



Responding to Pacific priorities for ecosystem management and NBSAP implementation through strengthening capacities for effective planning and monitoring of ecosystems

Review PPG Request and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11606

Countries

Regional (Fiji, Tonga, Nauru)

Project Name

Responding to Pacific priorities for ecosystem management and NBSAP implementation through strengthening capacities for effective planning and monitoring of ecosystems

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

4/24/2024

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Jurgis Sapijanskas

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

GBFF

GEF-8 Project Preparation Grant request Review Sheet

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

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

Secretariat's Comments

JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

We note that the PPG request plans for UNDP execution. As the agency knows, the implementation and execution roles on GEF projects are meant to be separate per policy and guideline. The GEFSEC will analyze any requests for dual role by an agency at the time of CEO endorsement request, if accompanied by letter of support from the OFPs, and only approve those cases that it deems warranted on an exceptional basis. We also strongly encourage the agency to discuss any and all options for execution that do not include national agencies with the GEFSEC early in the PPG phase. The approval of this PPG request would in no way endorse any alternative execution arrangement.

Agency's Comments

II. Indicative Project Overview

- a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?
- b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective?

Secretariat's Comments

JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

JS 4/24/2024 - b) We note a typo in the table of project components, which is missing parts of the outputs shown in the project's theory of change under outcome 2.1. Please correct and ensure all outputs are reflected in table B.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 26 April 2024

b) All components, outcomes and outputs shown in the theory of change are now reflected in table B (Results Framework).

c) Are the components adequately funded?

d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional (only for Multi-trust Funds PPGs with BD from the GEF Trust Fund)?

e) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for projects of more than \$2 million or 10% for projects of less than \$2 million? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

III. Project Rationale

a. Does the project adequately describe the: (i) current situation/baseline conditions within the project geographic area or project thematic area; (ii) problem(s) that the project will address; (iii) goal and objectives of the project; and (iv) justification for the project intervention; and (v) expected results including the Global Environmental Benefits and an estimate of the project's contributions to the relevant biodiversity core indicators.

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

IV. Project Description

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

b) Are the project components and activities identified in the theory of change adequately described.

c) Is a list of stakeholders that will be involved in the project and their roles in the design and implementation of the project provided?

d) Are the Specific Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with identified and an explanation provided on and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

V. Does the proposal adequately describe how the project meets the following criteria:

a) Potential to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GEF-8 Core Indicators for biodiversity);

b) Alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;

c) The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;

d) Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and

e) Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

VI. Project results indicators

Is the table correctly populated and consistent with the Project Description?

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

VII. Project Financing Tables

- a) Are all the tables correctly populated?**
- b) Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines (only for projects with GEF TF components)?**

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

VIII. Project Endorsement

- a) Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) OFP and has the OFP at the time of PPG request submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?**
- b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**
- c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments JS 5/6/2024 - Cleared.

Agency's Comments

IX. GEFSEC Decision

- a. Is the PPG recommended for technical clearance?**
- b. Additional comments to be considered by the Agency during project preparation**

Secretariat's Comments

JS 5/6/2024 - This PPG request is recommended for approval.

We note that the PPG request plans for UNDP execution. As the agency knows, the implementation and execution roles on GEF projects are meant to be separate per policy and guideline. The GEFSEC will analyze any requests for dual role by an agency at the time of CEO endorsement request, if accompanied by letter of support from the OFPs, and only approve those cases that it deems warranted on an exceptional basis. We also

strongly encourage the agency to discuss any and all options for execution that do not include the national agencies with the GEFSEC early in the PPG phase. The approval of this PPG request would in no way endorse any alternative execution arrangement.

During project preparation, please:

- refine the TOC and develop separate ToCs for the interventions in each country and for the added value of the multi-country nature of this project. The planned interventions are so distinct in each country that a common ToC is too generic to properly guide project design and implementation

- revisit the targets on core indicators. Some of the surface are reported under core indicator 5 seems to include MPAs, which should be reported under CI 2 instead. Please also make every effort to translate work in Nauru in targets under core indicator 4.

- On output 1.1.3 (Applied natural capital accounting to align policies, planning and decision-making for incorporation of biodiversity considerations in development activities in seascapes in Tonga): AS this output seems disconnected from the rest of the project, please reconsider if NCA is the best I approach to produce the desired outcome with the limited resources available. In any case, please note that support to NCAA is eligible only if it is linked to a specific policy or practical decision. If NCA is maintained, please ensure that a well-defined policy or practical decision is identified in the CEO endorsement request and that the ToC for Tonga clarifies how NCA will contribute to answering that question and ultimately generate GEBs.

- On output 2.1.1 (Assessing funding opportunities for biodiversity investment at the regional and national levels), ensure complementarity and avoid any duplication with the work supported by Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans (GEF ID 11054), which already support Tonga and Nauru.

- Fiji: the targeted seascapes has received significant GEF support in the past few years, including through a GEF-6 MSP, a GEF-7 FSP and the Inclusive Conservation Initiative. Please ensure to coordinate with on-going initiatives, build on the baseline and that the CEO endorsement request clearly demonstrate the increment provided by this GBFF intervention.

JS 4/24/2024 - Thank you for this submission. In order for this submission to be considered in the selection round, please address the comments included in this review and resubmit as soon as possible.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 26 April 2024

We thank the Program Manager for the comments. These have now been addressed.

Review Dates

	PPG Request Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/24/2024	4/25/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/6/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		