GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Strengthening Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, and Combating Land Degradation through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Samoa

Region	GEF Project ID
Samoa	11700
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Samoa	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9942
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of the Natural Resources and Environment	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	9/18/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Fisheries, Infrastructure, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Tourism, Species, Threatened Species, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Biomes, Sea Grasses, Coral Reefs, Wetlands, Rivers, Lakes, Mangroves, Tropical Rain Forests, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Climate information, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Innovation, Sea-level rise, Mainstreaming adaptation, Small Island Developing States, Disaster risk management, Climate resilience, Least Developed Countries, Private sector, Livelihoods, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Private Sector, Large corporations, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)

MTF	60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 5,329,452.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 506,298.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 5,835,750.00	Total Co-financing 37,024,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 150,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 14,250.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 164,250.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 6,000,000.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

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

Samoa is particularly vulnerable to a range of climate hazards, including rising sea levels, increasing frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, and prolonged droughts. These events exacerbate existing environmental stresses on the country's diverse ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass, and forests, as well as on the lives and livelihoods of local communities. These ecosystems provide significant climate adaptation benefits by acting as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and floods. However, they face degradation from deforestation, over-exploitation of natural resources, invasive species, land use change, and climate change impacts. This degradation leads to habitat loss, diminished biodiversity, land productivity and increased erosion and decreased ecosystem resilience, directly affecting the livelihoods of local communities and threatening food security and economic stability.

The proposed project will enhance the climate resilience of Samoa’s ecosystems and communities through integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) solutions into the watershed management, while simultaneously addressing biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation. Key project strategies include (1) enhancing national EbA capacity to protect and restore ecosystems of high adaptation value; (2) implementing effective EbA measures to improve climate resilience , reduce land degradation, and conserve biodiversity; (3) comprehensive knowledge management and learning framework to effectively disseminate insights and best practices, thereby facilitating the scaling up of the EbA model; and (4) a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to systematically track progress, measure impacts, and ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of EbA initiatives. The project aims to establish a replicable EbA model applicable for adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and combating land degradation, achieving the GBF Targets across Samoa. The project will restore 1,000 ha of degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems having high adaptation value and 5 ha of coral reef; establish 505 ha of new Community-led Conservation Areas to protect ecosystems of high adaptation value; put 500 ha under sustainable agro-forestry to prevent land degradation and improve slope stability and 500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows under the community Blue Carbon projects; prevent emission of 787,867 tons of CO2-equivalent

during 20 years from the project start; construct 100 m of hybrid EbA seawall (boulders and mangroves) to protect communities from flooding; and directly benefit at least 10,000 people (50% are women).

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To enhance climate resilience of Samoa's ecosystems and communities through integrated Ecosystem-based Adaptation approach, that promotes biodiversity conservation and combats land degradation.

Project Components

1: Enhancing national climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation , and sustainable land management capacity via integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adapta-tion (EbA)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
488,200.00	3,391,553.00

Outcome:

1. Strengthened national climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management capacity through the integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach, *indicated by:*

Multi-sectoral EbA Coordination Committee is operational;

>= $300,000 raised via Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund;

National EbA capacity increased by 30% (measured by UNDP Capacity Scorecard)

Output:

1.1 Multi-sectoral institutional framework led by MNRE established for the coordination of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and associated conservation initiatives (barrier, source and filter ecosystem restoration and protection) under the Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs) (GEF, $88,200)

1.2. Ecosystem Conser-vation and Adaptation Trust Fund for Samoa is established and opera-tionalized to catalyze financial and technical resources to restore, protect, and enhance the country's ecosystems and biodiversity for climate adaptation (GEF, $400,000)

1: Enhancing national climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation , and sustainable land management capacity via integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adapta-tion (EbA)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
600,000.00	2,778,822.00

Outcome:

1. Strengthened national climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management capacity through the integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach, *indicated by:*

Multi-sectoral EbA Coordination Committee is operational;

>= $300,000 raised via Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund;

National EbA capacity increased by 30% (measured by UNDP Capacity Scorecard)

Output:

1.2. Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund for Samoa is established and operationalized to catalyze financial and technical resources to restore, protect, and enhance the country's ecosystems and biodiversity for climate adaptation (SCCF, $250,000)
1.3. Operational tools and infrastructure used for Ecosystem-based Adaptation are upgraded (field stations, nurseries, EWS automated systems, etc.) to support implementation of CIMPs in ecosystem restoration and mixed adaptation solutions (including coastal and riverbank reinforcement) (SCCF, $350,000)

2. Implementing gender inclusive Ecosystem-Based Adapta-tion measures to improve climate resilience of ecosystems and communities, protect biodiver-sity, and combat land degrada-tion

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,710,800.00	13,274,434.00

Outcome:

2. Scaled up gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures in the project area, *indicated by:*

ıa of riparian forests restored;

10 ha of mangroves and 5 ha of coral reefs restored;

500 ha of new terrestrial CPAs established;

5 ha of marine CPAs established;

500 ha under sustainable agroforestry;

500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows under the community Blue Carbon projects;

100 m of biodiversity-friendly hybrid sea wall is constructed in collaboration with private sector

prevented emission of 787,867 tons of CO2-equivalent over 20 years after the ecosystem restora-tion and establishment of new CPAs

>=10,000 people, including at least 50% of women, directly benefit from the project

Output:

2.3. Public-Private Partnerships and Blue Economy projects focused on Ecosystem-based Adaptation are developed and implemented (including a hybrid seawall) (SCCF, $1,710,800)

2. Implementing gender inclusive Ecosystem-Based Adapta-tion measures to improve climate resilience of ecosystems and communities, protect biodiver-sity, and combat land degrada-tion

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET

GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,832,648.00	12,731,508.00

Outcome:

2. Scaled up gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures in the project area, *indicated by:*

ıa of riparian forests restored;

10 ha of mangroves and 5 ha of coral reefs restored;

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100 m of biodiversity-friendly hybrid sea wall is constructed in collaboration with private sector

prevented emission of 787,867 tons of CO2-equivalent over 20 years after the ecosystem restora-tion and establishment of new CPAs

>=10,000 people, including at least 50% of women, directly benefit from the project

Output:

2.1. Ecosystem-based Adaptation initiatives are implemented on-the-ground to support CIMP climate resilience priorities, including shoreline and springs protection, mangrove, riparian and coral reef restoration, reforestation of slopes, agroforestry systems, and Blue Carbon projects (GEF, $1,582,648)

2.2. Community-led Protected Areas are established to protect the key upland and coastal ecosystems (forest, mangroves, crater lakes, wetlands, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) having adaptation and biodiversity conservation values (GEF, $250,000)

3.Gender Main-streaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for scaling up of EbA best prac-tices for climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation, and sustainable land management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
144,000.00	1,000,376.00

Outcome:

3. Project EbA best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated and scaled up by Samoa's districts, projects, and stakeholders, as *indicated by:*

->=50% of adult population in the target districts demonstrate good understanding of EbA benefits

->= 10 project lessons and best practices are replicated by other districts of Samoa

Output:

3.1. Comprehensive Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is developed and coordinated to incorporate gender equality into EbA initiatives (SCCF, $54,000)

3.2. Communication and awareness strategy on EbA for climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation developed and implemented (SCCF, $90,000)

3.Gender Main-streaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for scaling up of EbA best practices for climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation, and sustainable land management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
122,460.00	850,736.00

Outcome:

3. Project EbA best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated and scaled up by Samoa's districts, projects, and stakeholders, as *indicated by:*

->=50% of adult population in the target districts demonstrate good understanding of EbA benefits

->= 10 project lessons and best practices are replicated by other districts of Samoa

Output:

3.3 Gender-inclusive best practices and lessons learned by the project on EbA are made available for use by Samoa's districts, and shared regionally and internationally for replication (GEF, $122,460)

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
70,732.00	491,379.00

Outcome:

4. Effective project Adaptive Management based on gender sensitive M&E

- Satisfactory project rating by QA reports, MTR, and TE

Output:

4.1. Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system to measure the project effectiveness and tests the project Theory of Change (GEF -$77,640)

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
107,226.00	744,905.00

Outcome:

4. Effective project Adaptive Management based on gender sensitive M&E

- Satisfactory project rating by QA reports, MTR, and TE

Output:

4.1. Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system to measure the project effectiveness and tests the project Theory of Change (SCCF - $100,000)

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1: Enhancing national climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation , and sustainable land management capacity via integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adapta-tion (EbA)	488,200.00	3,391,553.00
1: Enhancing national climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation , and sustainable land management capacity via integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adapta-tion (EbA)	600,000.00	2,778,822.00
2. Implementing gender inclusive Ecosystem-Based Adapta-tion measures to improve climate resilience of ecosystems and communities, protect biodiver-sity, and combat land degrada-tion	1,710,800.00	13,274,434.00
2. Implementing gender inclusive Ecosystem-Based Adapta-tion measures to improve climate resilience of ecosystems and communities, protect biodiver-sity, and combat land degrada-tion	1,832,648.00	12,731,508.00
3.Gender Main-streaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for scaling up of EbA best prac-tices for climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation, and sustainable land management	144,000.00	1,000,376.00
3.Gender Main-streaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for scaling up of EbA best prac-tices for climate adaptation, biodiversity con-servation, and sustainable land management	122,460.00	850,736.00
M&E	70,732.00	491,379.00
M&E	107,226.00	744,905.00
Subtotal	**5,076,066.00**	**35,263,713.00**
Project Management Cost	125,686.00	873,148.00
Project Management Cost	127,700.00	887,139.00

Total Project Cost ($)	**5,329,452.00**	**37,024,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

Samoa is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) lying in the Polynesian Region of the South Pacific. It comprises two main islands of Upolu and Savai'i, 1,115 and 1,700 sq. km, respectively, and 8 smaller, peripheral islands (total land area is 2,935 sq. km), all of which are volcanic. Upolu's ridge rises to 1,100 m and Mt. Silisili (1,848 m) on Savaii Island is the country's highest peak. The central uplands of the main two islands are covered with primary and secondary forests; much of the coastal belt (below 1,000 m) comprises a mosaic of farms, plantations (e.g., coconuts, cocoa, bananas, taro), woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, rural settlements, and urban areas. Coastal areas include mangrove forests with coral reefs identified as some of the most diverse in the world.

Samoa's population of 205,557 is 80% rural and has a poverty rate of 23%[1][1]. The population density of approximately 70 people per square kilometer is relatively low compared to many other Pacific Island nations, however, the population is concentrated in urban centers and coastal areas, leading to pressure on natural resources in these regions. The country's population has been growing steadily in recent years, with an annual growth rate of around 1.2%. The GDP of Samoa for 2022 was approximately $0.83 billion[2][2] with the projected GDP growth rate of 6% in 2023 and by 4.2% in 2024, according to the Asian Development Bank's forecast[3][3]. The key sectors of Samoa's economy are tourism, agriculture and fisheries. Samoa's tourism sector accounts for 20% of GDP and heavily relies on its marine and terrestrial resources such as coral reefs and tropical fish stocks, which are vulnerable to climate risks. Agricultural output accounts for less than 10% of GDP, with the employment share of 20%, but it is a source of income for over 70% of population. Fisheries accounted for about 3.4% of GDP in 2014, but fish constitutes a large part of the citizens' dietary protein.

The country is part of the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot, one of 34 regions globally with extraordinary biodiversity and endemism[4][4]. Samoa's biodiversity includes over 500 native flowering plants, 220 fern species, many of which are endemic, and a variety of terrestrial mammals (13 species), birds (44 species), reptiles, insects, land snails, and fish. Samoa's marine biodiversity is very rich, with up to 991 fish and 45 coral species recorded, showcasing the country's status as a marine biodiversity hotspot. The islands' volcanic nature provides diverse terrestrial habitats including cloud forest, tropical rainforest, scrub, and marsh spanning from coast to ridges. Coastal areas include mangrove forests with coral reefs identified as some of the most diverse in the world[5][5]. Samoa's ecosystems offer significant climate adaptation value by providing natural barriers against climate impacts, such as coastal erosion and storm surges, through coral reefs and mangroves. Rainforests and wetlands play a vital role in natural water filtration and storage, helping to maintain the quality and availability of fresh water for various uses. They also support biodiversity, which contributes to resilience and the ability of ecosystems to adapt to changing conditions.

Samoa's ecosystems, economy and communities are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, manifesting through increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events (storms, droughts, and floods), rising sea levels, and seasonal shifts in rainfall patterns. These changes threaten both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, leading to habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and reduced ecosystem services. Such impacts are particularly severe for Samoa's key economic sectors—agriculture, fisheries, and tourism—which depend heavily on environmental health and stability. These climate impacts not only threaten economic stability but also pose direct risks to the livelihoods and well-being of Samoa's predominantly rural population, exacerbating poverty and constraining development

The nine districts across the islands of Savai'i and Upolu (namely, Falealili 1 (West), Falealili 2 (East), Siumu, Safata 1, Safata 2, Lefaga & Faleaseela, Faasaleleaga 3, Faasaleleaga 4, Faasaleleaga 5) selected as a target area for suggested project, epitomize the acute vulnerabilities Samoa faces due to climate change. Encompassing 55,385 ha and hosting approximately 12% of the nation's population, these districts are particularly prone to climate-induced threats such as storm surges, coastal erosion, and seasonal shifts in rainfall patterns leading to droughts and flooding. The area's rich coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, including mangroves, coral reefs, and tropical forests, are not only vital for biodiversity but also serve as natural defenses against climate impacts. However, these natural barriers are increasingly compromised by human caused degradation, diminishing their protective capacities and the resilience of the local communities and ecosystems they support.

Key Threats for Ecosystems and Local Communities in Samoa

Key threats to Samoa's biodiversity, ecosystems, and local communities include deforestation, over-exploitation of natural resources, invasive species, and climate change impacts. These challenges lead to habitat loss, reduced resilience to climate impacts, and decreased biodiversity, impacting both ecosystems and the livelihoods of local communities, including their adaptation capacity.

Deforestation. Approximately 60% (170,000 ha) of Samoa's total land area is categorized as forest. However, this ecosystem, critical not only for its carbon storage and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation benefits, but also its ecosystem services co-benefits such as regulating water cycles, preventing soil erosion, restoring biodiversity and alleviating poverty, is facing pressing and multi-dimensional issues leading to its depletion and degradation[6][6]. In the 1990s, the rate of deforestation in Samoa was around 3,000 ha, or 2.1% per year. Currently, 32% and 22% of all forest area in Samoa is either open or secondary forest respectively, indicating a high degree of nation-wide forest depletion[7][7]. When this is paired with the significant contributions to GHG emissions from the agriculture, forest and other land use (AFOLU) sector, which accounts for 38% of total GHG*e* (135.37 Gg CO2e)[8][8]. The key drivers of deforestation in Samoa are conversion to agriculture, logging, and heavily dependency of Samoans on firewood as fuel for cooking [9][9]. The removal of forests disrupts water cycles, increases soil erosion, and decreases biodiversity. These changes not only diminish ecosystem services critical for mitigating climate impacts but also increase vulnerability to climate-induced changes such as hurricanes and tsunamis.

Over-exploitation of natural resources. The increasing rise of population and demands for food and monetary income force Samoan famers to abandon their traditional farming methods to adopt more intensive farming systems consequently resulting in soil erosion and depletion. A substantial amount of soil depletion and erosion occurs from deforestation and climate change impacts, i.e. heavy rainfall and hurricanes. Because of Samoa's susceptibility to hurricanes, and heavy rainfall, erosion was and continues to be widespread and results in the transport of sediment and debris in both land and seaward. Logging of virgin primary forest for agricultural use and/or for construction use is another prevalent contributor to soil erosion. Because reef fish is an essential part of Samoans' diet, overfishing occurs and causes substantial and detrimental effects to the coral reefs that surround the Samoan islands. Villagers are practicing extensive fishery which in effect, has profound consequences. The reefs around Samoa are in generally poor conditions because of man-made factors which include top-soil run off deforestation, construction, and agriculture[10][10]. This over-exploitation, coupled with deforestation for agricultural expansion or logging, aggravates land and marine resources degradation. The loss of vegetative cover and coral reefs further enhances susceptibility to climate impacts, including extreme rainfall that intensifies soil erosion and sedimentation, affecting both land and marine ecosystems.

Invasive Alien Species. In Samoa, over 300 invasive species pose significant threats to forestry, crops, and the safety and livelihoods of Samoans. These species impact the environment and economy, necessitating strategic eradication efforts to minimize their effects. The presence of invasive species, exacerbated by climate change, underscores the conservation activities in Samoa. Thus, the devastating impact of invasive species on the environment, production systems (crops), and social values of Samoa has been witnessed in recent years particularly through invasions of taro leaf blight, the giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*), Myna species (*Acridotheres tristis, A. fuscus*) and Merremia vine (*Merremia peltata*). Another species, *Phytophthora colocasiae,* not only devastated Samoa's staple food source, but also decimated farmers' incomes from local and overseas markets: taro production in Samoa dropped by over 95% (Chan, 1995), and the export value fell from $US 3.2 million in 1993 to only $US 53,000 one year later[11][11]. Increased temperature and erratic weather patterns can contribute to the rapid spread of IAS, which in turn, decrease diversity of natural Samoa's ecosystems and make them more vulnerable to the climate change impacts. The loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems due to invasive species reduce the natural capacity of these systems to adapt to climate changes.

Climate Change Impacts. As a SIDS, Samoa shares with other island nations the characteristics of being economically vulnerable and ecologically fragile because of its geographical location, isolation, limited resources, and exposure to global economic crises. According to the Climate Vulnerability Index, approximately 40% of Samoa's population and infrastructure are considered highly or 'quite' vulnerable, with significant hotspots located along the coastal regions (70% of the population resides in the coastal areas)[12][12] . These areas, particularly around the main islands of Upolu and Savai'i, are highly susceptible to tropical cyclones, flooding, and sea-level rise. The vulnerability is linked to high exposure to these extreme weather events, which exhibit some of the highest hazard scores in the Pacific region. Samoa's high climate hazard exposure is compounded by its low capacity to cope with climate change. This is reflected in its ranking on the ND-GAIN Index, where Samoa is positioned 144th out of 181 countries in 2021. This ranking underscores the urgent need for building resilience to sustain current and future growth[13][13].

