has issues with updating once the project has finished. Further, to make the learning accessible to Pacific Island Nations it will be linked up with the Pacific Climate Change Portal enhancing the reach and also enabling cross learning. This has been reflected in the revised draft.

### **Part III – Country Endorsements**

**Has the project/program been endorsed by the country’s GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Yes, Mr. Joshua Wycliffe has endorsed the project.

## **Agency Response**

**Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects**

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

N/A

**Agency Response**

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

1/10/2020: Please address comments above.

3/30/2020: All comments have been addressed. PM recommends technical clearance.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

By CEO endorsement:

-We expect potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up are further analyzed and developed.

-We expect a gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment that identifies and describes any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address gender gaps and promote the empowerment of women that may be relevant to the proposed activity, as well as any corresponding gender-responsive measures.

-Please provide additional information on specific private sector stakeholders.

**Review Dates**

	<b>PIF Review</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**PIF Recommendation to CEO**

**Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval**

The objective of this project is to strengthen institutional and human capacities to enable Fiji to comply with the requirements of the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As a Small Island Development State in the Pacific Islands and President of Conference of the Parties 23 (COP23), Fiji is a global climate leader calling for enhanced ambition for climate change action. Fiji’s iNDC was submitted in 2015 and ratified upon signing of the Paris Agreement in



2016. The NDC makes a declaration for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through renewable energy targets for electricity generation and for energy efficiency improvements economy wide. The NDC also mentions forestry, agriculture and mangroves in terms of the need to plant traditional trees and root crops to minimize soil erosion, land degradation and desertification and the planning of mangroves for coastal management.

Fiji has prepared three National Communications (pending submission of the third National Communication) and is under the process of developing its first Biennial Update Report. The country has no domestic MRV system. The NDC implementation roadmap identifies the need for an assessment of data needs, institutional arrangements, a data management system, standards and procedures for MRV, and an evaluation mechanism. It has also identified the need to strengthen bottom-up data gathering, which may involve new legislation, policy and expanded mandates for the main data collecting agencies; strengthen institutions through multi-agency activities by addressing new sources and processes for data gathering and reporting, and for providing and gathering mandatory data. This project will address several of these gaps.

The project has the following components:

Component 1: Strengthening Institutional arrangements for Enhanced Transparency Framework

Component 2: Establishing Fiji's Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Inventory Systems

Component 3: Establishing Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework for climate actions and support

This project will complement ongoing work on adaptation. The Fijian Government prepared the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP), with support from the NAP Global Network, and development of a monitoring and evaluation of these cross-cutting policies is the immediate priority of this process. This project will also coordinate with ongoing work on the Pacific Blue Carbon Program and the Reporting for Results-Based REDD+ Actions (RRR+) project.