



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10858

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia

Countries

Micronesia

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Forest, Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste, Land Degradation, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Integrated Programs, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Private sector, Small Island Developing States, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Livelihoods, Community-based adaptation, Climate information, Mainstreaming adaptation, Climate resilience, National Adaptation Plan, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Waste Management, Biomes, Wetlands, Coral Reefs, Sea Grasses, Mangroves, Rivers, Grasslands, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Infrastructure, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Fisheries, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Invasive Alien Species, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Agriculture, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Local Communities, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Integrated Landscapes, Landscape Restoration, Smallholder Farming, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Commodity Supply Chains, Smallholder Farmers, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Principal Objective 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Submission Date

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2029

Duration

72In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

489,749.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	BD1-1a Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	497,945.00	24,254,144.00
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management	GET	3,725,848.00	3,250,000.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	931,462.00	5,988,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			5,155,255.00	33,492,144.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To secure critical ecosystem services through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 1 Strengthening the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation	Technical Assistance	Strengthened inter-sectoral governance, capacity and strategies to mainstream sustainable land management, biodiversity and LDN. This will be measured by: (i) National LDN and four state SLM SAPs developed and approved with targets and priority actions for achieving LDN by 2030 (ii) At least three regulatory instruments reviewed and updated to ensure consistency across institutional responsibilities and enforcement to strengthen	Output 1.1: A SLM NAP for combating land degradation prepared for adoption by government, incorporating indicators, targets and priority actions for achieving LDN across each state, with support for mainstreaming into priority policies Output 1.2. Priority gaps and weaknesses in the regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms for combatting land degradation identified, and improvements achieved through technical support and advocacy leading to adoption by state and national governments Output 1.3 State level land use plans and local management plans on the high islands strengthened with enhanced implementation to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and conserve biodiversity Output 1.4 Existing /nascent state level intersectoral working	GE T	731,918.00	4,751,500.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>achievement of LDN</p> <p>(iii) Two existing State-level land use plans updated and two new State land use or relevant management plans developed/updated to include detailed priority actions (with timelines) to contribute to LDN targets.</p> <p>(iv) All four State level SLM working groups for landscape management fully functional and SLM NAP implemented</p>	<p>groups for landscape management fostered and operationalized to address land degradation, and national level intersectoral working group established and supported to oversee formulation and mainstreaming of the NAP, both with engagement of the private sector</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Enhancing information, decision support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2: Enhanced tools and government capacity for SLM and LDN, This will be measured by: (I) At least 5 practical guidelines, protocols, and tools established for SLM/BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors (ii) Baseline and targets for the LDN sub-indicators established for each State, including: (a) trends in land cover; (b) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (c) trends in carbon stock above and below ground). (iii) At least. 30%	Output 2.1. National level spatial mapping and strengthened baseline information available to states on existing platforms to assess trends, drivers and hotspots of land degradation and targets set for LDN sub-indicators Output 2.2 Resilience assessments of landscapes, habitats and land uses to land degradation and climate-induced risks to support planning and zoning. Output 2.3 Protocols for monitoring land degradation and practical guidelines for promoting/mainstreaming SLM/BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors. Output 2.4: Capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs, etc., plus technology transfer and equipment for LDN monitoring and mainstreaming of SLM/BD ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender-responsive	GE T	774,807.00	5,100,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>increase in capacity for SLM/LDN and BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors for both women and men as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3. Embedding climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones (demonstration activities)	Investment	<p>Outcome 3: Community participation in measures to reduce land degradation, sustain ecosystem services and biodiversity and improve livelihoods and wellbeing as measured by:</p> <p>(i) At least 925 hectares restored, including agricultural lands, forest lands, savannahs and wetlands</p> <p>(ii) At least 2,181 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and advance LDN</p> <p>(iii) At least 6,195 hectares</p>	<p>Output 3.1 Community-led participatory integrated landscape management and rehabilitation plans co-designed, agreed and implemented to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation to protect ecosystem services and biodiversity</p> <p>Output 3.2: Targeted ecosystem rehabilitation measures (nature-based solutions) piloted in innovative partnerships with communities and the private sector in degraded watersheds and coastal zones to reduce and reverse land degradation and enhance biodiversity</p> <p>Output 3.3 Smallholder farmers on traditionally owned lands supported to implement traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices for SLM and climate change adaptation that contribute to LDN, protect ecosystem services, biodiversity and food security, and enhance incomes.</p>	GE T	2,679,264.00	17,400,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>under SLM in production landscapes</p> <p>(iv) At least 585 hectares of marine habitat (mangroves, lagoons, seagrass beds and coral reefs) in four target landscapes under improved management practices to benefit biodiversity and achievement of LDN.</p> <p>(v) 31,582 tCO₂-e mitigated over 20 year period</p> <p>(vi) At least 4,516 people benefiting from project activities, including 2,258 men and 2,258 women</p> <p>(vii) Reduced land</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>degradation in lands belonging to at least 335 smallholder household farms (50% of households in the landscapes) adopting SLM techniques (viii) At least average of 10% improvement in net household profitability (including female-headed households) from smallholder farms adopting SLM and related added value products / marketing / diversification initiatives (ix) At least 8 initiatives implemented to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity and reverse</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		land degradation from agriculture and infrastructure sectors through nature-based solutions				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4. Effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4. Increased project impact, replication and upscaling through enhanced awareness and knowledge management as measured by: (i) At least 30% improvement in community awareness and attitudes towards sustainable land management and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity as measured by KAP survey (ii) At least 5 project best practices and lessons on SLM/LDN (including on gender and youth	Output 4.1: Awareness-raising program on SLM and the benefits of tackling land degradation delivered through targeted communications, education, campaigns and community participation. Output 4.2 Knowledge management platform and program to share information and project lessons between states, landscapes and communities including through an on-line portal, learning exchanges and demonstration farms/farmer associations Output 4.3 Best practices and lessons learned for addressing land degradation exchanged through South-South cooperation with other SIDS across the Pacific and elsewhere to support LDN/SLM. Output 4.4 Project M&E, safeguards and gender mainstreaming to support effective project management and maximize project impact.	GE T	723,779.0 0	4,700,000. 00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		mainstreaming and socio-cultural benefits) are accessed and applied throughout the FSM (iii) At least 5 initiatives demonstrating active participation and knowledge exchange in regional and global SLM/LDN initiatives				
				Sub Total (\$)	4,909,768.00	31,951,500.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET			245,487.00		1,540,644.00
				Sub Total(\$)	245,487.00	1,540,644.00
				Total Project Cost(\$)	5,155,255.00	33,492,144.00

