

Safeguarding Solomon Islands endemic and globally threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly invasive alien species and unsustainable land use practices (SAFE project)

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10698

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Safeguarding Solomon Islands endemic and globally threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly invasive alien species and unsustainable land use practices (SAFE project)

Countries

Solomon Islands

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
(MECDM) Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Beneficiaries, Stakeholders, Communications, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Local Communities, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Fisheries, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Invasive Alien Species, Biomes, Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers, Sea Grasses, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Learning, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Agriculture

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

72 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

745,338.00

Submission Date

9/27/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	3,157,900.00	10,050,000.00
BD-2-6	GET	3,357,899.00	4,700,000.00
LD-1-1	GET	1,076,556.00	4,003,500.00
LD-2-5	GET	253,307.00	946,500.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		7,845,662.00	19,700,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

Solomon Islands indigenous species and ecosystems at reduced risk from invasive alien species, land degradation and unsustainable resource use as a result of effective government enabling and capacity, community participation and resilient blue/green livelihoods.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Enabling framework for safeguarding biodiversity, combating land degradation and securing a nature-based economy	Technical Assistance	<p>Strengthened inter-sectoral governance, capacity and strategies to mainstream biodiversity and LDN and support a nature-based economic pathway, as indicated by:</p> <p>- <i>Strengthened intersectoral and vertical coordination platforms and mechanisms for biodiversity mainstreaming and combating land degradation</i></p> <p>- <i>More integrated legal, policy and planning framework being implemented for indigenous species conservation, LDN, IAS management and nature-based development</i></p>	<p>1.1 Cross-sectoral committee operationalized/strengthened to mainstream biodiversity across sectors, supported by blue/green economy strategy, relevant MOUs, improved national/local coordination and strengthened regulatory framework</p> <p>1.2 Foundations for achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) are developed through improved land use policy, regulations, multi-sector coordination and design of green farming systems for sustainable land management</p> <p>1.3 Government stakeholders at national and provincial levels (including agriculture, forestry and fisheries extension officers and PA managers) capacitated to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS and sustainable land</p>	GET	1,494,412.00	7,070,000.00

			management through institutionalized training and provision of equipment			
		- At least 30% increase in national capacity for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, IAS and sustainable land management in key sectors as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard	1.4 Strengthened information management for biodiversity, IAS and LDN linked to existing integrated data portal, along with enhanced decision support through improved monitoring, targeted gap-filling assessments, data-sharing protocols and priority species conservation lists and plans			
		- Plans and tools for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, IAS and sustainable land management operationalized across sectors				
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		Indicators, baselines and targets to be confirmed during the PPG				

2. Comprehensive risk management approach to address IAS threats to biodiversity	Investment	Comprehensive IAS framework for early detection, control and management identifies and prioritizes highest-risk invasion pathways to safeguard natural and	2.1 National strategy for IAS management (NISSAP) adopted and operationalized through appropriate governance and established Standard Operating Procedures and prioritized lists of high-risk IAS	GET	1,120,809.00	3,140,000.00
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and land degradation		<p>production systems from IAS, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Adopted NISSAP under implementation, targeting priority risks for biodiversity conservation and land degradation</i> - <i>Improved extent of biosecurity inspections at entry-exit ports and # of IAS incursions detected and stopped</i> - <i>No increase in established high-risk IAS threatening biodiversity and ecosystem services</i> <p>--</p> <p>Indicators, baselines and targets to be confirmed during the PPG</p>	2.2 Strengthened biosecurity measures including essential equipment and capacity to support prevention, enforcement and control of IAS at key entry/exit points and between islands, with strengthened Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) mechanism and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) in place and tested			
3. Community-based integrated ecosystem management and threat reduction at	Investment	Community participation and improved livelihoods from a nature-based economic pathway that supports biodiversity conservation and	3.1 Integrated land/seascape management plans with strong community governance developed and implemented over 82,000 ha of land/seascapes, using traditional and other knowledge to reduce threats from IAS, land degradation and unsustainable resource use	GET	4,209,633.00	6,350,000.00

land/seascape scale

reduces threats from IAS and land degradation, as indicated by:

- Increased management effectiveness of >48,000 ha of community-managed PAs particularly on conservation of indigenous species, IAS management and sustainable land management

- Key habitats for globally threatened species enhanced and populations maintained (indicator species TBC during PPG)

- 14,000 ha of smallholder farms adopt sustainable land management techniques, resulting in avoided forest degradation from garden crop incursions

- No new incursions and reduced spread of IAS (focal species TBC during PPG)

3.2 National species conservation action plans implemented for globally significant and indigenous biodiversity including in-situ measures to enhance habitats and reduce IAS threats and over-exploitation

3.3 Smallholder farmers supported to implement innovative agricultural practices for sustainable land management that deliver LDN, protect ecosystem services, reduce threats from IAS and improve incomes, including through demonstration of model farms

3.4 Diversified resilient livelihoods options co-developed with communities to support ecosystem services provision, species and habitat recovery and the emergence of new green business opportunities (e.g. food, ecotourism, handicrafts, circular economy), particularly for women and youth

- 20% of local households (including smallholder farmers) benefiting from green livelihoods and diversified income and a 10% improvement in farmer income per ha

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Indicators, baselines and targets to be confirmed during the PPG

4. Knowledge management, awareness, M&E and gender mainstreaming	Technical Assistance	<p>4. Increased project impact, replication and upscaling through enhanced awareness and knowledge management, as indicated by:</p> <p>- <i>Community attitudes and practices towards conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and threats from IAS and land degradation improve by at least 30% as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) survey</i></p> <p>- <i>At least 5 project best practices and lessons (including on gender and</i></p>	<p>4.1 National communications strategy and plan implemented to raise public awareness on the crucial importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the broad benefits of ecosystem-based management</p> <p>4.2 Knowledge sharing tools, biodiversity information/learning centres, events and networks developed and enhanced to aid effectiveness and up-scaling, including across the Pacific and with other SIDS</p> <p>4.3 M&E system supports project impact including gender and youth mainstreaming (<i>M&E cost will be confirmed during PPG; estimate at PIF stage \$200-225,000</i>)</p>	GET	647,206.00	2,230,000.00
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*youth mainstreaming
and socio-cultural
benefits) are accessed
and applied throughout
the Solomon Islands*

*- At least 10 initiatives
undertaken that
demonstrate active
participation and
knowledge exchange in
Pacific biodiversity, IAS
and SLM platforms*

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Indicators, baselines and
targets to be confirmed
during the PPG

Sub Total (\$)	7,472,060.00	18,790,000.00
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Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	373,602.00	910,000.00
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Sub Total(\$)	373,602.00	910,000.00
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Total Project Cost(\$)	7,845,662.00	19,700,000.00
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C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,700,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forests and Research	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,300,000.00
Donor Agency	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Biosecurity support for Solomon Islands)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00

Donor Agency	European Union (EU-funded SPREP regional projects: Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) Small Island Developing States (SIDS); Pacific European Union Marine Programme (PEUMP); EU-IUCN - Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project - phase II)	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,500,000.00
Donor Agency	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) – International Climate Initiative (IKI) (Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Phase 2 KIWA Initiative – SPREP regional project)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Donor Agency	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) (Climate Change Programme - Invasive Species Management in the Pacific - SPREP regional project)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Private Sector	Ecotourism and SME agricultural enterprises, farmers associations	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership, Natural Resources Development Foundation, Tetepare Descendants Association, The Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00

Total Project Cost(\$) 19,700,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Co-financing type has been allocated in accordance with GEF co-financing policy, using conservative estimates and definitions at this early stage. Any budget that cannot be expected to be repeated annually into the future is considered as investment mobilized. Recurrent expenditures are those at past or budget-increment levels (e.g. forming part of annual standard government budget allocations) or that comprise part of ongoing funding allocations. Government investment mobilized for MECDM and MAL is based on estimated development budgets (i.e. not recurrent operating budgets) for the duration of project implementation for: biological conservation work programmes and IAS control in the country, native species conservation, rehabilitation, and protection (MECDM); implementation of agricultural technical work programmes including non-recurrent investment in extension offices (MAL). This parallel investment by government is expected to be directly aligned to the objective and outcomes of the project and includes investment in the demonstration landscapes in which the project will be operating (e.g. investment to put in place biosecurity controls and physical farming cleanliness measures to manage IAS in the demonstration landscapes, conservation of critical ecosystems, promotion of resilient and sustainable practices, such as mixed cropping, organic farming, sustainable pest control, etc). Aligned donor-funded projects and bilateral grants are indicated as investment mobilized, with potential co-financing estimated based on the overlapping years of project implementation; and for regional projects, on the conservative grant amount allocated to Solomon Islands (potential areas of coordination with these projects are

listed in Section 6. Coordination). This is estimated as parallel investment to be delivered by project executing agencies in strong thematic and geographic alignment to the objective and outcomes of this project. These include (by donor):

- Australia DFAT: Project grant to strengthen Solomon Islands biosecurity at national level;
- EU: Project grants will focus on marine spatial planning, development of by-catch strategies, support for community monitoring of endangered species, surveys and action planning for key species, improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas and surrounding communities. Stocktaking and assessments are expected to be conducted across all proposed land/seascapes;
- BMUB IKI: Project grant focusses on strengthening the role of natural ecosystems to enhance resilience to climate change, with investment across all project land/seascapes anticipated;
- New Zealand MFAT: Project grant focuses on IAS in the Pacific including targeted support to enhance Solomon Islands Biosecurity to address pressing IAS issues in the country.

CSO co-financing is estimated based on investments from organizations and regional institutions with foreign funding support for improved ecosystem management including climate change adaptation and IAS management. This is listed as in-kind, recurrent expenditure to be conservative at PIF stage. An indicative private sector co-financing estimate is included at PIF stage. This is based on potential in-kind contributions to be confirmed during the PPG from ecotourism, SME agricultural enterprises and farmers associations in the land/seascapes. Sources and amounts are indicative only and will be defined further during the PPG stage and verified in co-financing letters presented at the time of CEO Endorsement.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,515,799	619,001	7,134,800.00
UNDP	GET	Solomon Islands	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,329,863	126,337	1,456,200.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					7,845,662.00	745,338.00	8,591,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
200,000				19,000			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Solomon Islands	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	160,000	15,200	175,200.00
UNDP	GET	Solomon Islands	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	40,000	3,800	43,800.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
22,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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)
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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)
22,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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)
Tetepare Community Conserved Area, Western Biosphere	555547868		12,000.00						
Tubi Forest Reserve			10,000.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

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

26,128.00

0.00

0.00

0.00





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)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



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)
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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)
26,128.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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)
Beta Kandilae - Kindu, Western Biosphere	555544149	Protected Landscape/Seascape	12.00						
Lau and North Malaita Integrated Sustainable Management Area		Protected Landscape/Seascape	2,000.00						
Njari island, Western Biosphere	555547887	Protected Landscape/Seascape	107.00						
Nusa Hope mangrove, Western Biosphere	555547873	Protected Landscape/Seascape	88.00						

Nusa Roviana, Western Biosphere	555544144	Protected Landscape/Seascape	267.00	
Nusatupe reef, Western Biosphere	555547881	Protected Landscape/Seascape	49.00	
Reef Islands and Utupua Seascape (Reef Islands Marine Managed Area)		Protected Landscape/Seascape	20,000.00	
Saeraghi Reef, Western Biosphere	555547883	Protected Landscape/Seascape	2,457.00	
Suvania reef, Western Biosphere	555547884	Protected Landscape/Seascape	25.00	

Tetepare MPA, Western Biosphere	555547867	Protected Landscape/Seascape	1,100.00	
Varu North Reef, Western Biosphere	555547885	Protected Landscape/Seascape	23.00	

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)
34000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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)
20,000.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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)
14,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HC VF)

Title	Submitted
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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 ₂ e (direct)	667729	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (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 ₂ e (direct)	667,729			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022			

Duration of accounting	20
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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 ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (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)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	5,153			
Male	5,153			
Total	10306	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The project's contributions to core indicators at PIF stage are based on the project targeting around an estimated 85,000 ha across four demonstration land/seascapes with a mix of area in community-managed conserved areas, area of land/seascape under improved management for biodiversity and area of productive land under improved management. The proposed landscapes and selection criteria are detailed in Annex A. The number and extent of land/seascapes will be confirmed during the PPG phase based on detailed assessment, delineation and consultations with local communities, and the core indicator contributions finalized. Core indicators 1&2 are based on the area of existing terrestrial and marine managed areas within the proposed land/seascapes supported by local communities in partnership with local and international NGOs (not formally captured in the national PA system but included under core indicators 1&2 in accordance with ICCA representation). It is expected that the project will add value to these existing initiatives to effectively conserve biodiversity and reduce the threats from IAS within these sites resulting in improved management effectiveness. Management effectiveness will be strengthened through investment into training, education and awareness and supporting innovative practices to strengthen existing community awareness and capacity for managing these terrestrial and marine protected and managed areas. Building on existing community engagement at these sites will be important in ensuring that the project can be implemented on time utilizing existing governance and coordination mechanisms. Core indicator 4 is based on the area of landscape outside PAs that the project will help to bring under improved practices/management (e.g. improved land/seascape management, management of IAS threats to biodiversity, uptake of sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism and other green livelihood options). Many Solomon Island communities including those within the proposed land/seascapes live subsistence livelihoods and generate income through the informal economy. These areas not under any form of PA are often important for community livelihoods (e.g. watersheds as sources of water for drinking and domestic use, reefs/coastal waters as important fishing areas, mangroves important for fishing or other food sources and building materials, and land use for subsistence agriculture. Land where productive use is the primary form of management has been included under core indicator 4.3, with the remainder under 4.1. For core indicator 6, an initial indicative estimate of 667,729 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent will be mitigated through the promotion and adoption of sustainable land management practices among smallholder farmers, which will reduce agricultural incursion into forest lands and result in avoided forest degradation. GHG mitigated from the project is estimated using FAO EX-ACT and includes the direct benefit only at PIF stage based on a conservative estimate of project impact until activities are better defined and the project land/seascapes delineation completed. Potential impact due to avoided soil degradation in agricultural lands or potential forest loss avoidance can only be calculated when areas and activities are better defined during the PPG phase. Please refer to Annex D for details / assumptions on initial tCO₂e estimates. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries under core indicator 11 is based on the following indicative information: at national and provincial levels at least 50 officials, NGO or private sector representatives will be capacitated through engagement in project activities and governance mechanisms (M:F 50:50); in the demonstration land/seascapes, 10,256 people (M:F 50:50) will engage directly in and benefit from improved land and seascape management including improved biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods. This is based on an indicative estimate of reaching 20% of the total population in the demonstration land/seascapes (a rough estimate of 50,000 at PIF stage), a vast majority of whom can be expected to be engaged in some form or another in the agricultural sector (e.g. the 2017 National Agricultural Survey indicates that 92% of the total population and up to 95% of the total population of Western, Choiseul and Malaita Provinces is engaged in agriculture). This includes farmers that will participate in sustainable land management and livelihood activities linked to a specific farmer's income target. These indicative calculations sum to 10,306 people (M: 5,153; F: 5,153).

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Solomon Islands, with a land area of 28,450 km², over 5,000km of coastline and a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending over 1.5 million km² of the Pacific Ocean is among the most geographically complex countries on earth with an active geological and tectonic history which has resulted in a diverse range of islands of varying age and development. The entire country is part of the East Melanesian Biodiversity Hotspot[1] on account of the astonishing range of ecosystems and biodiversity it harbours, including 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)[2]. The coastal and marine ecosystems are part of the Coral Triangle marine global biodiversity hotspot, and support almost 500 coral and over 1,000 fish species; aside from the important reef ecosystems there are also 65,000 ha of mangroves and approximately 10,000 ha of seagrass beds. Iconic coastal and marine animals include crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* (LC), eight species of whales, nine species of dolphin, dugong *Dugong dugong* (VU), five species of turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate* (CE), *Chelonia mydas* (EN), *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Lepidochelys olivacea* (VU) and *Caretta caretta* (EN), plus many species of sharks and large pelagic fish.

The terrestrial and freshwater aquatic ecosystems are also of global significance. Over 80% of the terrestrial landscapes are forested making the country one of the global 200 forest ecoregions. Some 4,500 plant species have been recorded. Freshwater ecosystems include numerous rivers as well as a few lakes, of which Lake Tengano in East Rennel, the largest lake in the insular Pacific (15,500 ha) has been declared a natural UNESCO World Heritage Site. As in most island groups, the diversity of mammals is limited with only 47 species (primarily bats and rodents) recorded, but of which a remarkable 26 are endemic or near endemic. Three of the fruit bats (Bougainville monkey-faced bat *Pteralopex ancep*, Guadalcanal monkey-faced bat *Pteralopex atrata*, and montane monkey-faced bat *Pteralopex pulchra*) are critically endangered, and three of the rodents (Specht's mosaic-tailed rat *Melomys spechti*, Poncelet's giant rat *Solomys ponceleti*, and emperor rat *Uromys imperator*) are endangered. With 163 species of birds of which 69 are endemic, Solomon Islands is categorized by Birdlife International as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) with the "highest number of restricted range species in any EBA of the world". Eighty species of reptile have been recorded, plus 21 species of frogs and a remarkable 14,511 species of insects.

This globally significant biodiversity is matched by, and has in part shaped, the country's cultural diversity across the 347 inhabited islands. Over 70 languages are spoken and there is a great diversity of tribes, customs and norms. 80% of the land is owned and governed customarily; thus, government agencies act as a service provider, addressing issues upon request from communities. More than 80% of the population reside in low vulnerable coastal rural areas relying heavily on subsistence agriculture and fishing for food and income, with limited access to utilities and government services. Solomon islanders associate themselves strongly with the marine environment, with seafood providing 50-90% of proteins. Biodiversity thus makes a huge contribution to the country's blue/green economy. The contribution of fisheries (particularly the export of tuna) to livelihoods and the economy is enormous with additional marine products such as curios and jewelry, aquaria fish and corals, and increasing aquaculture. Mangroves provide firewood and food as well as timber for carvings, canoes and ornaments.

While logging for commercial timber is the country's major source of foreign revenue and employment, agriculture is the backbone of the Solomon Islands rural economy with strong implications for future economic growth and human development. 85% of the population are smallholder farmers practicing low-intensity farming which leaves biodiversity corridors in between the farms as a consequence of the customary property regimes. The subsistence-based informal agriculture smallholder sector has always been the foundation of food security in Solomon Islands. With a heavy reliance on ecosystem services such as soil conditions, water resources and forests this system has provided food and shelter for most of the nation's population and has been the main safety net during difficult times. Just below 8% of the total land area of Solomon Islands is 'cropland'^[3]; mixed subsistence agriculture dominates, followed by coconut, mixed crops (including coconut overstory) and palm oil. Cocoa and 'other' agriculture make up the remaining area under cultivation and subsistence use. Large-scale farming for export is restricted to major commodities such as coconut, oil palm and rice, with future emphasis on other crops such as coffee and cocoa, as well as high value niche products such as vanilla/spices. Forest products provide construction materials and a vast range of natural foods, Agroforestry is picking up with an emphasis on the introduced eucalyptus, teak and mahogany. Wild forage (non-timber forest products) supplement subsistence agriculture and many native plants also serve as commercial crops, sold in the urban areas with higher values than imported products. The struggle for basic economic need is often constrained by labour and the necessary skills for managing agrobiodiversity. This is further compounded with a shift in the staple diet from local food to imported products, hence changes the production systems and consequently, the loss of local varieties.

Although there have only been two recent confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a pandemic in early 2020, the impacts of the virus are felt across the country, particularly on the economy and livelihoods. The pandemic has worsened the current dire economic state of the country^[4], with the Central Bank estimating a decline of the country's GDP by 60 basis points to 20% due to slowdown of activities in natural resource-based sectors such as forestry, tourism and transport^[5]. At the local level, where 76% of the population depend on the informal sector to generate income, the pandemic is having its toll on food security and livelihoods as small-scale informal sectors including street and market vendors were ordered to close down by the government, leading to reduction in cash flow and mass movement of people to rural areas^[6]. These COVID-19 induced impacts have been further exacerbated by Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020. Heavy rain, flooding and storm surge affected 59,000 people and killed 27 people travelling to refuge, as well as destroying food gardens, livelihoods and income sources.

Threats

While Solomon Islands still harbours a rich biodiversity due to low human population density, uninhabited islands, inaccessibility, and customary and legal protection, the restricted range and small populations make many species extremely vulnerable. At least 254 globally threatened species are included on the IUCN Red List including 14 species that are critically endangered (2 birds, 3 reptiles, 2 fish, 7 mammals). The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016, the State of the Environment Report 2019 and recent national reports to CBD provide an overview of the vulnerable state of biodiversity and the threats it faces which arise from different sources, varying between ecosystem types and locations. Communities are heavily reliant on ecosystem services for livelihoods, and the future of people, nature and ecosystems of the Solomon Islands are inextricably linked.

Key threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services are:

Invasive Alien Species (IAS): As assessed by SPREP, invasive species are the leading driver of biodiversity loss in the Pacific and a significant impact on ecosystem resilience leading to a loss in ecosystem services and the ability to adapt to climate change[7]. In the Solomon Islands, IAS are recognized as a key threat to national security for both economic and natural resources management issues and already have a significant impact on agricultural production (e.g. Rhinoceros beetle on coconut crops, giant African snail on root crops and leafy materials). The extent of the threat is shown by the fact that 259 IAS are currently listed on the Global Register of introduced and invasive species for Solomon Islands^[8] and 303 species on the Solomon Islands nation invasives database with, for example, 13 introduced species of ants (Formicidae) alone. IAS may be introduced intentionally or unintentionally: the fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata* was introduced to Malaita as a biological control for a nut fall bug[9] but became a pest, as it inflicts eye problems in domestic animals and gives a painful bite to people; in contrast both the giant African snail *Lissachatina fulica* and the Rhinoceros beetle *Oryctes rhinoceros* were accidentally introduced probably by the logging industry, while seeds of the highly invasive *Lantana camara* arrived and spread attached to the bodies of cattle. This species (and others like the African tulip tree *Spathodea campanulata*) can cause severe land degradation, becoming the dominant understory in forests, while in pastures it forms dense thickets rendering the land useless for pasture. While the impacts of IAS on agriculture are well known, those on indigenous biodiversity are little studied. However, the extensive presence of IAS in different habitats suggests they threaten the integrity of ecosystems across the Solomon Islands. For example, a bird survey on Makira in 2015-16 found high numbers of invasive species throughout logged and unlogged forests, in particular rats *Rattus spp.* and cats *Felis catus*, which helps explain the disappearance of native species from the island[10]. Ground dwelling endemic birds are particularly threatened from predation by dogs, cats and pigs, which have also eliminated most native mammals on Guadalcanal. Invasive species are direct threats to mountain biodiversity, particularly birds and frogs, and interspecific competition with the introduced cane toad adds to the threats to other amphibians. In coastal ecosystems, invasive species such as the crown-of-thorns starfish threatens corals. Unintentional incursions via freight and visitors at ports and airports, as well as intentional introduction of species for agricultural purposes are potential pathways for entry of invasive species. Discharge of ballast water from ships can also introduce IAS to coastal and marine ecosystems. High risk areas for incursions include those with lots of movements and transport (e.g. of food plants) such as between Bougainville, Choiseul, Munda and Gizo. IAS can expand their range rapidly, particularly when they have no natural predators. Slash and burn, which is the most common method for subsistence agriculture throughout the archipelago provides a conducive environment for invasive creepers. It also removes nutrients and allows invasive plants to establish, hence displacing native or cultivated plants.

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Habitat destruction and land degradation: logging for commercial timber has caused extensive habitat and biodiversity loss except in the most inaccessible mountain areas. The rate of logging continues to increase, impacting sensitive ecosystems that support livelihood such as water catchments and those areas prohibited by law such as area above 400 meters above sea level. Commercially viable native forests are almost exhausted, and there is an urgent need to protect and restore remaining forest and biodiversity. Although riverine forests are legally protected, non-compliance by logging companies has led to occasional harvesting. The fast-increasing population demands more food and incomes that in turn put more pressure on the land and other resources. Subsistence agriculture is causing major habitat destruction, degradation of land and pressure on biodiversity with uncontrolled expansion of gardening (smallholder agriculture) into once virgin forests, habitats and watersheds. Due to increasing pressures from growing populations and land use competition, the practice of shifting cultivation with slash and burn now has shorter fallow periods for land to recover. As of 2016, 15% of forest land had been 'disturbed' by temporary gardening[11], with impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services from soil degradation, low soil fertility and productivity, deforestation and use of agro-chemicals and introduction of IAS. Farmers use chemical treatments (fertilizers and pesticides) that can have downstream effects on the environment and human health. Within the project target landscapes of predominantly small-scale farms and mixed subsistence cash crops, all are suffering from land degradation due to drivers such as continuous farming in the same area, climate change and variability, IAS and altered traditional agricultural practices such as 'slash and burn' which have become unsustainable due to intensification. A root cause is increasing population and related pressures on land use and availability. Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs and fisheries are under similar pressure as demand for food, building materials

and natural resources increases. This pressure from subsistence livelihoods on biodiversity, ecosystems and productive land is further exacerbated by threats from IAS which are occupying more and more lands (which may themselves establish more easily on degraded habitats) and climate change impacts. Poor land use practices particularly from logging and large monocultures and mining in some islands (e.g. Guadalcanal) directly threaten riverine and coastal ecosystems including coral reefs and seagrass beds (affecting dugong and many other species); for example, the water supply to Honiara is often closed due to high turbidity caused by logging in the catchment. Mangrove forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate (-1.7%/year) despite the global carbon sequestration benefits they provide, worth about US\$ 21.6m each year[12].