Samoa has observed trends and variability in climate derived from long term climate data from the region: the mean island near-surface air temperature increased from 25.9°C in 1901 to 27°C by 2020 (Fig.1), and annual precipitation increased from 2,554 mm in 1901 to 3,085 mm by 2020 (Fig. 2)[14][14]. Recent studies and tracking of cyclones in and around the Samoa region have found that there has been an increase in the frequency of tropical depressions, gale force winds, and tropical cyclones during the cyclone season from December to February since 1980s (Fig. 3)[15][15]. The sea level around Samoa has risen near Samoa by about 4 mm per year since 1993[16][16].

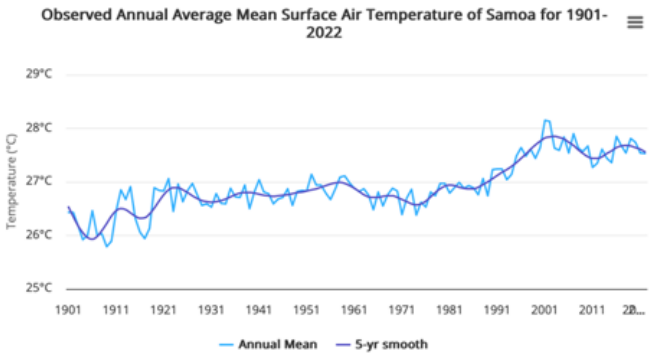

Figure 1. Air Temperature trend in Samoa in 1900-2020

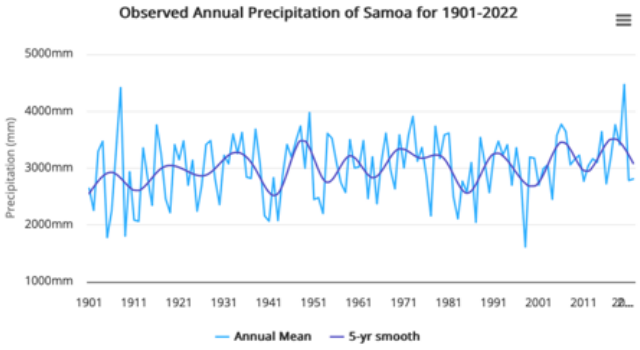

Figure 2. Annul Precipitation trend in Samoa in 1900-2020

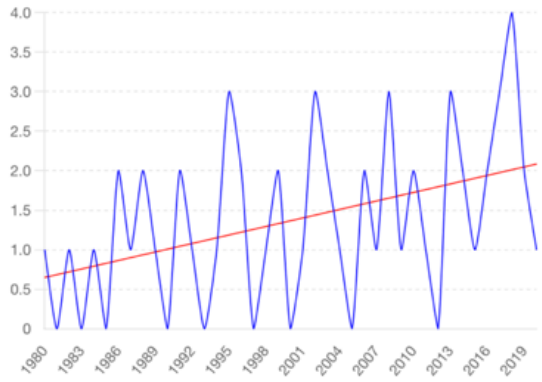

Figure 3. Number of Extreme Weather Events (heavy storms and cyclones) in Samoa in 1980-2020

Over the course of the 21st century (for the period to 2100), the global climate model projections and climate science findings for Samoa indicate:

- air temperature and sea-surface temperature will increase up to 27.3 (RCP4.5) - 28.0 °C (RCP8.5) by 2040-2060, and 27.6 (RCP4.5) - 28.8°C (RCP8.5) by 2080-2100 (see Fig. 4);

- variability of annual precipitation will increase considerably under both RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios (Fig. 5);

- increases in average temperatures will also result in a rise in the number of hot days and warm nights, and a decline in cooler weather;

- projections (RCP4.5 and RCP8.5) show extreme rainfall days are likely to occur more often and be more intense; there is likely to be an increase in the average maximum wind speed of cyclones by between 2% and 11% and an increase in rainfall intensity of about 20% within 100 km of the cyclone centre;

- sea level is expected to continue to rise in Samoa. This rise in sea level is projected to be in the range of 7-19 cm (RCP4.5) / 10–29 cm (RCP8.5) by 2040-2060 and 14-38 cm (RCP4.5) / 21-59 cm (RCP8.5) by 2080-2100 relative to the average of the period 1980-1999;

- ocean acidification will increase over the 21st century. The impact of increased acidification on the health of reef ecosystems is likely to be compounded by other stressors including coral bleaching, storm damage and fishing pressure[17][17].

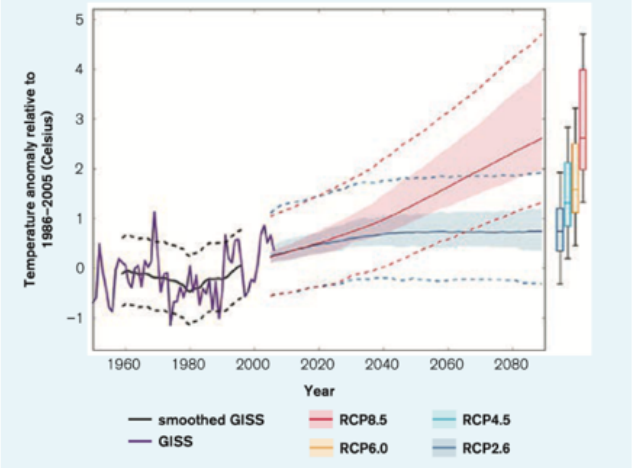

Figure 4. Projected Mean Air Temperature in Samoa by 2080-2100[18]

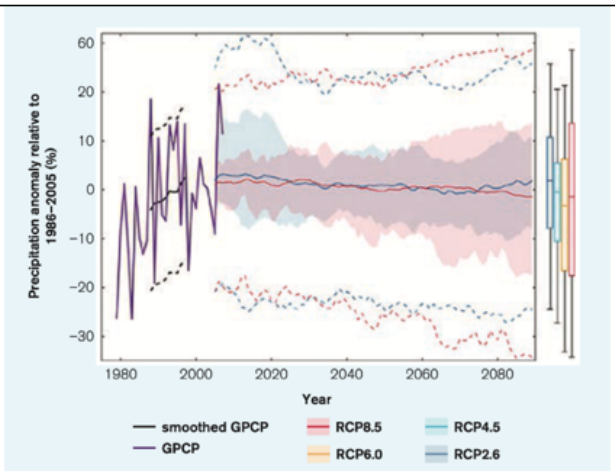

Figure 5. Annual Precipitation projection for Samoa by 2080-2100[19]

Climate change impacts are an added imposition on the inherent challenges Samoa already faces as a SIDS to achieve its sustainable development goals. The current impact of climate change on Samoa's biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities is significant and multifaceted. Samoa's unique ecosystems, including its coastal, marine, and terrestrial habitats, are under threat from rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Rising sea levels contribute to coastal erosion, loss of land, and damage to coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs. Samoa has experienced variability in rainfall patterns, with intense rainfall events causing flooding and landslides, damaging terrestrial habitats and affecting the natural regeneration processes of forests.

Samoa has experienced significant economic damages caused by several disasters in the past 20 years. In 2012, Tropical Cyclone Evan caused comparable size damage. No official damage report is available for the 2015 drought, however, there was recognition amongst authorities that the drought caused high stress in agriculture, the power sector, and elevated wildfire risks. On average, Samoa's economic damage, including property, crops, and livestock, are estimated to be about 30% of GDP per disaster over the past four decades. Samoa could be trapped in a repeated disaster-recovery cycle, losing fiscal space and missing time windows for development. For example, due to repeated natural disasters, the 2021 Article IV for Samoa projects GDP growth to be lower by 1.3% overall and fiscal and current account deficits to widen by 3.5% of GDP compared to a counterfactual without natural disasters[20][18].

Local communities also experience different climate impacts due to global warming and destruction and degradation of natural climate barriers and filters – healthy ecosystems, and these impacts are projected to exacerbate in the nearest 30-50 yeas, including loss of land due to erosion from the sea and extreme climate events; flooding inundation of land and sedimentation; lack of water supply and poor water quality; increased health hazards and outbreak of diseases such as vector-borne diseases like malaria; destruction of crops; loss of heritage and land values; and damage to community assets, especially in coastal areas. Samoa has already been experiencing declining production of fish since 2007. Marine heat stress and ocean acidification would present

additional threats for fisheries[21][19]. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the expected economic losses from climate change are projected to amount to 3.8% of Samoa's GDP annually by 2100, primarily driven by the impact of tropical storms. Considering various scenarios, climate change would reduce tourism revenues by 27%-34% and agricultural output by 10-21% for the Pacific region, including Samoa by 2050[22][20] .

Key Threats and Vulnerabilities of Targeted Communities in Samoa

The nine project districts across the islands of Savai'i and Upolu—Falealili 1 (West), Falealili 2 (East), Siumu, Safata 1, Safata 2, Lefaga & Faleaseela, Faasaleleaga 3, Faasaleleaga 4, Faasaleleaga 5—are emblematic of the acute vulnerabilities Samoa faces due to climate change. Encompassing 55,385 hectares and hosting approximately 24,600 people (about 12% of the nation's population), these districts are predominantly rural and characterized by high poverty rates, limited livelihood options, and strong cultural ties to customary land.

These communities are **highly exposed** to climate-induced threats due to their geographical location and socio-economic conditions. Thus, many villages in the project districts are situated along the coastline, making them directly vulnerable to sea-level rise, increased storm surges, and coastal erosion. Rising sea levels have led to the loss of land and property, saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources, and degradation of coastal ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs. The increasing frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, and prolonged droughts have led to flooding, landslides, and water scarcity. For example, Tropical Cyclone Evan in 2012 caused widespread destruction in these districts, damaging homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands. The degradation of natural barriers (forests, mangroves, and seagrass meadows) due to deforestation and over-exploitation of resources amplifies the exposure of the communities to climate hazards reducing natural protection against storms and floods.

The **sensitivity of these communities** to climate change is heightened by several factors. With over 70% of the district population engaged in subsistence agriculture and fisheries, any disruption to these sectors directly impacts food security and income. The decline in agricultural productivity due to erratic rainfall and soil erosion exacerbates poverty. The poverty rate in these districts is higher than the national average of 23%. Limited access to education, healthcare, and alternative employment opportunities increases vulnerability to climate impact. Increased temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have led to a rise in vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever. Limited healthcare facilities in rural areas hinder effective response to health crises. The customary land tenure system ties communities strongly to their ancestral lands. Loss of land due to erosion or flooding not only affects livelihoods but also cultural identity and social cohesion.

The **adaptive capacity** of the targeted communities is constrained by limited financial resources, lack of awareness, institutional limitations, and infrastructure deficits. Thus, poverty restricts the ability to invest in adaptation measures such as resilient infrastructure, diversified crops, or alternative livelihoods. There is a significant gap in knowledge about climate change risks and adaptation strategies. Limited access to information and training hampers the adoption of sustainable and adaptation practices. Inadequate integration of local needs into national policies and limited support from government agencies reduce the effectiveness of adaptation efforts at community level. Decentralized planning without cohesive national coordination leads to fragmented and insufficient responses to climate and non-climate threats. Poorly developed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and water systems increases local vulnerability to climate impacts. Damage to infrastructure from extreme weather events isolates communities and disrupts access to essential services.

From climate change, socio-economic, and environmental perspectives, the targeted communities face the following risks:

- **Loss of Livelihoods**: decreased agricultural yields due to droughts and floods threaten food security and economic stability. Fisheries are impacted by coral reef, mangrove, and seagrass degradation and overfishing, reducing a critical protein source and income.
- **Health Impacts**: increased prevalence of waterborne and vector-borne diseases strains limited healthcare resources; and malnutrition risks rise with food insecurity;
- **Displacement and Land Loss**: coastal erosion and flooding lead to the loss of homes and agricultural land, forcing relocation and causing social disruption;
- **Educational Disruptions**: damage to schools and lack of resources hinder educational attainment, affecting future opportunities for youth;
- **Gender Inequalities**: women, who make up 50% of the beneficiaries in the project districts, often have less access to resources and decision-making, increasing their vulnerability;
- **Degradation of Natural Ecosystems:** mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows, which provide critical ecosystem services such as storm protection and carbon sequestration, are declining due to over-exploitation, coastal development, and pollution.
- **Loss of Biodiversity:** habitat destruction and changes in climatic conditions are leading to a decline in native species, which affects ecosystem balance and resilience, reducing the communities' ability to rely on natural resources;
- **Water Resource Depletion:** increased drought frequency coupled with saltwater intrusion is diminishing the availability of freshwater for both human and ecological needs, threatening ecosystems reliant on freshwater and amplifying community vulnerability;

Increased Soil Degradation: soil erosion due to deforestation and extreme weather events diminishes soil fertility, further reducing agricultural productivity and promoting land degradation.

Interactions of anthropogenic threats (deforestation, natural recource depletion, IAS) and climate impacts (increasedfFrequency and intensity of extreme weather events, rising sea levels and ocean acidification, variability in rainfall, and frequent droughts) creates the cycle of vulnerability that is reinforced as anthropogenic activities degrade natural ecosystems, reducing their capacity to mitigate climate impacts and provide natural resilience. In turn, the exacerbation of climate change impacts further stresses these degraded ecosystems, making them and the communities that depend on them even more vulnerable. This vicious cycle highlights the need for urgent and integrated intervention strategies that address both anthropogenic activities and climate change impacts to enhance ecosystem resilience and reduce community vulnerability (see Fig .6).

This is where Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) that engage a wide range of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer a powerful means to interrupt the cycle of vulnerability created by the interaction of anthropogenic threats and climate impacts. By harnessing the power and resilience of nature, EbA through/using NbS can simultaneously address the root causes of environmental degradation, enhance ecosystem climate resilience, and reduce community vulnerability to climate change impacts. EbA is specifically focused on utilizing biodiversity and ecosystem services to help communities adapt to adverse climate impacts and NbS encompasses a broader spectrum of sustainable management, restoration, and protection of natural or modified ecosystems, including adaptation measures. These solutions address societal challenges like climate change, providing both human well-being and biodiversity benefits. This project treats these approaches as complementary, with EbA serving as a cornerstone within the broader framework of NbS, aiming for holistic and sustainable climate adaptation outcomes.

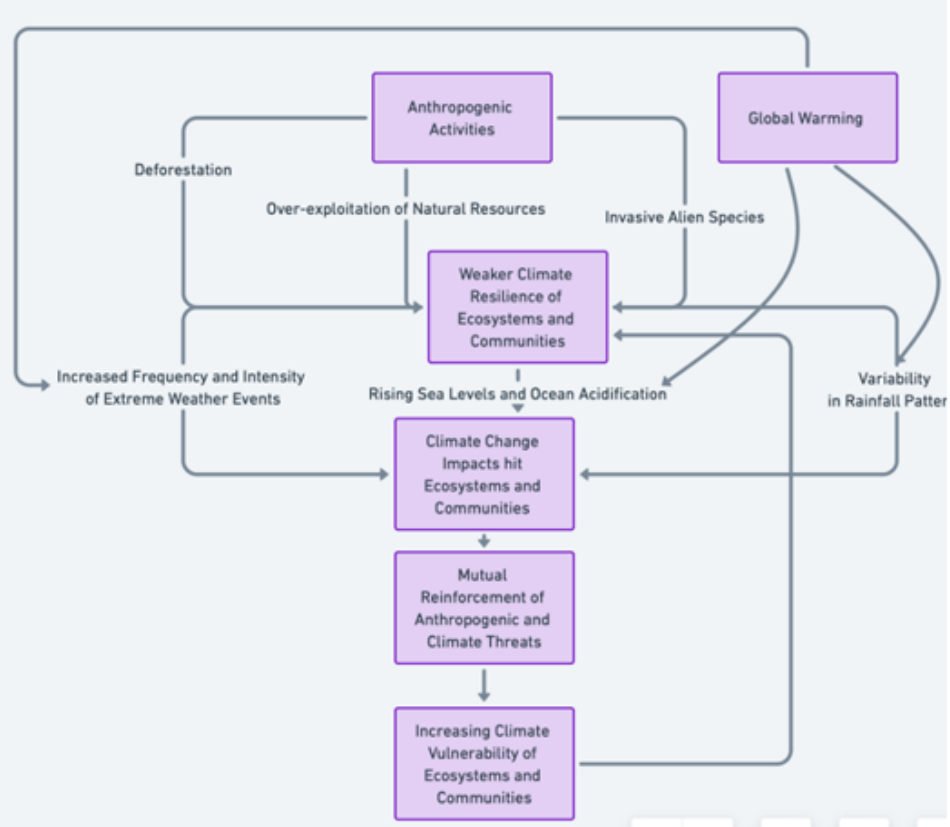

Figure 6. Self-Reinforced Cycle of Climate Vulnerability of Ecosystems and Communities in Samoa

Baseline (summary of the national efforts to address the key threats)

The Government of Samoa is working hard to address the anthropogenic and climate threats for ecosystems and communities of Samoa and interrupt the Cycle of Climate Vulnerability (Fig .6). Thus, Samoa is committed to global climate efforts, participating in initiatives like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The country's medium term development strategy, the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (2021/2-2025/6), prioritizes securing the environment and action on climate change (including EbA) as well as a diversified and sustainable economy. Samoa's Climate Change Policy 2020, and Second NDC 2021-2030 identify EbA targets for reforestation, agro-forestry and mangrove restoration and replanting actions that are also prioritized in the Ocean Strategy 2020-2030 as well as Draft Samoa National Water Resources Management Plan and draft Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) report.

These approaches build on and link with work on valuation of ecosystem services[23][21] and trialling of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes that are also included in the Environmental Management and Conservation Bill and Soil Resource Management Bill, undergoing national consultations and expected to be passed into legislation in 2024, whilst also aligning with Samoa's international commitments and engagement to the Rio Conventions as well as regional platforms with Samoa committed to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EBAAP) 2015–2020 emphasizes the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in addressing environmental challenges, including climate change. While the document itself is a comprehensive plan that outlines Samoa's priorities

for conserving its biodiversity, it inherently supports the principles of EbA through various strategies and actions aimed at ecosystem preservation, restoration, and sustainable management for adaptation gains.

The Samoa National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2017-2020, while not explicitly mentioning EbA by name, incorporates principles and strategies that align with the concept of EbA, particularly in its focus on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. While not explicitly stated, the Plan emphases a holistic approach to the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) suggesting an openness to incorporating EbA methods. Also, the plan recognizes the importance of involving communities in DRM efforts and building their capacity to manage risks. This participatory approach is a key element of EbA, as it ensures that solutions are locally adapted, culturally relevant, and supported by those most affected by disasters.