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Overexploitation of species: While inaccessible islands and mountain ecosystems are less threatened from over-exploitation, overharvesting of species occurs around inhabited areas. Over-harvesting of coral reef fish species threatens several IUCN Red Listed species, including *Plectropomus leopardus*, *Negaprion acutidens*, *Anderhorstia attenuata* and *Paraxenisthmus springeri*. Offshore, most tuna species (except big-eye tuna) are believed to be harvested at a sustainable rate; however, tuna bycatch poses a major threat to several threatened marine and coastal species including sharks, dolphins and turtles. Dugong is considered to be critically endangered at national level due to the traditional harvesting of the species in parts of the country. Dolphins are also hunted traditionally in Malaita[13] mainly for their meat and teeth, and also sometimes for live capture for dolphinariums, and populations of all five IUCN Red Listed species of marine turtle are threatened by harvesting and bycatch. A recent study found that almost 10,000 turtles are harvested each year by spearfishers, and that although the trade of all turtle products was banned in 1993, the sale of turtle products continues[14]. A periodic restriction on harvesting and exporting of sea cucumbers has been imposed and some molluscs may also be over-harvested. The populations of bats and megapodes are declining due to overexploitation across many islands and atolls in the South Pacific, and this may be exacerbated due to the scarcity of alternative low cost sources of protein, land encroachment, human demographic increase, unemployment and weak forest governance[15]. A recent report concludes that large numbers of wild-caught birds have been laundered from the Solomon Islands into the global wildlife trade through being declared as captive-bred[16]. The vast majority were imported by Malaysia and Singapore and included a few species native to the Solomon Islands, while the majority (77%) were non-native species from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. However, in terms of the number of individual birds involved in the trade, the majority of exports were species native to the Solomon Islands (54,793). For example, over 20,000 Solomons Cockatoos *Cacatua ducorpsii* were imported from the Solomon Islands between 2000-10.

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Climate change: is a severe threat to low-lying coasts and atoll ecosystems due to sea level rise, storms and temperature changes. Tropical cyclones are frequent from November to April although the seasonal cycle is greatly affected by the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) which in 1997/98 led to prolonged droughts, causing food and water shortages. Lying in the Pacific 'Ring of Fire' and cyclone zone makes the country vulnerable to natural disasters (volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis) and extreme weather events which are exacerbated by climate change. Annual sea level rises of up to 10mm have been recorded, causing the submergence of the lowest lying islands and forcing relocations of communities from vulnerable coastlines^[17]. Climate change impacts compound other threats, particularly land degradation, with pronounced impacts on natural ecosystems and agricultural lands. Loss of cultivated area or productivity may result in an increased reliance on imported foods; this has occurred through the decline in the yields of sweet potato, the main staple crop in rural areas. Conversion of mangrove forests has made coastlines even more vulnerable to storms; prolonged dry seasons combined with loss of forests are affecting freshwater biodiversity and water availability; and high rainfall washes sediment from poorly managed land into rivers and coastal ecosystems. Climate change is increasing the intensity and urgency of the response to IAS by reducing the capacity and resilience of Pacific ecosystems and societies to adapt to climate change. Invasive alien species management needs to be an accepted tool for Pacific ecosystems and communities to adapt to climate change[18].

The overall root cause of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in Solomon Islands arises from the slow progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into different sectors (including those that bring high risk of IAS incursions and land degradation) as well as the rising economic and social aspirations of the expanding population which put increasing pressure on natural resources. It is essential to find a sustainable development path around a nature-based economy and resilient, diversified livelihoods that deliver social and economic benefits from the sustainable use of natural resources, address the risk of IAS incursions, and secure the ecosystem integrity of land and sea for the benefit of current and future generations.

Barriers to achieving this vision are:

Insufficient coordination, information, tools and capacity in government to conserve globally significant biodiversity and promote and achieve land degradation neutrality: The fact that Solomon Island is an archipelago of islands and that mountains and inland forests are connected to the coastal environment means that an ecosystem-based management approach is required to conserve biodiversity and address threats from land degradation and IAS, particularly in protected and managed areas. While the key legal acts are in place (see Annex E), intersectoral coordination and enforcement (in part due to lack of resources) is insufficient to implement them effectively. Despite the reliance of the economy on natural resources there is no clear strategy, tools or process to mainstream the benefits of a nature-based economy and protect biodiversity and land/seascapes on which it depends across sectors. Better coordination is required between the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) and other sectoral ministries that are responsible for implementing different components of the NBSAP, since there are limited human and financial resources available in government and NGOs for biodiversity conservation and existing resources need to be used most effectively. Despite attempts to establish an NBSAP committee since 2016 it is still not fully operational and there is no national committee with a broad mainstreaming mandate that will ultimately be needed for effective implementation of the NBSAP and stemming of sectoral threats to biodiversity. Several provinces have environment-related committees^[19], but these do not yet mainstream biodiversity. With regard to land degradation, although Solomon Islands acceded to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1999 so far only a draft National Action Program (NAP) has been prepared to implement the Convention and policies and practices to promote sustainable land management, are in need of improvement. Land degradation neutrality (LDN) is a relatively new concept with little awareness or adoption into policies, plans, targets or practices in Solomon Islands and these foundations need to be built with processes that enable multi-sector coordination and the identification and resolution of policy or regulatory trade-offs. Some work is underway at provincial (e.g. establishment of provincial land use forums under EREPA project to discuss land use planning and resolve conflicts) and demonstration level (e.g. landscape-level demonstration of SLM, often integrated into ecosystem-based adaptation or landscape conservation projects), although the national-level framework has not been updated to reflect new advances in LDN. Additionally, there is a lack of vertical coordination between national government and the provincial authorities to mainstream biodiversity and sustainable land management in a consistent and targeted way. There remain contradictions and gaps in regulations and provincial ordinances and a lack of detailed guidance on key threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services (e.g. there are no protocols in place for addressing IAS threats to biodiversity and no provincial ordinances addressing IAS management).

There is inadequate baseline information on biodiversity or threatened species on which to base management decisions. Although there have been increasing efforts to improve understanding of the status of Solomon Island ecosystems, data is dispersed, rarely shared and becomes quickly outdated with little monitoring of trends. There remain severe gaps in knowledge, even for the most threatened or exploited species. Information technology is not used

effectively and results are often not available in a form usable for decision-making. Information regarding IAS (except those affecting agriculture) remains particularly limited and there is no guidance to support management efforts even in protected areas. This translates into an almost complete absence of decision support systems and plans to prioritize the use of financial resources for implementation. Finally, capacity for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and management of IAS and land degradation is inadequate at all levels of government, exacerbating the challenge of limited government resources. Neither MECDM nor the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) have enough trained staff in key positions to carry out their mandates for biodiversity, IAS and land degradation due to limited budget and they require better support from other sectors, the provincial level and extension services.

No comprehensive framework for managing threats from IAS that takes a risk management approach and inadequate capacity to detect and stop new IAS incursions: Although Government agreed a national 2020 target to address threats from IAS, there is no approved strategy/plan^[20] or inter-sectoral committee nor any unit or specific officer in MECDM responsible for IAS (the officer responsible for species research is nominally also responsible for invasive species). Consequently, there is no current activity on IAS impacts on biodiversity in the country. While MAL's Biosecurity Department is tackling a number of IAS that threaten agricultural production there is little knowledge and no focus on the role of IAS as threats to biodiversity and land degradation. Efforts tend to focus on control of current IAS rather than a risk management approach that identifies and focusses on the highest risk invasion pathways. Capacity to avoid IAS incursions is limited by human resources and budget at all entry points. Despite the vast EEZ and numerous entry points, Customs and Biosecurity officers are only present at Honiara port and international airport and Noro port and Munda international airport, where their focus is on controlling import/export of wildlife rather than IAS. Other ports of entry from Papua New Guinea or Vanuatu usually only have customs officials and police or Forest officers present to verify documentation, especially for logging exports. There is an urgent need to upgrade biosecurity measures and equipment at ports and airports and in key sectors to avoid new IAS incursions and transmission between islands. Solomon Islands lacks access to good laboratories, equipment, training and best practices in order to deliver the high level of biosecurity required to stop incursions of IAS. In addition, stronger early response capacity to address incursions is needed.

Insufficient demonstration of the benefits of ecosystem-based approaches and incentives for communities to conserve biodiversity, adopt sustainable land management practices and manage IAS: Although there are examples of community-based natural resources management in Solomon Islands, few have the conservation of globally significant biodiversity, the achievement of land degradation neutrality or the effective prevention and management of IAS among their primary objectives. While the customary system is widely quoted as one of the main challenges for governance and implementation of policies, it also provides significant opportunities for community-based management approaches that can help address the lack of resources in government. However, farmers lack experience and technologies to facilitate the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and their incomes are limited forcing them to expand production into forested areas. Land-use planning at landscape scale is largely lacking. There has been a degeneration of traditional land ownership and land use decision making systems and lack of strong bottom-up approaches for community planning. There remains a need to systematically encourage beneficial traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities. Similarly, there is limited experience in field application of biodiversity threat reduction, direct wildlife conservation measures or specific management of IAS in natural ecosystems affecting biodiversity and land degradation through ecosystem-based approaches. There are no current donor-funded projects for IAS management and control related to biodiversity threats or land degradation. In order to harness community action for such approaches, it is vital to support and incentivize efforts and demonstrate how a nature-based economy can improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience. Few such incentive mechanisms have been tested either in marine or terrestrial ecosystems. Efforts are challenged by geographic isolation resulting in high costs and impeding effective enforcement and access to markets.

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Inadequate awareness and knowledge exchange, and mainstreaming of women and youth to conserve biodiversity, manage IAS and achieve LDN: The tremendous global significance of the biodiversity of Solomon Islands, the threats, and the wide range of ecosystem services provided by terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity remains poorly appreciated by most islanders, particularly by rural people who have high rates of illiteracy. There is currently no communication strategy in place to raise awareness of the benefits and need for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, IAS management and sustainable land management. As a consequence, low value is accorded to these matters in fiscal policy instruments as reflected in the low funding allocations to MECDM, which limits the scaling up of awareness to assist the local community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Low awareness of risks means that there is no investment by government or by NGOs or communities in IAS management in natural ecosystems, even for the Lake Tengano World Heritage Site which has been listed as in danger from IAS. While environmental subjects are included in the educational curriculum, and environmental education has been promoted by NGOs and projects since the 1990s, baseline surveys of people's perception of biodiversity at the provincial level reveal that less than half of the population has been reached through past awareness and educational programmes. There is therefore the potential that raising awareness can go some way to mitigating the lack of resources in government for enforcement etc.

Sharing of knowledge on best practices and lessons learned is also a critical mechanism for assist a poorly-resourced government to move forward in its efforts to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services and can also help to craft rules and management approaches that can be easily accepted and implemented by local people. Traditional knowledge is underutilized and offers potential for better understanding of biodiversity issues and their management. Because of the cultural and employment constraints, women and youth do not have the same opportunities as men and older people to contribute to decision-making and to take opportunities for new livelihoods. Women and men both face constraints adopting sustainable agricultural practices, especially in remote areas where agricultural extension services are limited. Women are more constrained than men when it comes to benefiting from extension services because they are less educated and have more limited access to financial services and credit. Despite these inequalities, sex-disaggregated information is rarely collected to monitor project outcomes.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

There are key government policies or plans (in place or proposed) that will support the integrated approach proposed by this project:

- The **NBSAP 2016-20** is the primary policy document for biodiversity conservation. Government allocations towards MECDM have been progressively increasing, reflecting increasing government commitment to biodiversity conservation and broader recognition of its value. All nine provinces have developed Provincial Development Strategies incorporating relevant NBSAP action points. There are numerous sectoral policies and plans, several of which have been revised to align with the NBSAP, offering an opportunity to build upon for biodiversity and land degradation neutrality mainstreaming.

- Regarding **sustainable land management**, the Solomon Islands Agriculture and Livestock Sector Policy 2015-2019 includes proposals to enhance agricultural production and manage its environmental effects, including promoting soil conservation and access to productive land, managing climate change effects, supporting pest management and biosecurity, and organic agriculture. The National Rural Land Use Policy 2015-2020 aims to deliver integrated approaches to sustainable land use, with the vision that land use planning in Solomon Islands is inclusive, balanced and robust to ensure sustainable

economic development and improved livelihoods for all Solomon Islanders by 2030. The Rural Land Use Policy includes a position that all agricultural projects should avoid negative impacts including a reduction in ecosystem services, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and increased food insecurity, and follows the principle that ecosystem-based approaches should be promoted for sustainable economic development.

- With regard to IAS, an incomplete draft of a **National Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan, 2016-20** (NISSAP) was prepared by the ECD with support of SPREP. While this has not yet been finalized, it shows an interest to move towards a broad comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management framework to biosecurity and IAS management.
- More broadly, the **National Development Strategy 2016-2035** puts in place a longer-term, whole-of-government planning framework to enable the Solomon Islands to transition to a more sustainable growth strategy, recognizing the importance and potential of nature and natural resources (e.g. tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, including subsistence smallholder farming), and emphasizing the need for long-term recovery and reform to achieve the SDGs and improved social and economic livelihoods for all Solomon Islanders.

While initial government response to COVID-19 has focused on economic stimulus and targeted improvements in health and emergency response, the opportunity for COVID-19 recovery to bolster the government's transition to a more sustainable growth strategy and the potential for green-blue economy to support livelihoods recovery and resilience is well-recognized. Green-blue economy and sustainable management of natural resources are likely to feature prominently as areas to support long-term economic recovery and growth in upcoming processes such as a COVID-19 socio-economic assessment and response by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Planning, review of the National Development Strategy by the Ministry of Planning, and preparations for the LDC graduation process that is due to culminate in 2024.

Under these broad thematic threads, the project will be supported by the following investments, baseline projects (including in proposed project demonstration landscapes), best practices and lessons:

Biodiversity conservation: A range of key legal instruments are in place (see Annex E). The IUCN Red List remains the main tool for assessing the status and prioritizing management of indigenous species, with further detail available for marine species via the Marine Biodiversity Conservation in the South Pacific (MACBIO) report on Biophysically Special, Unique Marine Areas of Solomon Islands[21] which identifies the list of marine species known to occur in the Solomon Islands with international and national obligations. Several initiatives and action plans have been launched for the conservation of different species and species groups including regional cooperation for the management of tuna fisheries[22] and conservation of dugong and seagrass habitats[23],[24]; species management plans for dolphins, marine turtles[25], sharks, crocodiles and the endangered Santa Cruz ground dove[26]; and small grants for species survey and local conservation programmes issued under the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)[27]. The EU/SPC/World Fish Pacific European Union Marine Programme (PEUMP) project (2019-24) is helping to address fisheries species threatened with illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Support is being provided from 2017-22 by the UNEP/GEF/SPREP INFORM project which aims to establish a Pacific island network of national and regional data repositories and reporting tools to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements including an online and open source Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal which provides a meta-database of reports and studies, including a section on biodiversity[28].

For protected areas, the Solomon Islands Plan of Action on Protected Areas (POWPA)[29] provides the policy tools for implementing the Protected Area Act (2010). The \$36.5M GEF-5 Integrated Forest Management project[30] supported by FAO and executed by the Ministry of Forest and Research (MFR) from 2016-20, aimed to establish protected areas covering 143,000 ha. The GEF-6 \$13.2M Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA) project supported by IUCN and executed by MECDM pending GEF CEO Endorsement will build on this baseline with its objective of producing an effective ecosystem management for healthy, complementary networks of protected, productive and restored landscapes in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu. The EU/ACP Support Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 2020-26 is supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources (e.g. bycatch and integrated ecosystem management) with a demonstration site in the central seascape (a proposed site of this project).

Community-based management of biodiversity and natural resources: Despite lack of formal protection, community-based approaches are piloted at landscape scale in many projects in both the terrestrial and marine environments, and around 6% of the coastal and 5% of the terrestrial[31] areas are now under community and local protection. Such approaches have been bolstered for coastal biodiversity conservation by the Solomon Islands Locally Marine Managed Area (SILMMA) and protected area network under the Coral Triangle Initiative advocated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Resources. Many informal protected areas still require management plans and sustainable financing although ridge-to-reef conservation plans have been developed in Choiseul[32] and Isabel[33] provinces by the provincial governments and partners. The regional GEF-5 International Waters Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) project is being implemented in the Mataniko catchment area around Honiara. The Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) works closely with local communities to protect critical terrestrial ecosystems that harbour globally threatened species. The Arnavon conservation initiative (supported by TNC) in Isabel and Choiseul provinces has helped to resolve differences between divided tribal societies and enabled harmony between national laws, policies and informal customary rules and norms for conserving an endangered turtle species[34]. Similarly, the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC) also in Choiseul has emerged as a powerful indigenous faith-based movement with the intention to protect natural resources from unwanted exploitation, manage resources sustainably and resolve land disputes while reviving traditional cultural practices and promoting rural development. Launched in 2019, the Barana Nature and Heritage Park is a milestone for community-based conservation in Solomon Islands. Owned by the Barana Community, the park spans approximately 5,000 ha of forest area in the upper catchment of the Mataniko river, one of the largest river catchments above Honiara city. The regional EU/IUCN/SPREP Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project phase II (2018-23) is supporting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance. Similarly, the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Phase 2 (2020-23) KIWA Initiative – a SPREP regional initiative funded by the Government of Germany, is being implemented to reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems to climate change by investing in ecosystem-based adaptation.

Combating land degradation: Poor agricultural practices are recognised as one of the key sources of land degradation and the UNDP/GEF Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in the Solomon Islands (CBSLM) MSP implemented from 2008-12 was an early attempt to build capacity for SLM, and provides many lessons[35] for the design of the current project, in particular the co-design of solutions with key sectors and communities. MAL is promoting a number of SLM practices to address land degradation through its research and extension programmes, with the aim of maintaining food security and stability, while minimizing the impacts on the environment. These include crop diversification and mixed cropping, cover cropping, salt tolerant varieties, mulching, alley cropping, agro-forestry, terrace farming, composting, pest and disease control and improved pasture and animal waste management. There is a countrywide approach to model farms and a number of projects to promote SLM and green agriculture have been funded with communities through the UNDP Small

Grants Program[36]. More recently, sustainable agriculture is being integrated into COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives to show the full potential of sustainable agriculture and green farms in livelihood resilience. To address forest degradation and loss, the government has adopted a Solomon Islands National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap 2014-2020[37] which is helping to build institutional capacity, coordinate activities and raise awareness for forest management, restoration and protection in almost all provinces. The Ministry of Forestry and Research also encourages natural regeneration of logged areas through community-based approaches with a successful pilot site in Malaita but this is on hold due to lack of resources. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is assisting several sites in Guadalcanal that could also result in a possible scaling up in the future. The FAO/GEF-5 integrated Forest management Project incorporated restorative forestry as one of its components.

IAS management: Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI)^[38] under the Biosecurity Act 2013 has been mandated to manage the biosecurity risks associated with the movement of goods (trade) and people into and out of Solomon Islands, although is challenged by insufficient capacity. Current focus is to reduce risks of entry of potential agricultural IAS with manual surveillance mainly carried out by the Quarantine Division of MAL, including border control, ship ballast, and quarantine checking at certain entry and exit points. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) mechanisms and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) have been developed for agriculture with support of New Zealand and Australian Governments, with a biosecurity advisor (and laboratory) currently in the Biosecurity department reviewing legislation and establishing protocols for management of invasive species and providing training on agricultural IAS. At the national level, relevant public officers have been informed on the potential impact of IAS on native biodiversity, and a list of prohibited plant species has been published[39], although other efforts are limited compared to attention on agricultural IAS. Training on the risk of IAS incursions from ballast water was provided by SPREP in partnership with the Australia Maritime Safety Authority in 2013. More recently, an officer from ECD was recently supported by SPREP to undertake a 3-month IAS training course in Apia in 2019.

Many of the large number of identified IAS are already established and hence efforts have focused on control to address these threats. The Biosecurity Division has a robust strategy in place for IAS affecting the agriculture sector focusing on the African snail, the Rhinoceros beetle, Cassava bacterial blight and citrus canker. The two most notorious IAS that are already causing severe damage to agriculture and plant diversity are the giant African snail (GAS) *Lissachatina fulica* and the Rhinoceros beetle. Both species were accidentally introduced probably by logging industries. The GAS was first reported at Honiara in 2006. It causes economic damage to a wide range of crops and ornamentals; vegetable crops are severely affected. Since then active campaigns have been carried out to, first, try to eradicate it but after that proved impossible, to reduce its impact and contain it to the outbreak area. To date it is only confirmed to be established in Honiara and eastwards along the North coast of Guadalcanal. A new invasive strain of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), *Oryctes rhinoceros*, is established in Savo, North Malaita and Ngela, and has recently arrived in Guadalcanal, with potential devastating economic implications for communities who depend on coconuts and their products for subsistence and export (approximately US\$1,200 per rural household annually). The government declared a national CRB state of emergency through 2017 that remains in place, with efforts coordinated by a CRB multi-sector task force.

At regional level, there has been significant work on IAS for over two decades. In 2000, SPREP published 'A Draft Invasive Species Strategy for the Pacific Islands Region' which was finally adopted in 2008. A Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) was launched in 2006 and continues to connect professionals to share knowledge, expertise, tools, and ideas[40]. Similarly, the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) is the umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on IAS in more than one country, and acts as the invasive species working group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation[41]. In 2009, SPC and SPREP produced Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific[42], the framework used throughout the Pacific for structuring

NISSAPs. SPREP is providing the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) a coordinating regional mechanism to facilitate the scaling up of IAS on-the-ground management operations in the Pacific. The GEF/UNEP/SPREP project 'Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands' (GEF-PAS) was implemented with ten national partner agencies (not including Solomon Islands) from 2011 to 2016. In 2019, the GEF/UNEP/SPREP 'Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific' project was approved for implementation, further building potential for stronger Pacific regional coordination on IAS. All these initiatives, along with other GEF-financed national IAS projects across the Pacific and other SIDS, offer significant opportunities for knowledge-sharing.

Green livelihoods: Community-based management offers the best opportunities for safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystem services, managing established IAS and reducing land degradation, but there are still few examples where livelihood benefits/opportunities can be demonstrated from nature-based economic pathways or adoption of SLM practices. A National Marine Ecosystem Service Valuation^[43] showed that aside from the tuna industry, the majority of Solomon Islands' marine ecosystem service benefits come from subsistence and small-scale fishing for local sale, tourism, and protection from erosion and flooding (avoided costs)^[44], similar findings are likely for terrestrial ecosystems, although they have not been assessed. A mangrove livelihoods project in Malaita, Western Province and other parts of Solomon Islands^[45], demonstrated the benefits of mangroves to communities, and locally driven initiatives to replant and rehabilitate mangrove forests are gaining strength. Similarly, there have been efforts to conduct dolphin conservation awareness while discouraging traditional hunting of dolphins by providing alternative livelihoods such as ecotourism.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (which has currently put a halt to tourism), the tourism industry was small but expanding with expenditures from foreign visitors amounting to about US\$ 68 million per year^[46], providing employment and government tax revenue. If managed responsibly and as a part of resilient, diversified livelihoods, ecotourism can be a lucrative and sustainable ecosystem service. Because tourists generally seek out healthy ecosystems, tourism can create incentives for communities to protect and even rehabilitate ecosystems from logging, mining and destructive types of inshore fishing that could negatively impact tourism benefits. For example, in the Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area (40,000 ha, established in 1995) there have been efforts to diversify sources of income and nutrition for the fishing communities, including making handicrafts for visiting tourists, seaweed harvesting, and small-scale agriculture^[47]. Similarly, the Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA) has helped indigenous landholders resist pressures from industrial logging companies by pioneering community conservation agreements whereby landholders and their communities are provided with alternative livelihood opportunities in exchange for a commitment to the sustainable management of marine and forest resources, including a community ecotourism enterprise that provides jobs for community members^[48]. There are many other opportunities for such initiatives, for example in the Marovo lagoon in the New Georgia Islands (the largest saltwater lagoon in the world), where tourism may offer incentives for the government and the community to stop illegal logging and take forward the idea of UNESCO designation as was considered previously. While feasibility assessments are needed, and tourism needs to be considered as part of a broader suite of resilient, nature-based livelihoods, such opportunities offer the potential to support COVID-19 green economic recovery in accordance with recent UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) guidance and technical assistance on tourism recovery and resilience building.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

The proposed project aims to safeguard Solomon Islands indigenous species and ecosystems from invasive alien species, land degradation, unsustainable resource use and climate-induced risks through effective government enabling and capacity, community participation and resilient blue/green livelihoods.