Additionally, Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs) developed through multi-stakeholder engagement, providing a basis for local planning with a focus on key nature-based solutions (NbS) and EbA such as catchment rehabilitation to address flash flooding, restoration of mangroves as barriers against storms, etc. CIMPs in Samoa are strategic documents developed to guide the sustainable management of natural resources, reduce vulnerability to climate change, and enhance community resilience. They focus on integrating ecosystem-based approaches to address environmental challenges, including coastal erosion, flooding, and loss of biodiversity, while promoting sustainable livelihoods. Also, CIMPs in Samoa are designed as blueprints for climate change adaptation interventions across all development sectors, reflecting the Government of Samoa's programmatic approach to climate adaptation. These plans are linked to the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016/17 – 2019/20 and relevant ministry sector plans, indicating a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change and its impacts. The initial wave of CIMPs was developed in the early 2000s, with significant updates and expansions occurring in subsequent years. As of the most recent updates, all 41 districts in Samoa have developed Community Integrated Management Plans. Funding for the implementation of CIMPs in Samoa is sourced from a combination of national budgets, international development assistance, and community contributions. The CIMPs for the project nine districts in Samoa are planned to be updated with comprehensive NbS and EbA measures in the framework of the UNDP/GEF Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program (BGI IP) Project “Coastal Resilience Samoa” in 2025-2026. Some critical activities of the suggested GEF/SCCF project will be based on the updated CIMPs for the target districts. The Government of Samoa plans to spend US$19,600,000 of their own funding for the CIMPs implementation in the nine districts in 2025-2030.

In some cases, private sector and government partnerships and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives have supported the implementation of specific CIMP activities, such as coastal protection and reforestation. The private sector in Samoa (mainly in agriculture, fishery, and tourism) is beginning to play a more active role in EbA, particularly in sectors like tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. However, there is still considerable room for growth, and strategic partnerships and incentives could further enhance private sector contributions to EbA in the country. Despite these positive trends, the private sector's engagement in EbA faces challenges such as limited awareness, financial constraints, and the need for technical capacity to implement EbA practices effectively.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) leads several ecosystem-based adaptation projects aimed at sustainable management and conservation of natural resources to combat climate change impacts. One of the flagship initiatives is the Samoa Ocean Strategy (SOS), launched in 2020. The SOS aims to manage and protect Samoa’s marine habitats, including seamounts, biodiverse coral reefs, mangroves, and oceanic basins, to ensure long-term ecological, economic, and cultural benefits. The strategy includes a commitment to protect 30% of Samoa’s ocean by 2025, significantly increasing the area of fully protected ocean space. This effort is implemented in collaboration with Conservation International (provides essential technical assistance for the facilitation and design of the SOS) and the Blue Prosperity Coalition (focuses on building local capabilities for sustainable ocean management for SOS), and aims on marine spatial planning, sustainable fisheries, and blue economy, ensuring the integration of science-based and community-driven conservation and adaptation approaches[24][22].

Also, last 10 years MNRE implemented at least two GEF project that addressed ecosystem conservation and restoration as well as community and sectoral adaptation issues in Samoa. Thus, UNDP/GEF Project “Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa” 2014-2019 (GEF ID 5417) addressed integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into national development planning and programming across all sectors, including measures to increase climate resilience of local communities. The project partially addressed EbA through a variety of strategies aimed at enhancing the resilience of Samoa's communities and ecosystems to climate change and natural disasters, including integrated Watershed Management Planning ('Ridge-to-Reef' approach), restoration of degraded ecosystems, and climate-resilient agricultural practices to protect community assets and promote sustainable use of natural resources. Another UNDP/GEF Project “Enhancing integrated sustainable management to safeguard Samoa's natural resources” (GEF ID 10410) is focused on empowerment of local communities to safeguard Samoa’s indigenous species, natural ecosystems and food production systems from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and unsustainable land use practices. The project partially addresses EbA by emphasizing the integrated management of catchments to safeguard indigenous species, and ensure resilience of natural ecosystems, and food production systems from Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and unsustainable land use practices. Both projects significantly contributed to CIMPs development and implementation, including by integrating IAS prevention and management and climate change adaptation and disaster management activities within these plans.

In July 2024 MNRE submitted to GEF the UNDP BGI IP Project “Coastal Resilience Samoa”. The project will enhance recognition of the value of ecosystem services within government planning through the integration of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) and NbS in the CIMPs and food and tourism sectors, and will implement pilot landscape and seascape nature-based solutions in a few watersheds supporting the tourism, agriculture and fishery sectors while unlocking private finance and investment in NbS, including EbA. That project will be the key partner for implementation of the suggested GEF/SCCF project (see the Project Description section for details).

There are a few World Bank projects with some nature-based adaptation activities implemented and planned in Samoa, including the *Preparedness, Adaptation and Resilience Program – Samoa (2021-2016), Samoa Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Operation (2023 – 2028), Samoa Climate Resilient Transport Project (2018-2023), and Pacific Resilience Project under Pacific Resilience Program (2020-ongoing).* Additionally, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) implements and plans 6 climate adaptation projects in Samoa (2020-2030). However, World bank and ADB projects are mainly focused on engineered climate adaptation and built adaptation infrastructure.

Non-government, civil society and private sector actors are also committed to the long-term sustainable and climate-resilient development of the island nation. It is demonstrated by the early adoption of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria of the country’s tourism sector in 2014. In Samoa, several impressive EbA projects led by NGOs have been implemented, focusing on community resilience to climate change impacts. The Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) portfolio in Samoa, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), includes projects aimed at addressing coastal ecosystem vulnerabilities. This initiative has rolled out six projects across different communities in Samoa, focusing on adaptations to flooding and sea level rise, conservation of mangroves, ecosystems, and coral reefs, and other community-specific climate change mitigation efforts. These projects not only emphasize the importance of maintaining ecosystem services like erosion control, storm protection, and water filtration in the face of climate change but also involve local and national NGOs actively in their execution.[25][23]

Barriers on the way to address key threats for Biodiversity and Local Communities

Despite all those commitments and progress in biodiversity conservation and Ecosystem-based climate adaptation demonstrated by Samoa, there are a few serious barriers at national and local levels impeding the country's ability to address the anthropogenic and climate threats and interrupt the self-reinforcing cycle of vulnerability. These barriers are summarized as the following:

Barrier 1. *Incomplete policy, legislation, and institutional frameworks for integration of EbA and NbS benefiting to biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation into the national and sectoral climate adaptation practices.*

Samoa has a relatively strong policy and legislation on environment, biodiversity, and climate adaptation. However, these are mainly sector-based or district-based, focused solely on the interest of specific sectors or communities. There are no clear connections and synergies between land use, agriculture, forestry, community development and climate adaptation policies and plans required for integrated EbA and NbS. As a result, the sectoral and district policies and plans are implemented in isolation, without mutual coordination, that leads to conflicts and negative outcomes, such as destruction and degradation of natural barriers and filters (ecosystems) that are critical for climate adaptation of biodiversity complexes and depending on them communities. Thus, Samoa, like many small island developing states (SIDS), faces significant challenges in fully integrating EbA into its climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation strategies. The existing policy and legislative frameworks do not explicitly recognize or prioritize EbA, as well as NbS, leading to a lack of clear guidelines and support for their implementation. Despite the thorough integration of ecosystem and/or nature-based elements within national documents like the National Adaptation Plans (NAP), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (EBAAP), and Climate Change policies, there is an absence of direct reference to EbA as a specific terminology. This gap suggests a potential lack of explicit focus or recognition of EbA's distinct value and principles, which could affect targeted implementation and advocacy efforts. Also, there is a need for adaptation policies and frameworks to more systematically recognize and incorporate traditional knowledge and practices in EbA planning and implementation. These gaps hinder the effective use of EbA at national scale, which are crucial for enhancing ecosystem resilience, providing sustainable livelihoods, and protecting biodiversity. Thus, EbA needs to be effectively integrated into sustainable development of Samao as a part of broader climate resilience strategies, ensuring that both human and natural systems can adapt to the inevitable changes and stresses brought by climate change.

Barrier 2. *Limited technical and financial capacity to plan and implement full-scale EbA measures by government agencies, communities, and private sector.*

There is an evident gap in the necessary skills and knowledge among local government bodies, communities, and the private sector in Samoa to design, execute, and manage EbA projects effectively. This includes a lack of expertise in areas such as project planning, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land, and water management, and understanding of how to integrate traditional knowledge with modern conservation and adaptation practices. Additionally, financial constraints are a crucial barrier in the country for initiating and sustaining EbA adaptation projects, despite the fact that they require much less funding than engineered adaptation solutions. This limitation is not just about the lack of initial funding but also encompasses challenges in financial planning and accessing ongoing financial support, navigating funding mechanisms, and leveraging financial tools tailored for climate adaptation and ecosystem conservation projects.

The decentralized approach in adaptation planning practiced in Samoa makes it difficult to prioritize adaptation plans at the national level. Because adaptation planning is incorporated into district CIMPs and separate sectoral plans, it is difficult for the government to have a coherent national-level storyline for its adaptation plans and financing needs. Thus, the institutional arrangements within Samoa are not adequately structured to facilitate the integration of EbA into climate adaptation practices at national level. This is due to a lack of coordination among relevant government agencies, districts, and sectors, insufficient procedures to implement NbS based EbA projects, and inadequate mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and collaboration. As a result, efforts to leverage EbA as a tool for simultaneous biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation are fragmented, uncoordinated, and underprioritized.

In Samoa, while community-led adaptation efforts are critical to addressing local climate challenges—such as increased storm intensity, coastal erosion, and biodiversity loss—there is currently no structured, long-term financial mechanism to support and sustain these initiatives. Without such a fund, community-driven solutions are often constrained by limited financial resources, making it difficult for them to scale or continue beyond the life of donor-funded projects. This lack of sustained financing also limits the ability of local communities to independently implement adaptation strategies that are context-specific and responsive to local needs. There is a lack of special institution or foundation in Samoa to accumulate funds from government, donors, and private sector for support of biodiversity conservation and EbA. National funds dedicated to biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change (e.g., Brazil's Amazon Fund, India's National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change, Madagascar Biodiversity and Protected Areas Trust Fund) are pivotal in supporting EbA, other NbS, and adaptation strategies. These funds are often established by governments in partnership with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to finance projects that aim to preserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The effectiveness of these funds is critical in achieving global and national environmental goals, including those set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, currently Samoa has a very limited number and capacity of research stations, training centers, and nurseries to provide technical support, seedlings, and seeds for full scale EbA activities (e.g., for mangroves, forest, and coral reef restoration) by government, communities, and private sector. Nurseries are essential for growing and supplying the necessary native plant species and seeds for reforestation, coastal protection, and other ecosystem restoration projects, which are critical for enhancing the resilience of communities to climate change impacts. But current capacity of Samoa's nurseries, training centers, and research stations to support ecosystem restoration and protection activities is very low. These facilities not only aid in the conservation of endemic species and the restoration of natural habitats but also supports local communities in adapting to climate change by stabilizing coastlines, improving food security through agroforestry practices, and enhancing biodiversity.

Barrier 3. *Lack of larger-scale and complex EbA projects in Samoa.*

This barrier is strongly associated with the Barriers 1 and 2 described above, including policy, financial, and technical constrains that impede implementation of full-scale adaptation projects based on EbA, like the Ridge to Reef (R2R) approach. Despite multiple adaptation initiatives in Samoa that include EbA and other NbS, the scale of these initiatives is small and limited to distinct communities, or a few hectares of ecosystem restoration initiatives. These "point" initiatives add very little to improve adaptation capacity of target ecosystems and communities and decrease their growing vulnerability to climate change. Effective R2R adaptation projects require active community and private sector participation on a relatively large area (hundreds or thousands ha). In Samoa, land tenure systems, which are predominantly customary, sometimes complicate implementation of such projects depending on engagement of a few communities. Ensuring community buy-in and navigating customary land rights are crucial for project success, but it is sometimes challenging. Samoa's vulnerability to climate change impacts, such as cyclones, floods, and sea-level rise, poses additional risks to EbA projects. Projects must be designed to be resilient and sustainable in the long run, which often increase complexity and costs.

Community Protected Area (CPA) is the critical mechanism to ensure scale up and sustainability of EbA projects in Samoa. While Samoa has made significant strides in establishing CPAs, their geographic coverage remains limited relative to the country's overall land and marine area. This limitation restricts the ecological connectivity and the comprehensive application of the R2R approach for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation, which is essential for addressing wide-ranging environmental issues such as watershed management and marine conservation. While many communities in Samoa are supportive of CPAs, there is variability in the level of engagement and support among different communities. Issues such as land tenure disputes, differing views on resource use, and the need for immediate economic benefits from land and marine resources can pose challenges to establishing and expanding CPAs as a climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation solutions.

Scale up of EbA initiatives in Samoa need increasing support from private sector and investors involved in agriculture, fishery, and tourism sectors that is currently minimal. The private sector often has the financial resources that could support the scaling up of EbA projects, especially such extensive as R2R adaptation projects. Without their investment, projects often struggle to secure the necessary funding, limiting their scope and impact. Additionally, private companies, especially those specializing in environmental technologies, can offer innovative solutions that enhance the effectiveness of EbA projects. Their expertise in areas such as ecosystem restoration, sustainable

agriculture, water management, and renewable energy can be invaluable in designing and implementing comprehensive R2R adaptation strategies. Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) can facilitate the development of infrastructure and services that support EbA and R2R objectives, such as eco-tourism facilities and programs, sustainable fishing, and agriculture practices. Lack of private sector engagement means missing out on these opportunities for collaborative development and shared benefits.

Barrier 4. *Limited awareness and knowledge of key stakeholders on EbA approaches and models*

The Kiwa Initiative Capacity Needs Assessment for Implementing Nature-based Solutions (including EbA) for Climate Change Adaptation (2023) specifically identifies the following knowledge and awareness gaps associated with implementing EbA for climate change adaptation in Samoa and the broader Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs):

- *Lack of Awareness at the Local Community Level:* there is a notable lack of awareness about EbA/NbS among local communities. This gap is exacerbated by language barriers that complicate interactions with communities for awareness-raising and EbA/NbS project implementation;

- *Limited Awareness among Decision-makers/Political Level:* awareness of EbA and Nbs for climate change adaptation is also limited at the decision-making or political levels. This lack of awareness extends to confusion between modern approaches to protected areas and customary protected areas, with insufficient awareness and knowledge at both the local village community level and among decision-makers. Decision-makers and private sector leaders often do not understand advantages of EbA/NbS in comparison with engineered solution adaptation;

- *Misinformation and Confusion:* the use of modern technology and social media, while reaching a wider audience, often also promote misinformation and confusion about EbA/NbS among people;

- *Limited Technical Knowledge and Skills:* there is a significant gap in technical knowledge, skills, and expertise to implement EbA/NbS initiatives, particularly in areas such as reforestation, urban greening, shoreline protection, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, nurseries for terrestrial and coastal plants, agriculture, and fisheries. This includes a lack of formal upskilling of stakeholders with practical skills for EbA implementation, project management, and monitoring and evaluation.

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[1] Samoa Population and Housing Census (2021). https://sbs.gov.ws/documents/census/2021/Census-2021-Final-Report_221122_051222.pdf Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS).

[2] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=WS

[3] https://www.adb.org/where-we-work/samoa/economy

[4] The IUCN Red List for Samoa includes 105 species under special protection status (CE, E, V) across taxonomic classes.

Assessments of the country's biodiversity note high levels of endemism with a high number of native flora and fauna including 540 native plant species, 64 native land snail species, 33 native bird species, 4 native reptiles and 3 native land mammal species[4] with 116 of these under threat of extinction[4]. Marine biodiversity is also high with 890 coral reef fish, over 200 corals and several species of turtles, whales and dolphins[4]

[5] https://constructive-voices.com/samoa-biodiversity/

[6] https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/samnc2.pdf

[7] https://gggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Samoa-NDC-Implementation-Roadmap-and-NDC-Investment-Plan-2021.pdf

[8] https://gggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Samoa-NDC-Implementation-Roadmap-and-NDC-Investment-Plan-2021.pdf

[9] https://ics.uci.edu/~wmt/courses/ICS5_W13/Samoa.html#:~:text=The%20reefs%20around%20Samoa%20are,fishing%20techniques%20utilized%20by%20villagers.

[10] https://ics.uci.edu/~wmt/courses/ICS5_W13/Samoa.html#:~:text=The%20reefs%20around%20Samoa%20are,fishing%20techniques%20utilized%20by%20villagers.

[11] https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/sam176258.pdf

[12] IMF 2022. Samoa: Technical Assistance Report—Climate Macroeconomic Assessment Program

[13] https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2022/083/article-A001-en.xml; https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-natural-disaster-events

[14] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/samoa/climate-data-historical

[15] https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/sam01.pdf

[16] https://world.350.org/pacific/files/2014/01/3_PCCSP_Samoa_8pp.pdf

[17] Climate Variability, Extremes and Change in the Western Tropical Pacific: New Science and Updated Country Reports (2014) and Climate Change in the Pacific: Scientific Assessment and New Research. Volume 1: Regional Overview. Volume 2: Country Reports (2011). Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2014.

[18] Climate Risk Country Profile: Samoa (2021): The World Bank Group

[19] Climate Risk Country Profile: Samoa (2021): The World Bank Group.

[20] https://www.undrr.org/publication/human-cost-disasters-overview-last-20-years-2000-2019

[21] https://unhabitat.org/apia-samoa-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment

[22] https://www.adb.org/news/samoas-climate-change-losses-could-reach-38-gdp-2100-adb

[23] Efforts to develop work on valuation of Samoa's ecosystem services has been developing over a number of years with work economic valuation of ecosystem services being done as early as 2001 (https://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/106.pdf) with further work looking at the value of water linked to national accounts being conducted in 2017 (https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/knowledge-center/water-accounts-samoa-2014-2015) and more recent work focused specifically on the marine ecosystems – (https://www.mnre.gov.ws/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MESV-factsheet-29OCt.pdf), while work to pilot PES approaches is being implemented in Vaisigano Catchment GCF Project;

[24] https://www.mnre.gov.ws/samoa-secures-a-sustainable-future-with-new-ocean-strategy/

[25] https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/spa-community-based-adaptation-samoa

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

The Project Objective is *to enhance climate resilience of Samoa's ecosystems and communities through integrated Ecosystem-based Adaptation approach, that promotes biodiversity conservation and combats land degradation.* The project **Theory of Change** is depicted on Fig. 7 and described below. So, the project objective is focused on the interruption of the cycle of vulnerability created by the interaction of anthropogenic threats and climate impacts leading to destruction and degradation of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems that provides climate protection for local communities of the country. For that the project will harness the power of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Through a strategic blend of these approaches, the project aims to restore and protect key habitats while ensuring community adaptability to climate variability and extremes. For instance, the restoration of mangrove forests not only serves as a buffer against storm surges and coastal erosion (EbA) but also enhances carbon sequestration and provides habitat for marine life (NbS). Activities under this project will demonstrate how targeted EbA and NbS interventions can yield multi-faceted benefits, aligning with both local and national adaptation priorities. The project approach ensures that every adaptation measure supports both ecological integrity and community resilience, creating a sustainable model that can be replicated across other regions.

EbA/NbS approach offers **significant comparative advantages** over traditional engineered approaches to climate adaptation in Samoa. Unlike hard infrastructure solutions, which often involve high costs and can disrupt natural ecosystems, EbA/NbS leverage the restorative and protective functions of natural habitats to mitigate climate impacts. This approach is particularly advantageous in Samoa due to its rich biodiversity and the cultural importance of natural resources to local communities. EbA/NbS proposed by the project (ecosystem restoration, Community Protected Areas, agroforestry, blue carbon projects and hybrid infrastructure) are cost-effective and sustainable, providing multiple co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods, and enhanced ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and water purification. Moreover, EbA/NbS are inherently more adaptable to changing climatic conditions than hard infrastructure, increasing the resilience of both ecosystems and communities over time. They align closely with traditional Samoan practices aand knowledge systems, facilitating community engagement and ownership of adaptation measures. By restoring and protecting ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, and forests, EbA/NbS not only serve as natural barriers against climate-induced hazards such as storm surges and erosion but also support fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors vital to the nation's economy. This holistic approach addresses the root causes of vulnerability by enhancing the health of ecosystems upon which communities depend, making EbA/NbS a more effective and culturally appropriate option compared to conventional engineering solutions in the context of Samoa. Additionally, studies indicate a cost-benefit ratio of EbA between 1:3 to 1:5, meaning every dollar invested in EbA yields multiple times the value in ecosystem services and community benefits. In comparison, cost-benefit ratios of hard adaptation infrastructure range between 1:1 to 1:2, depending on the project's location and scale[1].

The Project Objective is planned to be achieved through implementation of four project Strategies (**Components**), designed to remove the Barriers 2-4 on the way to address the key threats for ecosystem and communities in Samoa that negatively impact their climate resilience. The Barrier 1 (and partially Barriers 2, 3, and 4) will be addressed by the UNDP/GEF BGI IP Project “Coastal Resilience Samoa” that will be implemented in parallel and strong coordination with this GEF/SCCF project. Specifically, the NCA and NbS outputs of the BGI IP project will provide a basis for understanding the value of ecosystems and their services, as well as means to determine the cost-effectiveness and long-term benefits of green infrastructure. Thus, the GEF/SCCF Project will be fully complementary to the BGI IP project and will scale up its key results adding a significant block of complementary activities. The Strategies have been suggested based on the lessons learned from other GEF and non-GEF projects in Samoa, including the Samoa Ocean Strategy (SOS) Initiative, Adaptation Fund Project 'Enhancing Resilience of Samoa’s Coastal Communities to Climate Change' (2013-2018); UNDP/GEF Project “Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa” (2014-2019), UNDP/GEF Project “Enhancing integrated sustainable management to safeguard Samoa's natural resources” (2020-2025); World Banks projects Preparedness, Adaptation and Resilience Program – Samoa, Samoa Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Operation, Samoa Climate Resilient Transport Project, and Pacific Resilience Project under Pacific Resilience Program; and ADB projects in Samoa. The suggested Strategies (Components) are based on the GEF8 Levers and will work in synergy with each other (and BGI IP project) to establish a functional EbA model in the project area and replicate it in other districts of Samoa.

- Component 1: *Enhancing national climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management capacity via the integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)*. This Component is designed to remove the Barrier 2**:** *Limited technical and financial capacity to plan and implement full-scale EbA measures by government agencies, communities, and private sector.* Also, Component 1 will establish necessary technical and financial capacity for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation based on EbA and will support implementation of Component 2. It will work on the initial NbS/EbA capacity foundation (NbS and EbA training programs and decision-making tools) established by the BGI IP project to optimize resources and impact and deliver joint integrated capacity building and institutional development activities for the structures delivered under the Component, including a multi-sectoral institutional framework to coordinate EbA between Samoa’s districts and CIMPs; an Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund; and upgraded research stations, training centers, and nurseries necessary for EbA scaling up.

Component 1 enhances the adaptive capacity of the targeted communities by strengthening national technical and financial resources essential for effective EbA. By establishing a multi-sectoral institutional framework (Output 1.1), the project ensures coordinated efforts among government agencies, communities, and the private sector. This coordination enables the integration of

local needs into national policies and plans, overcoming institutional limitations that previously hindered adaptation efforts. The creation of the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund (Output 1.2) provides sustainable financial mechanisms to support community-led adaptation initiatives. This fund empowers communities to invest in resilience-building measures such as restoring protective ecosystems , protecting existing ecosystems of high adaptation and economic value through Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and other initiatives, and adopting sustainable land management practices, directly addressing climate risks like increased storm intensity and non-climate drivers like limited financial resources. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund, the project will establish mechanisms for continuous financing, including partnerships with the private sector, government allocations, and international donors, as well as generating revenue through ecosystem services payments and innovative financial instruments like green bonds and carbon credits. These efforts will provide a stable financial foundation to support ongoing community-led adaptation initiatives and ecosystem restoration efforts, securing resilience for future generations. Upgrading operational tools and infrastructure (Output 1.3) directly benefits communities by enhancing their capacity to implement EbA practices effectively. By improving field stations, nurseries, training centers, and early warning systems, the project equips communities with the technical support and resources needed to restore degraded ecosystems that serve as natural barriers against climate-induced hazards like floods and storms. Enhanced capacity building enables communities to adopt sustainable practices, reduce vulnerability to climate impacts, and break the cycle of vulnerability reinforced by the interaction of anthropogenic threats and climate change.

- Component 2: *Implementing gender inclusive Ecosystem-Based Adaptation measures to improve climate resilience of ecosystems and communities, protect biodiversity, and combat land degradation*. This Component attempts to remove the Barrier 3: *Lack of larger-scale and complex EbA projects in Samoa.* The Component is designed to scale up existing climate adaptation initiatives through implementation of EbAon the inter-district level based on the CIMPs updated by BGI IP Project and with involvement and leveraging resources of the private sector. While BGI IP project potential for implementation of EbA and NbS measures is rather limited, the GEF/SCCF project will ensure larger scale and complexity of the EbA measures in the project districts. The specific EbA measures under this Component includes the following: (1) restoring and protecting mangrove areas to serve as natural barriers against storm surges and coastal erosion while supporting marine biodiversity; (2) coral gardening and other restoration techniques to rebuild coral reefs, enhancing their role in protecting coastlines and supporting marine life; (3) restoring riparian forests to improve water quality, stabilize riverbanks, and enhance biodiversity connectivity; (4) new protected areas managed by local communities to conserve key ecosystems that provide resilience benefits and ecosystem services; (5) agroforestry practices that integrate tree planting with crop production, improving soil health, and providing economic benefits while enhancing climate resilience; (6) hybrid infrastructure combining boulders and biological components like mangroves to protect against flooding while maintaining ecosystem integrity; (7) Blue Carbon projects focused on conservation and restoring mangroves and seagrass meadows to protect communities from storms and floods and support marine biodiversity and fishery productivity while capturing and storing carbon providing additional sours of income to communities. The Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund (Output 1.2) will serve as a critical financial mechanism to support and scale up the implementation of these specific EbA measures. Through the Trust Fund, sustainable finance flows will be increased to support community-based activities essential for building resilience to climate change impacts. By securing diverse sources of funding—including public and private sector investments, international donors, and innovative financial instruments like carbon credits from Blue Carbon projects—the Trust Fund will provide communities with the necessary financial resources to undertake and maintain these nature-based solutions. This Component will establish an effective, sustainable, and replicable EbA/NbS model in the project area ready for replication in other districts of Samoa. Also, as a part of scaling up our NbS/EbA initiatives, this component will integrate Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) modules developed under the BGI IP project to assess and communicate the economic benefits of ecosystem services provided by habitats restored and protected through EbA and NbS. By quantifying the cost savings, enhanced ecosystem services, and reduced vulnerability to climate impacts, NCA will provide a compelling business case to attract private sector investments into EbA and NbS. This economic valuation will underscore the cost-effectiveness and long-term resilience benefits of NbS/EbA compared to traditional built infrastructure, highlighting additional co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation, enhanced fisheries, and improved local livelihoods.

Component 2 of the project directly supports the targeted communities in Samoa by implementing specific EbA measures that address both climate risks and non-climate risk drivers. By restoring and protecting critical ecosys-tems—such as mangroves, coral reefs, riparian forests, and upland areas—the project enhances natural defenses against climate-induced hazards like sea-level rise, storm surges, flooding, erosion, and droughts. These actions not only reduce vulnerability to climate risks but also support livelihoods through improved fisheries and agricul-ture, contributing to food security and income diversification. Additionally, Component 2 addresses non-climate risk drivers such as deforestation, over-exploitation of resources, poverty, and limited livelihood options by pro-moting sustainable practices like agroforestry and establishing community-led protected areas (CPAs). By involving communities in the planning and implementation of these initiatives, the project builds local capacity, empowers stewardship of natural resources, and fosters sustainable land and marine management. The development of pub-lic-private partnerships and Blue Economy projects under this component also brings investment and innovation to the region, enhancing economic opportunities while reinforcing climate resilience.

- Component 3: *Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for dissemination of EbA best practices for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management.* This Component will deal with the Barrier 4**:** *Limited awareness and knowledge of key stakeholders on EbA approaches and models.* This component is extremely important for communication and dissemination of the project lessons and best practices on EbA for replication of the project models in other districts of Samoa. It will integrate the knowledge and experience produced by theComponents 1 and 2, as well as the BGI IP project. Also, in this component, the project will leverage NCA experience from BGI IP project and lessons from Component 2 to enhance Samoa's EbA and NbS knowledge and best practices. The economic valuation of ecosystem services completed by the BGI IP project will be used to educate and engage the private sector, demonstrating the tangible benefits and profitability of investing in NbS/EbA approaches. A key focus of this Component will be strengthening the case for green adaptation infrastructure over traditional grey infrastructure, especially with planners and government counterparts. By leveraging data from both the project and the BGI IP's economic valuation of ecosystem services, this component will present evidence of the long-term cost-effectiveness, co-benefits, and sustainability of green solutions such as mangrove restoration, riparian forest restoration, and agroforestry. These NbS approaches not only offer protection from climate impacts but also enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, and provide economic opportunities for local communities. By showcasing successful models and quantifying their benefits, this Component aims to catalyze further private investment into sustainable practices that offer substantial returns and resilience against climate variability. Additionally, Component 3 will leverage the synergies with the BGI project to implement joint awareness and knowledge sharing initiatives. The collaboration will extend to the development of joint communication strategies that highlight the successes and lessons learned, aiming to amplify the message and reach a broader audience.

- Component 4: *Gender Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)*, will provide effective project monitoring framework for exercising of the project Adaptive Management and achieving sustainable project Outcomes. This Component will provide a foundation for the learning under Component 3 and will ensure effective and timely delivery of all project Outcomes. Again, Component 4 of the GEF/SCCF project will be integrated with the similar Component 5 of the BGI IP project via coordinated planning, monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management.

The implementation of the project Components (fully aligned and coordinated with the UNDP/GEF BGI IP Project "Coastal Resilience Samoa") will lead to achievement of the following project **Outcomes** (lasting changes in the national and local capacity, adaptation management, and adaptation scale) that are necessary for the achievement of the project Objective (*enhanced climate resilience of Samoa's ecosystems and communities)*:

- **Outcome 1.** *Strengthened national climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management capacity through the integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach*. This Outcome will be achieved based on the three project Outputs 1.1-1.3 that will provide a multi-sectoral institutional framework to coordinate EbA initiatives between and within Samoa's districts; create and operationalize an Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund to restore, protect, and enhance Samoa's ecosystems having high climate adaptation value; and upgrade operational tools and facilities (research stations, training centers, and nurseries) necessary for EbA scaling up (see details in the Project Outputs section below). The Outcome 1 will be delivered in synergy with the BGI IP project that will provide necessary decision support tools for EbA and other NbS, and develop and implement NbS/EbA training programs for the key stakeholders in Samoa. If the Outputs above are delivered in full and in integration with the BGI IP project, then the national EbA technical and financial capacity will be strengthened considerably (**GEF Lever 1:** Governance and Policy and **GEF Lever 2:** Financial Leverage). The Achievement of the Outcome 1 is based on the reasonable assumptions: (a) the government remains committed to and supportive of the initiative throughout its duration, including policy support, resource allocation, and active participation in the multi-sectoral framework; (b) the financial resources are available and stable to support the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund; (3) the institutional capacity will become sufficient to not only implement the planned activities but also maintain and sustain the improvements made through the project on the long-term.

- **Outcome 2.** *Scaled up gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures in the project area*. The Outcome 2 is expected to be achieved based on delivery of the project Outputs 2.1-2.3: implementation of scaled up EbA Initiatives to fulfill the climate resilience priorities identified in CIMPs (will be updated by BGI IP project to integrate EbA and other NbS into the plans); establishment of Community-led Conservation Areas to safeguard key terrestrial and marine ecosystems having high adaptation value (in coordination with BGI IP project that will support some initial EbA and other NbS activities); development and implementation of Public-Private Partnerships to foster public-private collaborations and promote Blue Economy principles for EbA (**GEF Levers 2:** Financial Leverage and **3:** Multi-Stakeholder Dialog). The Outputs of the Outcome 2 will be delivered based on the "enabling capacity environment" provided by the Outcome 1 (in coordination with capacity building activities of BGI IP project) and EbA/NbS policy and mechanisms provided by the BGI IP Project. Key assumption for the Outcome 1 are: (a) effective coordination among various stakeholders (government agencies, communities, private sector, NGOs) to implement EbA activities is in place; (b) communities, businesses, and policymakers are willing and open to implementing EbA initiatives; and (c) there is active community participation and leadership in EbA efforts.

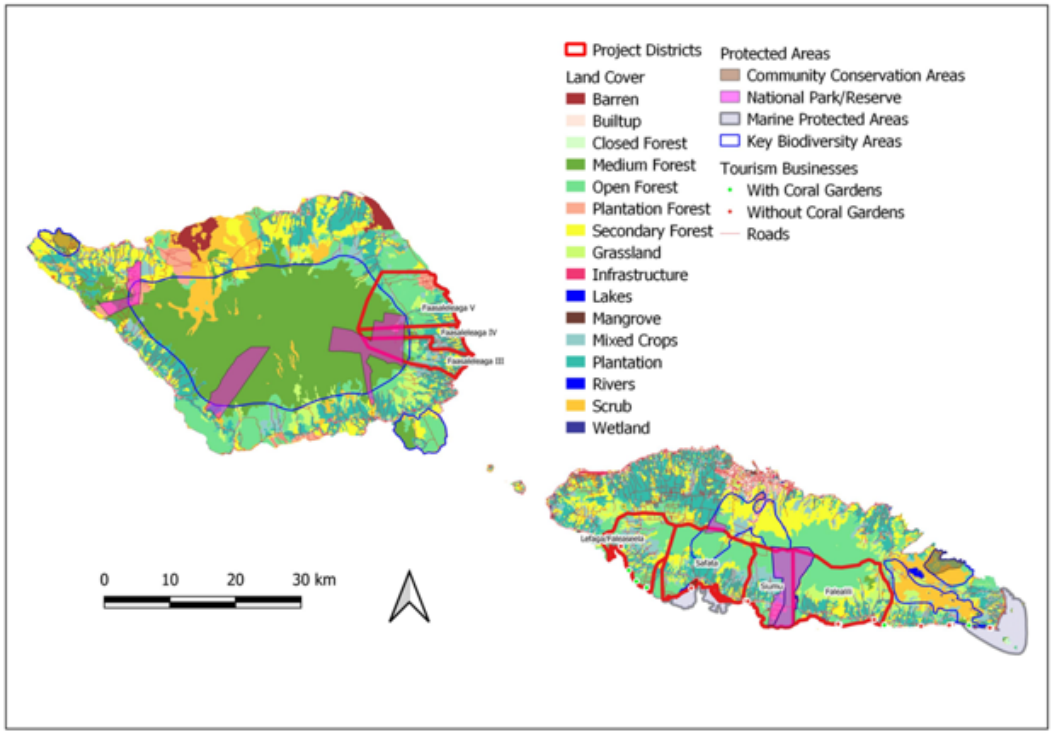
- **Outcome 3.** *Project EbA best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated by Samoa's districts, projects, and stakeholders*. The Outcome 3 is extremely important to ensure replication of the EbA model developed by the project by other Samoa's districts and financial sustainability of EbA initiatives via educating and convincing investors, donors and benefactors to support EbA initiatives, including through the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund (Output 1.2). It is expected to be achieved through delivery of the Outputs 3.1-3.3: Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, ensuring that gender equality principles are integrated into each aspect of the project; specialized communication and awareness strategy crafted and executed to enhance understanding and support for EbA approach among government, local communities, and economic sectors; collection, documentation, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned from the project's implementation of EbA (**GEF Levers 3:** Multi-Stakeholder Dialog and **4:** Innovation and Learning). All the Outputs under the Outcome 3 will be delivered with full coordination with the respective activities of the BGI IP Project. Achievement of the Outcome 3 is based on the assumptions, that stakeholders will actively apply knowledge and skills provided by the project and are interested to replicate the project best models for climate adaptation based on EbA inside and outside of the project area.

- **Outcome 4.** *Effective project Adaptive Management based on gender sensitive M&E*. This Outcome represents an integration of all project Outcomes achieved through implementation of the project Adaptive Management based on the effective and participatory M&E system that supports effective learning and Knowledge Management (Outcome 3) and test validity of the project Theory of

Change. The Output 4.1 for the Outcome will be delivered in full synergy with the M&E activities of the BGI IP project. The Outcome 4 will ensure achievement and sustainability of all project Outcomes as key elements of the EbA model established and promoted by the project. See the Project Outputs section for details.