Given the above barriers and baseline context, the project's theory of change, developed in line with STAP guidance[\[49\]](#), has been elaborated as follows:

- The overall vision is that Solomon Islands indigenous species and ecosystems are resilient to, safeguarded from and at reduced risk from key threats including IAS, land degradation and unsustainable resource use.
- Achieving this vision will look like the following: healthy populations of indigenous species and improved quality of their habitats; better managed land/seascapes for biodiversity; better managed areas under production; fewer IAS incursions and spread; reduced forest encroachment; maintenance of ecosystem services across the landscape; conserved indigenous species; carbon sequestration and avoided carbon loss.
- The current situation is that species and ecosystems are under significant risk, resulting in declining conservation status of species, reduced habitat quality and increasing land degradation.
- The potential intervention pathways and assumed links to achieve the desired state include:
 - o If improvements in government policy, coordination and regulations are made, then the overall effectiveness of government efforts to conserve biodiversity and combat land degradation will be improved and mainstreaming across other sectors facilitated;
 - o If capacity of government officials is enhanced this will lead to improved delivery of mandates and greater implementation and enforcement of legislation;
 - o If capacity of communities in SLM and biodiversity conservation techniques and approaches is enhanced, then this will facilitate their greater engagement and participation;
 - o If awareness is raised of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services then this will help facilitate behavioral shifts and increase support for biodiversity conservation and LDN across community, government Ministries and other sectors (and that this is not a solution in isolation);
 - o If tangible economic incentives and resilient, sustainable livelihoods are identified and developed for local communities, then this will help bring about the desired behavior shifts and uptake in SLM and biodiversity conservation practices (and that approaches may fail without this);
 - o If engagement opportunities and incentives are provided, then this will help engage and transform biodiversity and SLM impacting sectors (including SME) to be more biodiversity- and land-friendly;
 - o If investment is enhanced in the prevention of new or enhanced threats (e.g. new IAS threats), then this will be more effective and efficient than trying to address threats once they are established.
- These potential pathways have been used to inform the project's components and integrated approach. This concludes that biodiversity conservation, IAS and land degradation are fundamentally inter-connected and can be successfully tackled by addressing them simultaneously in ways that deliver benefits to local communities. The project strategy therefore proposes that:
 - o To remove the barriers to addressing threats, best practices in biodiversity conservation, IAS management, and sustainable land management need to be mainstreamed into key sectors (particularly agriculture, forestry and tourism) to promote and raise awareness of blue/green development pathways. Effort is required to improve inter-sectoral and vertical coordination, regulations, government capacity and the availability of up-to-date information and tools to

support decision-making.

- o Effective management of IAS to reduce threats to biodiversity, land and sea will require a shift from a control-focused approach to a risk-management approach that focuses on prevention and management of risks through identified high risk invasion pathways.
- o Demonstrations are required at land/seascape scale to show how the development and implementation of integrated management plans involving government, communities and the private sector can effectively conserve indigenous species, manage IAS and deliver sustainable land management while simultaneously supporting nature-based livelihoods. Based on the context for Solomon Islands, an integrated ecosystem-based approach deployed across landscapes and seascapes is needed.
- o Empowering the community within these land/seascapes to promote sustainable livelihood options that are environmentally friendly and support the perpetuation of ecosystem services will provide the foundation for a green-blue economy and provide sustainable, diversified livelihood opportunities resilient to shocks.
- o Finally, a concerted effort in awareness raising and knowledge sharing is required to raise awareness, support and recognition of the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services, threats (including IAS) and actions that need to be taken at all levels.

The theory of change has led to the formulation of four project Components that will work in synergy to: i) create an enabling framework for safeguarding biodiversity, combating land degradation and securing a nature-based economy; ii) put in place a comprehensive risk management approach to address IAS threats to biodiversity and land degradation; iii) demonstrate community-based integrated management for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and reduction of threats from IAS and land degradation at land/seascape scale; and iv) support knowledge management, awareness, M&E and gender mainstreaming. A simplified schematic of the project theory of change is indicated below (note that not all connections and pathways are shown for simplicity – these will be further elaborated during the PPG in consultation with stakeholders).

[1] USP. 2012. Ecosystem Profile, East Melanesian Biodiversity Hotspot can be available at https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/emi_ecosystem_profile.pdf

[2] <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/results?reg=0&cty=192&snm=>

[3] The Forest and land use composition of the Solomon Islands study, 2016

[4] <https://devpolicy.org/covid-19-and-solomon-islands-the-first-casualties-and-possible-ramifications-20200409/>

[5] <http://www.cbsi.com.sb/press-release-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-solomon-islands-economy/>

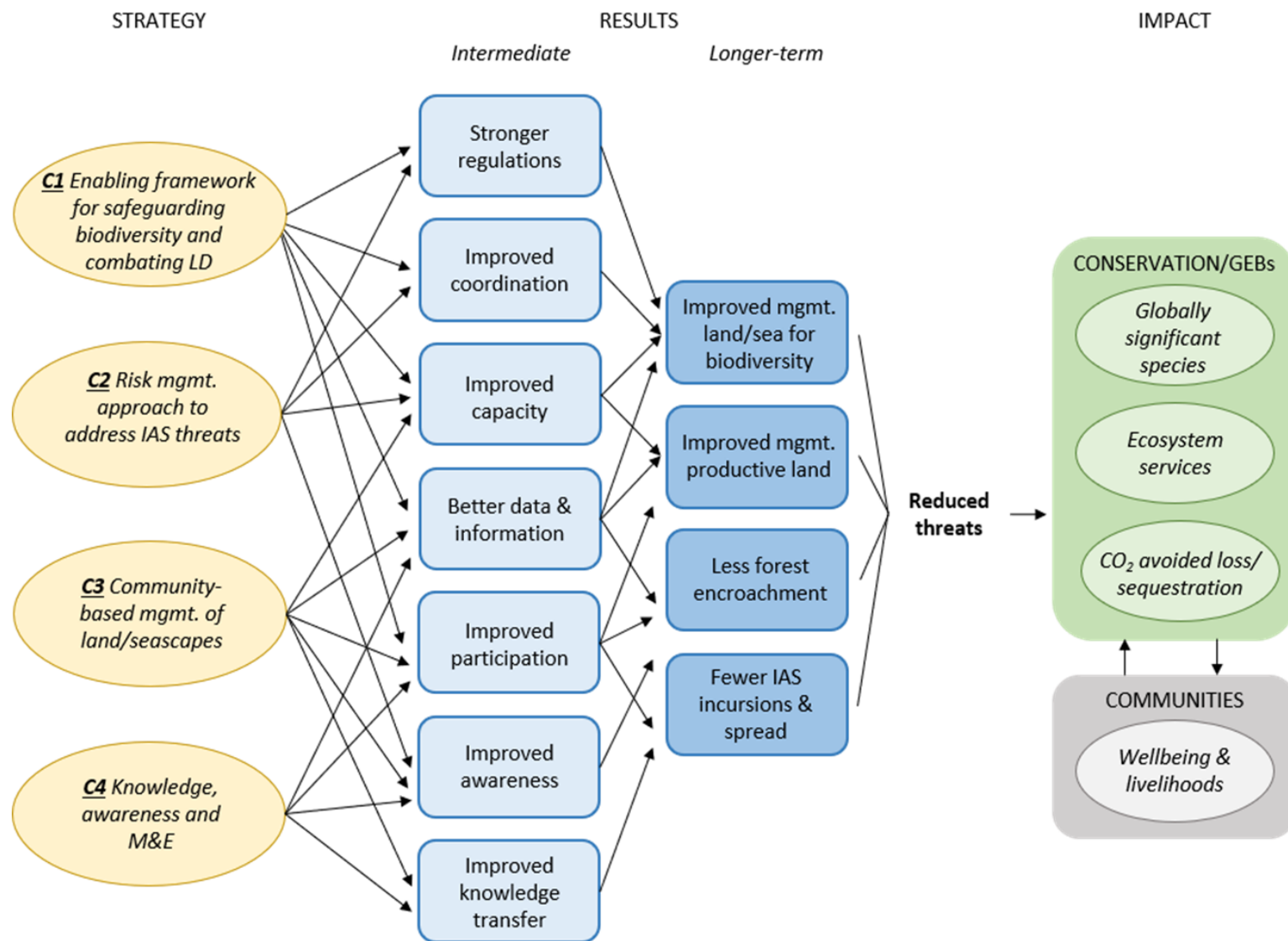
[6] https://digitalarchive.worldfishcenter.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12348/4195/Program%20Report_2020-22_Covid19%20Report.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

[7] <https://www.sprep.org/invasive-species-management-in-the-pacific/prismss>

[8] Source: <https://www.gbif.org/dataset/27b457b5-198a-4d84-b1a8-d4c5b3f0ce2f>

- [9] <https://www.iucn.org/content/another-kind-threat-island-biodiversity#:~:text=The%20Solomon%20Islands%20has%2019,goats%20and%20deer%20on%20islands.>
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- [12] <http://macbio-pacific.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Solomons-MESV-Summary-Digital-LowRes.pdf>
- [13] <https://www.dolphinproject.com/blog/mass-slaughter-in-the-solomons/>
- [14] Vuto S, Hamilton R, Brown C, Waldie P, Pita J, Peterson N, Hof C and Limpus C (2019). A report on turtle harvest and trade in Solomon Islands. The Nature Conservancy, Solomon Islands. 34 p.
- [15] Cornelio, David. (2020). Implications of traditional hunting on the megapodes and bats of Melanesia.
- [16] Shepherd, C.R., Stengel, C.J., and Nijman, V. (2012). The Export and Reexport of CITES-listed Birds from the Solomon Islands. TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
- [17] <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/5/054011>
- [18] http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/2019_Island_Invasives/PrintFiles/Moverley.pdf
- [19] Western Province, Isabel, Temotu, Malaita. Further, work to establish provincial-level PA networks will proceed under the GEF-6 EREPA project.
- [20] Work has started on drafting a national invasive alien species strategy (NISSAP), but it has not yet been finalized or adopted
- [21] <http://macbio-pacific.info/Resources/biophysically-special-unique-marine-areas-of-solomon-islands/>
- [22] <https://www.ffa.int/>
- [23] Conservation strategy for dugongs and seagrass habitats in Solomon Islands. WorldFish (2018) Penang, Malaysia: WorldFish. Strategy: 2018-22
- [24] <https://www.thegef.org/project/enhancing-conservation-effectiveness-seagrass-ecosystems-supporting-globally-significant>
- [25] <https://pacific-data.sprep.org/dataset/solomon-islands-national-marine-turtles-action-plan-2008-2012>
- [26] http://www.raypiercepacific.com/uploads/9/7/5/8/97589856/4._5d._santa_cruz_ground_dove_action_plan_2018.pdf
- [27] <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/east-melanesian-islands>
- [28] <https://solomonislands-data.sprep.org/>
- [29] <https://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/country/?country=SB>
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- [35] <https://www.thegef.org/project/ldcsids-portfolio-project-capacity-building-sustainable-land-management-solomon-islands> - see Terminal evaluation
- [36] <https://sgp.undp.org/component/sgpprojects/?view=allprojects&country=SOI&paging=1&limitstart=0>
- [37] <file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/SI%20REDD%20Roadmap.pdf>
- [38] <http://www.biosecurity.gov.sb>
- [39] <http://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/Resources/list-of-prohibitedplants>
- [40] <https://www.sprep.org/invasive-species-management-in-the-pacific/piln>
- [41] [http://www.glispa.org/glispa-bright-spots/31-thematic-bright-spots/invasive-species/152-pacific-invasive-partnership#:~:text=Pacific%20Invasive%20Partnership%20\(PIP\)%20is,Islands%20Roundtable%20for%20Nature%20Conservation.](http://www.glispa.org/glispa-bright-spots/31-thematic-bright-spots/invasive-species/152-pacific-invasive-partnership#:~:text=Pacific%20Invasive%20Partnership%20(PIP)%20is,Islands%20Roundtable%20for%20Nature%20Conservation.)
- [42] https://www.sprep.org/att/publication/000699_RISSFinalLR.pdf
- [43] <http://macbio-pacific.info/Resources/solomon-islands-national-marine-ecosystem-service-valuation/>
- [44] <http://macbio-pacific.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Solomons-MESV-Summary-Digital-LowRes.pdf>
- [45] Mangrove management in Solomon Islands: Case studies from Malaita Province. Albert, J.A., Schwarz, A.M. (2013) CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Penang, Malaysia. Policy Brief: AAS-2013-14
- [46] <http://macbio-pacific.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Solomons-MESV-Summary-Digital-LowRes.pdf>
- [47] <https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Regional/community-based-action-sids.pdf>
- [48] <https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Regional/community-based-action-sids.pdf>
- [49] https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/STAP%20ToC%20Primer_webposting.pdf



There are explicit assumptions that must be met in order to achieve the intended results, including: a) that Government maintains political and institutional support and the necessary co-financing to strengthen the enabling environment to deliver Components 1 and 2; b) that customary land tenure and/or conflicts between government and communities do not prevent the implementation of integrated land/seascape management which is a precondition for delivering Component 3; c) additionally for Component 3, that improved nature-based livelihoods potential can be facilitated to increase the participation of communities

in biodiversity conservation, IAS management and SLM; d) that improved knowledge management, supported by adaptive management, M&E and gender mainstreaming will increase capacity and resilience and therefore lead to enhanced sustainability and up-scaling of project outcomes which is necessary to deliver Component 4; and finally e) that the project is managed effectively.

In view of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and recent extreme weather events, effort has been made in the design of this PIF to integrate green recovery and resilience principles that can also deliver global environmental benefits. These include opportunities for accelerating new green-based businesses including green and climate-smart agriculture and other livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural resources.

Component 1 will strengthen intersectoral governance, capacity, strategies and tools for conserving and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services to support a nature-based development pathway. Under Output 1.1 a cross-sector biodiversity mainstreaming committee will be operationalized, with the aim to strengthen the existing Environmental Advisory Committee to support mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors including through the promotion of resilient blue/green development pathways. The committee will also have oversight for NBSAP implementation and the key interlinkages with other sectors needed to achieve its targets. This approach will be confirmed during the PPG based on an assessment of existing committees, membership and mandates. These efforts will be supported by the development of MOUs between agencies/sectors and improved vertical coordination with the provinces on biodiversity mainstreaming. The committee will develop and operationalize a strategy to secure a blue/green development pathway and identify resilient, diversified[1] nature-based investment opportunities in key sectors (e.g. environment, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and forestry). Support will be provided to prepare sector-based plans and/or guidance to operationalize the strategy (with testing in Component 3 of options that fall within the GEF mandate and will achieve GEBs). The project will support the review and development of improved (and better integrated) regulations, guidelines and provincial ordinances to support the effective enforcement of legislation. Improvements to regulations (to be confirmed during the PPG) will be likely to include: a) broadening the scope of the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 1998 and Regulations 2008 to include wildlife conservation and threat reduction (current focus is on CITES implementation); b) amending the regulations of the Protected Areas Act 2010 to cover threatened endemic species and habitats; c) review of the regulations of the Fisheries Act, Biosecurity Act, Forestry Act, Shipping Act and Shipping (Marine Pollution) Regulation 2011 and Environment Act 1998 to address species conservation and IAS management; and d) improvement of guidelines and provincial ordinances to address threatened and endemic species and IAS management (including provisions for better rapid responses).

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Output 1.2 will put in place an enabling platform for promoting and achieving LDN through improved land use policy, regulations and multi-sector coordination. Solomon Islands has not yet engaged in the LDN target-setting process and GEF funds will support this process. The project will start with a series of participatory processes to introduce the concept of LDN, including identification and resolution of policy trade-offs, the LDN response hierarchy of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation, goals/target setting and monitoring taking full account of guidance and lessons published by UNCCD and FAO for SIDS[2]. The national legal, policy and land use planning framework will be reviewed and strengthened to support achievement of LDN, with mechanisms to promote enforcement. Legal review will focus on the outdated Agriculture and Livestock Act and supporting regulations. A review of policies and laws will be completed during the PPG phase to identify key trade-offs and conflicts in achieving LDN. The National Rural Land Use Policy 2015-2020 will be reviewed to identify progress, challenges and lessons – and a new land use policy supporting the achievement of LDN will be developed. These processes will be supported by the establishment of a multi-sector LDN coordination mechanism/platform, that brings together line Ministries, private sector and NGOs, and takes account of the needs of different Departments in MAL, other Ministries as well as provinces. Technical guidelines for LDN and SLM best practices will

be prepared to allow communities to make informed choices about their future sustainable land use, building on the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, traditional knowledge and national/regional research programmes. This will include design of climate smart SLM agriculture and livestock systems for rural communities, along with protocols for LDN monitoring. The private sector will be engaged to promote innovations in agriculture and livestock production systems. These innovations and technical guidelines will be demonstrated under Component 3, with replication and upscaling supported by project knowledge management under Component 4.

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Output 1.3 will deliver a programme to build the capacity of government and other key stakeholders at national and provincial levels to enforce key mandates related to conservation of globally significant and endemic species, IAS management, sustainable agriculture and LDN. In order to build sustainability after the end of the project, agriculture, forestry and fisheries extension officers will be a key target group along with key NGOs and PA managers (in collaboration with the GEF-IUCN EREPA project). The project will deliver training in identified priority areas in species conservation (e.g. effective enforcement and monitoring), IAS (e.g. biosecurity and risk-based management) and sustainable land management (e.g. green farming techniques for soil and water conservation and increased profitability). During the PPG, a detailed capacity assessment will be completed of the individual, institutional, legal and systemic capacity and key training needs and gaps identified. This will include review of current training and certification systems and identify what complimentary support, delivery mechanisms (e.g. Solomon Islands University) and partnerships should be forged to facilitate capacity development where possible using/adapting existing materials^[3]

Output 1.4 will support improved collation, integration and use of biological/ecological and land degradation data in decision-making. In support of the updating of the NBSAP, desk top reviews will be undertaken to identify gaps in knowledge of the status of globally threatened and endemic species and IAS and targeted baseline assessments will be completed as needed to close key gaps. These will be used to formulate and inform an overall assessment (and state of knowledge) of the status of indigenous species and IAS, a list of priority species for protection (endemics, threatened species and those threatened by illegal/unsustainable trade), and species conservation plans for priority species – all providing key tools to increase the use of data in decision-making. The use of citizen science approaches to improve data coverage will be explored (including low-technology options). An assessment of existing approaches and capacity for adoption will be completed during the PPG to confirm feasible citizen science activities. The application and collation of remote sensing (using freeware tools e.g. <http://www.openforis.org/home.html>) and other data on land degradation will help assess land use changes and threats to inform priorities for achieving LDN. This will also support development and testing (in the demonstration landscapes under Output 3.3) of protocols for LDN monitoring. Decision support will be further enhanced by ensuring that information collected through this output will be made available in an integrated way through the standardized data repository platform being established by the GEF-6 EREPA project to integrate with existing data platforms at national and regional level (e.g. including the Solomon Islands Environment Data Portal). This will therefore leverage and build off this existing ICT infrastructure and its sustainability arrangements, increasing accessibility within these platforms to research and information about species, habitats and threats. Improved coordination and data-sharing protocols will be arranged with other sectors and targeted agreements for sustainability of data collection/updating developed as needed, and supported by project M&E. Various NGOs have documented traditional knowledge related to conservation and use of biodiversity and natural resources as part of their activities and the project will seek to incorporate those in the information portal alongside other data.

Component 2 will put in place a comprehensive framework for early detection, control and management of IAS, helping block the highest-risk invasion pathways for IAS and increasing emphasis on risk management approaches. This will aim to address the direct threats from IAS to biodiversity and also disrupt links between IAS impacts and land degradation. Output 2.1 will lead to the finalization, adoption and mainstreaming of a national strategy and action plan for IAS management (NISSAP). Implementation of the NISSAP will be overseen by an inter-sectoral IAS working group established under the intersectoral biodiversity committee. Protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for IAS detection, management and eradication to strengthen NISSAP implementation will be developed with the Biosecurity Division of MAL. Priority lists of high-risk IAS that threaten biodiversity and ecosystems will be developed and integrated into biosecurity and risk assessment approaches. Tools and capacity for IAS risk and impact assessments on terrestrial and marine protected areas will be developed in collaboration with the EREPA project.

Output 2.2 will result in strengthened biosecurity measures to support enforcement, detection and control of IAS. Activities will focus on high priority areas including islands of Western Province, Honiara port and international airport, Noro port and Munda international airport, and other key ports of entry from Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, with targeted investment in provinces to control spread between islands. This will require the establishment of collaborative arrangements between Biosecurity Division, Customs Division, ECD (and other partners such as ports, agriculture, forestry and fisheries officials and extension officers and the provincial governments) to address the linked threats that IAS pose to biodiversity protection and sustainable land management. At the four international airports and seaports, project investment will include targeted improvements to equipment to put in place essential biosecurity measures. This will focus on low-tech solutions with minimum maintenance and capacity development needs (e.g. binoculars, cameras and headlamps for monitoring of logging and cargo ships and ballast water discharge, back-pack sprayers, traps, freezers, personal protective equipment and potentially support for fumigation facilities and IT equipment), based on a detailed PPG assessment of equipment and capacity needs (including assessment of the capacity to use and maintain such equipment). In addition, GEF resources will fund appropriate training using (where possible) existing international modules on protocols and use of equipment, including the demonstration of strengthened Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) mechanisms/kits and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) reflecting the key IAS/types threatening biodiversity and SLM based on Solomon's context. Again, investment will focus on provision of low-maintenance, easy-to-use equipment (e.g. provision of materials for wire cage traps for EDRR kits whose construction and maintenance can be demonstrated in a workshop setting). At between-island ports (including domestic airports in project landscapes) that represent high risk invasion pathways, basic biosecurity improvements may include the use of signage, education, and awareness-raising to build understanding of biosecurity risks and instill basic biosecurity and quarantine protocols for the transportation of vessels, people and goods between islands. Provisions for sustainability of IAS investments include the use of low-tech, practical equipment options as possible; development of repeatable, standardized capacity development and awareness materials; and incorporation of maintenance costs of equipment into development/recurrent budgets of MAL. Further, options for the recovery of costs for securing increased biosecurity at the main entry and exits ports, perhaps through revision of existing fees/levies^[4] will be explored as a potential financing mechanism to support the sustainability of IAS investments. A sustainability plan will be developed. Project interventions will be based on best practices developed internationally (e.g. through SPREP's Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)) and will require appropriate training and testing.

Component 3 will demonstrate how a nature-based economic pathway can engage communities, improve livelihoods strengthen conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and reduce threats from IAS and land degradation. The project will focus on integrated planning and delivery across 82,128 ha in four land/seascapes representative of the terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems and agro-ecosystems of Solomon Islands, all of which include KBAs. These are:

1. Reef Islands and Utupua – Temotu Province (21,000ha, including 20,000ha PA)

2. Western Solomons Biosphere (Shortland Islands, Roviana and Marovo Lagoons – Western Province) (37,128 ha, including 16,128 ha PA)
3. Bogotu, San George and South Choiseul Tubi Forest Reserve (10,000 ha, all PAs)
4. Lau and North Malaita Integrated Sustainable Management Area (14,000 ha including 2,000 PAs)

Annex A provides the draft selection criteria, initial maps and brief detail on each of these preliminary-identified land/seascapes. GEF investments for biodiversity mainstreaming and IAS management will apply across all four sites, while land degradation investments will apply across three sites (all but landscape 3). These areas are indicative and final land/seascapes will be confirmed and delineated during the PPG phase based on application of the selection criteria, with proposed activities identified in full consultation with local communities and stakeholders.