Project Area

The project will have the same project area as the BGI IP Project and will be implemented across nine districts located on the Savai'i and Upolu Islands (namely, Falealili 1 (West), Falealili 2 (East), Siumu, Safata 1, Safata 2, Lefaga & Faleaseela, Faasaleleaga 3, Faasaleleaga 4, Faasaleleaga 5) with a total area of 55,385 ha and total population of 29,884 people (approximately 12% of Samoa's population) (see Map 1, and Annex C: Project Location). The selected districts are rated as medium and highly vulnerable to climate change due to exposure to storm surges, erosion, and sea-level rise, water quality degradation, marine ecosystem degradation, and climate variability affecting agriculture. Coastal (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass meadows) and terrestrial ecosystems (highland and riparian tropical forest) provide natural barriers and filters in the districts, but due to partial degradation and destruction are susceptible to climate impacts and have decreasing climate resilience. Also, the districts include habitats for such globally endangered and threatened species as the Tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris,* CE), Mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*, EN), Samoan Flying Fox (*Pteropus samoensis*, VU), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, CE) and Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, EN).



Map 1. Project Districts

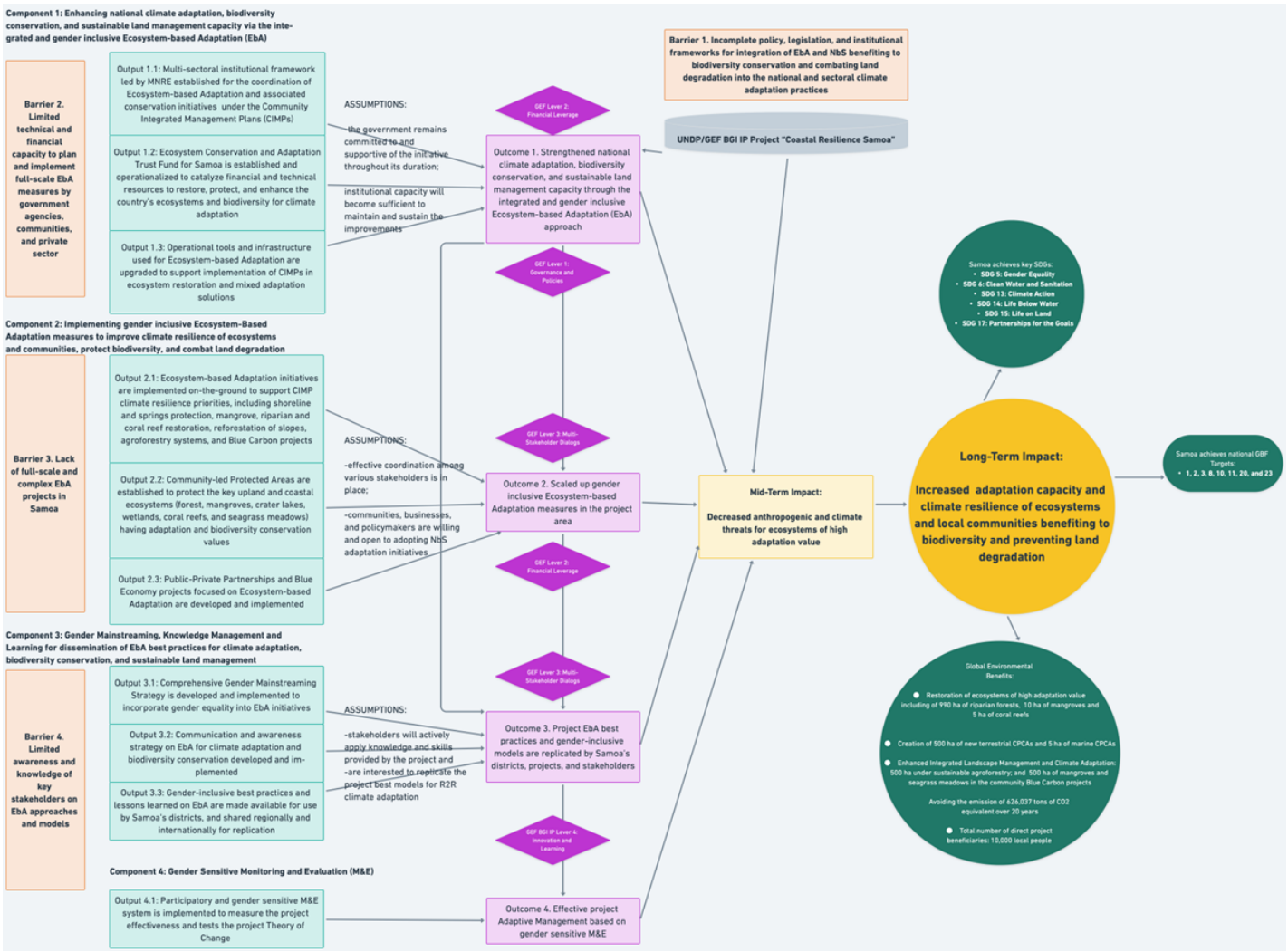


Figure 2. Project Theory of Change

Project Outputs

Outcome 1. Strengthened national climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management capacity through the integrated and gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach

Output 1.1. *Multi-sectoral institutional framework led by MNRE established for the coordination of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and associated conservation initiatives (barrier, source and filter ecosystem restoration and protection) under the Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs)* **(funded by GEF TF)**

Under this Output the project will establish a multi-sectoral Coordination Committee for the coordination of EbA and other NbS initiatives to achieve synergy and strong level of cooperation between different districts and communities in implementation of the district CIMPs. All relevant actors across sectors, including government departments, non-governmental organizations, community groups, academic institutions, and private sector stakeholders will be members of the Coordination Committee. The project will develop terms of reference for the committee, outlining roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. Also, a comprehensive institutional framework aligned with national environmental and adaptation priorities will be drafted for the Committee to define the coordination procedures for EbA and other NbS initiatives across sectors. The Coordination Committee will work to align multiple EbA and other adaptation/conservation projects in Samoa to avoid intersections and double-funding and achieve strong synergy between them. Specifically, the Committee will ensure synergy in delivery of the Outputs 1.2-1.3 and 2.1-2.3 and will coordinate collaboration between the GEF/SCCF and BGI IP Projects.

Output 1.2. *Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund for Samoa is established and operationalized to catalyze financial and technical resources to restore, protect, and enhance the country's ecosystems and biodiversity for climate adaptation* **(funded by GEF TF and SCCF)**

This Output will focus on the creation of a sustainable financial mechanism for EbA and associated conservation initiatives in Samoa. The project will conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential sources of funding, governance models, and operational structures for the Trust Fund based on the successful experience of similar national funds in the world, including the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC), the Papua New Guinea Conservation Fund, the Amazon Fund in Brazil, the Conservation Trust Fund of Namibia (CTFN), Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), etc.

The project will design the Trust Fund following Conservation Trust Fund Standards of practice on location, Trust Deed, Operational and Financial Management Manuals, Independent Board Members and Trustees Manual. To enhance the Trust Fund's design and implementation, the project will leverage the expertise of organizations operating in similar contexts. The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) have experience guiding new funds through establishment processes and will provide valuable insights for the Trust Fund in Samoa. Additionally, countries with similar legal systems (e.g., Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, etc.) will be consulted to obtain helpful templates and support for the Trust Fund establishment and operationalization. Collaborations will also be sought with SeyCCAT and the Antigua & Barbuda Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund, both of which have adaptation mandates. The International Conservation Corps will assist in securing low-cost legal support for the establishment of conservation trust funds, based on their successful work in the Caribbean.

After that the project will design the Trust Fund structure, including its legal status, governance framework, operational guidelines, and financial management procedures. The Trust Fund will have a Board of Trustees with representatives from government, civil

society, and other stakeholders. The board representative will be identified in the PPG based on feasibility study, however, based on experience with similar Trust Fund it is foreseen that most representation will be from non-government.

The project will design the Trust Fund a capitalization strategy to secure initial and long-term funding from a mix of public, private, and philanthropic sources and will explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, impact investments, and payment for ecosystem services, International Visitor Levy (IVL) (PES policy framework and IVL mechanism will be developed by BGI IP Project). The intention is to design a hybrid Trust Fund model to include part endowment and part sinking fund, in addition to the set-up costs. To further enhance the Trust Fund's financial sustainability and resource mobilization, the project will collaborate with the global Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). This collaboration will support the development of a comprehensive financing strategy for the Trust Fund and will pilot test innovative financial solutions to capitalize the fund. By partnering with BIOFIN, the project will leverage global best practices in biodiversity finance to secure additional investments and ensure that the Trust Fund can meet its long-term objectives.

The Fund will have a grant-making mechanism to distribute funds to eligible adaptation and conservation projects related to EbA, including criteria for selection, application processes, and oversight procedures. Potentially, if established successfully, the Trust Fund can provide co-financing for implementation of some activities of the Output 2.1-2.3 (as well as to the relevant outputs of the BGI IP project) during the project lifetime (at least $300,000 by the end of the project).

The following stages are envisioned for the Trust Fund establishment:

PPG phase: conduct Feasibility Assessment and review experience of CTFs in the region and SIDS;

Year 1 (4 months): Stakeholder consultations on Trust Fund;

Year 1-2 (20 months): Design governing and operational structures, including the Board of Trustees and Technical Secretariat with their associated governing, strategic, and operational documents, including the design of the sinking-fund component. Identify Trust Fund location, and develop Trust Deed, Operational and Financial Management Manuals including grant strategic directions and management, selection of Independent Board Members and Trustees Manual;

Year 3 (12 months): Develop and implement capitalisation strategy – fundraising/resource mobilisation;

Year 4-5 (24 months): Operationalisation through sinking-fund: GEF grant funds disbursement as pilot projects to test the Trust Fund operations and grant mechanisms, monitoring and reporting in support of communities/Government/ NGOs, protected areas, nature-based interventions and climate adaptation initiatives. Leverage of additional finances for the fund from a mix of public, private, and philanthropic sources and will explore innovative financing mechanisms.

Output 1.3. *Operational tools and infrastructure used for Ecosystem-based Adaptation are upgraded (field stations, nurseries, training centers, etc.) to support implementation of CIMPs in ecosystem restoration and mixed adaptation solutions (including coastal and riverbank reinforcement)* **(funded by SCCF and GEF TF)**

This Output aims to enhance the technical and operational capacity of key infrastructure and tools critical for effective climate adaptation strategies and conservation efforts using EbA. First, the project will conduct a thorough assessment of current operational tools and infrastructure (field stations, adaptation training centers, nurseries, automated monitoring systems, and other relevant facilities) identifying gaps and limitations in supporting EbA activities in the project areas under Outputs 2.1-2.3 (as well as relevant activities of the BGI IP Project). A detailed upgrade plan will be developed based on the assessment findings, prioritizing needs and identifying the most effective interventions to enhance the capacity and efficiency of operational tools and infrastructure. The project will ensure that the plan aligns with the objectives of the CIMPs and considers the integration of new technologies and best practices in EbA activities. Based on the plan the project will upgrade field stations with necessary equipment and facilities to

support research, monitoring, and community engagement activities related to EbA; support the adaptation capacity building centers for local communities (in coordination with BGI IP project that will develop and implement NbS/EbA capacity building programs); expand and modernize plant/coral/seagrass nurseries to increase the production of native and resilient plant species required for ecosystem restoration projects, including for coastal and riverbank areas; upgrade and expand community-based Early Warning Systems for climate-related hazards to incorporate advanced forecasting technologies and improve the accuracy and timeliness of alerts, including mechanisms for swift communication and response.

Outcome 2. Scaled up gender inclusive Ecosystem-based Adaptation measures in the project area

Output 2.1. *Ecosystem-based Adaptation initiatives are implemented on-the-ground to support CIMP climate resilience priorities, including shoreline and springs protection, mangrove, riparian and coral reef restoration, reforestation of slopes, and agroforestry systems* **(funded by GEF TF)**

This Output will be implemented based on the updated CIMPs with integrated NbS/EbA measures (the CIMPS will be updated by the BGI IP project) and will be focused on complex EbA measures. These measures will include the following implemented by target communities in cooperation with NGOs, government agencies, and private sectors (will be validated at PPG stage):

- Shoreline and springs protection using natural barriers and bioengineering techniques (native trees and grass replanting);
- Mangrove and riparian zone restoration to enhance coastal and riverbank resilience;
- Coral reef restoration using techniques like coral gardening and/or artificial reefs to establish natural wave-breakers and support marine biodiversity and fisheries;
- Reforestation of slopes with native and climate-resilient tree species to prevent soil erosion and enhance carbon sequestration (in coordination with BGI IP project that has some forest restoration activities);
- Establishing agroforestry systems that integrate tree planting with crop production to improve soil health and biodiversity and play climate adaptation function;
- Developing Blue Carbon projects to protect and restore coastal ecosystems of high adaptation value by communities while generating carbon credits.

Overall, the project will restore 10 ha of mangroves, 5 ha of coral reefs, 990 ha of riparian forests; put 500 ha under sustainable agroforestry; and include 500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows in the community Blue Carbon projects (will be coordinated with initial NbS and forest restoration activities of BGI IP project). Through implementation of the Output 2.1 and associated Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 the project is expected to prevent the emission of 787,867 tons of CO2-equivalent over 20 years after the project start. This Output will allow to scale up the EbA measures to the landscape (Ridge to Reef) level effectively complementing to the initial NbS and EbA activities of the BGI IP project.

Output 2.2. *Community-led Protected Areas are established to protect the key upland and coastal ecosystems (forest, mangroves, crater lakes, wetlands, coral reefs, and seagrass meadows) having adaptation and biodiversity conservation values* **(funded by GEF TF)**

This Output focuses on engaging communities in adaptation and conservation efforts, recognizing their traditional knowledge, and empowering them to lead initiatives that protect ecosystems vital for climate resilience on their customary lands. Samoa has been actively engaged in establishing and recognizing Community Protected Areas (CPAs) across the country. These areas are developed in partnership with village communities, the Samoa Conservation Society, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), and other stakeholders to support forest conservation, protect native forests, and include important biodiversity and ecosystem services like water catchment areas, wetlands, and lowland forests. At the same time, they are playing an extremely important role for climate adaptation as appropriate EbA solutions. So, under this Output the project will do the following activities:

- Use CIMPs and conduct additional surveys and mapping exercises (if required) to identify and delineate Key Biodiversity Areas and critical Ridge to Reef ecosystems that are vital for climate adaptation as perspective CPAs;

- Organize consultations and workshops with local communities, indigenous groups, local government units, NGOs, and other stakeholders to discuss the establishment of Community-led Conservation Areas and ensure that these consultations seek to understand community priorities, knowledge, and consent regarding adaptation and conservation efforts;

- Implement capacity-building programs for community members on CPA management, conservation practices, sustainable livelihoods, monitoring and evaluation, and enforcement of conservation regulations; empower communities through training in leadership, project management, and advocacy;

- Facilitate the development of conservation management plans for each CPA, detailing objectives, management strategies, permitted activities, funding, and monitoring protocols (the plans will be developed through a participatory process and reflect community knowledge and priorities);

- Provide initial financial support to new CPAs and identify and secure long-term funding sources for the management and maintenance of the CPAs, including grants, government funding, and private sector partnerships (potentially CPA funding can be provide through the Ecosystem Conservation Trust Fund established under the Output 1.2).

Overall, the project plans to establish 505 ha new CPAs covering 500 ha of terrestrial and 5 ha of coastal and marine ecosystems having high climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation value.

Output 2.3. *Public-Private Partnerships and Blue Economy projects focused on Ecosystem-based Adaptation are developed and implemented* **(funded by SCCF)**

This Output aims to leverage investments, expertise, and innovative solutions from the private sector to enhance ecosystem resilience through nature-based and mixed adaptation solutions, support sustainable use of marine and land resources, and promote economic growth within the framework of the Blue Economy. Additionally, this Output will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund (Output 1.2) by establishing sustainable financing models that engage the private sector and create continuous resource flows. This Output will be implemented in strong collaboration and using inputs of the UNDP/GEF BGI IP Project (NCA modules, PES policy framework, and IVL mechanism). The Output will include the following activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of potential public and private sector partners with interests in EbA and Blue Economy sectors such as sustainable infrastructure, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture and fisheries. This mapping will identify key stakeholders, including government entities, private companies, financial institutions, NGOs, and international donors, who are aligned with the project's goals and have the potential to contribute resources, expertise, or investments. The aim is to foster partnerships that support sustainable funding for local EbA initiatives and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund (Output 1.2);
- Organize multi-stakeholder forums to discuss opportunities for PPPs and Blue Economy projects focused on EbA;
- Negotiate and formalize PPP agreements with interested private sector partners, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that outline roles, responsibilities, financial arrangements, and expected outcomes for climate adaptation projects based on EbA;
- Identify and launch pilot projects in partnership with private sector entities that demonstrate the viability and benefits of EbA within the Blue Economy, including feasibility assessment and construction of a hybrid seawall (100 m) that has climate adaptation and coastal ecosystem protection value, and mangrove and coral reef restoration for coastal protection in framework of PPPs;
- Explore and establish financial mechanisms and incentives to attract private investment in EbA adaptation and Blue Economy projects, such as tax breaks, green bonds, and payment for ecosystem services schemes; ensure financial models are sustainable and provide mutual benefits to public and private partners as well as local communities.

Outcome 3. Project EbA best practices and gender-inclusive models are replicated by Samoa's districts, projects, and stakeholders

Output 3.1. *Comprehensive Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is developed and coordinated to incorporate gender equality into EbA initiatives* **(funded by SCCF)**

The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is crucial to design project activities that ensure the equitable participation of women and men in project planning, implementation, and benefits of EbA and other adaptation and conservation initiatives. This strategy will address gender-specific impacts of climate change and leverage the unique contributions of all community members in climate adaptation efforts. The project will thus conduct a detailed gender analysis to identify the different needs, roles, vulnerabilities, and strengths of women, men, and other gender groups in the context of the project area related to climate adaptation. Based on the gender analysis a comprehensive strategy will be developed to outline specific objectives, activities, and indicators to ensure gender equality is integrated into each project output, addresses barriers to gender equality and leverages opportunities for enhancing the participation and benefits of all gender groups in Samoa. The project will organize training sessions for project staff, partners, and stakeholders on gender mainstreaming practices, the importance of incorporating gender equality in climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation efforts, and gender-sensitive data collection, analysis, and reporting to monitor progress towards gender equality objectives. At the project inception phase after the strategy development, the project will review project outputs to include specific gender considerations and targets. The project will appoint gender focal points within the project team and among partner organizations to oversee the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy and to provide guidance on gender issues. The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy will be update annually and monitored through the Output 4.1. Delivery of this output will be coordinated with relevant gender mainstreaming activities of the BGI IP project. The total project budget for the gender mainstreaming activities will be $214,000-244,000 distributed through all project Outputs.

Output 3.2. *Communication and awareness strategy on EbA for climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation developed and implemented* **(funded by SCCF)**

The Output focuses on conducting a wide-spread and effective awareness campaign among local communities and decision-makers in the project districts on EbA, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. Recognizing the common misconception that grey infrastructure is the only effective response to climate challenges, the campaign aims to shift mindsets and foster a deeper understanding of the role of nature, and the effectiveness of NbS and commitment to environmental sustainability, as a no-regrets, win-win and even low-cost solution to climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation. ~~, and conservation practices in Samoa.~~ To achieve a significant and lasting impact, the project will engage specific expertise in communications, marketing, and behavior change. This specialized approach acknowledges that traditional environmental messaging may not always resonate with the general public or lead to behavioral change. By employing professionals skilled in influencing perceptions and actions, the campaign will more effectively convey the benefits of EbA and NbS and the critical role of natural ecosystems in climate adaptation. This Output will include the following indicative activities: (1) Development of the Project Communication Strategy; (2) Development of Campaign Materials; (3) Community Awareness Workshops and Seminars; (4) Awareness Sessions for Local Leaders, Decision Makers, Large Corporations, and SMEs; (5) School and College Engagement Programs; (6) Media Campaigns; (7) Social Media Outreach; and (8) Public Events and Exhibitions. By implementing these activities, the awareness campaign will not only educate and engage the local communities and decision-makers in the project districts, but also foster a deeper understanding and commitment to environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and conservation practices in Samoa.

Output 3.3. *Gender-inclusive best practices and lessons learned on EbA are made available for use by Samoa's districts, and shared regionally and internationally for replication* **(funded by GEF TF)**

Under this Output the project will conduct semi-annual lessons learning sessions with the project partners to formulate the project lessons and develop best practices on EbA. The lessons and best practices will be applied for improvement of the project strategies (adaptive management) and disseminated among other districts of Samoa (and internationally) for effective learning and replication of successful approaches with an intention to speed up the climate adaptation efforts and deliver national GBF targets in Samoa. Under this Output the project will develop and implement the Knowledge Management Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure participatory, inclusive and integrated implementation of the project activities in accordance with EbA concept and principles. This Output will be delivered in coordination with BGI IP project and will use BGI IP communication and knowledge management mechanisms to share and receive EbA experience.

Outcome 4. Effective adaptive management for results based on gender sensitive M&E

Output 4.1. *Participatory and gender sensitive M&E system is implemented to measure the project effectiveness and tests the project Theory of Change* **(funded by GEF TF and SCCF)**

Under this Output the project will develop and implement a participatory project M&E framework in accordance with the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach practiced by UNDP, GEF, and SCCF. For the M&E, the project will use standard UNDP approaches and procedures and the following groups of indicators: Output Indicators, Outcome Indicators, and Impact Indicators.

Social and Environmental Risk Indicators (see Annex D for details) will be used to assess impact of the project activities on gender equality and involvement of women in EbA as well as to monitor potential social and environmental risks that may be produced by the project, including the risks for indigenous communities (Samoans make up 92% of Samoa's indigenous community, and customary land represents 84% of all land in Samoa). The ongoing data collection on the social and environmental risks indicators will be quarterly carried out by the PMU in cooperation with project partners. The project will establish a simple Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in the project area. The information and data received through the project M&E will be applied for the project adaptive management and learning. At the last year the project will produce a robust Exit Strategy to ensure sustainability and ownership of the project Outputs.

Implementation Arrangements

This project will be executed as a NIM by the Ministry of the Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) as an Implementing Partner. The project implementation will be guided by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by MNRE. The PSC will include representatives of the, government representatives of the target districts, NGOs, and UNDP. Any support to the project from UNDP will be assessed in the PPG stage, as required.

Value Addition of SCCF-A Funding for the project

The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF-A) funding provides critical value to the project by specifically targeting activities that enhance climate change resilience, which cannot be fully achieved through Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF TF) funding of ecosystem restoration alone. While GEFTF funding focuses on Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) such as biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation through ecosystem restoration, SCCF-A funding enables the project to integrate these efforts with comprehensive climate adaptation measures. This integration ensures that both ecosystems and communities are resilient to current and future climate impacts. The SCCF-A additionality to the project components is briefly explained below:

Component 1: SCCF-A resources contribute to creating a sustainable financial mechanism dedicated to climate adaptation initiatives (Output 1.2). The Trust Fund ensures long-term financing for adaptation projects, which is crucial for maintaining resilience over time. Also, SCCF-A funding supports the enhancement of Samoa's technical and operational capacity by upgrading field stations, nurseries, training centers, and monitoring systems essential for effective EbA (Output 1.3). These upgrades enable the implementation of climate-resilient practices and technologies designed to address specific climate change impacts, ensuring that restored ecosystems can withstand future climate variability and extremes. Without SCCF-A Funding the project would lack the resources to upgrade these critical facilities, limiting the ability to implement adaptive practices that directly enhance the national climate resilience.

Component 2: SCCF-A funding facilitates the development and implementation of public-private partnerships focused on EbA within the Blue Economy framework. These partnerships leverage private sector investments and innovations to enhance climate resilience, such as constructing hybrid seawalls and restoring mangroves and coral reefs to protect coastlines from climate-induced hazards. Without SCCF-A Funding the project would miss opportunities to engage the private sector in climate adaptation, reducing potential investments and innovations that could amplify resilience efforts.

Component 3: SCCF-A funds the creation and implementation of a gender mainstreaming strategy, ensuring that adaptation initiatives are inclusive and equitable. By addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities and leveraging the strengths of all community members, the project enhances the overall adaptive capacity of communities. Additionally, SCCF-A resources support extensive awareness campaigns and education programs on climate adaptation and EbA. By increasing understanding and support among communities, decision-makers, and the private sector, the project fosters behavioral changes and community engagement essential for effective adaptation based on EbA.

Component 4: SCCF-A funding enables the implementation of a robust M&E system focused on climate adaptation outcomes. This system allows for continuous learning, adaptive management, and ensures that adaptation strategies remain effective and responsive to changing climate conditions.

Thus, by combining GEF TF and SCCF-A resources, the project adopts a holistic approach that not only restores and protect ecosystems but also enhances the resilience of both ecosystems and communities to climate change impacts. This integrated strategy addresses the root causes of vulnerability of ecosystems and local communities and ensures sustainable, long-term benefits that would not be achievable through GEF TF funding of ecosystem restoration and protection alone.

Global environmental benefits (GEF TF) and adaptation benefits (SCCF):

The project aims to address climate adaptation, ecosystem conservation, and community livelihood in the project area and entire Samoa through development and replication EbA models. The incremental benefits of the project are significant and include the following:

- **High Adaptation Value Ecosystem Restoration:** restoration of ecosystems of high adaptation value including of 990 ha of riparian forests (GEF Core Indicator 3); 10 ha of mangroves and 5 ha of coral reefs (GEF Core Indicator 4). Restoration of riparian forests is expected to reduce the peak flow of floodwaters by up to 65% and can remove up to 80-90% of nutrients and sediments from surface runoff[1][24]. Mangrove restoration will lead to a reduction in wave height passing through them by up to 75% and increase fish catch yields in nearby areas by up to 50%[2][25]. Healthy coral reefs reduce wave energy by up to 97% and can contribute over USD 1 million per square kilometer per year in terms of tourism and recreation value [3][26]

- **High Adaptation Value Ecosystem Conservation:** creation of 500 ha of new terrestrial CPAs (GEF Core Indicator 1.1) and 5 ha of marine CPAs (GEF Core Indicator 2.1) to protect KBAs and ecosystems of high adaptation value. The CPA are expected to reduce

sedimentation risks, potentially improving water quality by up to 50%, increase fish biomass up to 400%, and protect natural barriers for storms and floods decreasing vulnerability of local communities[4][27];

- **Protection of endangered species:** the project EbA activities will ensure stabilization and potential increase in the populations of at least 5 globally endangered and vulnerable species of Samoa including: the Tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris,* CR), Mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*, EN), Samoan Flying Fox (*Pteropus samoensis*, VU), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, CR) and Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, EN);

- **Enhanced Integrated Landscape Management and Climate Adaptation:** The project will put 500 ha under sustainable agroforestry; and include 500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows in the community Blue Carbon projects. The agroforestry system and protected mangroves and seagrass will lead to increased community resilience to climate extremes, including storms, droughts, and floods;

- **Climate Change Mitigation:** the project is expected to prevent the emission of 787,867 tons of CO_2 equivalent over 20 years after the ecosystem restoration and establishment of new CPAs (GEF Core Indicator 6);

- **Enhanced protection from coastal flooding**: pilot construction of 100 m of a hybrid seawall consisted from boulders and mangrove plantation to protect a selected coastal community from floods;

- **Socio-Economic Benefits:** At least 10,000 people, including at least 50% of women, will directly benefit from the project through direct project support, capacity building, improved adaptation capacity and ecosystem services, improved sources of clean water and agricultural yields, and enhanced livelihood opportunities (GEF Core Indicator 11). Through implementation of Components 1 and 2 the project will directly establish at least 500 new full and part-time jobs for local communities with a perspective to provide at least 5,000 new jobs in 5-7 years after the project completion (through continuous training program and replication of the best practices).

Project Stakeholders

The project Outputs would require active stakeholder involvement for their successful delivery. Thus, this project concept was developed using a transparent, open, and fully participatory approach with the involvement of different groups of stakeholders in Samoa and the project districts (UNDP, National and Local Governments, PAs, NGOs, private sector, and local communities). Initial consultations were conducted during the PIF development (see the section *Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations*) to (1) inform all group of stakeholders on the project concept preparation and allow them to participate in the concept development and share their concerns about the planned project; (2) identify key risks for the project development, implementation and sustainability of the Outputs and Outcomes, and develop indicative risk management measures; (3) identify potential project partners and clarify stakeholder roles in the project; and (4) obtain initial co-financing commitments for the project (Enabling element 2: right stakeholders). As a result of the stakeholder consultations, the following groups of project stakeholders were identified for the project development and implementation:

Stakeholder	Mandate/ Function	Role in the project development and implementation
Ministry of the Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), including The Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Forestry Services, Land Management Division,	Responsible for state policy in environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, including EbA	Development of the PIF;

Technical Services, Water Resources Division, Climate Change Division		Will be a National Executing Agency for the project as per the Standard Agreement on Assistance between the Government of Samoa and UNDP; Will chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC); Will coordinate the project development and implementation as well as involvement of the project partners and stakeholders; Will provide the project co-financing
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)	Implements state policy and management in agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture, including soil fertility conservation and enhancement, including climate adaptation of the sectors	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will assist the project in development of community adaptation livelihood based on EbA and R2R Adaptation Plans for target watersheds
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Mandated to provide policy and strategic advice, as well as financial services to the Government in order to achieve sustainable, long-term economic outcomes and fiscal viability towards the advancement of the national vision to 'achieve quality of life for all Samoan citizens', including climate adaptation finance	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will assist the project in development of the EbA finance mobilization strategy and establishment of the Biodiversity Conservation and Adaptation Fund
Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, specifically the Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA)	Responsible for ensuring sustainable use, development and management of land in Samoa, with the PUMA Act provides the mandate for the approval and consent on all development activities in Samoa	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will assist the project in development and implementation of the R2R Adaptation Plans for target watersheds
Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD)	Has the overall mandate to support local development through local government, and to provide vital link between GoS and communities	Will participate in the project development and implementation; Will assist the project in development and implementation of the R2R Adaptation Plans for target watersheds, and Gender Mainstreaming in all project Outputs
Administrations of the Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, Falealili East, Falealili West, Lefaga & Falease'ela, Safata 2, Siumu, Fa'asaleleaga 2, Fa'asaleleaga 3, Fa'asaleleaga 4 Districts	Manages local economy and social-economic development, including environmental protection and climate adaptation at district level	Will participate in the project development and implementation, especially for Outputs related to development and implementation of the R2R Adaptation Plans for target watersheds;
Local Communities and Community PAs of the Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, Falealili East, Falealili West, Lefaga & Falease'ela, Safata 2, Siumu, Fa'asaleleaga 2, Fa'asaleleaga 3, Fa'asaleleaga 4 Districts	Key project stakeholders and beneficiaries on the project areas involved in different economic sectors.	Key project stakeholders and beneficiaries; Will actively participate in developing, discussing and implementing of project activities, policies, plans, and adaptation activities

		Will provide information for the Social and Environmental screening of the project; Will participate in the project M&E
National Academy of Sciences of Samoa, Monash University, Pacific Action for Climate Transition Research Centre, National University of Samoa	Scientific research, development, and technical advice on the ecosystem conservation, restoration, and EbA	Will provide technical expertise and resources for EbA capacity building, ecosystem assessments, ecosystem conservation and restoration, EbA, and monitoring of project effectiveness (Outcomes 1-5); Will participate in the project M&E
Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), large business companies, and investors in the tourist, agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors	Development of business projects, PPPs, and investment initiatives	Will actively participate in developing and discussing of project activities; Will be involved in all project activities, especially in the Outcome 2 activities; Will provide project co-financing
Non-governmental environmental organizations (NGOs)	Possess knowledge and experience in biodiversity conservation, EbA, species conservation, capacity building, awareness raising, and environmental education.	; Will actively participate in developing and discussing of project activities; Will be involved in all project activities, especially under Outcomes 1-2; Will be involved in the project M&E
International Organizations and Donors, including Live & Learn Environmental Education, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Crawford Fund, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	International support and funding of biodiversity conservation, EbA, and community livelihood development in Samoa	Will actively participate in developing and discussing of project activities; Will provide the project co-financing; Will be involved in the project M&E, Knowledge Exchange, and coordination with other initiatives
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UNDP/GEF projects	Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation Programs in Samoa, including climate adaptation	Technical support to the project management, coordination with other UNDP and GEF initiatives in Samoa, project Quality Assurance.

At the PPG Stage the project will produce a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the entire project lifetime to coordinate and manage stakeholders involvement in the project activities. Project stakeholders and their roles in the project development and implementation will be explicitly described in the Plan.

Knowledge Management

The project will have an entire **Component 3:** *Gender Mainstreaming, Knowledge Management and Learning for scaling up of EbA integration into the Ridge to Reef management and climate adaptation* that will ensure effective project Knowledge Management (KM) and communication. The project will practice the following approach to the KM: (1) **Stakeholder Engagement**: engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and experts, to gather and share knowledge; (2) **Monitoring and Evaluation**: Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress, assess impacts, and adapt strategies as needed; (3) **Documentation and Dissemination**: documenting best practices, lessons learned, and success stories. Disseminating this information through various channels like workshops, publications, and online platforms; (4) **Capacity Building**: conducting training and

workshops to build local capacity in sustainable land and water management; (5) **Collaboration and Networking**: Encouraging collaboration and networking among various stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences. To extract, systemize and share its lessons, knowledge, and best practices the project will use the following tools: (1) Knowledge Management Strategy, and Communication and Awareness Strategy (will be developed at the project inception phase and updated annually); (2) EbA Learning Portal with necessary resources for relevant government agencies, private sector, and local communities; (3) Quarterly or semi-annual coordination and lessons learning and sharing sessions with the project partners; (4) Annual online lessons sharing events/sessions with other districts of Samoa; (5) Annual Project Bulletin; (6) Best practice sharing with the IUCN PANORAMA Solutions https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tools/panorama and Friends of EbA (FEBA) https://friendsofeba.com through articles and blogs; (7) Publications on the UNDP and MNRE web-sites, in mass media, and scientific journals; (8) Knowledge exchange meetings and events with other projects and programs; (9) Organization of demonstration and learning sites for EbA in the project area

Conformity with national strategies and plans:

The proposed project is in conformity with the Samoa's NBSAP and other national instruments as discussed in the table below (see also the section C. Alignment with Gef-8 Programming Strategies and Country/ Regional Priorities):

National strategy/plan	Project contribution to the priorities and agreements
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2015-2020, modified 15 February 2022	The project's efforts to enhance climate resilience through ecosystem restoration and conservation practices contribute to the NBSAP's objectives of protecting and restoring critical habitats and endangered species. By integrating EbA into Ridge to Reef management and business practices, the project promotes sustainable use of natural resources that is in line with the NBSAP.
Samoa National Environment Sector Plan (NESP), 2017-2021	The project's commitment to conserving and restoring terrestrial and coastal ecosystems directly supports the NESP's goals of ecosystem protection and sustainable management. The project's emphasis on climate adaptation through EbA is in line with the NESP's objectives to strengthen climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.
Samoa Climate Change Policy, 2020-2030	The project's objective to enhance climate resilience directly supports the core objectives of Samoa's Climate Change Policy, which prioritizes adaptation measures to protect communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure from climate change impacts. By focusing on the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems as a strategy for climate protection, the project embodies the principles of EbA.
Samoa National Disaster Management Plan (NDPM), 2017-2020	The project's emphasis on conserving and restoring terrestrial and coastal ecosystems utilizes the protective functions of these ecosystems to mitigate natural disaster risks, such as storm surges, flooding, and soil erosion and contributes to the NDMP's objective of reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and enhancing the natural buffering capacity against disasters.
Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS)	By integrating EbA into Ridge to Reef management and promoting sustainable business practices, the project contributes to the SDS's goal of sustainable economic development.
Samoa Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (SPCR), 2010	The project's EbA approach embodies the SPCR's emphasis on integrated solutions for climate resilience.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Samoa, 2021-2030	By focusing on the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, the project contributes to climate change adaptation as well as the enhancement of carbon sinks.
Samoa National Policy for Gender Equality, 2021-2030	The project incorporates gender mainstreaming strategies right from its design through to implementation, ensuring that both men and women are equally involved in and benefit from all project activities.
Aligned National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation and Mitigate the Effects of Drought, 2015-2020	The project is aligned with Samoa's NAP by promoting SLM, enhancing ecosystem resilience through EbA approaches, and addressing key drivers of land degradation such as deforestation, soil erosion, and over-exploitation of natural resources

Transformative, innovation and scaling-up:

The project brings the following innovative and transforming approaches to Samoa:

- **Ecosystem and Nature based Solutions for Adaptation: Utilizing EbA benefiting to biodiversity conservation as a primary strategy for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction is innovative in the context of Samoa. The project explores and scales up novel approaches such as mangrove restoration, coral reef protection, hybrid seawall, and agroforestry systems that provide both climate resilience and biodiversity conservation benefits, while also supporting livelihoods.**

- **Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund**: Establishing an Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund to catalyze financial and technical resources for conservation and EbA initiatives represents an innovative financing mechanism. It will provide a sustainable funding source for ecosystem conservation efforts, leveraging public, private, and philanthropic contributions.