Output 3.1 will result in integrated land/seascape level management plans with strengthened community governance developed and implemented for conservation of globally significant biodiversity in demonstration land/seascapes, using traditional and other knowledge to reduce threats from IAS, land degradation and unsustainable natural resource use. Open and active dialogue across multiple stakeholder groups will be adopted to build a common understanding of priorities, co-benefits and resolve conflicting aspirations for each land/seascape. including landscape-level target setting for biodiversity and LDN. Design of the plans will involve full engagement and agreement of local communities and consideration of local needs and rights including the identification of diversified green livelihood options that can deliver meaningful economic benefits and facilitate a shift away from unsustainable and/or illegal use of natural resources. The management plans will be designed based on detailed and spatially-explicit land/seascape-level baseline assessments (e.g. using the Biological Rapid Assessment (BIORAPS)^[5] methodology, but also including priority IAS, livelihood and land degradation assessments) to be initiated during the PPG and finalized during the first year of implementation. Each management plan will be supported by an appropriate local coordination committee with clear TOR, representing the key stakeholders (e.g. community groups, smallholder farmers, local government, private sector) who will oversee implementation, monitoring and adaptive management.

Output 3.2 will implement conservation actions for globally significant and indigenous biodiversity in each land/seascape. Activities supported by the project will vary according to the priorities of the different land/seascapes (outlined in Annex A and to be confirmed during the PPG) and may include: preparation, updating and implementation of species conservation plans; provision of facilities, equipment and community training to support species conservation; habitat enhancements; measures to avoid and manage the threats from IAS to vulnerable species (in line with the provincial ordinances and the NISSAP developed under Outputs 1.1 and 2.1); measures to avoid over-exploitation and use of species; and monitoring. In order to boost sustainability, priority will be given to working with (and building the capacity of) existing specialized NGOs, and small grants will be provided to NGOs/CBOs to assist with implementation of biodiversity conservation measures that align to the priorities in the plans developed under Output 3.1. Project support for addressing IAS threats to biodiversity in this Output will vary according to the contexts and priorities of the different land/seascapes (to be determined during the PPG) with priority given to biosecurity risk assessment, surveillance and early response, and biosecurity/quarantine measures for inter-island or inter-village movements, as well as technical demonstration of targeted in-situ management and control across where co-financing is available to support ongoing control efforts. Protocols and measures for IAS detection, management and (where appropriate, with co-financing support) eradication^[6] will be demonstrated with sustainability ensured by embedding ongoing management and control measures within the community rather than for example with outside contractors or government officers. Work will be coordinated by MECDM and MAL in collaboration with the working group on IAS (see Output 2.1) and provincial governments that host

the selected land/seascapes. Activities will be undertaken in close coordination with and making use of best practices promoted by SPREP's Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS) and building off existing training/awareness materials from other Pacific countries. Upscaling will be achieved through sharing of successful interventions through community exchanges and visits (Component 4) and through incorporating them into training programmes and guidelines for promotion by MECDM and NGO partners.

Under Output 3.3 smallholder farmers will be supported to implement innovative agricultural practices for sustainable land management that achieve LDN, protect ecosystem services, reduce threats from IAS and improve incomes. Detailed assessments of the farming systems in each landscape will be conducted during the PPG stage. None of the areas have large-scale farmers of any particular crop, with the landscapes more a combination of existing plantations and small-scale farms where a mixture of subsistence cash crops are grown. They include some agro-forestry, cocoa, kava, and coconut plantations and some perennial cropping systems. By supporting innovative approaches to SLM and improving farmer incomes within a framework of integrated community planning, governance and management at landscape scale, the project aims to avoid and reduce smallholder encroachment into adjacent forested areas. Project interventions will involve piloting integrated planning, implementation and monitoring of LDN in the demonstration landscapes including land use plans and targets. In order to build capacity and sustainability, technical training on SLM farming systems will be provided through the extension services capacitated under Component 1, with a particular focus on engaging women and youth. Support will be provided to establish model farms, where climate-smart SLM practices will be demonstrated to replace current damaging practices (e.g. slash and burn and encroachment into forested areas), while at the same time improving income. Traditional knowledge of sustainable land management systems will be promoted[7]; targeted interventions may include composting, mulching, cover crops, crop rotation, fallow periods and terracing to improve soil fertility, water and nutrient management and improved livestock (poultry, piggery) systems, along with measures to reduce the threats to land degradation from IAS (in line with the provincial ordinances and NISSAP developed under Outputs 1.1 and 2.1). Project support for addressing IAS threats to land degradation will vary according to the contexts and priorities of the different land/seascapes (to be determined during the PPG) with similar procedures for prioritization, coordination and learning from best practices as described for Output 3.2. Upscaling will be achieved through sharing of successful interventions through community exchanges and visits (Component 4) and through incorporating them into guidelines and agricultural training and extension programmes for promotion by MAL. Smallholders and farmer cooperatives will be assisted through small agricultural business incubators to improve production and marketing, with improved access to finance (e.g. through the recently established Development Bank).

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Finally, Output 3.4 will demonstrate how diversification into blue/green (nature-based) livelihoods can support the emergence of new business opportunities (e.g. sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, ecotourism, circular economy), while at the same time contribute to ecosystem services provision and species and habitat recovery. During the PPG phase opportunities for accelerating new green-based businesses and resilient green livelihood options will be co-developed with communities, using the framework, guidance and lessons learned of USAID's Conservation Enterprise approach[8]. These will be prioritized for each land/seascape based on local context and opportunities, taking into account feasibility and resilience given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities promoted for implementation will be within the mandate of GEF financing and expected to deliver GEBs. A strong focus will be given to women and youth as drivers of change and community participation in development, with the aim of strengthening their morale and leadership role. Sustainable financing mechanisms to incentivize green livelihoods aligned with the blue/green economy strategy developed under Component 1 will be established based on the PPG analysis. These may include blended financing solutions including women's/youth saving clubs or the development of local funds supported via public-private partnerships (e.g. by working with agricultural businesses, food retailers or processors, resorts, or forestry companies operating within the project land/seascapes). Training, capacity development and market/value chain assessments to support green business development will be provided.

Component 4 will ensure increased project impact and upscaling across Solomon Islands through effective knowledge management, raising awareness, and gender mainstreaming. Output 4.1 will develop, test and implement a national communications strategy and action plan, based on an analysis of lessons learned from other GEF projects in the Pacific (including design and early implementation of the EREPA communication and outreach program), to raise public awareness of the crucial importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the risks from IAS and land degradation and the broad benefits of ecosystem-based management. The plan will be developed in Year 1 for testing and implementation in coordination with provincial governments, relevant sectors and NGOs/CBO partners on the ground, as well as news media (Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) radio and local newsprint media) and social media. Effectiveness of the strategy and plan will be evaluated internally at the end of Year 2, and adaptive measures/lessons incorporated. Specific approaches, tools and materials will be needed to address local languages, illiteracy and challenges with internet and mobile access (e.g. by working through local shortwave radio, extension services and face to face-meetings supported by local teachers or nurses). Communication products and approaches included in the strategy might include provincial-level posters or videos of threatened and endemic species, IAS risks or SLM techniques, as well as targeted campaigns for iconic species conservation or to address particular threats. Community chiefs and church leaders will be engaged as important advocates in the community. Sustainability mechanisms will be explored during the PPG to ensure that ECD and MAL can maintain a communications function beyond the end of the project.

Output 4.2 will support knowledge sharing, tools, events and networks for safeguarding biodiversity and managing the threats from IAS and land degradation to aid effectiveness and up-scaling. The project will use videos and other technology to document activities and best practices, as well as supporting exchange visits between land/seascapes[9]. Low-cost, community-run, biodiversity and sustainability information/learning/visitor centres will be established for coordination and knowledge sharing in each land/seascape. Participation in regional and international events by local community representatives will be supported where clear benefits are identified, including via virtual means as appropriate. The project will place particular emphasis on sharing knowledge and lessons across the Pacific. SPREP already hosts regional information and learning portals that include information on biodiversity and IAS in Solomon Islands[10]. These will be reviewed during the PPG to explore opportunities for use in knowledge sharing and exchange. Specific opportunities for knowledge sharing on IAS with the UNEP/GEF regional IAS project and with other GEF-financed IAS projects in the Pacific and other SIDS will also be confirmed during the PPG.

Finally, Output 4.3 will deliver a M&E system that supports project impact including gender and youth mainstreaming and adherence to social and environmental safeguards, building on baseline best practices and lessons from other projects in Solomon Islands and across the Pacific.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

Through its objective of safeguarding Solomon Island's indigenous species and natural ecosystems from unsustainable resource use and invasive alien species, this proposed project is aligned to two GEF-7 focal area objectives:

· *BD-1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors.* The project contributes to this focal area objective by: a) supporting government to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity into priority sectors (particularly agriculture, forestry and tourism) through improved inter-sectoral governance, planning and information management within the framework of the NBSAP; and b) improving land/seascape management to be more biodiversity-positive, with a focus on working with communities to diversify towards green livelihoods that deliver new income while also contributing to biodiversity conservation. Mainstreaming will be delivered through improved intersectoral coordination, better regulations, sharing of information and improved tools for decision-making, technical capacity building, demonstration and knowledge sharing and provision of incentives for communities to change current practices that are degrading biodiversity.

· *BD2-6 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species through the prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species.* Under this focal area objective, the project will support the implementation of comprehensive prevention, early detection, control and management frameworks that emphasize a risk management approach. The GEF investment will support: a) the finalization and implementation of the NISSAP including implementation tools and establishment of effective governance; b) the strengthening of biosecurity controls and systems at entry-exit ports and key ports for inter-island movements; c) technical capacity building, demonstrating risk assessment, prevention and early detection and response, including updated and strengthened EDRR and ERPs; d) demonstration of technical best practices in ecosystem-based approaches to preventing, managing and controlling IAS emphasizing risk assessment and avoidance of threats; e) awareness raising and knowledge sharing including with other IAS initiatives across the Pacific.

· *LD1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management.* Under Component 3, The project will focus on production landscapes (smallholder farms) where agricultural management practices underpin the livelihoods of rural farmers and improved farmer incomes will be used as an indicator of project success. The project will include support for improved access to finance and technical assistance for smallholders to implement innovative agricultural practices for sustainable land management that achieve LDN, protect ecosystem services, reduce threats from IAS and improve incomes. Project SLM interventions will target the drivers of land degradation within a framework of integrated community planning, governance and management at landscape scale. Upscaling will be achieved through agricultural training and extension programmes and sharing of successful interventions through community exchanges and visits (Component 4). Strategies pursued with the private sector will target SMEs that are promoting innovations in agriculture and livestock production systems.

· *LD-2-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN.* The STAP LDN Guidelines for GEF projects^[11] have been used to inform the development of this PIF and will be used during the PPG phase to inform preliminary assessments and the detailed design of project activities. Key modules of the guidance have been captured within project outputs at PIF stage, e.g. building participatory multi-sector coordination around LDN goals, objectives and interventions, integration with existing land use planning processes and systems for better monitoring LDN progress. Through Component 1, the proposed project contributes to this focal area objective by putting in place a coordination platform for promoting LDN and mainstreaming SLM in Solomon Islands and will lay the groundwork for LDN target setting. Project activities will be designed in close alignment with the UNCCD Scientific-Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality and as summarized in the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes (LDN TPP). This will be supported through strengthening the legal, policy and land use planning framework, in particular the National Rural Land Use Policy. Technical guidelines for LDN and SLM best practices including climate smart SLM agriculture and livestock systems for rural communities will be prepared to support upscaling across provinces and communities, supported by appropriate training of extension officers.

- [1] The strategy will reflect the COVID-19 pandemic and understanding that has emerged on the risks of reliance on international tourism to have diversified, resilient green livelihoods.
- [2] UNCCD and FAO. 2020. Land Degradation Neutrality in Small Island Developing States. Technical report. Bonn, Germany.
- [3] For IAS, there are some learning materials available through SPREP's Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) or and others being developed by other GEF investments such as the IAS training modules being developed with the College of Micronesia by the GEF-6 IAS project in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- [4] <http://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/Portals/93/Content/Documents/Resources/BSI%20Fees%20and%20Charges.pdf>
- [5] <https://pipap.sprep.org/content/bioraps-biological-rapid-assessment>
- [6] GEF funds will be used to support demonstration/validation of eradication techniques, along with support for building capacities, equipment and protocols for IAS management. Co-financing support will cover any actual eradication efforts.
- [7] For example the Bushmen Farming Network is focusing on six key aspects that have been the foundation to farmer-farmer exchanges for thousands of years: Ideas, Planting Materials, Advice, Individuality, Culture. See <https://www.bushmenfarming.com/summary.html>
- [8] <https://rmportal.net/biodiversityconservation-gateway/learning-groups/conservation-enterprises/ce-documents>
- [9] This will also provide an adaptive management mechanism for the project if COVID-19 travel restrictions are prolonged.
- [10] Pacific Environment Portal (PEP), Invasive Species Battler Resources Base, Pacific Invasive Learning Network, Pacific Climate Change Portal, Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP), Pacific Network for Environment assessments (PNEA)
- [11] <https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/STAP%20LDN%20Guidelines%2016-pager%20web%20version.pdf>

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

Baseline	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact including GEBs
<i>Enabling framework and capacity for biodiversity conservation and nature-based economy</i>		
Key laws for biodiversity conservation are in place at national level, but have not been adequately transposed into policies, planning and activities of different sectors including at provincial level. There is poor coordination between different sectors, meaning that the limited resources for biodiversity conservation are inefficiently used.	Enhanced intersectoral governance mechanisms (committees, MOUs, ordinances) are in place at national level to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and in the provinces, resulting in more harmonized approaches and efficient use of resources.	Improved government capacity and coordination for conserving Solomon Islands globally significant and endemic biodiversity, including at least 254 species on the IUCN Red List.

<p>used.</p> <p>Government lacks the information and tools to mainstream biodiversity conservation into its planning and activities.</p> <p>There is a great lack of capacity across government for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species, and at provincial level.</p>	<p>Information on biodiversity is enhanced and made available through modern information technology and targeted communications activities to aid government decision-making and M&E, and to raise public awareness.</p> <p>Capacity for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and safeguarding globally significant and endemic biodiversity is raised at all levels, with improved knowledge of best practices: in government, in the private sector and in communities across selected land/seascapes.</p>	<p>Improved information, knowledge and awareness of the value of biodiversity.</p> <p>Reduction of threats to biodiversity from unsustainable use of natural resources by different sectors through focus on a green/blue economy.</p> <p>Targeted conservation measures for important or flagship species in demonstration land/seascapes. Species to be targeted will be determined during the PPG.</p>
<i>Invasive alien species</i>		
<p>Under the baseline scenario, IAS risks will continue to increase across the terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems of the Solomon Islands because:</p> <p>There is no adopted strategy or plan at national level for managing the substantial threat and damages to biodiversity from IAS. Priority lists of IAS are in need of updating, and there is poor information management. There is inadequate coordination between Ministries to address the scale of the threat posed by IAS.</p> <p>There is a lack of equipment at ports and other entry points for the detection and avoidance of incursions by IAS. Officials and private sector representatives require training in biosecurity.</p> <p>Communities are unaware of the threats and risks from IAS and are not engaged in</p>	<p>National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) adopted and under implementation through coordinated action.</p> <p>Improved information, tools, guidance, knowledge sharing and capacity on IAS.</p> <p>Ports and other potential entry points are better equipped and capacitated to detect and control IAS incursions.</p> <p>Demonstrations of IAS management at ecosystem scale.</p>	<p>Comprehensive pathways approach (prevention, early detection, control and management) established.</p> <p>Improved understanding and awareness of the threats and risks posed by IAS.</p> <p>Stronger community and private sector participation in IAS control and management.</p> <p>Improved capacity to avoid new IAS incursions and to manage existing threats, with no new incursions and reduced spread of existing incursions.</p>

<p>n their management. There is no guidance and there are no demonstrations of how IAS can be managed to protect ecosystems and biodiversity.</p>		
<i>Combating land degradation and achieving LDN</i>		
<p>Land degradation will continue to increase and land degradation neutrality will not be achieved because of the lack of knowledge of LDN in MAL and the lack of integration of SLM and LDN targets and approaches into policies plans and practices. MAL will continue to lack capacity in its extension services to promote SLM practices and LDN.</p> <p>On the ground, gardening will continue to make incursions into natural ecosystems, damaging biodiversity and ecosystem services. Farmers will not have access to green farming practices and technologies that will allow them to conserve soils and water.</p>	<p>LDN introduced to MAL and integrated into policies and plans.</p> <p>Improved information, tools, guidance, knowledge sharing and capacity on SLM and LDN.</p> <p>Demonstrations of SLM at ecosystem scale.</p> <p>Knowledge sharing on SLM and LDN.</p>	<p>SLM and LDN approaches integrated into policies and plans.</p> <p>Improved understanding and awareness of the threats and risks posed by land degradation to ecosystem services.</p> <p>Improved capacity for SLM and LDN.</p> <p>14,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems.</p>
<i>Community participation and green livelihoods for land/seascape conservation</i>		
<p>Ecologically outstanding land/seascapes and their globally significant biodiversity continue to be degraded by unsustainable use of natural resources and IAS.</p> <p>Public awareness of the benefits provided by biodiversity and functioning ecosystems is low and hence participation in biodiversity conservation is limited. Indigenous knowledge is rarely considered in decision-making by government. As a result there are frequent conflicts between communities (and with government and the private sector) over access to natural resources.</p>	<p>Integrated ecosystem-based land/seascape management plans agreed and being implemented through inclusive approaches with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Communities participating in improved management of land/seascapes and conservation of globally threatened and endemic species using local indigenous knowledge and best practices.</p> <p>Business incubation support for sustainable use of natural resources to assist emergence of green livelihoods that benefit household incomes, particularly for women and youth.</p>	<p>Improved management of 82,128 ha of priority land/seascapes, including forested, coastal and marine ecosystems, all of which are part of KBAs. This will include improved PA management over 49,000 ha of community-managed land/seascapes and bring 14,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems.</p> <p>Unsustainable livelihoods replaced by green livelihoods.</p>

There are no incentives for communities to manage their natural resources wisely.	y for women and youth.	<p>ced by green alternatives through demonstration of community-led sustainable use of natural resources, providing a model for elsewhere in Solomon Islands and regionally.</p> <p>Greater harmony between communities and with government and nature.</p>
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6) Global environmental benefits

The impact of the project will be improved conservation of indigenous biodiversity and reduction of threats from IAS and land degradation across globally important land/seascapes (KBAs), supported by more resilient and engaged communities demonstrating the value of a nature-based economy that delivers climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits. The project will generate global environmental benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services over 82,128 ha of forested, agricultural, coastal and marine land/seascapes including KBAs in Temotu, Isabel, Choiseul, Malaita and Western provinces, through integrated and inclusive ecosystem-based management. The global biodiversity significance of these areas is apparent from their inclusion in the East Melanesian Biodiversity Hotspot as well as being part of the Coral Triangle Initiative, supporting at least 254 globally threatened species included on the IUCN Red List, plus a vast array of endemic species.

The project will lead to improved management of the remaining areas of natural ecosystems and reduction of the threats from IAS, in the following KBAs: Malaita Highlands, Gizo, Tetepare, Marovo, Roviana-Vonvona, San George, and South east Choiseul. This will benefit the globally significant biodiversity that depends on them and contribute to the GEF core indicators as follows: 22,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Core Indicator 1); 26,128 ha of marine protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Core Indicator 2); 34,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices of which 20,000 ha will be managed to benefit biodiversity and 14,000 ha will be under sustainable land management in production systems[1] (Core Indicator 4); 667,729 tCO₂e greenhouse gas emission mitigated (Core Indicator 6) through avoided forest degradation from expansion of agricultural areas that will be avoided by conversion of current unsustainable smallholder practices to SLM.

The project offers strong potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits through nature-based solutions that lead to enhanced carbon sequestration in soils and forests and coastal and marine ecosystems as well as improved protection from severe weather events – floods, storms, droughts etc. These co-benefits will be integrated into project activities as far as possible.

Project implementation will provide direct benefits to 10,306 people (50% female) (50 nationally and 10,256 in the demonstration land/seascapes) who depend on the functioning of these ecosystems for the rich ecosystem services they provide. Indirect benefits will flow to populations across the demonstration land/seascapes (an indicative 50,000 at PIF stage, a vast majority of whom are expected to be engaged in the agricultural sector). The project will demonstrate livelihood benefits (diversification and improved income) through business support for green livelihoods options to improve or replace existing unsustainable livelihoods for at least 20% of local households (including smallholder farmers) in the demonstration land/seascapes, with the potential for wide replication. Smallholder farms supported for SLM activities will show a 10% improvement in income per ha. This will result in reduced conflicts between communities over natural resources and with the government and private sector, as well as reducing threats to biodiversity.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The innovation of this project is its integrated focus on conserving the endemic and globally threatened biodiversity of Solomon Islands, on addressing land degradation, and on the addressing the impacts of IAS across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems – in a way that aligns to the blue-green economy opportunities linked to the government's broader development strategy and longer-term COVID-19 recovery potential. For the first time, it will draw together the collective effort of different government sectors and levels of government, communities, NGOs and the private sector to address these issues in a coherent and targeted manner. Specifically, the project will for the first time in Solomon Islands: support an intersectoral committee with a mandate for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, overseeing implementation of the NBSAP and elaborating a strategy for a blue green economic pathway (Output 1.1); provide a coordination platform and initiate the foundations for achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) (Output 1.2); along with demonstrate integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, IAS management and SLM across four land/seascapes (Component 3). Communities will be at the heart of the project, leading the improved management of biodiversity with support of government, and with citizen science as a new way of gathering data, information and traditional knowledge for assessments and monitoring to support adaptive management. The project will actively seek to identify how citizen science data collection methods and techniques can be used to leverage additional data on species distribution and land condition (including traditional knowledge and information on species and resource condition), while also raising awareness and engagement of communities. Specific methods and activities will be defined further during the PPG phase. The project's emphasis on enhancing collation and use of data under Output 1.4 provides particular opportunities for the use of innovative practices.

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Sustainability: The project will support and build the capacity of permanent entities such as government departments, decentralized bodies, community-based mechanisms, traditional governance, existing local CSOs, so that further progress after completion of the project does not depend on external funding for follow-up activities. This will optimize the future investments for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and increase sustainability of project IAS and SLM outcomes. Specifically: under Component 1, the project will support implementation of the existing NBSAP and National Rural Land Use Policy, build on the structure and work of the existing Environmental Advisory Committee, build capacity of existing extension services and use/strengthen existing portals for sharing information; Under Component 2, the project will support finalization of the draft NISSAP and strengthen and build on the existing capacity and frameworks of the Biosecurity Department of MAL; under Component 3, demonstration land/seascapes were selected to build on existing

community initiatives and the project will prioritize working through existing extension services, NGOs, farmer cooperatives etc.; under Component 4, knowledge sharing will make great use of existing regional platforms including those developed and managed by SPREP and supported by other GEF investments. In the Solomon Islands, ownership and resource rights to land, reefs, and fisheries are enshrined in constitutionally recognized customary ownership. Any successful conservation initiative needs the support of local clans and communities to be sustainable. Thus, the project will employ a community-driven, participatory approach to support community natural resource management governance systems.

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Potential for scaling-up: Under Component 1, support for NBSAP implementation and delivering the foundations for LDN, supported by improved coordination, regulations and tools, and capacity building at national and provincial levels, will give high potential for up-scaling. Similarly, Under Component 2, approval of the NISSAP will provide a strategic framework for addressing IAS impacts across the country. Demonstrations of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, IAS management and SLM in Component 3 will have high potential for replication, both with additional communities in the concerned provinces, but also nationally. Component 4 has a particular focus on mechanisms to support upscaling and replication nationally through the communication strategy and plan, and through knowledge sharing mechanisms. The project will seek to develop scaling up and replication mechanisms in close coordination with the GEF-6 EREPA project to leverage this earlier GEF investment and build upon mechanisms it has established. Further the location of the respective project landscapes in different provinces (with the exception of Malaita Province in which the two projects have a demonstration landscape) will further support the potential for replication and upscaling between the two projects. This will be supported by knowledge management activities and platforms elaborated under Output 4.2 during the PPG phase. Success stories and lessons learned will also be shared at regional level, supporting replication across the Pacific, particularly on biosecurity and IAS management, linking with other GEF-funded initiatives and regional coordination platforms.