- **Knowledge Management and Learning for Scaling Up**: The project's focus on knowledge management, including documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, facilitates the replication and scaling up of successful EbA models. This approach to continuous learning and adaptation is innovative in the context of environmental conservation and climate resilience building.

- **Public-Private Partnerships for Climate Adaptation**: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to foster climate adaptation efforts through EbA and hybrid solutions is an innovative strategy. By engaging the private sector in conservation and resilience-building efforts, the project leverages additional resources and expertise, promoting sustainable development and the Blue Economy principles.

Thus, the project aims to produce durable and transformative change against climate and non-climate challenges through its integrated Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach as an alternative to hard adaptation infrastructure. This transformative approach directly benefits the target communities by reducing vulnerabilities through the restoration and protection of ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs, which act as natural barriers against climate impacts, including storm surges and coastal erosion. Restoring and protecting these ecosystems mitigates immediate risks such as flooding and erosion, thereby safeguarding homes, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure in coastal areas. Additionally, the project transform community resilience by building local capacity to adapt to climate variability through targeted training programs and resource provision. The Ecosystem Conservation and Adaptation Trust Fund will transform the way to support community-led initiatives, enabling the continuity of adaptation actions beyond the project's lifespan. The trust fund model allows communities to plan for and implement long-term initiatives that address both immediate and future climate risks. Furthermore, the project promotes community-led conservation and cooperation with private sector, engaging local stakeholders in the active management of natural resources and fostering sustainable land management practices, like agroforestry, Blue Carbon projects, and Community Protected Areas. By integrating traditional knowledge into scalable EbA measures, the project strengthens community ownership and stewardship of natural resources. Collectively, these actions help reduce exposure to climate risks, improve food security and livelihood options by bolstering agricultural productivity and fisheries, and enhance biodiversity conservation. This strategic approach ensures that the positive impacts on ecosystem health and community resilience endure, offering a replicable model for other regions and significantly improving the adaptive capacity and socio-economic stability of the target communities.

The project has very significant scale up potential including the following:

- Replication in other districts of Samoa: the project's models for EbA and community engagement can be replicated in other districts within Samoa, expanding the reach and impact of climate resilience efforts across the nation;

- Adaptation and Application in other Island Nations: the project serves as a model for other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) facing similar climate vulnerabilities. Lessons learned and best practices from Samoa can inform EbA implementation and resilience building in other SIDS, offering a pathway for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange;

- Influence on Global Climate Resilience Strategies: by demonstrating the effectiveness of integrated EbA for climate adaptation, the project can influence global strategies and policies on climate resilience, advocating for the broader adoption of ecosystem-based approaches and community-centered planning.

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[1] https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/idpmstn7248.pdf

[2] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1385110123001181

[3] https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_BOA_ReefInsuranceFeasibility_FLHI_113020.pdf

[4] https://search.issuelab.org/resources/25951/25951.pdf

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

No

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

The project will be implemented in strong coordination and collaboration with other relevant programs and projects in the country to ensure (1) **Resource Optimization**, including funding, expertise, and manpower, to avoid duplication of efforts and obtain co-financing; (2) **Knowledge and Experience Sharing** to enhance the effectiveness of each project, leading to more innovative and well-rounded solutions; and (3) **Synergy in objectives** to amplify their impact, making it easier to achieve these shared objectives on a larger scale. Specifically, the project will directly collaborate with the following initiatives:

Project/Program	Objectives/Focus
UNDP/GEF BGI IP Project "Coastal Resilience Samoa", 2025-2029	Aims to build on Samoa's environment management framework so to enhance recognition of the value of Ecosystem services within government planning through the integration of nature in key economic sectors, implementing landscape and seascape nature-based solutions in key ecosystems supporting the tourism, agriculture and commerce sectors while unlocking private finance and investment in Nature-based Solutions, including EbA, and effective knowledge management and sharing of EbA and Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) information
World Bank Project "Additional funding for the Samoa Pacific Resilience Project under the Pacific Resilience Program, 2020-ongoing	The objective: To strengthen early warning, resilient investments and financial protection of Samoa through building Samoa's capacity for early warning and disaster preparedness; Risk Reduction and Resilient Investments; and Disaster Risk Financing.
ADB Project "Promoting Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Blue Economies (regional), 2023-ongoing	Aims to enhance investments in ocean health and climate-resilient, sustainable blue economies among its 14 Pacific Developing Member Countries (DMCs). This initiative is set against the backdrop of these nations facing significant environmental challenges, including the impacts of climate change on their marine ecosystems and economies.
ADB/Ireland Trust Fund (ITF)Multi-Purpose Dam Project, 2023-2030	Construction of a multi-purpose dam to reduce flood risks in the capita of Apia, provide a reliable and sustainable source of water supply, and provide support on flood risk management systems, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable management.
The Samoa-New Zealand Climate Finance Partnership Agreement, 2023-2030	NZ Assistance to Samoa Government to build climate resilient Samoa through collaboration with focus on EbA and local community climate resilience
GCF Project "Integrated Flood Management to	This project will enable the Government of Samoa to reduce the effect of recurrent flood-related impacts in the Vaisigano River catchment, which flows through the area of the national capital

Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa", 2017-2025	Apia. Recent extreme weather events in this region have resulted in approximately USD 200 million worth of damage during each event. The GEF/SCCF Project will use lessons learned and best practices of the GCF Project for the full project development (PPG) and implementation
FAO/GBFF Project "'Advancing Integrated Participatory Spatial Planning to Enhance Samoa's Globally Significant Biodiversity at a National Scale' (GEF ID: 11582), 2024-2027	The objective of the project is to support integrated participatory spatial planning within Samoa's landscapes to enhance globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. The project aims to work with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), including women and youth groups, to identify priority areas for conservation, ecological restoration, and connectivity enhancement at a national scale, while enhancing coordination and policy coherence to mainstream biodiversity into agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
New Community Protected Areas to protect riparian and slope ecosystems of high adaptation value		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	500.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
5	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
new Community Protected Areas to protect coastal ecosystems of high adaptation value, including mangroves, coral reefs, and sand beache		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	5.00			

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1000	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
990.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10.00			

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

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

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

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

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Community Blue Carbon Project Area		500.00			

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	787867	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	787,867			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

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

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

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

Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	5,000			
Male	5,000			
Total	**10,000**	**0**	0	**0**

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

Indicator 1.1. Terrestrial protected areas created: under the Output 2.2 the project will establish new CPAs to protect riparian and slope ecosystems of high adaptation value. The total area of established CPAs will cover at least 500 ha of forest ecosystems in the project districts, many of those identified as KBA;

Indicator 2.1. Marine protected areas created: under the Output 2.2 the project will establish of new CPAs to protect coastal ecosystems of high adaptation value, including mangroves, coral reefs, and sand beaches. The total area of established marine CPAs will cover at least 5 ha of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the pro-ject districts;

Indicator 3. Area of land ecosystems under restoration: under the Outputs 2.1 and 2.3 the project will support restoration of 990 ha of riparian (CI 3.2) and 10 ha of mangroves (CI 3.4) ecosystems of high adaptation value. Additionally, the project will restore 5 ha of coral reefs. So, the total area of land ecosystems under restoration will be no less than 1,000 ha;

Indicator 4.3. Area of landscapes under improved practices (outside PAs): under the Output 2.1 the project will the project will put at least 500 ha in the project districts under sustainable agroforestry as a climate adaptation and food security measure.

Indicator 5. Area of marine habitat under improved practices (outside PAs): under the Output 2.1 the project will the project will put 500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows under the community Blue Carbon pro-jects.

Indicator 6. Greenhouse Gas Emission mitigated. The following inputs were used for carbon gains calculation using FAO Ex-Act Tool (Version 9.3): the current deforestation rate in Samoa is 0.29% for tropical forest and mangroves based on the data between 2010-2020 https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/deforestation-rates-by-country. The project will protect 500 ha of tropical forest via establishment of terrestrial CPAs and 5 ha of mangroves via establishment of coastal CPA. It will save 5.8% of the CPA area from deforestation in the nearest 20 years after the project start. Additionally, the CI 3, 4, and 5 above their used as the inputs for carbon gains calculations. The resulted carbon gains by the project including implementation (5 years) and capitalization (15 years) periods are calculated as 787,867 tons of CO2 equivalent (see the Annex G. FAO EX-Act Tool analysis). The area of Blue Carbon project was excluded from the GHG calculations because the project will generate revenue through carbon

markets, then the carbon benefits would be sold and transferred to third parties. The project carbon gains will be checked and recalculated again at PPG stage.

Indicator 11. People directly benefiting from the GEF investment: estimated in 10,000 (50% are women), includ-ing trained on EbA adaptation government officials, local communities; total number of local people supported under Outputs 2.1-2.3; and local people directly benefiting from restored ecosystems and improved adaptation management of watersheds through healthier environment, higher quality water, decreased erosion, and in-creased ecosystem and land productivity and climate resilience.

META INFORMATION – SCCF

LDCF **false**	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer **false**	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation **true**

Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program?

false

This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS).

true

This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state.

false

This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector.

true

This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs).

false

This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below

Green Climate Fund **false**	Adaptation Fund **false**	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) **false**

This Project has an urban focus.

false

This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation

true

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

true

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *

Agriculture	10.00%
Nature-based management	70.00%
Climate information services	0.00%
Coastal zone management	15.00%
Water resources management	0.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	5.00%
Tourism	0.00%

Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	0.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*

Sea level rise **true**	Change in mean temperature **false**	Increased climatic variability **true**	Natural hazards **true**
Land degradation **true**	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation **true**	Groundwater quality/quantity **false**	

CORE INDICATORS – SCCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	10,000	5,000.00	5,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	1,990.00 520.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	10,000	5,000.00	5,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	5.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Climate risks can impact the effectiveness, sustainability, and scalability of the project's efforts. Sea level rise, ocean acidification, and increasing frequency and severity of cyclones, floods, and other extreme weather events pose a significant risk to project activities, especial-ly those related to ecosystem restoration and infrastructure

		development. Such events can cause direct damage to project sites restored ecosystems and target communities, delay im-plementation timelines, and increase project costs. Mitigation Strategies: Implementing a flexible project management approach that allows for adjustments based on ongoing climate risk assessments and monitoring; Employing a diverse set of EbA and conservation practices to enhance ecosystem resilience against a range of climate change impacts; Strengthening local capacities and raising awareness about climate change risks and adaptation strategies among communities, stakeholders, and institutions; Developing and integrating early warning systems and disaster preparedness plans to reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The project may face multiple social and environmental risks during development and imple-mentation, including: communities may not be fully engaged or supportive of the project due to lack of awareness, differing priorities, or skepticism about the benefits of EbA; challenges re-lated to land tenure and use conflicts, especially in areas where land is limited or there are competing interests between conservation and adaptation efforts and agricultural or develop-ment activities; risk of social exclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and mar-ginalized communities; invasive species can threaten native biodiversity and the success of restoration and conservation efforts; EbA interventions could have unintended negative im-pacts on local ecosystems if not carefully designed and monitored. To mitigate these risks, the project should incorporate adaptive management strategies, rigorous monitoring and evalua-tion, community engagement and awareness programs, and contingency planning. Environ-mental and social impact assessments, inclusive participatory planning, and stakeholder con-sultations are essential to identify, assess, and address potential social and environmental risks (see Annex D for details)
Political and Governance	Low	Political changes can lead to shifts in priorities, potentially resulting in reduced support or fund-ing for environmental and climate resilience projects. Frequent changes in environmental poli-cies, regulations, or climate strategies can create uncertainty and hinder project planning and implementation. Limited capacity within governmental and local institutions to manage and implement climate resilience projects can impede progress. Corruption and lack of transpar-ency in the administration of projects can lead to misallocation of resources, undermining the effectiveness and credibility of climate adaptation efforts. Mitigating these risks involves de-veloping strong partnerships with all levels of government, ensuring alignment with national and local policies, building institutional capacity, and fostering transparency and accountability. Regular stakeholder engagement, adaptive management practices, and proactive policy advo-cacy are also critical for navigating and mitigating political and governance risks.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	The project strongly depends on the UNDP/GEF BGI IP Project “Coastal Resilience Samoa” to deliver required policy and regulation for EbA (removal of the Barrier 1). This may take quite a long time for approval by the government. Even when supportive policies exist, weak en-forcement mechanisms or lack of institutional capacity can hinder the effective

		implementa-tion of EbA and related climate resilience measures. Mitigating these risks involves active engagement with policy-makers, regulators, and communities throughout the project lifecycle. This includes advocating for supportive policies, participating in policy development processes, ensuring project alignment with existing policies and regulations, and building strong partner-ships with all relevant stakeholders.
Technological	Moderate	The project proposes the construction of hybrid seawalls combined with mangrove plantations and other bioengineering techniques. These are relatively novel solutions, particularly in the specific environmental and ecological conditions of Samoa. The efficacy of these technologies in withstanding extreme weather events (e.g., cyclones, storm surges) and in promoting coastal resilience might not be fully proven in this context. Techniques like coral gardening or artificial reefs, while innovative, may face challenges related to local water quality, tempera-ture fluctuations, and ocean acidification. The long-term survival and effectiveness of restored reefs in providing ecosystem services (e.g., wave breaking, biodiversity support) are uncertain. Mitigation measures: Before full-scale implementation, pilot the hybrid seawalls, coral reef restoration techniques, and other bioengineering methods in a controlled and monitored envi-ronment. This allows for adjustments based on local conditions and lessons learned. Incorpo-rate flexibility into the project design to adapt technologies as needed based on ongoing moni-toring and feedback from the pilot phases.
Financial and Business Model	Substantial	Establishing a sustainable financial mechanism, such as the Trust Fund, is critical to support Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) activities. However, securing sufficient initial capitalization and ensuring a steady flow of funds from public, private, and philanthropic sources can be challenging. There is a risk that the Trust Fund might not attract enough contributions, leading to underfunding of key project activities. The project's financial sustainability might be heavily reliant on external funding sources such as international grants, donations, or loans. Any changes in the global economic environment, donor priorities, or financial crises could result in reduced funding availability, threatening the continuity of the project. Mitigation measures: Create comprehensive financial models for the Trust Fund and other project components that include scenarios for different levels of funding, potential risks, and contingency plans. Facili-tate dialogues between the public sector, private companies, and communities to build trust and identify mutual benefits. Tailor PPP agreements to address private sector concerns, providing clear roles, responsibilities, and financial returns.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	EbA adaptation capacity of Samoa is relatively low and that can be an issue for the project implementation and sustainability. To address this risk the project has multiple activities to build capacity of the government agencies, communities, NGOs, and private sector on the EbA adaptation models. The project will upgrade operational tools and infrastructure (e.g., nurse-ries, training centers) to support EbA activities. Also, the project will develop and

		disseminate best practices and lessons learned from the project to build long-term capacity.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Given the complexity of the project and the involvement of multiple stakeholders, there is a risk that funds may be misallocated or not used as intended. This could happen due to inade-quate financial controls, lack of oversight, or errors in financial planning and execution. Miti-gation measures: Financial management of the project will be conducted in line with UNDP and GEF/SCCF standards with regular financial monitoring, audits, and spot checks.
Stakeholder	Moderate	There is a risk that not all relevant stakeholders (e.g., local communities, NGOs, private sector, government agencies) will be adequately engaged in the project's planning, decision-making, and implementation processes. This could result in a lack of ownership, reduced commitment, and potential resistance to the project, which might undermine its success. Mitigation measures: Engage with stakeholders early in the project to understand their needs, expectations, and potential concerns. This will help in designing project activities that are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of different stakeholder groups.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	That means that the project should be monitored quarterly by PMU, MNRE and UNDP at all stages (PPG and implementation) and practice corrective action in case of one or more risks above tend to turn into a real threat for the project development and implementation.

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

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

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

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

The project's comprehensive approach is well-aligned with the Objective 1 of GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area, priorities for SCCF, GBF Targets, and SDGs

Alignment with the GEF-8 BD, LD and SCCF priorities

GEF8 FA/SCCF	Objective/Fund Priority	Projects contribution to the Objective/Fund Priority

Biodiversity	Objective 1. To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems	The project's comprehensive approach to EbA and ecosystem restoration, protection and sustainable management aligns with the Objective 1 of supporting countries to meet their biodiversity goals under the GBF.
Land Degradation	Objective 1. Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)	The project contributes to LD Focal Area Objective 1 by implementing sustainable land management (SLM) practices such as agroforestry, and erosion control measures that reduce soil degradation and restore ecosystem functions through CSA and Blue Carbon approaches.
	Objective 2. Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration	The project contributes to LD Objective 2 by restoring riparian forests and mangroves, thereby reversing land degradation through landscape restoration initiatives in Samoa
SCCF	Priority Area: Supporting the adaptation needs of SIDS	Samoa is one of the SIDS prioritized by SCCF. The project directly addresses at least 3 barriers identified by SCCF: Limited institutional capacity to foresee and manage climate risks; Low engagement by the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs, for developing and providing adaptation solutions; Lack of access to finance from public sources and to markets for adaptation solutions.