[1] This represents around 1,120 homesteads and 4,421 Outside Agricultural Land (OSAL) parcels according to estimates derived from the National Agricultural Survey 2017

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

See Annex A.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

Stakeholder engagement has been at the forefront of the development of this PIF since this has been one of the key lessons learned from previous projects in Solomon Islands. An initial round of engagement was conducted during preparation of an initial concept note in early 2020. Then, during July and August 2020, bilateral discussions were held with all key national level stakeholders, and a PIF Technical Working Group met three times to engage all relevant ministries and NGOs in collective discussions. Because of the isolated nature of the demonstration land/seascapes and COVID-19 travel and social distancing restrictions, discussions with local communities were not possible during PIF development. However, efforts were taken to engage locally, with consultations with the provincial governments and NGOs/CSOs that are active in the proposed areas. During the PPG phase visits will be made to each demonstration land/seascape to fully engage with all stakeholders, particularly the communities in project land/seascapes to ensure that they have been fully consulted on, and are supportive of, the project design and safeguarding measures. Preferences for FPIC will be identified and FPIC will be secured. A PPG local engagement strategy will guide this PPG consultation. The engagement of locally-based experts and organizations located in project land/seascapes will be used as needed if travel restrictions are ongoing during PPG. The following table provides an indicative list of the main stakeholders who may have an interest in the project and will be engaged in project preparation and implementation along with their respective roles and means of engagement. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan for project implementation will be prepared during the PPG.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities	Potential involvement in the Project
National Level		
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM) http://www.mecdm.gov.sb/	MECDM, through ECD, has the mandate for overseeing environmental management including the Environment Act, Protected Area Act and the Wildlife Management Acts and the objectives of CBD (1992). ECD serves as the secretariat of the NBSAP.	MECDM is the Ministry with responsibility for project execution and will be involved in all aspects of governance and implementation, potentially hosting the project management office for the SAFE Project.

<p>Environment and Conservation Division (ECD)</p> <p>Climate Change Division (CCD)</p>	<p>ECD responsibilities include: Conservation and Management of environment and biodiversity, Protected areas network, Waste management and pollution control, Development control, Environment Training</p> <p>MECDM divisions support synergy between biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk management. A project coordination office supports synergies between donor-funded projects</p>	
<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL)</p> <p>Biosecurity Department</p> <p>Biosecurity Solomon Islands (BSI) http://www.biosecurity.gov.sb/</p>	<p>Has mandates over the agriculture and agroforestry sector and food security including sustainable land management. Lead Ministry for UNCCD and the land degradation aspects of the project.</p> <p>BSI is mandated to manage the biosecurity risks associated with the movement of goods (trade) and people into and out of Solomon Islands. Effective biosecurity is essential for protecting subsistence agriculture for food security, the domestic production of cash crops for sale and export and for protect the natural environment and biodiversity which are fundamental to tourism and log export industries.</p>	<p>Key project partner for biosecurity and IAS, and for sustainable land management. MAL will be the lead executing partner for Outputs 1.2 and 3.3.</p> <p>The Biosecurity Department protocols at ports of entry and system to manage and control invasive pest and diseases will be the baseline for many of the protocols and systems to address IAS. They will also play an important role in border control and collaborating with ECD for enforcing IAS threats and biodiversity related trades.</p> <p>The Agriculture Planning and Land Use Department and Agriculture Extension and Training Department will be the key partners in SLM work.</p>
<p>Customs and Excise Division (Ministry of Finance and Treasury)</p>	<p>Key services include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revenue – to assist manufacturers/importers/exporters to take advantage of new and existing opportunities in local and international markets, whilst ensuring that the revenue base of the Solomon Islands is preserved, and voluntary compliance is encouraged. 2. Border Enforcement – to ensure that the Solomon Islands' borders are kept safe and secure. Customs controls the movement of people and goods in and out of the country with minimum intervention to legitimate trade and travel 	<p>Customs will be a key stakeholder for border enforcement for IAS management under this project. Officers will be trained to collaborate with biosecurity and ECD officers for reporting and enforcing IAS and biodiversity threats.</p>
<p>Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)</p>	<p>Mandated to provide effective services to facilitate sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquatic resources for the benefit of the nation under the Fisheries</p>	<p>A key partner in addressing marine biodiversity and threat from IAS in the marine environment. Their role in promoting aquaculture is critical due to the potential</p>

https://www.fisheries.gov.sb/	<p>s Management Act 2015.</p> <p>The Ministry manages both offshore and inshore fisheries and plays an important role in managing licenses for the fishing industry. It also recently established a community-based resources managing (CBRM) unit that supports inshore marine resources and fisheries management and marine managed areas</p>	<p>al threat they pose to indigenous species.</p> <p>The Ministry also manages offshore fisheries and has fisheries observers on board commercial fishing boats that will play an important role in monitoring threats to marine biodiversity and IAS.</p>
<p>Ministry of Forest and Research (MFR)</p> <p>http://mofr.gov.sb/main.do</p>	<p>Their mandate is to utilize, conserve and manage the forest resources for the continuing benefit to the environment and the people of Solomon Islands.</p> <p>Operates the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden in Honiara</p> <p>Hosts the REDD+ Programme Unit</p>	<p>The ministry is a key partner and will provide information on IAS that threatens the native flora of the country.</p> <p>It also has broad network of forestry officers at the provincial level who will play an important role in monitoring biodiversity and IAS on logging ships and logging operations.</p>
<p>Ministry of Police and National Security</p> <p>The Border Security Division was established in 2019. Its function is to mainly focus on border issues e.g. the Solomon Islands Police Response Team is stationed at the Western border to protect citizens from illegal entry from Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.</p>	<p>Coordinates national security, policing and correctional services to provide a safe and secure Solomon Islands. It is mandated to support the corporate functions and the operations of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Correctional Services of Solomon Islands (CSSI), two agencies of the state in the law and justice management and administration system.</p>	<p>The border security offices will play an important role in providing support to the project in monitoring and enforcing biodiversity trade and IAS related issues.</p>
<p>Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA)</p>	<p>Mandate includes ensuring safe vessel operations, combating marine pollution from all range of threat, land-based source, oil spill, untreated sewage, heavy siltation, nutrient enrichment, invasive species, persistent organic, heavy metals from mines and ship yards, acidification, radioactive substance, marine litter, over fishing and destruction of coastal marine habitats.</p>	<p>Key stakeholder in combating marine pollution and therefore one of the key stakeholders for the project.</p> <p>Threat from ballast water and pollution to marine biodiversity is critical.</p>
<p>Solomon Islands Port Authority (SIPA)</p>	<p>Established under the SI Ports Authority Act giving them jurisdiction to operate international wharfs. SIPA endeavor to be world-class services in logistics, shipping and port management</p>	<p>A key partner for the project. SI Ports regularly fumigate containers as they have been passed around the globe and handled so many times. Although contain</p>

	<p>anagement.</p> <p>They managed two international ports of Honiara and Noro.</p>	<p>er washing has been done thoroughly, there are still harmful microbes present on each container that may prove detrimental to the flora and fauna in Solomon Islands. These microbes could not be washed clean; therefore, ports fumigators are employed to get rid of these pests which could otherwise upset the food security.</p>
Solomon Islands Airport Corporation Ltd (SIACL)	Ownership, operation and management of all international and domestic airports in the Solomon Islands	A key partner as international airports and domestic airports are key entry points for IAS and any illegal trade of biodiversity.
Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening	Administers the Provincial Government Act 1997 and plays an important role in strengthening provincial government and supporting them implement the act. The Devolution Orders under the Provincial Government Act 1997 made in respect of each province give them legislative competence over a range of matters of direct relevance to natural resource management.	The provincial governments will be important partners for on ground implementation.
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Oversees the development of tourism and preserving cultures and arts. The Tourism Division develops and implements policies and administers tourism development by providing training for existing and potential tourism operators.	A key partner when developing potential eco-tourism products as livelihood options for income generation and protecting and managing the environment.
Tourism Solomons	Markets Solomon Island as a Tourism destination.	Most of the tourism products for Solomon Islands are built around culture and nature. This project provides an opportunity to promote eco-tourism as a sustainable livelihood option.
Other relevant ministries	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade</p> <p>Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination</p>	Collaboration on related project issues
Solomon Islands National University http://www.sinu.edu.sb/	The only national university in the country The School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences hosts several programmes directly related to biodiversity http://www.sinu.edu.sb/snras/ including Diplomas in Environmental Studies and Tropical Forestry.	Key partner for research, assessments, training, mobilizing students etc.
National NGOs	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP), The Solomon Islands Locally Managed Marine Areas (SILMMA) Network, Natural Resource Development Found	National and local NGOs will play a key role in reaching out to communities and in awareness raising, knowledge sharing

	ation (NRDF), Solomon Island Environmental Law Association (SIELA), Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT), Oceans Watch, Ecological Solution Solomon Islands (ESSI), Kustom Garden http://kastomgaden.org/ , Live and Learn https://livelearn.org , Zaina Tina Farm, Barana Community Nature and Heritage Park Association	
Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce	Platform for the private sector	Key partner for engaging private sector in planning for blue/green (nature-based) economic development
Private sector	Tourism, agriculture and services (e.g. Island Enterprises Ltd), forestry (e.g. Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Ltd (GPPO L)), and mining businesses	Potential partners for green/blue economic development and co-financers including for activities at demonstration land/seascapes
Solomon Islands National Provident Fund (SINPF)	A defined contribution fund and financial institution under the Financial Institutions Act. The fund has many investments to create income for its members and over years invested in the Tavanipupu Resorts which is one of the proposed landscape locations.	Potential partner for co-financing if the site is selected. This will be a new pathway for partnership between the private sector and financial institutions.
Sub-national level	(Demonstration land/seascapes)	
Provincial governments in Temotu, Western, Central, Choiseul and Isabel Provinces	The “devolution order” has authorised provincial governments to formulate their own regulations to devolve functions to help address environmental issues.	Major stakeholders of the project. Key targets for capacity building. Will support activities in demonstration land/seascapes
Local Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) and ward authority councils	Elected representatives of the community	To be engaged in local consultations for demonstration land/seascapes and awareness activities.
Local CBOs To be identified and consulted in detail during the PPG phase for each demonstration land/seascape	Key actors for CBNRM approaches to conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and IAS management for demonstration land/seascapes including: Temotu Conservation and Sustainable Development Association (TCSDA), Bushmen Farming Network, Western Province Network for Sustainable Environment (WPNFSE), Roviana Conservation Foundation, farmers associations	Key partners for implementation in demonstration land/seascapes
Local communities, Civil society and indigenous peoples	Local communities and tribes in the demonstration land/seascapes including: Fenualoa Island, Tuwo, Ngadeli, Nenubo and Lipe Community; Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community (LLCTC), Councils of Chiefs for Isabel and Choiseul. KAWAKI Women’s Group. The Church can also be a key partner.	Key beneficiaries of the project. Will be comprehensively engaged in PPG consultations on project activities and FPIC will be secured as needed by UNDP policy and in accordance with national/local systems and preferences.

Local private sector	Private sector active in demonstration land/seascapes includes SolTuna, Bilikiki Cruises, Dive Solomons, local eco-resorts.	Key partners for developing nature-based economy. Potential project co-financers.
International partners		
United Nations Development Programme	Key development partner of government.	GEF Agency for the project. Will coordinate the PPG process and ensure project development process and project documentation meet GEF and UNDP-GEF requirements. Provides oversight for project implementation in accordance with GEF Agency role.
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	SPREP is a regional organization established by Governments and Administrations of the Pacific, charged with protecting and managing the environment and natural resources. Its head office is in Apia, Samoa. It has been supporting projects on biodiversity, ecosystem management and IAS for more than 20 years. It has been supporting countries develop NISSAPs including the Solomon Islands, and currently provides the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)	SPREP will be a key project partner in all aspects of knowledge management, best practices and regional approaches for conservation of globally threatened and endemic species and IAS management, including finalization of the NISSAP (Output 2.1). PRISMSS will support activities to address already established IAS under Outputs 3.2 and 3.3. Regional and national projects implemented by SPREP could provide potential co-financing.
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	SPC is a key regional development partner for many Pacific Island countries and has been involved in building capacity for biosecurity departments in the region.	SPC's expertise and experience in the region will be useful for the project and they are potential partners for the project.
Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	Established to help countries sustainably manage their fishery resources (mainly tuna) that fall within their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones	All member countries have observers, who are trained by FFA to monitor implementation of fishing measures. Potential partner for reducing IAS incursions from fishing boats.
Other multilateral partners and IGOs	The following multilateral agencies have active cooperation programmes: World Bank; The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and play a key role in supporting capacity development in government.	Synergies with ongoing projects; potential co-financing.
Bilateral governmental partners	The following governments have active cooperation programmes: Australia-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Japan (Official development assistance (ODA); New Zealand (New Zealand's Overseas Development Assistance Programme (ODA); German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)	Synergies with ongoing projects and sharing of best practices; potential co-financing from aligned projects.

	<p>vironment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU); United States of America (Embassy); and United Kingdom (Department for International Development (DFID))</p>	
International NGOs and initiatives	<p>The following international NGO partners have active programmes: Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (F SPI); Coral Triangle Initiative Secretariat, Conservation International (CI); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Oceania); World Fish Centre (WFC); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Rainforest Trust; Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Vision, Oxfam. These partners help building capacity at sector and community level depending what their project focuses on.</p>	<p>Synergies with ongoing projects; best practices; potential co-financing. In the demonstration landscapes, the following are already active: Ocean Watch, IUCN, CEPF, WorldFish, WWF, TNC.</p>

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

There are key differences in the way that men and women use and access biodiversity and natural resources in the demonstration landscapes. For example, women work in the gardens while men tend to fish in the rivers/ocean. A majority of farming/gardening is done by women and women tend to spend more time on farming-related tasks. In 2012, over 80% of all economically active women worked in agriculture and the share of women in the agricultural labor force has increased over time. However, male-headed households still account for over 85% of all agricultural holdings[1]. Rural female-headed households have been reported as disproportionately represented among the bottom 30% of income deciles[2]. Therefore, women can be disproportionately impacted by declines in natural resources condition and be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of land degradation, along with being key beneficiaries to engage in the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices. With marine and coastal resources, men are more involved in reef fishing (and sales) and use a higher number of different fishing methods, while women more often participate in harvest and sale of non-fish marine resources – although there are differences based on cultural contexts and provinces. For example, in Western Province (one of the project provinces) women were found to have greater involvement across agricultural and marine value chains than in Isabel Province[3]. Women's access to financial compensation from sale of natural resources is linked to their capabilities to bargain with other value chain actors, a process that is shaped by both gender norms and power relations. While household decisions can be divided between men and women individually or made jointly, at the community-level men tend to dominate decision-making processes.

Based on these differences, risks related to unequal participation and benefits of women in the project have been identified in the pre-screening version of the SESP. Due to existing local hierarchies, cultural practices and traditional governance, gender imbalances exist in governance, community and household positions across Solomon Islands. Women could therefore be marginalized within project stakeholder participation, governance arrangements, capacity building, livelihoods development, and knowledge sharing. Enabling women to have leadership positions within community decisions and increasing their financial independence could also cause tension through alterations to traditional male-dominated structures. However, women are usually responsible for growing staple foods and raising livestock and are involved in artisanal fisheries and they predominate among those selling produce[4]. There is therefore considerable potential for empowering women in the work on livelihoods and sustainable agriculture under Outputs 3.3 and 3.4. These risks and opportunities, and the specific situation in each land/seascape will be assessed in further detail during the PPG stage.

The project will work closely with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family affairs, supporting its division focusing on women affairs in development and related women's programmes in aspects related to biodiversity, IAS management and particularly SLM so as to empower women in the agriculture sector. A Women in Agriculture service already exists in MAL, with networks in the provinces. The project will strengthen this service through information sharing, trainings and building a network of champion women in the agriculture sector recognizing the key role of women in agriculture in the Solomon Islands. At the subnational levels market vendors have been established under the Markets for Change Programme implemented by UNWOMEN and these could play a major role in sharing agricultural produce from SLM in the markets in Honiara, Gizo (Western Province) and Auki (Malaita). These initiatives will be connected to national level coordination through ECD for biodiversity-related work and with the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs for long-term sustainability. The project will aim to build off and learn from existing initiatives to support livelihoods of women and youth, including in Western Province, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family's Affairs operates an Economic Empowerment of Women and Girl programme with World Vision and other NGOs

to establish savings clubs with training on book-keeping, accounting etc; WWF-led women's saving club for livelihood support in Gizo, Western province; Youth at Work project in several islands to support youth in learning new skills or creating a business; TNC facilitated Women's network (KAWAKI) to unite women around conservation, culture and community to create a better future for their children supporting the Arnavon Marine Park.

A Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be prepared by a Gender specialist during the PPG to detail all aspects of gender mainstreaming in the project design. Potential opportunities that will be explored further during the PPG phase include equitable women's involvement in project governance and staffing, intersectoral committees established through the project (e.g. for example in the Project Steering Committee, on the intersectoral biodiversity committee (Output 1.1) and its working group on IAS (Output 2.1), in provincial or land/seascape coordination committees); targeted capacity building and support from extension services (Output 1.4), specific targeted opportunities for women's involvement in SLM, green livelihoods and support to identify value chains and establish businesses (Component 3); and knowledge sharing on gender mainstreaming successes and lessons learned (Output 4.2). Detailed consultations with women at all levels, and particularly in the demonstration land/seascape communities, will be conducted during the PPG phase. Adequate budget will be included to ensure any necessary gender training of project staff and stakeholders at project start-up. Specific measures and indicators will be included in the project design to mainstream women and youth into the project at all levels, building on best practice approaches and lessons learned from baseline interventions. Gender-based indicators and targets will be used to mainstream gender throughout the project, emphasizing empowerment of women and youth.

[1] Report on National Agricultural Survey 2017

[2] SI-NSO/UNDP. 2008. Solomon Islands: Analysis of the 2005/06 household income and expenditure survey.

[3] Kruijssen F., Albert J.A., Morgan M., Boso D., Siota F., Sibiti S. and Schwarz A.J. 2013. Livelihoods, markets, and gender roles in Solomon Islands: Case studies from Western and Isabel Provinces. CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems. Penang, Malaysia. Project Report: AAS-2013-22. 16 p.

[4] <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/176812/sol-country-gender-assessment.pdf>

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

Because of the land/seascape-scale approach and the focus on green livelihoods and a nature-based economy for engaging communities in actions to conserve biodiversity and manage IAS this project will require a strong focus on engagement with the private sector. This was discussed with stakeholders during the formulation of the PIF. Definition of specific opportunities for private sector engagement and partnerships in each land/seascape will be given high priority during the PPG and the specific task of private sector partnerships given to a specific PPG consultant with experience in private sector engagement/partnership development. Opportunities include engagement with key national level private sector stakeholders through the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce for developing a strategy and plan to secure a blue/green economic pathway – focusing particularly on recovery from the impacts of COVID (Output 1.1). Private sector entities (as major vectors, e.g. logging and supply companies, shipping sector) should be engaged in formulation of the NISSAP and will be a key target for awareness and capacity building regarding biosecurity for IAS under Component 2 including voluntary compliance and uptake of strengthened biosecurity protocols, and as contributors to biosecurity revenue through fees and charges. In the demonstration land/seascapes there will be several opportunities for testing and demonstrating blue/green economic pathways with the private sector under Component 3. There is good potential to promote private sector partnerships for the agriculture and livestock sector through engagement between local producers, agricultural cooperatives and retailers (e.g. Island Enterprises Ltd and market vendors established under the Markets for Change Programme implemented by UNWOMEN (see above)) to build stronger markets for local, healthy foods from well-managed ecosystems. Similarly, post-COVID, opportunities should re-emerge to engage the tourism sector and resorts for establishing financial mechanisms to support environmental improvements (e.g. with existing operators such as SolTuna, Bilikiki Cruises, Dive Solomons, local eco-resorts), for example through the establishment of small rolling funds, managed by those enterprises. There may also be opportunities to work with forestry companies since the Environment Act (through the EIA regulation) requires almost 5% of their operational cost to be budgeted towards environmental compliances and implementation, before issuing of licenses. Partnership arrangements and co-financing commitments will be finalized during the PPG stage, and UNDP due diligence processes conducted on potential private sector partnerships.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

An identified six risks relate to the feasibility of project implementation. Analysis of these risks has taken full account of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related GEF guidance. They are followed by 13 social and environmental risks identified through a pre-screening assessment using the standard UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), plus five risks identified through a climate change pre-screening assessment. All risks have been scored as Moderate, giving the project an overall risk categorization of Moderate. A comprehensive SESP will be undertaken during the PPG phase and the risks will be reviewed in detail and adjusted if necessary, including their risk scores and management measures.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
Implementation Risk 1: Competing mandates and poor coordination between government agencies/line ministries may disrupt project activities	Moderate	Proper coordination between government agencies enhances and sustains project progress that is aligned with Ministries priorities. All relevant agencies have been engaged in PIF development and initial discussions on implementation arrangements commenced. MECDM will ensure proper coordination and management of stakeholders.
Implementation Risk 2: Limited human resources in government ministries and agencies and competing priorities, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may delay project activities	Moderate	Human resources will be hired under this project to build government's capacity and the project will have a dedicated PMU housed within the Implementing Partner, MECDM. Staff recruited to build government's capacity may be absorbed by government once project ends. The project strategy will be aligned as far as possible to support the government's longer-term strategy for development, through a focus on nature-based economy and green livelihoods.
Implementation Risk 3: Indigenous peoples and local communities do not fully commit to project	Moderate	Local communities and individuals engage when they fully understand their roles and associated benefits they will get from the initiative or project. PPG consultations and the stakeholder engagement plan developed during the PPG should ensure that local communities, indigenous people and other stakeholders are fully informed about the proposed project interventions, with any outstanding issues resolved during the design, planning and inception phases of the project. A grievance mechanism will be put in place to fully address any complaints.
Implementation Risk 4: COVID-related travel restrictions may delay project activities	Moderate	If current COVID-related travel restrictions continue during the PPG and/or implementation, the project will explore alternative modes of communication and coordination to ensure that project activities are not delayed.

related delays/restrictions and other logistical impacts that impact on PPG and/or implementation, requiring a shift to virtual processes and engagement	e (implementation) -High (PPG)	implementation phases, it will not be possible for international consultants to participate in these phases, and international NGO partners and their project will also face similar restrictions. Restrictions on the travel of Solomon Islanders between islands and with neighbouring Pacific states may also occur. There may also be increased costs of procurement and travel. These risks will be considered in detail during the PPG and mitigated as necessary through hiring local expertise supported remotely by national and international specialists, and through conservative budgeting and contingency planning. Virtual measures will be used during the PPG as needed. PIF development has been based on strong national ownership and substantive support by a national expert, with virtual guidance and coordination by UNDP Bangkok and an international consultant. This model will be replicated during the PPG as needed.
Implementation Risk 5: COVID-19 has impeded local livelihoods and raised feasibility questions about some nature-based livelihood options such as ecotourism and risk of over-reliance on these	Moderate	During PPG, livelihood assessments will be conducted taking full account of COVID-19 (and TC Harold) related impacts and risks, and in full consultation with communities. Project will promote diversified livelihoods linked to green-blue economy rather than over-reliance on tourism. Project livelihoods approach will seek to align to broader government planning and economic recovery processes. For potential support to build tourism-related livelihoods, project approaches will align to UNWTO guidelines and processes for tourism recovery and resilience. Tourism will be considered as a part of diversified livelihoods and the project will facilitate connections to other livelihood development initiatives operating in demonstration landscapes so that tourism is only one part/option of diversified, resilient livelihoods.
Implementation Risk 6: Due to its complex, multi-faceted technical nature, the project could be difficult to implement and may be unable to lever significant transformational change	Moderate	During the PPG, a strategic assessment should be undertaken with MECD M and MAL of the ambition levels of the project and number of demonstration land/seascapes in relation to the funding available as well as external factors (e.g. COVID-19). Should significant concerns emerge, the ambition levels (including GEBs) should be reduced, and/or specific mitigation measures and adaptive management mechanisms should be incorporated into the project design. Project partnerships and coordination with other initiatives and donors will be used to ensure efficient and cost-effective technical project design and implementation, including shared use of technical specialists and tools as far as possible.
<i>Social and environmental risks (from SESP pre-screening)</i>		
SESP Risk 1: The introduction of new natural resource management practices. enforcement	Moderate	Preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) by relevant specialists has been included in the planning and budget for the PPG. followed by targeted ESIA as necessary and ESMP completion and

<p>control measures, enforcement controls and/or strengthened biosecurity protocols/clearances in the demonstration land/seascapes could affect traditional rights or access to some land and resources, potentially increasing conflict between communities and likely affecting more marginalized or vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples.</p>		<p>ment, reviewed by targeted parties necessary and timely completion and implementation during project implementation.</p> <p>Assessment of project activities to assess potential impacts, integration of mitigation measures into project design (e.g. incorporation of traditional knowledge, incentives to transition towards green livelihoods, use of bottom-up informed stakeholder consultations), and if determined needed based on PPG assessments, development of a Livelihoods Action Plan in Year 1 of project implementation. Design and implementation of grievance redress mechanism.</p>
<p>SESP Risk 2: Women and other marginalized groups could face discrimination or lack voice within decisions, benefits and resources surrounding project design and implementation.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>During PPG completion of gender analysis and Gender Action Plan. GAP will be mainstreamed within the project framework, including the incorporation of age and sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics and specific measurable indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Implementation should aim to reduce gender inequalities and support rights for women in the demonstration land/seascapes through capacity development and female participation, with the support of community leaders and local governments. Both women and men will be provided with equal access to advice and opportunities, including in project governance mechanisms. Mechanisms will be established to encourage and enable people from all marginalized groups to take part in project design and implementation. Knowledge sharing platforms will be developed in order to ensure environmental advice and project planning is distributed to all members of the community.</p>
<p>SESP Risk 3: The introduction of incentives, project related employment and support for sustainable land management or green livelihoods could cause conflict if not implemented carefully and managed equitably or may support employment that fails to comply with national and international labour standards</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>A livelihoods assessment will be completed during PPG. Financial incentive mechanisms and diversification of livelihoods will be planned so as not to negatively affect existing economic systems, but as additional benefits to the community as a whole, with emphasis on empowering and including marginalized groups. Mechanisms will be developed to be transparent and community owned. They will address both the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the viability of livelihood options, and also any opportunities that may arise from the pandemic to support more green and resilient livelihoods. All measures will be incorporated into a Livelihoods Action Plan to be prepared in Year 1. Project management measures will be designed to ensure that any employment developed through the project will follow national and international equal opportunity employment laws.</p>
<p>SESP Risk 4: The project may</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>At PPG stage, a concrete Indigenous Peoples plan is not proposed. Instead,</p>

SESP Risk 4: The project may not effectively engage and ensure participation of all stakeholders, including women, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, during the project design and the implementation phases. Due to existing inequalities, rights holders may not have the capacity to claim their rights. Some activities will require FPIC and this has not yet been secured and consultations with local communities not commenced due to COVID-19 restrictions.	Moderate	<p>At PIF stage, a separate indigenous Peoples plan is not proposed. Instead, relevant matters such as the need to obtain agreement (or FPIC) will be integrated into project design through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Project Document.</p> <p>As a result of the detailed consultations to be conducted during the PPG, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared. The project will be designed to raise community awareness over FPIC and rights as well as international human rights principles of inclusion and equality, such that written FPIC is obtained where required before the commencement of project implementation. A grievance redress mechanism will be designed, and the monitoring and evaluation process will be designed to record any inequalities or grievances that arise within the project and wider community, with attention being brought to the Project Board.</p> <p>Depending on the COVID-19 context and to avoid the risk of transmissions, consultations may need to be done by local (provincial) specialists, remotely trained and supported by national or international specialists.</p>
SESP Risk 5: Duty bearers may not have the capacity to uphold their duties within the project.	Moderate	Based on the findings of the capacity assessment, training and capacity building will be integrated into project design in order to support duty bearers (particularly members of the Project Board, project staff and consultants and government officials) so they understand their responsibilities for human rights. Budget to address gender/ safeguards issues will be allocated as necessary such that technical support and training on gender and safeguards is provided to the PMU/Board at start of project. A monitoring and evaluation process will monitor the development of capacity within the project team and stakeholder groups.
SESP Risk 6: The effects of climate change such as flooding, droughts and storms could impact project areas and activities and vulnerable communities.	Moderate	An initial climate risk screening is summarized below. A more detailed screening will be completed during PPG. Project design will integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through improved natural resources management, green livelihoods, capacity building and awareness.
SESP Risk 7: The project could have unintended impacts on valuable natural habitats, globally threatened or endemic species, or production systems if activities are improperly executed, e.	Moderate	During the PPG, Biodiversity, SLM and IAS specialists will carry out a full assessment of potential risks and negative environmental impacts arising from the project. The project design will ensure that existing threats to biodiversity are addressed and that no new threats are caused by project activities. Under demonstration activities in Component 3, the project document will specifically state that no non-native species will be used for SLM, re-forest

g. potential overharvesting of native species, improperly executed IAS control could lead to increased spread/invasion of IAS if biosecurity/ decontamination protocols are not followed, broadscale weed removal could result in bare land and increased erosion risk, poor habitat management could lead to risks to threatened species if habitat needs/requirements not met.		ation or for livelihoods development. Biological control methods for IAS (if proposed) will follow strict EIA and will require prior approval by Government. Measures such as management plans, monitoring and compliance with regulations will be included to ensure that overharvesting of natural resources does not occur.
SESP Risk 8: The project could contribute to cumulative environmental or social impacts in the area through unintended negative consequences from policy or legislative changes.	Moderate	Mainstreaming of biodiversity into different sectors under project Output 1.1 will follow the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach. The project document will specifically state that SESA will be applied to all new policies and legislation/regulations/ordinances prior to approval by Government.
SESP Risk 9: Measures to control invasive alien species may be hazardous for the project team, officials and pose potential risks to community health, could exacerbate risks of erosion and landslides, and may not comply with best practice health and safety standards.	Moderate	If found to be necessary, the PPG assessment will result in the development of a targeted Health and Safety Plan including standard operating procedures for safe working. New guidelines for IAS management and control will be developed at the start of the project as needed, safety equipment will be provided (e.g. PPE) and staff and local communities will be trained around dangers of managing IAS and steps to manage risks. Regular safety checks will be built into the project design, with a project staff member responsible and trained for overseeing H&S.
SESP Risk 10: The proposed project may result in interventions in the demonstration land/scapes that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices).	Moderate	If found to be necessary, guidelines for safeguarding cultural heritage will be developed at the start of the project and staff, consultants and government officers will be trained around risks to cultural heritage.

SESP Risk 11: Measures to control IAS including physical removal or the use of chemicals (pesticides or herbicides) may create hazardous waste or cause environmental pollution	Moderate	If found to be necessary, the PPG assessment will result in the development of a targeted IAS control plan including standard operating procedures to reduce environmental risks (to be prepared in Year 1 of the project).
SESP Risk 12: PPG team/project or UNDP staff/consultants travelling to Honiara and demonstration land/seascapes could increase risk of COVID-19 spread if pandemic is prolonged or if a different pandemic emerges during the project's lifetime.	Moderate	Assuming the pandemic continues at least through the PPG stage, it is likely that PPG activities will have to be undertaken by national consultants, supported remotely by international specialists and external UNDP staff. The potential for inter-island transmission will be reduced by the project including a high degree of devolution of implementation responsibility to local level (i.e. working through provincial staff and local coordinators). Should there be a relaxation on travel restrictions in the future that might allow international specialists to participate in full implementation of the project or indeed movements of Solomon Islanders between islands, internationally recognized biosecurity standards will need to be followed.
SESP Risk 13: Due diligence has not yet been completed to ensure there are no enhanced safeguards risks from working with and private sector companies / co-financers with whom the project may cooperate to support biodiversity and LDN activities.	Moderate	Partnership agreements will be established with each private sector partner during the PPG phase, or prior to the start of any partnership working. Such agreements will be fully aligned with UNDP's private sector partnerships policy including any conditions according to the findings of UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.

Climate risk screening

The following climate risk screening has been undertaken at PIF stage to ensure that the fully designed project will be resilient to shocks, and to ensure transformation and durability of GEBs in the face of ongoing climate change.

Key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios in Solomon Islands

In the absence of comprehensive information and scenarios at national level, a regional summary of climate changes, projections/scenarios and likely impacts has informed this risk assessment^[1]. Region-wide, climate trends to date include:

- Average annual temperatures have increased at an average rate of 0.18°C per decade
- since 1961, with the number of hot days and hot nights increasing
- Sea level rise is around two to four times the global average, likely due primarily to natural cyclic phenomena, such as ENSO. Average sea levels have risen 10-15 cm regionwide
- Sea-surface temperatures have increased at a rate of between 0.07 and 0.23°C per decade since the 1970s, with variability across the region.
- While the overall frequency of tropical storms has remained level, occurrence of major tropical storms (Category 4 and 5) has generally increased.

Projections are that:

- Broadly across the region, an increase in average annual temperature of around 0.6°C-1.4°C by the 2050s is likely with increase in the number of hot days and hot nights.
- Average annual rainfall is expected to increase slightly across most of the region, likely with more extreme wet seasons, extreme rainfall events, and floods. Rainfall patterns are expected to become less predictable, and with more frequent and intense extreme events, including storms and droughts.
- Sea levels are likely to rise between 17 and 38 cm by 2050, though not uniformly across the region. They are expected to rise by at least the global average projection of over 1 meter by 2100
- Sea surface temperatures are expected to increase by 0.9°C-1.4°C by the 2050s. Tropical cyclones are expected to decrease in frequency, but increase in intensity

Key impacts are predicted as follows:

- Coastal Zones: Saltwater intrusion into habitats, loss of ocean biodiversity, damage to coastal infrastructure
- Agriculture: Decreased crop yield and food security, increased drought frequency/duration, groundwater salinization
- Health: Decreased water quality and availability, decreased nutrition and food security, shifts in infectious disease patterns
- Livelihoods and Tourism: Decreased economic output, reduced interest in ecotourism, damage to coastal ecosystems
- Water resources: Salinization of drinking water sources, decreased water availability for crops, reduced hygiene and sanitation
- Energy and infrastructure: Increased energy costs, damage to key infrastructure, decreased economic output

How the climate scenarios are likely to affect the project, during 2020-2050

Climate change is therefore a significant threat to biodiversity and ecosystems and to the livelihoods, wellbeing, culture and survival of Solomon Islanders. As climate changes and sea levels rise and severe weather events become more frequent, the country will become more vulnerable to risks and disasters unless effective adaptation and mitigation measures are taken. The Government has recognized these and other challenges and initiated a series of policy reforms to

ensure that development in Solomon Islands is more inclusive, resilient and sustainable, lead to some recent, progressive environment-related policies and strategies. The National Development Strategy 2016-2035 puts in place a longer-term, whole-of-government planning framework to enable the Solomon Islands to transition to a more sustainable growth strategy, recognizing the importance and potential of nature and natural resources, and emphasizing the need for long-term recovery and reform to achieve the SDGs and improved social and economic livelihoods. The National Climate Change Policy 2012–2017, The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (2016-20) and the National Rural Land Use Policy 2015-2020 provide further detail relevant to this project, with the latter proposing that all agricultural projects should avoid negative impacts including a reduction in ecosystem services, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and increased food insecurity, and follows the principle that ecosystem-based approaches should be promoted for sustainable economic development. All of these plans recognize the need to increase resilience to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures and this project will work in support of this overall national climate agenda as described in the PIF.

Climate Risk Assessment and mitigation measures during PPG to protect GEBs

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
Project outcomes are at risk because of climate change	Moderate (to high)	The Vision of the National Climate Change Strategy, 2012-2017 is: "A resilient, secure and sustainable Solomon Islands responding to climate change". The project will support Government to ensure long-term climate resilience of land/seascapes through conservation of biodiversity and reduction of threats from IAS and land degradation, thereby mitigating climate change impacts and benefiting ecosystem services and livelihoods.
Climate sensitivity has not been adequately addressed	Moderate	The project recognizes that changes have occurred and are occurring and will plan to assist communities in the demonstration land/seascapes to protect natural resources and ecosystem services and use them sustainably including through preparation and implementation of ecosystem-based management plans under Output 3.1. In addition, government staff will be trained in climate adaptive planning and processes.
Resilience practices and measures do not address projected climate risks and impacts adequately	Moderate	Land/seascapes and biodiversity that are threatened by IAS or unsustainable practices are far more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The key objective of this project is to reduce these threats so as to increase resilience and it is therefore important that the interventions deliver outcomes that are commensurate with predicted climate change impacts so that the GEBs can be sustained. A key objective is to reduce agricultural encroachment into forests which will deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services and communities including the co-benefit of carbon sequestration as the forests recover. The PPG should assess in detail the project interventions against projected climate change impacts to ensure sustainable outcomes for GEBs
There is inadequate technical and institutional capacity and information to address	Moderate	The main technical capacity to be developed will be on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation actions for land use planners and agricultural extension officers and communities. These include nature-based solutions to secure ecosystem services and protect communities from flooding (surface water and seas), deliver blue/green carbon sequestration, and support food security through climate-smart agriculture. These aspects will be designed into government and community training programmes during the PPG.

[1] USAID. Climate risk profile of the Pacific Islands. 2018.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The proposed project will take place under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) of UNDP, with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) as government executing partner. The executing partner will be responsible for project execution working closely with other government agencies and Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forests and Research and with provincial and local stakeholders. Under this arrangement, MAL will support the execution of the project as a responsible party for land degradation technical outputs. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be embedded within MECDM working closely with MAL. Key positions will be determined during the PPG. This PMU will be responsible for overseeing project monitoring and evaluation and ensuring a coordinated approach is taken with the delivery of project activities, including integration between activities at national and landscape level, and broader collaboration with associated projects and initiatives, including relevant GEF-financed projects and Pacific regional initiatives. In order to maximise implementation efficiency, the PPG will explore mechanisms to build off existing networks and experiences with related Pacific and national projects. This will include sharing/using the same technical specialists and tools as other projects/initiatives (e.g. explore the potential use of the same international consultants as SPREP/Pacific GEF IAS projects, and the use of the same national consultants (and potentially CTA) as for the GEF-6 EREPA project). The PMU will be housed in MECDM offering the potential for the PMU to be co-located with the EREPA PMU, offering day-to-day coordination potential between the two project teams. Furthermore, the PPG will explore in detail and incorporate lessons learned from previous GEF projects in Solomon Islands, notably under GEF-4[1] and GEF-5.

During the PPG the government may identify a need for executing support services for project implementation. Initial capacity assessments and review of past projects conducted during PIF development have indicated a potential need for additional support for procurement, recruitment and financial/vendor transactions. The potential need/government request for executing support will be assessed further during the PPG stage, through discussions with MECDM and MAL, and informed by more detailed assessments of capacity to execute the project. As needed, potential providers of executing support will be identified during the PPG phase, based on assessment of available third-party entities, procedural efficiency and cost effectiveness. GEF Secretariat will be engaged in upstream discussions if this need arises. In parallel, as part of its GEF Agency oversight role, UNDP will undertake capacity-building and assurance activities for government executing partners to successfully implement the project in accordance with the improvement needs identified in capacity assessments.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to provide overall guidance and decision-making for the project. The PSC is proposed to be co-chaired by Permanent Secretaries of MECDM and MAL, with indicative membership including representatives of key Ministries which are the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Forest and Research, Ministry of National Planning & Development Coordination, Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening, and key partner organizations including a representative from the GEF-6 EREPA project. Membership will be finalized during the PPG phase. For each province with a demonstration land/seascape, a provincial-level coordination committee will be established or will utilise an existing coordination mechanism for this purpose.

The project results will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure achievement of desired outcomes. A monitoring and evaluation plan will facilitate learning and ensure knowledge is shared widely and disseminated to support the scaling up and replication of project results. Project level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office will work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that M&E requirements are met in a timely manner. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF M&E policy and other relevant GEF policies. M&E costs for the project will be included under Component 4. These will be calculated in detail during the PPG phase based on the identified results framework indicators and will fall within the allowable 3% of grant size window.

GEF-financed and other donor-funded projects in related areas will offer lessons learned, best practices for replication, and opportunities for synergistic impact and knowledge transfer during implementation. The integrated species (both indigenous and IAS) and land degradation focus of this project will strongly complement the GEF-5 and GEF-6 projects on integrated forest management and protected areas respectively, plugging an important gap in government capacity and conservation need. Areas and mechanisms for coordination will be defined during the PPG phase. Key related projects are indicated below (for regional projects, only the estimated national contribution in Solomon Islands is shown as project grant size):

Project	Donor / executing partner / \$	Relevant areas of coordination	Indicative coordination mechanism
Pacific Island Oceanscape Programme	World Bank / IDA / GEF/MFMR 2014-21 US\$ 11.2M	Shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend	Coordination by PMU with the project office.
Invasive Species Management in the Pacific - SPREP regional project	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)	Critical to addressing and building IAS capacity for ports of entry and nationally	Coordination by PMU with the project office, particularly for Component 2.
UNEP-GEF-6 Regional Pacific GEF project on IAS – SPREP regional project	GEF / SPREP	Critical for regional coordination and knowledge sharing on IAS, e.g. PRISMSS and a regional database and Resource Base for biosecurity and IAS prevention, management and control. Knowledge exchange and best practices replication on a range of IAS matters and potential sharing of technical experts.	Coordination by PMU with SPREP, particularly for Component 2. Potential project participation (via project budget) in UNDP-SPREP IAS knowledge-sha

			ring events.
Ensuring Resilient Ecosystem and Protected Area in the Solomon Islands (EREPA)	IUCN/GEF/M ECDM US\$13.2M ~ 2021-25	Establishment of a network of ecosystem-based protected areas – relevant in terms of capacity building for species conservation, IAS management.	Coordination by PMU with the project office. Observer at the PS C. Potential joint demonstration/replication of project approaches.
Strengthening local food systems (impacted by COVID-19)	FAO/MAL 2020-2022 US\$ 0.499M	Promoting climate-resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture value chains. Important to achieving SLM and addressing LDN	Coordination by PMU with the project office.
Regional response to effects of COVID-19 crisis in Pacific Island Countries	FAO/MAL US\$ 0.50M	Response measures for food security and nutrition and the adoption of fisheries and agriculture practices that address COVID-19 related needs in food production.	Coordination by PMU with the project office., particularly with regard to SLM aspects
Response efforts across the Pacific to reduce Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle populations and limit the spread of the beetle	MFAT/ SPC and Biosecurity Department ~ USD 12M	Critical to addressing and building IAS capacity for ports of entry and nationally	Coordination by PMU with the project office, particularly for Component 2
Pacific European Union Marine Programme (PEUMP)	EU - European Development Fund/SPC/ World Fish 2019-24 US\$0.413	Important in addressing fisheries species threatened illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing	Coordination by PMU with the project office.
Melanesia Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change Programme (M-CMERP)	Global Climate Fund/IUCN 2020- US\$0.508M	Project preparation grant approved. This project is likely to be implemented simultaneously with the SAFE project, offering potential for synergies on ecosystem services monitoring.	Coordination by the PMU with the Cross-Agency Management Unit
Strengthening and securing	Australian Centre	Improving and sustaining fisheries benefits is a key priority	Coordination by PMU

<p>alizing community-based approaches to Pacific coastal fisheries management in support of the New Song</p>	<p>ntre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) / World Fish</p> <p>US\$ 2.03M</p>	<p>athway to improve human wellbeing and contribute to food and nutrition security. Relevant to seascape focusing on marine species</p>	<p>with the project office.</p>
<p>GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)</p>	<p>UNDP/GEF</p> <p>US\$ 0.6M</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Supporting biodiversity and land degradation outcomes</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the SGP project office, particularly regarding Component 3.</p>
<p>Capacity Development for Sustainable Forest Resources Management</p>	<p>Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)/ MFR</p> <p>2018-22</p>	<p>Enhancing capacities for sustainably utilizing the current available forest resources of Solomon Islands and also endeavours to avail the potentials of community own forest resources as the alternatives, in order to reduce the dependency on logging at community level</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the project office.</p>
<p>Climate Change Programme – Invasive Species Management in the Pacific</p>	<p>New Zealand MFAT / SPREP Regional Project</p> <p>2020-24</p>	<p>Capacity support to implement invasive species management activities and significantly progress their NISSAPs. A new regional project that will potentially partner with this project</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the project office, particularly for Component 2</p>
<p>Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project - phase II</p>	<p>European Union / IUCN / SPREP</p> <p>2018-23</p> <p>US\$ 1.62M</p>	<p>Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the Pacific ACP region in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance.</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the project office.</p>
<p>KIWA Initiative - Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change PHASE 2</p>	<p>SPREP</p> <p>2020-23</p> <p>US\$ 4 million</p>	<p>Reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems to climate change by investing in ecosystem-based adaptation</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the project office.</p>
<p>Sustainable development of ACP SIDS and coastal countries</p>	<p>European Union, Organisation of African</p>	<p>Coastal and marine biodiversity and conservation including bycatch and integrated ecosystem management. Working in the central seascape as a project dom</p>	<p>Coordination by PMU with the project office, particularly for Co</p>

and coastal countries	ion of Africa n, Caribbean and Pacific S tates (ACP) / SPREP 2020-26 ~US\$ 7.1M	nt. working in the central seascape as a project dem onstration sites	e, particularly for co mponent 3.
<i>Proposed</i> GEF-7 Paci fic i2i program	GEF, support ed by UNEP/ UNDP/ADB, Country Parti cipation TBC, \$ TBC	Potential opportunities to coordinate and exchange k nowledge with the proposed i2i program on matters r elated to development of a sustainable blue econom y (if the program goes ahead).	Coordination via PMU with support of UND P. Potential to partici pate (via project budg et) in program region al coordination/KM e vents.

[1] The Terminal Evaluation of this project noted particular challenges in terms of weaknesses in project management, and of the executing agency. See <https://www.thegef.org/project/lcdsids-portfolio-project-capacity-building-sustainable-land-management-solomon-islands>

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The project aligns with the National Development Strategy (NDS) (2016-2035) which is the overarching resource mobilization plan and a gender and poverty mainstreaming instrument. The NDS guides the development of ministerial and provincial plans. The project particularly supports NDS Objective #7 on the need to effectively respond to climate change and manage the environment including disaster risk management (particularly on the sub-objectives for conservation and environmental management) and contributes to the overall objective of strengthening livelihoods of Solomon Islanders.

Solomon Islands became a party to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity through accession in 1995. The project is fully aligned with the Vision of the NBSAP 2015-20 which is "A unified, vibrant and informed Solomon Island's society, embodied with an environmental culture, where unique and endemic biodiversity remain part of the natural heritages and cultural identities, and where, ecosystem services continue to prevail, providing for the economic, social, spiritual and intellectual development for its people. In particular it will contribute to the following NBSAP targets: Target 1 (awareness of biodiversity and benefits), Target 2 (implementation of environmental laws), Target 8 (address forest deforestation and support forest restoration and protection), Target 10 (IAS management and control), Target 13 (conservation of endangered, endemic and migratory species), Target 12 (ecologically- representative and well-connected system of PAs, integrated into the wider island and seascape management initiatives), Target 14 (restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems and ecosystem services).

Solomon Islands acceded to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1999, with the focal point as Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. A draft National Action Program (NAP) has been prepared, spelling out the practical steps and measures to combat desertification and land degradation in specific ecosystems. Solomon Islands has yet to engage in UNCCD target-setting processes for achieving LDN. This project will contribute to this process and support the broader implementation of the goals of UNCCD.

Solomon Islands acceded to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in 1988. The project will contribute to the national obligations under this convention through its work on biosecurity. Specific linkages will be defined during the PPG phase.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management is accorded high priority in the project through Output 3.2 Knowledge sharing tools, events and networks for safeguarding biodiversity and IAS management. There are already many good examples of best practices and lessons learned from projects in Solomon Islands and throughout the Pacific. A first step will be to review these during the PPG phase and to incorporate key learning into the project design. During Year 1 of project implementation, these findings will be refined and made available through the project website and other platforms as a baseline to be built upon throughout project implementation.

The project will support knowledge management at a range of levels, including: a) within project landscapes (e.g. community meetings, radio and biodiversity information/visitor centres); b) between project land/seascapes (e.g. exchange visits); c) across Solomon Islands (e.g. videos and other technology to document activities and best practices, as well as supporting national level workshops and visits to project land/seascapes); d) with other countries facing similar challenges in the Pacific and other SIDS (e.g. physical and remote participation in key regional platforms operating across the Pacific including the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP) and the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS)).