Contribution to GBF Targets

GBF Target	Project input to the target
1: To bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030	The project targets the conservation and restoration of ecosystems identified as having high biodiversity importance and adaptation value. Activities such as reforestation, mangrove restoration, and coral reef rehabilitation are designed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.
2: 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems are under effective restoration	The project places a strong emphasis on restoring degraded ecosystems having high adaptation value as a core component of its strategy. Activities such as reforestation, mangrove restoration, and coral reef rehabilitation directly contribute to the restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
3: 30% of ecosystems under PAs and OECMs	The project aims to establish Community Protected Areas (CPAs) as part of its strategy. CPAs will target ecosystems that are crucial for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods, including highland and riparian forest, mangroves, coral reefs, and beach areas.
8: Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity and increase its resilience	By restoring degraded ecosystems and conserving areas of high biodiversity and adaptation value, the project reduces the vulnerability of these ecosystems and local communities to climate change impacts, such as increased temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events.
10: Areas under agriculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably	The project promotes agroforestry, which integrates trees and shrubs into agricultural landscapes, enhancing biodiversity, soil health, and crop productivity.
11: Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people	By engaging in activities such as reforestation, mangrove restoration, and coral reef rehabilitation, the project actively restores ecosystems that are crucial for regulating air, water, and climate. These restored ecosystems improve soil health, enhance water filtration and storage, and increase carbon sequestration, contributing to climate regulation and mitigation.
20: Strengthen capacity-building and development	The project aims on development of national capacity for EbA aimed at local communities, government officials, and other stakeholders in understanding and applying EbA for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.

23: Ensure gender equality	From its PIF stage, the project integrates gender considerations into its planning and implementation processes. This includes conducting gender analyses to understand the different roles, needs, impacts, and contributions of women and men in biodiversity conservation and climate resilience efforts.

Contribution to SDGs

SDG	Project direct contribution
SDG 5 (Gender Equality)	The project adopts a gender-responsive approach, ensuring that women and girls have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from project activities.
SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)	Through the conservation of watersheds, restoration of the watershed ecosystems, the project contributes to the availability and sustainable management of water.
SDG 13 (Climate Action)	The project directly contributes to SDG 13 by implementing actions to adapt to climate change and its impacts.
SDG 14 (Life below Water)	By protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems of high adaptation value, such as coral reefs and mangroves, the project supports the sustainable use of ocean resources, contributing to SDG 14.
SDG 15 (Life on Land)	The project's efforts to restore degraded forest ecosystems, conserve biodiversity-rich areas, and implement sustainable watershed management practices align with SDG 15.
SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)	By fostering collaboration among government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and private sector, the project exemplifies SDG 17.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

The list of stakeholders involved in the PIF development is provided in the table below.

Key consultations for the PIF development

Name of the expert/ institute	Description	Date
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) CEO – and GEF – OFP – Ms Frances Reupena	Presentation of the zero-draft Concept Note of project to target both GEF TF and SCCF funding for a total allocation of USD6 million and possible key components and outcomes that would meet the strategic directions of both funds.	23rd October 2023
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) ACEO for the Forestry Division Mr. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli	Presentation of the zero-draft Concept Note of project to target both GEF TF and SCCF funding and discussions on Forestry Division priorities as part of the project.	06th November 2023
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) ACEO for the Water Resources Division Mr. Asuao Malaki Iakopo	Presentation of the zero-draft Concept Note of project to target both GEF TF and SCCF funding and discussions on Water Resources Division priorities as part of the project.	08th November 2023
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) ACEO for the Environment Coordination Division Ms. Moira Faletutulu	Presentation of the zero-draft Concept Note of project to target both GEF TF and SCCF funding and discussions on Environment Coordination position and priorities on the project.	16th November 2023
District Stakeholder consultations for South and East Upolu for GEF BGI IP PPG – serve as proxy for this project	Consultation with district committee and representatives of the 8 Districts from Upolu Island	23th February 2024
District Stakeholder consultations for Eastern Savaii for GEF BGI IP PPG – serve as proxy for this project	Consultation with district committee and representatives of the 3 Districts from Savai'i Island	23th February 2024
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) ACEO for the Forestry Division Mr. Moafanua Tolusina Pouli	Review of key components of revised Draft Concept Note and confirm work on REDD+ partnerships and other forestry priorities.	27th February 2024
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) CEO – and GEF – OFP – Ms Frances Reupena, with Climate Change Unit team	Presentation of the framework structure of the revised logical framework for the Concept Note in the PIF GEF8 format – review of Components and Outcomes.	06th March 2024
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) CEO – and GEF – OFP – Ms Frances Reupena, with Climate Change Unit team	Presentation of the revised framework structure of the project based on last comments and agreed process with MNRE, including relationship with BGI project and core indicators. Final endorsement with MNRE.	11th March 2024
Key Government Ministry Stakeholders	Combined Inception workshop for the GEF8 GEF TF and SCCP project and validation workshop for the BGI project.	13th March 2024
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and key stakeholder	Validation Workshop for the GEF/SCCF Project	24 July 2024

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

Medium/Moderate

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,507,078.00	238,172.00	2,745,250.00
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	66,324.00	6,301.00	72,625.00
UNDP	SCCF-A	Samoa	Climate Change	SCCF-A Country allocation	Grant	2,689,726.00	255,524.00	2,945,250.00
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	66,324.00	6,301.00	72,625.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**5,329,452.00**	**506,298.00**	**5,835,750.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	25,000.00	2,375.00	27,375.00
UNDP	SCCF-A	Samoa	Climate Change	SCCF-A Country allocation	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	25,000.00	2,375.00	27,375.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**150,000.00**	**14,250.00**	**164,250.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,800,000.00
UNDP	GET	Samoa	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	200,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**3,000,000.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-3	GET	2,507,078.00	17416811
LD-2	GET	66,324.00	460757
CCA-2-1	SCCF-A	2,689,726.00	18685676
LD-1	GET	66,324.00	460756
Total Project Cost		**5,329,452.00**	**37,024,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Administrations of the Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, Falealili East, Falealili West, Lefaga & Falease'ela, Sa-fata 2, Siumu, Fa'asaleleaga 2, Fa'asaleleaga 3, Fa'asaleleaga 4 Districts	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10000000
Donor Agency	Asian Development Bank	In-kind	Investment mobilized	11800000
Donor Agency	Asian Development Bank	In-kind	Investment mobilized	10000000
Donor Agency	Asian Development Bank	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2500000
Donor Agency	European Union	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2724000
Total Co-financing				**37,024,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Administrations of the project districts (Aleipata Itupa i Lalo, Aleipata Itupa i Luga, Falealili East, Falealili West, Lefaga & Falease'ela, Safata 2, Siumu, Fa'asaleleaga 2, Fa'asaleleaga 3, Fa'asaleleaga 4): US$10,000,000 – the Government of Samoa District Development Budget, including EbA adaptation, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and sustainable agriculture;

Asian Development Bank: USD$11,800,000 – funds of the ADB Project Alaoa Multipurpose Dam Project Output 4. Management capacity on flood management and biodiversity conservation enhanced that includes development of flood management plan for Apia City, strengthened development control and flood drain-age, upgrade of hydro-meteorological monitoring, forecasting, and disaster early warning systems; and community-based planning, preparedness, response, and evacuation and recovery actions with the local communities, biodiversity management and offsetting plans including trust fund development, national guidelines for environmental flows and environmental restorations plans, natural habitats protection and restoration and capacity development for catchment protection and watershed management;

Asian Development Bank: US$10,000,000 – funds for Samoa under the ADB Pacific Disaster Resilience Program, Phase 4 to strengthen Samoa's resilience to climate and disaster related shocks and stresses and resilience to health emergencies

Asian Development Bank: US$2,500,000 - funds of the ADB Project "Promoting Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Blue Economies"; funding to enhance investments in ocean health and climate-resilient, sustainable blue economies among its 14 Pacific Developing Member Countries (DMCs), including Samoa;

European Union: USD$2,724,000 – for the Samoa Water Sector Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation programme, which promotes access to sustainable, safe and affordable water, improved sanitation and hygiene services and climate change adaptation.

These co-financing contributions from both government and international partners are critical to the successful implementation of the GEF/SCCF project and will complement the core objectives of strengthening ecosystem resilience, climate adaptation, and sustainable development in Samoa. The entirety of these co-financing commitments is directly aligned with and dedicated to supporting this specific GEF/SCCF project.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	9/17/2024	Executive Coordinator A.I		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Aishath Azza	9/10/2024	Regional Technical specialist		aishath.azza@undp.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Frances Reupena	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	8/22/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

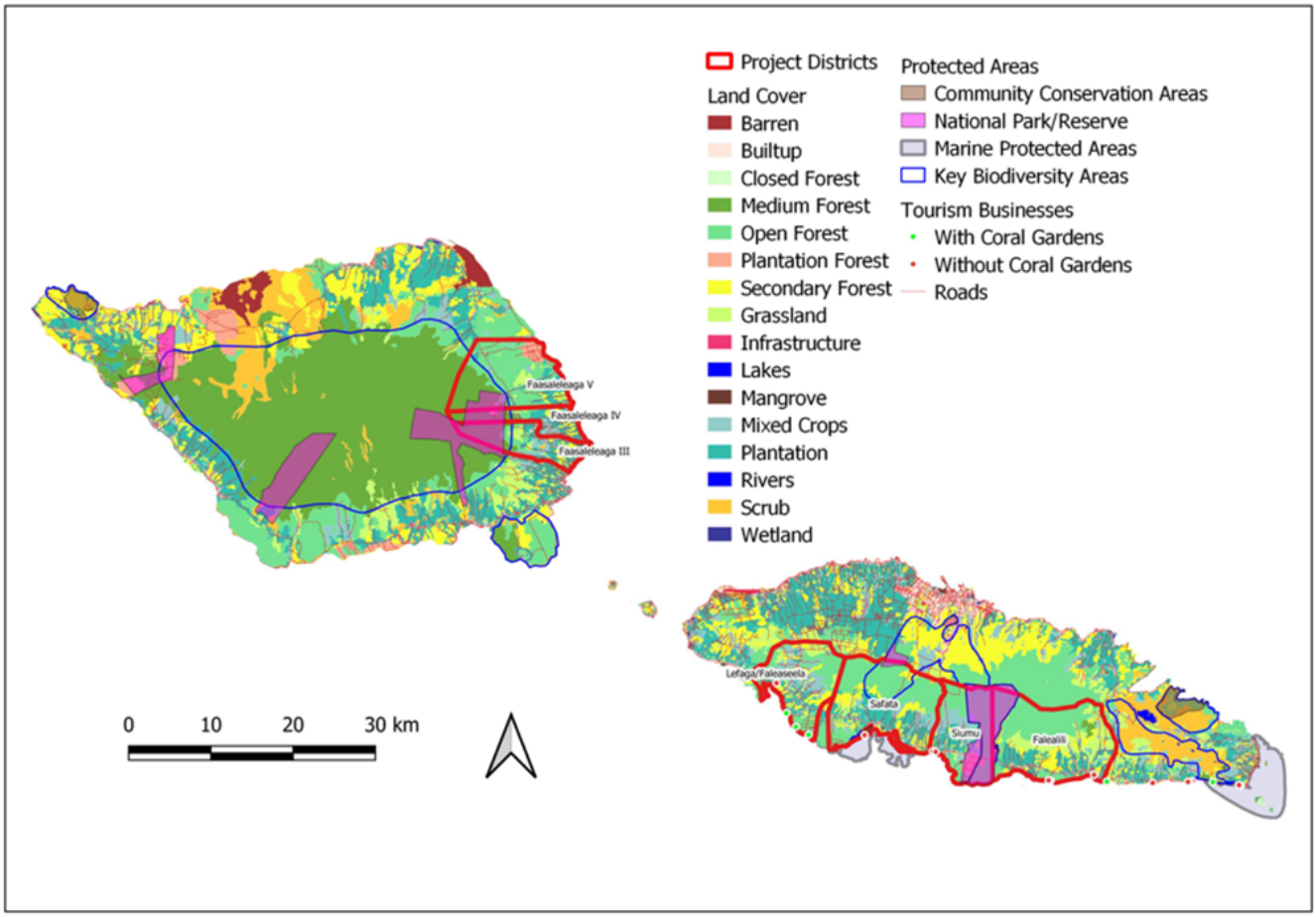

Figure 1. Map of the project districts and target PAs

Table 1. Coordinates of the approximate geographic centers of the project districts

Districts	**Geographic coordinates of the project districts**	
	Latitude	Longitude
Faasaleleaga III	-13.6727664	-172.1901029
Faasaleleaga IV	-13.6538243	-172.1928795
Falealili 1&2	-14.0303784	-171.6541856
Lefaga/Faleaseela	-13.9449735	-171.9437110
Safata	-13.9822058	-171.8317736
Siumu	-14.0068832	-171.7782725
Faasaleleaga V	-13.6069761	-172.2194584

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title
Annex D. Pre-SESP_PIF

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
x Influencing models			
	Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	x Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	x Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	x Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	x Deploy innovative financial instruments		
x Stakeholders			
	x Indigenous Peoples		
	x Private Sector		
		x Capital providers	
		Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		x Large corporations	
		x SMEs	
		x Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		Non-Grant Pilot	
		Project Reflow	
	x Beneficiaries		
	x Local Communities		
	x Civil Society		
		x Community Based Organization	
		x Non-Governmental Organization	
		x Academia	
		Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	x Type of Engagement		
		x Information Dissemination	
		x Partnership	

		x Consultation	
		x Participation	
	x Communications		
		x Awareness Raising	
		x Education	
		x Public Campaigns	
		x Behavior Change	
x Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	x Enabling Activities		
	x Capacity Development		
	x Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	Targeted Research		
	x Learning		
		x Theory of Change	
		x Adaptive Management	
		x Indicators to Measure Change	
	x Innovation		
	x Knowledge and Learning		
		x Knowledge Management	
		x Innovation	
		x Capacity Development	
		x Learning	
	x Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
x Gender Equality			
	x Gender Mainstreaming		
		x Beneficiaries	
		x Women groups	
		x Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		x Gender-sensitive indicators	
	x Gender results areas		
		x Access and control over natural resources	
		x Participation and leadership	
		x Access to benefits and services	
		x Capacity development	
		x Awareness raising	
		x Knowledge generation	
x Focal Areas/Theme			
	Integrated Programs		
		Commodity Supply Chains ([1]28Good Growth Partnership)	
			Sustainable Commodities Production
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Financial Screening Tools

			High Conservation Value Forests
			High Carbon Stocks Forests
			Soybean Supply Chain
			Oil Palm Supply Chain
			Beef Supply Chain
			Smallholder Farmers
			Adaptive Management
		Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			Resilience (climate and shocks)
			Sustainable Production Systems
			Agroecosystems
			Land and Soil Health
			Diversified Farming
			Integrated Land and Water Management
			Smallholder Farming
			Small and Medium Enterprises
			Crop Genetic Diversity
			Food Value Chains
			Gender Dimensions
			Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			Sustainable Food Systems
			Landscape Restoration
			Sustainable Commodity Production
			Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			Integrated Landscapes
			Food Value Chains
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Smallholder Farmers
		Sustainable Cities	
			Integrated urban planning
			Urban sustainability framework
			Transport and Mobility
			Buildings
			Municipal waste management
			Green space
			Urban Biodiversity
			Urban Food Systems
			Energy efficiency
			Municipal Financing
			Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			Urban Resilience
	x Biodiversity		

		x Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			x Terrestrial Protected Areas
			x Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			x Productive Landscapes
			x Productive Seascapes
			x Community Based Natural Resource Management
		x Mainstreaming	
			Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			x Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			x Tourism
			x Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			x Fisheries
			x Infrastructure
			Certification (National Standards)
			Certification (International Standards)
		x Species	
			Illegal Wildlife Trade
			x Threatened Species
			Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			Crop Wild Relatives
			Plant Genetic Resources
			Animal Genetic Resources
			Livestock Wild Relatives
			Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		x Biomes	
			x Mangroves
			x Coral Reefs
			x Sea Grasses
			x Wetlands
			x Rivers
			x Lakes
			x Tropical Rain Forests
			Tropical Dry Forests
			Temperate Forests
			Grasslands
			Paramo
			Desert
		x Financial and Accounting	
			Payment for Ecosystem Services
			Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			x Conservation Trust Funds
			Conservation Finance
		Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			Biosafety

			Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	Forests		
		Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			REDD/REDD+
		Forest	
			Amazon
			Congo
			Drylands
	X Land Degradation		
		X Sustainable Land Management	
			X Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			X Ecosystem Approach
			X Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			X Community-Based NRM
			X Sustainable Livelihoods
			X Income Generating Activities
			X Sustainable Agriculture
			Sustainable Pasture Management
			Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			Sustainable Fire Management
			Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		X Land Degradation Neutrality	
			Land Productivity
			X Land Cover and Land cover change
			X Carbon stocks above or below ground
		Food Security	
	International Waters		
		Ship	
		Coastal	
		Freshwater	
			Aquifer
			River Basin
			Lake Basin
		Learning	
		Fisheries	
		Persistent toxic substances	
		SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		Targeted Research	
		Pollution	
			Persistent toxic substances

			Plastics
			Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		Large Marine Ecosystems	
		Private Sector	
		Aquaculture	
		Marine Protected Area	
		Biomes	
			Mangrove
			Coral Reefs
			Seagrasses
			Polar Ecosystems
			Constructed Wetlands
	Chemicals and Waste		
		Mercury	
		Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		Coal Fired Power Plants	
		Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		Cement	
		Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		Ozone	
		Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		Waste Management	
			Hazardous Waste Management
			Industrial Waste
			e-Waste
		Emissions	
		Disposal	
		New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		Plastics	
		Eco-Efficiency	
		Pesticides	
		DDT - Vector Management	
		DDT - Other	
		Industrial Emissions	
		Open Burning	
		Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		Green Chemistry	
	x Climate Change		
		x Climate Change Adaptation	

			Climate Finance
			Least Developed Countries
			x Small Island Developing States
			x Disaster Risk Management
			x Sea-level rise
			x Climate Resilience
			x Climate information
			x Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			Adaptation Tech Transfer
			National Adaptation Programme of Action
			National Adaptation Plan
			x Mainstreaming Adaptation
			x Private Sector
			x Innovation
			Complementarity
			x Community-based Adaptation
			x livelihoods
		x Climate Change Mitigation	
			x Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			Energy Efficiency
			Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			Technology Transfer
			Renewable Energy
			Financing
			Enabling Activities
		Technology Transfer	
			Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			Endogenous technology
			Technology Needs Assessment
			Adaptation Tech Transfer
		x United Nations Framework on Climate Change	
			x Nationally Determined Contribution
			x Sustainable Development Goals
		x Climate Finance (Rio Markers)	
			x Climate Change Mitigation 1
			Climate Change Mitigation 2
			Climate Change Adaptation 1
			x Climate Change Adaptation 2

[1]