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Project Information

<i>Project Information</i>	
1. Project Title	Safeguarding Solomon Islands endemic and globally threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly invasive alien species and unsustainable land use practices (SAFE project)
2. Project Number	PIMS 6566
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Solomon Islands

Part A. Integrating Overarching Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach</i>
<p>Human rights depend on a healthy environment as degraded natural resources often mean the more marginalized and vulnerable communities are most affected. Resource and land-related degradation and conflicts already exist in Solomon Islands, and through its implementation activities the project aims to reduce these vulnerabilities and improve rather than impinge on local rights. The project objective is <i>Solomon Islands indigenous (threatened and endemic) species, natural ecosystems and land/seascapes are safeguarded from invasive alien species, land degradation, unsustainable resource use and climate-induced risks through effective government capacity, community participation and governance and green livelihoods in support of the blue/green economy.</i></p> <p>Following further environmental and social assessments and analysis of local demographics during the PPG, the detailed design of this project will incorporate a human-rights based approach following national and international guidelines such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Equality Act and Aarhus Convention principles. The human rights-based approach will be achieved by encouraging equality, inclusion and participation in biodiversity conservation, invasive alien species (IAS) management and sustainable land management consultations, management planning and implementation. Through the mainstreaming approach, a wide range of stakeholders will participate, including representatives from different levels of government as well as local communities.</p> <p>Given the presence of communities of indigenous people in all project land/seascapes, mechanisms will be identified and implemented to guarantee th</p>

air meaningful, effective and informed participation throughout all elements of the project cycle. Initial consultations have occurred at PIF stage with NGOs, CBOs and provincial Government relevant to the selected land/seascapes. Further detailed culturally appropriate consultations with the communities will be carried out during the PPG with the objective of achieving agreement (and where necessary FPIC) on any matters that may affect their rights and interests, lands, resources, territories (whether titled or untitled to the people in question) and traditional livelihoods. Any activities that may adversely affect the existence, value, use or enjoyment of indigenous lands, resources or territories shall not be conducted unless agreement has been achieved through the FPIC process.

Focus will be given towards empowering marginalized groups, including youth and women. During the PPG, a detailed stakeholder analysis and engagement plan will be prepared together with a comprehensive list of all those stakeholders who have been consulted. This analysis will capture the existing systems, languages, cultures and traditions of Solomon Islands and the demonstration land/seascapes in particular. The detailed project will be designed to respect and protect these. In particular, the project design will ensure that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable land management, and their customary use of biological resources are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations. A monitoring and evaluation process will be incorporated into the project design with strong local participation, enabling human-rights abuses or grievances within project activities to be addressed efficiently.

Measures will be incorporated into the project document to support the project Board, staff team, consultants and duty bearers to follow this rights-based approach. Human rights standards will be embedded within the capacity building and awareness raising of the team and local community. Equal opportunities will be upheld within all employment that arises as a result of the project.

Particular attention will need to be given in assessing all risks and the design of management measures to take account of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (or indeed other pandemics that might occur during the project lifetime). This pre-screening version of the SESP has taken full consideration of the latest GEF guidance in this regard.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality is a key Outcome for the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022: Outcome 2 “Gender Equality: By 2022, gender equality is advanced in the Pacific, where more women and girls are empowered and enjoy equal opportunities and rights in social, economic, and political spheres, contribute to and benefit from national development, and live a life free from violence and discrimination^[1]”. This project aims to contribute to women's empowerment through involvement in decision-making and support for green livelihoods and sustainable land management. Women's rights and participation will be monitored against defined indicators and targets throughout the project; a goal will be to score at least 2 as per the UN's Gender Marker system, meaning that the project will promote gender equality significantly^[2].

Gender Equality is also a stated priority of the Government of Solomon Islands, and all ministries and sectors share the responsibility for achieving gender equality. Traditional norms influence gender relations in different Solomon Islands cultures in terms of division of labour, property rights, and decision making. Key concerns include access to legal and judicial support, health, education, economic empowerment, decision-making and leadership, violence against women^[3].

A comprehensive gender analysis specific to Solomon Islands and the project's demonstration land/seascapes will be conducted by a Gender Specialist during the PPG. This will determine the roles of women, identify inequalities or vulnerabilities, cultural, social, religious, and other constraints on women's potential participation and any rights issues. It will also review best practices achieved by previous initiatives, such as in the Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area^[4] where TNC has facilitated a Women's network (KAWAKI) to unite women around conservation, culture and community to create a better future for their children^[5], and in projects in the Western Province which have helped women establishing savings clubs. The key recommendations from this analysis will be captured in a Gender Action Plan and mainstreamed within the project framework, including the incorporation of age and sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics and specific, measurable indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Impleme

ntation will aim to reduce gender inequalities and support rights for women in the demonstration land/seascapes through capacity development and female participation in consultations, awareness raising and knowledge sharing. Both women and men will be provided with equal access to advice and job opportunities. The project will adopt relevant guidelines such as those of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as UNDP and GEF gender policies.

Women's groups will be established to advise different aspects of the project, and female representatives and leadership positions will be enabled within project design and implementation. Opportunities and choices will be given to women that should strengthen women's rights in the wider community, households and family networks. The economic status of women, and particularly vulnerable women, will be specifically targeted through the project's work to support green livelihoods.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

Solomon Islands has been identified as part of the East Melanesian Biodiversity Hotspot[6] on account of the astonishing range of ecosystems and biodiversity it harbours, including 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The country and the proposed demonstration land/seascapes host large numbers of IUCN Red List and endemic species. Unsustainable land use practices (deforestation, unsustainable farming, mining), invasive alien species, over-exploitation, pollution and climate change are all impacting the local environment, threatening the sustainability of natural resources, globally significant biodiversity as well as the wellbeing of local people, including diverse indigenous communities.

During the PPG, a detailed assessment will be conducted of the status of, and threats to, biodiversity and the wider environment in the demonstration land/seascapes. This will provide the basis for identifying the measures to be included in the detailed project design for mainstreaming biodiversity into ecosystem management, conservation of species and managing the threats from IAS and sustainable land management. The assessment will cover both the status of globally threatened and endemic biodiversity and IAS, as well as a review of opportunities to reduce threats from IAS and land degradation to enhance biodiversity conservation. Specifically, the project aims to contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity by: a) supporting national and provincial government to establish inter-sectoral governance mechanisms for biodiversity conservation, IAS and sustainable land management and to enhance capacity, regulations, tools and guidelines; b) developing and implementing a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and ensuring better biosecurity at ports and airports to stop IAS incursions; c) demonstrating in priority land/seascapes improved biodiversity conservation and IAS and sustainable land management through community based natural resource management and green livelihoods; d) raising public awareness and improving knowledge management and sharing of best practices.

The project addresses key priorities identified in Solomon Islands National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (2016-2020); the Aichi targets under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; targets under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022, as well as international SDGs (particularly SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 15: Life on Land).

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?

Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening

QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?

Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6

QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?

<i>g Checklist (based on any 'yes' responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note "No Risks Identified" and skip to Question 4 and Select "Low Risk". Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i>				
<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 1: <i>The introduction of new natural resource management practices, enforcement controls and/or strengthened biosecurity protocols/clearances in the demonstration land/seascapes could affect traditional rights or access to some land and resources, potentially increasing conflict between communities and likely affecting more marginalized or vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples.</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:8,</p> <p>Principle 3: Standard 1.11; Standard: 5.2, 5.4; Standard: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Solomon Islands has a wide diversity of tribes with distinct customs and norms including customary land ownership, cultural practices, languages and traditions meeting the broad UNDP definition of Indigenous Peoples. In all five proposed demonstration land/seascapes, local communities, including indigenous people, living within or near these areas may use them for livelihoods (subsistence/small scale farming, fisheries or forestry) or have traditional rights for harvesting natural resources. There have been conflicts between indigenous communities over natural resource use in Solomon Islands, and these could be exacerbated if project activities build on existing impacts or if they are not managed properly. The COVID-19 pandemic may increase the chance of such con</p>	<p>Assessment: The process of consulting with communities in the demonstration land/seascapes began at PIF stage through discussions with relevant NGOs, CSOs and provincial authorities working in the areas. However, due to the geographical logistics, Covid-19 restrictions and timescales it has not yet been possible to hold direct consultations with the affected communities. Detailed consultations with full effective and meaningful participation of the indigenous peoples concerned will therefore be made during the PPG by experts hired specifically to ensure culturally sensitive approaches; these consultations will continue iteratively throughout implementation and closure of the project. Through this process, agreement (and, where required, free prior and informed consent (FPIC)) will be obtained from communities on any project activities that may affect their rights and interests, lands or resources. The risk of not obtaining FPIC is included in Risk 4.</p> <p>During the PPG phase a stakeholder analysis and extensive consultations will be undertaken by qualified socio-economic experts to discuss project activities with local and indigenous communities in all five proposed demonstration land/seascapes. These five sites include, Reef Islands and Itupua Seascape, Western Solomons</p>

			<p>reduce the chance of such conflicts due to impacts on the local economy and movements of people from towns back to rural areas. Resistance is more likely from older generations.</p> <p>Local people are likely to be aware of threats to natural resources in their area.</p> <p>Although this risk has been categorized as Moderate at pre-screening stage it may be found to be lower following further assessment since local people in the demonstration landscapes may welcome new approaches, especially those that can reduce threats and bring more economic benefits.</p>	<p>reef islands and atopa seascape, Western Solomon Biosphere, Central Solomon Seascape, Solomon Tubi Forest Reserve and Lau and North Malaita Integrated Sustainable Management Area. All five sites are owned by indigenous local tribal groups and are mostly on customary land. A comprehensive social and environmental assessment will be conducted during the project by independent specialists to analyze cultural traditions, socio-economic conditions and livelihoods in each demonstration land/seascape, with results being shared transparently. Potential impacts and benefits of project activities on access to or use of resources (temporary or permanent) will be assessed to determine when FPIC applies in accordance with national contexts and preferences.</p> <p>Management: Based on the Moderate assessment of this and other risks, and to ensure that the project meets the high standards required by UNDP and Government, preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) by relevant specialists has been included in the planning and budget for the PPG, and an ESMP during implementation with targeted ESIA as needed. At PIF stage, due to the nature and objectives of the project and the fact that the majority of people in the proposed land/seascapes can be considered as indigenous people, it is recommended that their considerations and needs are fully integrated into the ProDoc and stakeholder engagement plan rather than preparing a separate Indigenous Peoples plan. However, this should be given further detailed consideration at PPG stage.</p> <p>Given that 90% of land in Solomon Islands is held as customary land and the majority of project activities will be undertaken on these lands, the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of customary landowners will be required for almost all activities. FPIC will be given highest priority during the PPG and implementation stages and a</p>
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priority during the PPG and implementation stages and should be aligned to raising peoples understanding of their rights to the project interventions. There is no standard for obtaining FPIC in the Solomon Islands, nor is there any national association of indigenous people. Therefore, the PPG team will work with the councils of chiefs already formed in Isabel and Choiseul provinces (Tubi Forest Landscape), and with existing community groups formed for natural resource management (eg. Lauru L and Conference of Tribal Communities) to design and agree the process in each land/seascape for obtaining FPIC. The Customary Land Records Act, which sets out a process for identifying and recording which tribes hold primary and secondary rights over customary land, may provide a potential entry point for FPIC processes. This process will be integrated into project design such that written FPIC is obtained during the PPG phase. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan prepared during the PPG will further define measures to ensure that the project is well informed by nominated community representatives throughout all planning and implementation phases. A comprehensive grievance redress mechanism will be co-designed with the communities during the PPG and incorporated into the ESMF together with a monitoring and evaluation process. Capacity building, raising environmental awareness and empowering community voice will also be built into the project design. Community knowledge and attitudes will be monitored and measured by a KAP survey.

Natural resource management measures will aim to incorporate and respect local and traditional knowledge, whilst at the same time offering best practice advice. Incentives for communities to transition to more sustainable land management and green livelihoods will be designed during the PPG. Top-down changes will be avoided, and any adjustments to natural resource use will be designed through informed stakeholder consultations as

				part of the social and environmental assessment process taking into account potential cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area. This will result in the development of a Livelihoods Action Plan in Year 1 of project implementation.
<p>Risk 2: <i>Women and other marginalized groups could face discrimination or lack voice within decisions, benefits and resources surrounding project design and implementation.</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:8, Principle 2: 2:1, 2:2, 2:3, 2:4</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Solomon Islands has a national gender equality and women's development policy 2016-2020 focusing on achieving gender equality and human rights in the Solomon Islands</p> <p>Due to existing local hierarchies, cultural practices and traditional governance, gender imbalances exist in governance, community and household positions within the demonstration land/seascapes. In three of the provinces hosting demonstration land/seascapes (Western Province, Central Islands Province, Isabel Province) households are governed through matrilineal systems where ownership of land/resources is handed down through women. However, when it comes to decisions on land and natural resources use, decisions are usually done by male family members and not necessarily women. For systems where inheritance of rights, land, resource is passed down through male (patrilineal), decision making is done by men. Women could therefore be marginalized w</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG stage, a gender specialist will be hired to conduct a detailed assessment of specific local challenges and inequalities for women and other marginalized groups. This will determine the roles of women, identify inequalities or vulnerabilities, cultural, social, religious, and other constraints on women's potential participation and any rights issues.</p> <p>Management: The key recommendations from the gender analysis will be captured in a Gender Action Plan and mainstreamed within the project framework, including the incorporation of age and sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics and specific measurable indicators related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Implementation should aim to reduce gender inequalities and support rights for women in the demonstration land/seascapes through capacity development and female participation, with the support of community leaders and local governments.</p> <p>Both women and men will be provided with equal access to advice and opportunities, including in project governance mechanisms. Mechanisms will be established to encourage and enable people from all marginalized groups to take part in project design and implementation. Knowledge sharing platforms will be developed in order to ensure environmental advice and project planning is distributed to all members of the community.</p> <p>-</p> <p>The goal for gender-rights development within the project will be Gap 2, following the LIN Markers meaning that</p>

			<p>and therefore be marginalized within project stakeholder participation, governance arrangements, capacity building, livelihoods development, and knowledge sharing.</p> <p>Enabling women to have leadership positions within community decisions and increasing their financial independence could also cause tension through alterations to traditional social and decision-making structures. However, there are increasing examples of good practices and female empowerment and support may therefore be accepted positively.</p>	<p>It will be Gen Z, following the UN markers meaning that the project will promote gender equality significantly.</p>
<p>Risk 3: <i>The introduction of incentives, project related employment and support for sustainable land management or green livelihoods could cause conflict if not implemented carefully and managed equitably or may support employment that fails to comply with national and international labour standards</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1:2, 1:8</p> <p>Principle 2: 2:2</p> <p>Principle 3: Standard 1.9, 3.8</p>	<p><i>I = 3</i></p> <p><i>P = 2</i></p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Financial incentive mechanisms such as small grants or the establishment of savings clubs have the ability to engage community support and assist the more marginalized groups; however, they also have the potential to cause conflict if they are mismanaged or change the current economic systems.</p> <p>Recruitment for project-related employment could also cause conflict.</p> <p>Although there have been no c</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG phase, a livelihoods assessment will be conducted to assess the current socio-economic relations within the demonstration land/seascapes, use of natural resources and any incentive mechanisms, based on thorough consultations with local communities. These must consider the needs and preferences of the community and ensure that they fully understand the costs and benefits of potential project interventions. This should take into account ongoing reported consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic eg on cash flow, food security issues (due to many people returning to their villages causing pressure on natural resources).</p> <p>Management: Financial incentive mechanisms and diversification of livelihoods will be planned so as not to negatively affect existing economic systems, but as additional benefits to the community as a whole, with emphasis on empowering and including marginalized groups.</p>

			<p>ases of Covid-19 in Solomon Islands, the pandemic has greatly impacted the economy and livelihoods of Solomon Islanders impacting sectors such as forestry, tourism and transport. At the local level, it is impacting food security and livelihoods as small-scale informal sectors including street and market vendors are ordered to close down by the government, leading to reduction in cash flow and mass movement of people to rural areas¹⁷</p>	<p>Mechanisms will be developed to be transparent and community owned. They will address both the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the viability of livelihood options, and also any opportunities that may arise from the pandemic to support more green and resilient livelihoods. All measures will be incorporated into a Livelihoods Plan to be prepared in Year 1.</p> <p>Project management measures will be designed to ensure that any employment developed through the project will follow national and international equal opportunity employment laws.</p>
<p>Risk 4: <i>The project may not effectively engage and ensure participation of all stakeholders, including women, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, during the project design and the implementation phases. Due to existing inequalities, rights holders may not have the capacity to claim their rights. Some activities will require FPIC and this has not yet been secured and consultations with local communities not commenced due to COVID-19 restrictions.</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1:6</p>	<p>I = 4 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Due to marginalization, or a lack of literacy and education some marginalized groups in the demonstration land/seascapes may not be equally represented within the project. Women may not be vocal during public consultations - only when they are consulted separately from men are they able to speak freely. This may hinder their capacity to give FPIC or claim their rights or being able to have equal participation in the project.</p> <p>The pre-screening risk has been categorized as Moderate because FPIC has not yet been secured and consultations with local communities not commenced due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>Assessment: The PPG phase will undertake comprehensive engagement with all stakeholders, particularly the communities of indigenous people in each of the demonstration land/seascapes to assess existing inequalities and will define measures to ensure they are addressed within the project and that no new issues are caused. Marginalised or vulnerable groups, such as older people, youth and women will be consulted as a priority in appropriate focus groups.</p> <p>Management: As a result of the detailed consultations to be conducted during the PPG, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared as an annex to the project document. The project will be designed to raise community awareness over FPIC and rights as well as international human rights principles of inclusion and equality, such that written FPIC is obtained where required before the commencement of project implementation. A grievance redress mechanism will be designed, and the monitoring and evaluation process will be designed to record any inequalities or grievances that arise within the project and wider community, with attention</p>

			ictions.	<p>being brought to the Project Board.</p> <p>Depending on the COVID-19 context and to avoid the risk of transmissions, consultations may need to be done by local (provincial) specialists, remotely trained and supported by national or international specialists.</p>
<p>Risk 5: <i>Duty bearers may not have the capacity to uphold their duties within the project.</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1:5</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 2</p>	Moderate	<p>Members of the Project Board, project staff and consultants and government officials (national and provincial) involved in the project may not have the capacity to uphold their duties regarding rights including capacity to adhere to UNDP safeguards. Capacity may be reduced as a result of conflicting demands arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Whilst the pre-screening risk has been categorized as Moderate, it may be found to be lower after further assessment.</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG phase, a capacity assessment of national and provincial stakeholders will be undertaken to understand current challenges relating to capacity to uphold duties, rights and safeguards, including consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Management: Based on the findings of the capacity assessment, training and capacity building will be integrated into project design in order to support duty bearers (particularly members of the Project Board, project staff and consultants and government officials) so they understand their responsibilities for human rights. Budget to address gender/ safeguards issues will be allocated as necessary such that technical support and training on gender and safeguards is provided to the PMU/Board at start of project. A monitoring and evaluation process will monitor the development of capacity within the project team and stakeholder groups.</p>
<p>Risk 6: <i>The effects of climate change such as flooding, droughts and storms could impact project areas and activities and vulnerable communities.</i></p> <p>Principle 3: Standard 2.2, 2.3</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 3</p>	Moderate	<p>Climate change is a severe threat to low-lying coasts and atoll ecosystems throughout Solomon Islands due to sea level rise, storms and temperature changes. Storms can also lead to flooding and landslides from the mountains increasing the threats from land degradation. Disaster risks such as tropical cyclones are increasing in intensity and may impact on</p>	<p>Assessment: All PPG assessments will fully consider climate vulnerability by adopting local and expert advice over areas most at risk as well as species, habitats or communities that could be affected. An initial climate risk screening will be completed during the PPG (also considering the intersection with threats from land degradation and IAS). A separate pre-screening climate change assessment was undertaken for the PIF and will be detailed in full during the PPG.</p> <p>Management: Project design will take into account the</p>

			<p>n project implementation. Climate change and land degradation also intersect with threats from IAS, increasing opportunities for new incursions or spread. The COVID-19 pandemic may also exacerbate this risk.</p> <p>Planned project activities should contribute towards the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change impacts on the vulnerability of communities through improved natural resources management and avoid the potential for maladaptive practices.</p>	<p>results of the assessment and fully integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through improved natural resources management, green livelihoods, capacity building and awareness. Demonstrations on the ground will show how integrated natural resources management can be a key tool in addressing climate change.</p>
<p>Risk 7: <i>The project could have unintended impacts on valuable natural habitats, globally threatened or endemic species, or production systems if activities are improperly executed, e.g. potential overharvesting of native species, improperly executed IAS control could lead to increased spread/invasion of IAS if biosecurity/ decontamination protocols are not followed, broadscale weed removal could result in bare land and increased erosion risk, poor habitat management could lead to risks to threatened species if habitat needs/requirements not met.</i></p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation, reduce impacts of IAS and land degradation. Therefore, environmental impacts are expected to be positive. However, there is a possibility that integrated management and sustainable management of agricultural lands may negatively impact important biodiversity, or that damaging IAS may be intentionally introduced for control of other IAS, or that livelihoods development may overharvest native species.</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG, Biodiversity, SLM and IAS specialists will be hired to carry out a full assessment of current and any possible new negative environmental impacts arising from the project, particularly relating to the demonstration land/seascapes and to new livelihood and SLM options and IAS control methods.</p> <p>Management: The project design will ensure that existing threats to biodiversity or land degradation are addressed and that no new threats are caused by project activities. Under demonstration activities in Component 3, the project document will specifically state that no non-native species will be used for SLM, re-forestation or for livelihoods development. Biological control methods for IAS (if proposed) will follow strict EIA and will require prior approval by Government. Any proposed IAS control/removal efforts (including under co-financing) will take place under clear SOPs and management plans, with</p>

				consideration of potential environmental and social impacts. The project will ensure that appropriate protocols are developed and deployed for those working in locations that require biosecurity. Previous breaches in biosecurity will be examined in order to learn lessons in the interests of nature conservation and ensure that best practice protocols for biosecurity and IAS management are used. Measures such as management plans, monitoring and compliance with regulations will be included to ensure that overharvesting of natural resources does not occur.
<p>Risk 8: <i>The project could contribute to cumulative environmental or social impacts in the area through unintended negative consequences from policy or legislative changes.</i></p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 1.11</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>As per the previous risk, environmental and social impacts are expected to be overwhelmingly positive. However, there is a possibility that upstream policy or legislative changes supported by the project may negatively impact important biodiversity, or bring additional threats from IAS or may negatively affect livelihoods</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG, Biodiversity, SLM and IAS specialists will be hired to carry out a full assessment of the baseline and any possible new negative environmental or social impacts that could arise from upstream policy or legislative changes introduced by the project.</p> <p>Management: The project design will ensure that no new threats are caused by project activities. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into different sectors under project Output 1.1 will follow the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach. The project document will specifically state that SESA will be applied to all new policies and legislation/regulations/ordinances prior to approval by Government and this will be built into detailed project design and budgeting as needed.</p>
<p>Risk 9: <i>Measures to control invasive alien species may be hazardous for the project team, officials and pose potential risks to community health, could exacerbate risks of erosion and landslides (posing safety risks to communities), and may not comply with best practice health and safety standards.</i></p> <p>Principle 3: Standard: 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Some IAS may be poisonous or lead to skin irritations. Chemicals or physical methods used to manage IAS may be toxic or dangerous. Improperly designed control/removal of IAS (including via co-financing) could exacerbate potential risk of erosion or landslides which could result in safety impacts on communities.</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG phase an IAS management expert will be hired to assess this risk in detail, identifying risk areas and vulnerable stakeholders. The analysis will also consider existing safety guidelines and their application as well as knowledge of safety procedures and capacity to follow them.</p> <p>Management: If found to be necessary, the PPG assessment will result in the development of a targeted Health and Safety Plan including standard operating procedure</p>

			Institutions may fail to comply to national and international safety standards and community members participating in IAS control or government officials conducting biosecurity at ports of entry/exit may not be adequately trained or equipped, e.g. in fumigation methods.	s for safe working. New guidelines for IAS management and control will be developed at the start of the project as needed, safety equipment will be provided (eg. PPE) and staff and local communities will be trained around dangers of managing IAS and steps to manage risks. Regular safety checks will be built into the project design, with a project staff member responsible and trained for overseeing H&S.
<p>Risk 10: <i>The proposed project may result in interventions in the demonstration land/seascapes that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices).</i></p> <p>Principle 3: Standard 4.1</p>	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	The proposed integrated management plans, biodiversity conservation measures and IAS and land degradation management measures proposed under Component 3 may impact cultural sites or intangible forms of culture (eg taboos).	<p>Assessment: During the PPG phase a Safeguards specialist will be hired to assess this risk in detail, identifying risk areas and vulnerable cultural heritage in each demonstration land/seascape.</p> <p>Management: If found to be necessary, guidelines for safeguarding cultural heritage will be developed at the start of the project and staff, consultants and government officers will be trained around risks to cultural heritage.</p>
<p>Risk 11: <i>Measures to control IAS including physical removal or the use of chemicals (pesticides or herbicides) may create hazardous waste or cause environmental pollution.</i></p> <p>Principle 3. Standard 7.1, 7.2, 7.4</p>	I = 3 P = 2	Moderate	<p>After physical removal, some IAS may create hazardous waste because of their ability to invade new areas from rhizomes or eggs etc. Chemicals used to treat IAS may cause environmental pollution by seeping into water courses.</p> <p>Institutions may fail to comply to national and international environmental safety standards</p>	<p>Assessment: During the PPG phase an IAS management expert will be hired to assess this risk in detail, identifying high risk IAS and control methods. The analysis will also consider existing environmental guidelines and their application as well as knowledge of standard operating procedures and capacity to follow them.</p> <p>Management: If found to be necessary, the PPG assessment will result in the development of a targeted IAS control plan including standard operating procedures to reduce environmental risks (to be prepared in Year 1 of the project)</p>

			environmental safety standards.	e project).
<p>Risk 12: PPG team/project or UNDP staff/consultants travelling to Honiara and demonstration land/seascapes could increase risk of COVID-19 spread if pandemic is prolonged or if a different pandemic emerges during the project's lifetime.</p> <p>Principle 3. Standard 3.6</p>	<p>I = 4 P = 1</p>	Moderate	<p>There have been no confirmed cases of COVID 19 in Solomon Islands since the WHO declared a pandemic in early 2020. However, such cases may emerge during the PPG or implementation phase, or a different pandemic may emerge during the project's lifetime. There would therefore be significant consequences if transmission occurred by project consultants or project or UNDP staff visiting the country or moving between islands.</p>	<p>Assessment: Detailed assessment of this risk should be undertaken by UNDP prior to the initiation of the PPG and full implementation stages of the project.</p> <p>Management: Assuming the pandemic continues at least through the PPG stage, it is likely that PPG activities will have to be undertaken by national consultants, supported remotely by international specialists and external UNDP staff. The potential for inter-island transmission will be reduced by the project including a high degree of devolution of implementation responsibility to local level (ie working through provincial staff and local coordinators)</p> <p>Should there be a relaxation on travel restrictions in the future that might allow international specialists to participate in full implementation of the project or indeed movements of Solomon Islanders between islands, internationally recognized biosecurity standards will need to be followed.</p>
<p>Risk 13: <i>Due diligence has not yet been completed to ensure there are no enhanced safeguards risks from working with and private sector companies / co-financers with whom the project may cooperate to support biodiversity and LDN activities.</i></p> <p>Principle 1: 1.3, 1.5</p> <p>Principle 3: Standard 1.2, 1.8</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 3</p>	Moderate	<p>The project aims to engage the private sector in line with GEF expectations. Potential partners identified at PIF stage include tourism sector (eg with SolTuna, Bilikiki Cruises, Dive Solomons, local eco-resorts); forestry sector (eg. Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Ltd (GPPO L)). Due diligence has not yet been completed with these private sector partners to confirm they adhere to UNDP expectations on exclusionary criteri</p>	<p>Assessment: Potential private sector partners and related activities (including co-financing) will be confirmed during the PPG phase. Each will be subject to completion of due diligence, including use of UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.</p> <p>Management: Partnership agreements will be established with each private sector partner during the PPG phase, or prior to the start of any partnership working. Such agreements will be fully aligned with UNDP's private sector partnerships policy including any conditions according to the findings of UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.</p>

			a, potential controversies and commitment to ESG, and that any potential risks can be managed through conditions.	
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?			
	Select one (see SESP for guidance)		Comments	
	<i>Low Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Moderate Risk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>This pre-screening assessment has identified 13 risks, all of which have been scored as Moderate, giving the project an overall categorization of Moderate risk. All principles and standards are triggered by this SESP pre-screening.</p> <p>A comprehensive SESP will be undertaken during the PPG phase and the risks will be reviewed in detail and adjusted if necessary, including their risk scores and management measures.</p> <p>Along with additional risk/impact assessments, the risks identified at pre-screening confirm the need for the preparation of the following during the PPG phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ESMF · Stakeholder analysis and comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan incorporating FPIC · Gender Analysis and Action Plan · Livelihoods analysis · Capacity assessments · Initial climate risk screening · Identification and commencement of FPIC process 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment process for any identified private sector partners including co-financers · Definition of project Grievance Redress Mechanism. <p>At pre-screening stage, it is not envisaged that a separate Indigenous Peoples plan is required, and this will instead be integrated into the Project Document (which will form the IPP) and comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan.</p> <p>During the PPG phase, detailed project design will incorporate mitigation measures to the identified risks as far as possible. In addition, during project implementation the following might be needed (TBC during PPG phase based on PPG assessments and project design):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Preparation of ESMP, with scaled ESIA as needed · Preparation of Livelihoods Action Plan · Identification of existing international/national guidance/preparation of SOPs/protocols/plan for dealing with chemicals/health and safety · Identification of existing national guidance/ preparation of SOPs/protocols/plan for IAS management/control · Identification of existing / preparation of guidelines for safeguarding cultural heritage · Integration of SESA principles into Component 1 activities · Provision of training to PMU/stakeholders to raise awareness of/capacity to manage safeguards risks
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Inclusion of capacity/officer within PMU to oversee implementation of SESP and manage risks · Integration of the above and other risk mitigation measures into project design, budget, governance arrangements and PMU.
	High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?	
	Check all that apply	
	Principle 1: Human Rights	Risk 1 Risk 2 Risk 3 Risk 4 Risk 5 Risk 13
	Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Risk 2
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management	Risk 7 Risk 8 Risk 13
	2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Risk 6
	3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	Risk 9 Risk 12 Risk 13
	4. Cultural Heritage	Risk 10

	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risk 1
	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risk 1
	7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risk 11

[1] United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022. https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Final_UNPS_2018-2022_Pacific.pdf

[2] UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021 <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/UNDP%20Gender%20Equality%20Strategy%202018-2021.pdf>

[3] Asian Development Bank. Solomon Islands country gender assessment. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 2015. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/176812/sol-country-gender-assessment.pdf>

[4] <https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Regional/community-based-action-sids.pdf>

[5] <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/asia-pacific/asia-and-the-pacific-women-in-conservation/kawaki-women-s-group/>

[6] https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/emi_ecosystem_profile.pdf

[7] https://digitalarchive.worldfishcenter.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12348/4195/Program%20Report_2020-22_Covid19%20Report.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
Solomon Islands-GEF7-SESP_Revised_14Oct2020	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Mr. Chanel Iroi	Deputy Secretary and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management	

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Annex A. Proposed project demonstration landscapes/seascapes

Proposed selection criteria for identification of landscapes/seascapes (to be confirmed during PPG phase):

1. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
2. Endemic, threatened or keystone species habitats and ecosystems.
3. Intact marine/terrestrial habitats.
4. Current threat to biodiversity from IAS.
5. Landowner interest and clarity of ownership.
6. Existing locally-managed site or sites with existing initiatives (resource owners, supporting NGOs/CBOs) that can be built off.
7. At risk from or identified land degradation.
8. Potential for collaboration with farmers to address land degradation and its drivers.
9. Land/seascape size (ha) and ecosystem-based delineation.
10. Transport and logistics cost.
11. Provincial government support.
12. Potential for co-financing including private sector partnerships.
13. Sustainability and potential to achieve multiple benefits.
14. Overall feasibility of project execution and implementation efficiency.

Based on application of the selection criteria, four candidate project land/seascapes have been identified at PIF stage through consultations with multiple stakeholders, the PIF Technical Working Group and confirmation at the PIF validation workshop. They are:

1. Reef Islands and Utupua Seascape
2. Western Solomons Biosphere
3. Solomon Tubi Forest Reserve

4. Lau and North Malaita Integrated Sustainable Management Area.

The project land/seascapes will be confirmed during PPG through detailed consultation with local stakeholders and confirmation of their willingness to participate in the project (including securing FPIC as needed). Detailed information will be collected on the social, environmental and economic baseline and the intervention areas will be delineated and geographic coordinates provided. Initial information and map are provided below.

Brief description of the proposed land/seascapes

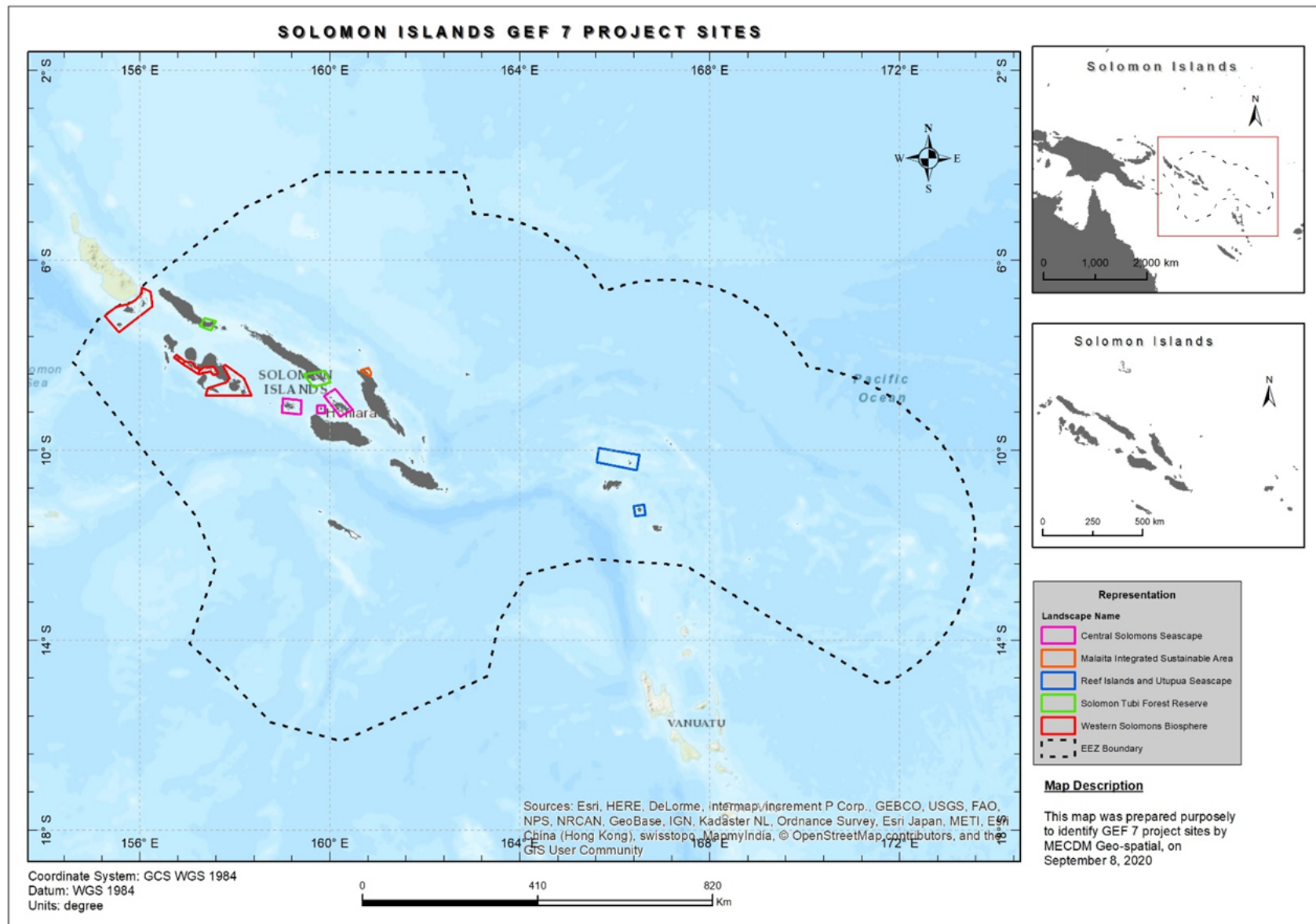
Land/seascape name and area (ha)	Biodiversity significance, threats and focus of project interventions
1. Reef Islands and Utupua Seascape 21,000 ha	<p>Biodiversity significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Associated with Nendo and Tinakula complex of KBAs · Includes 20,000 ha community marine managed area · Islands, coral reefs, mangroves · Diverse marine assemblage, endemic birds (Santa Cruz ground dove), plants, bio-culturally important species <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat conversion / land degradation from encroachment of smallholder agriculture into natural ecosystems · IAS threats to biodiversity and land degradation unknown, but rats and fire ants are present and crown of thorns starfish is affecting reefs · Unsustainable use of marine resources, catch/bycatch · Logging of Kauri tree species <p>Focus of project interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Integrated ecosystem-based management plan and strengthened governance · Biodiversity: conservation of key species and their habitats · IAS: Biosecurity, capacity development and awareness, local management, risk assessment and

	<p>d control priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SLM on 1,000 ha production land outside PAs (smallholder farms)
<p>2. Western Solomons Biosphere</p> <p>37,128 ha</p>	<p>Biodiversity significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gizo, Tetepare, Marovo, Roviana-Vonvona KBAs · Includes 4,128 ha of community managed marine areas · Tetepare Island is the largest uninhabited island in the South Pacific (12,000 ha Tetepare Community Conserved Area) with pristine lowland rainforest and a rich inshore marine area with one of the highest diversities of fish and coral in the world · Leatherback, hawksbill and green turtles all breed · Solomon Islands skink, many endemic birds and bats <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat conversion / land degradation from encroachment of smallholder agriculture into natural ecosystems · IAS threats unknown but likely to be high due to proximity to PNG; pigs and maybe cats have extirpated certain ground-nesting birds · Unsustainable use of marine resources, catch/bycatch <p>Focus of project interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Integrated ecosystem-based management plan and strengthened governance · Biodiversity: conservation of key species and their habitats · IAS: Biosecurity, capacity development and awareness, local management, risk assessment and control priorities · SLM on 6,000 ha production land outside PAs (smallholder farms)
<p>3. Solomon Tubi Forest Reserve</p> <p>10,000 ha</p>	<p>Biodiversity significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · San George and South east Choiseul KBAs · 5,000ha of Tubi Forest in Bogotu and San George, Isabel province and 5,000 ha in South Choiseul (all PA) · The hardwood Tubi tree <i>Xanthostemon melanoxylon</i> is found only on Choiseul and Isabel islands, where the species is endemic. Avifauna and other groups are poorly known but include many endemics

	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Unsustainable resource use · IAS unknown but expected to be significant threat <p>Focus of project interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Integrated ecosystem-based management plan and strengthened governance · Biodiversity: conservation of key species and their habitats · IAS: Biosecurity, capacity development and awareness, local management, risk assessment and control priorities · SLM: not targeted in this landscape
<p>4. Lau and North Malaita Integrated Sustainable Management Area</p> <p>14,000 ha</p>	<p>Biodiversity significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Malaita highlands KBA · Includes 2,000 ha community integrated sustainable management area · Terrestrial biodiversity of the upland forests of North Malaita is poorly known but likely to be important in this KBA, flying foxes etc · Wide range of marine habitats including largest seagrass beds in Solomon Islands (1,000 ha), very important for dugongs <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Catch/bycatch · IAS unknown but as it is the furthest eastern province ports of entry that needs to be supported for IAS avoidance and management · Land degradation from smallholder farming; SLM needs to be introduced due to food security and land degradation issues in the islands <p>Focus of project interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Integrated ecosystem-based management plan and strengthened governance · Biodiversity: conservation of key species and their habitats · IAS: Biosecurity, capacity development and awareness, local management, risk assessment and control priorities

	· SLM on 7,000 ha degraded land outside PAs (smallholder farms)
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Project map



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Key Assumptions in tCO₂eq Estimates

- Estimates include: 1) Avoided forest degradation through uptake of sustainable land management practices, which is expected to result in an avoided shift in degradation from moderate to high degradation on 4,200 ha (10% of the total 42,000 ha forested area in demonstration landscapes not under productive use).
- Note that: 1) No impact due to avoided forest loss from agricultural incursion has been counted, assuming this will take place via incremental impacts resulting in a shift to a higher degradation status rather than materializing as forest loss; 2) Improved management for biodiversity conservation and IAS management over the remaining PA/non-PA forested land has not been calculated to result in any changed degradation status and therefore no GHG benefit has been calculated; 3) No GHG impact through improvement in perennial cropping/agroforestry systems through adoption of SLM has been calculated at this stage due to limited information. Further calculations will be completed during the PPG phase as activities and project landscapes are defined, with a conservative GHG co-benefit scenario used at PIF stage.
- The benefit from the project is estimated for a 20-year (6 years of implementation plus 14 years of capitalization) period.
- The anticipated start year for the GHG benefit accounting is year 2022.
- No negative impacts from natural or anthropogenic disasters are discounted in the estimates.
- All estimates are subject to the assumptions made during the development of EX-ANTE: EX-ACT.

Annex E: Key legal instruments for conserving biodiversity and natural resources

Key legal and policy instruments for protecting, conserving and sustainably using Solomon Islands biodiversity and other natural resources and managing IAS, include the following:

- The *Solomon Islands Constitution (1979)* lays the foundation for the recognition and social evolution of the multiple customary and belief system that forms the fabric of community order. A draft Solomon Islands Federal Constitution is under development with explicit provisions and principles for environmental protection.

- The *Environment Act (1998)* and the *Environment Regulation (2008)* provide the overarching law for managing, regulating, monitoring and coordinating of environmental matters, and mandates the Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of MECDM to oversee environmental management. The Act has considerable power by virtue of Article 4 (1) which states that, in the event of conflict between the Act and other Acts, the provisions of the Environment Act shall prevail. The Environmental Regulation (2008) provides supporting procedures, guidelines and standards for assessments, evaluating and monitoring of environment-related concerns, particularly EIA which has been applied to logging industries since 2013. An Environment Advisory Committee has been established under this Act, focusing on environmental safeguards.
- The *Protected Area Act (2010)* and *Protected Area Regulation (2012)* provide for the establishment of a protected area (PA) system/s, the establishment of a PA Advisory Committee[1] and a PA trust fund for which implementation measures are under way but not yet operational. All land above 400m (mountains), water catchments and taboos are legally protected. Together with the *Forestry Act* (see below) this provides for the protection of wetlands and river buffer areas. Several ecological gap analysis reports have already identified critically important sites for protection, with some individual provinces establishing area targets for protection (see NBSAP).
- The *Fisheries Management Act (2015)* makes provisions for the conservation, management, development and sustainable use of fisheries and marine resources of Solomon Islands, to monitor and control fishing vessels within and beyond the fisheries waters, to repeal *the Fisheries Act 1998* and to make consequential amendments to the Provincial Government Act 1997 and the Town and Country Planning Act (Cap. 154). Customary rights are recognised and access for customary fishing ensured. The Act also allows for declare of national MPAs or national Marine Managed Areas with appropriate management committees and agreement of the relevant Provincial Executive and community rights holders. The *Fisheries Management Regulations (2018)* formally prohibits hunting and trading of dugong[2].
- The *Wildlife Protection and Management Act (1998)* and its *Regulations (2008)* and *Amendment (2017)* provide the framework for managing of wildlife including endangered species in compliance with CITES. In August 2006, the Government suspended trade in the country's native wildlife to allow new legislation to be drafted.
- The *Forest Resources and Timber Utilization Act (2000)* stipulates the protected species and provides for the control and regulating of timber industries and for PA management within the context of conserving water resources. It is supported by the *Code of Logging Practice (2002)*, which provides for monitoring and auditing of logging activities aiming to ensure ecological and cultural functions including ecosystem services are maintained.
- The *Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Act 2008* provides the statutory framework for the mining sector. Section 2 states that no mining operations shall take place except in accordance with its provisions.
- The *Rivers Waters Act (1996)* - provides for the control of rivers and water and its equitable and beneficial use. It principally focuses on drinking water; mainstreaming of biodiversity concern into the current integrated water resources management programmes is considered a priority.
- The *Agriculture and Livestock Act (1935, Cap 80)* provides for the advancement of agricultural and livestock industries, including the declaration of noxious weeds.
- The *Environmental Health Act (1980)* - provides for regulating environmental health in urban areas and the provinces. It provides the legal basis for advancing biodiversity within the context of promoting people's health.
- The *Biosecurity Act (2013)* - provides for the regulating of the entry of plant and animal pests including diseases, controls their establishment and their spread in the country and gives effect to international collaboration on issues related to pest and animal or plant product regulation. Alongside the *Agricultural Quarantine Act 1982* and the *Fisheries Management Act* it provides the legal basis for advancing the priority on agrobiodiversity and in particularly addressing

threats posed by agricultural pests, diseases and potential invasive species.

- *Shipping Act (1998)* and *Shipping (Marine Pollution) Regulation 2011*. The regulation prohibits the discharge of ballast water that contains non-indigenous aquatic organisms (invasive organisms) or microorganisms (pathogens).

- The *Provincial Government Act (1997)*, alongside the *Devolution Orders*, provides the legislative power for provincial authorities to develop provincial biodiversity or environmental related legislation such as the provincial environmental ordinances, several of which have been developed for the protection, conservation and management of resources. However, none address IAS.

[1] This committee has been established to cover PA related work and also issuing bio-prospecting research permits.

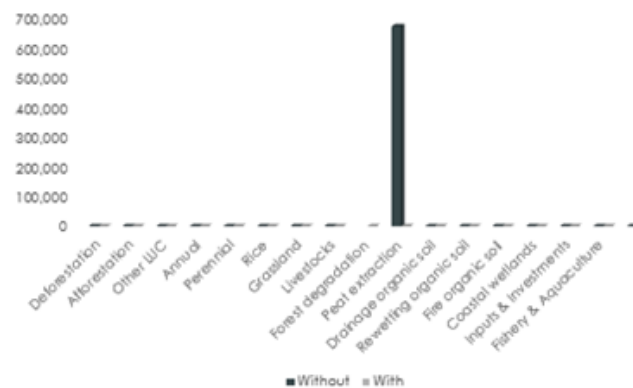
[2] <https://www.dugongconservation.org/news/fisheries-law-makes-hunting-dugong-illegal-in-solomon-islands/gazatted-fisheries-management-regulations-2018/>

Details on tCO2e estimates and assumptions

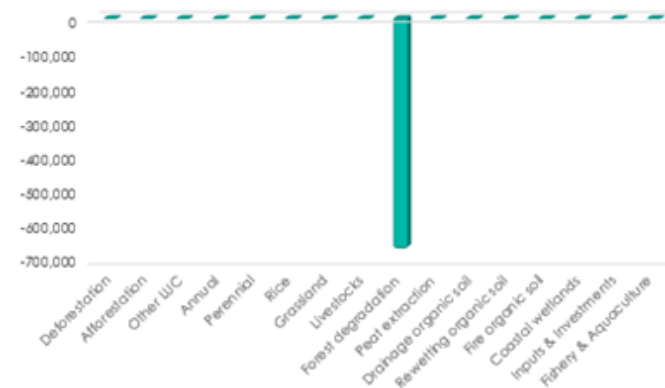
Project Name	Solomon Islands SAFE proj	Climate	Tropical (Moist)	Duration of the Project (Years)	20				
Continent	Oceania	Dominant Regional Soil Type	LAC Soils	Total area (ha)	42000				
Components of the project	Gross fluxes		Share per GHG of the Balance			Result per year			
	Without	With	Balance	All GHG in tCO2eq			Without	With	Balance
	All GHG in tCO2eq			CO ₂		N ₂ O	CH ₄		
	Positive = source / negative = sink			Biomass	Soil	Other			
Land use changes	Deforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Afforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other LUC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	Annual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Perennial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grassland & Livestocks	Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Livestocks	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Degradation & Management	Forest degradation	667,729	0	-667,729	-606,206	-61,523	0	0	33,386
	Peat extraction	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	Drainage organic soil	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	Rewetting organic soil	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	Fire organic soil	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Coastal wetlands	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Inputs & Investments	0	0	0			0	0	0	0

Fishery & Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	667,729	0	-667,729	-606,206	-61,523	0	0	0	33,386	-33,386
Per hectare	15.9	0.0	-15.9	-14.4	-1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Per hectare per year	0.8	0.0	-0.8	-0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	-0.8

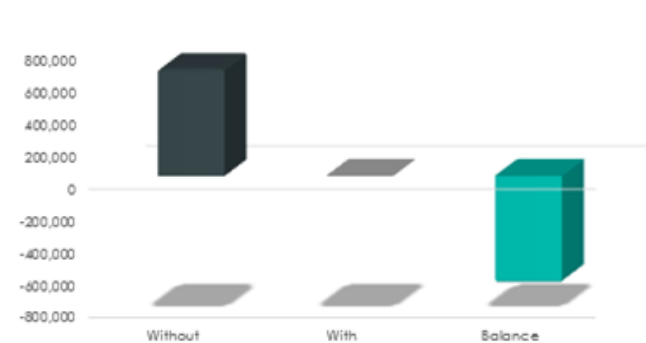
Fluxes per component



Balance per component



Total without and with project and balance



Share of the balance per GHG (plus origin for CO2)