Please provide justification

C. 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	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	5,250,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	FSM Department of Resources and Development	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	10,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	FSM Department of Resources and Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Pohnpei State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Chuuk State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Yap State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,092,144.00
Recipient Country Government	Kosrea State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,000,000.00
Other	Conservation Society of Pohnpei	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,600,000.00
Other	Micronesia Conservation Trust	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,000,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				33,492,144.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (USD 5,250,000) Investment Mobilized for the following activities: (i) climate change adaptation support to local authorities; (ii) emergency coordination operations for disaster resilience; (iii) grant program to enhance local community resilience through adaptation projects, etc. Implemented with support from SPC. FSM Department of Resources and Development (USD 10,000,000) Investment mobilized that includes support for enhancing food security of vulnerable households by introducing climate-smart agriculture practices that focuses on food security through traditional crops coupled with nutrient-rich vegetables, promotion of rainwater-harvesting systems and water conservation, and promoting resilient household livelihood opportunities, demonstrated success in bringing together crucial elements needed to reduce vulnerabilities and cope with disaster and climate extremes while embracing the traditional culture. It also will support investments in forest and fisheries management, agriculture, improved biosecurity measures (external and internal) and promotion of protected area management activities.

D. 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	Micronesia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	4,657,310	442,444	5,099,754.00
UNDP	GET	Micronesia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	497,945	47,305	545,250.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					5,155,255.00	489,749.00	5,645,004.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Micronesia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	164,250.00
UNDP	GET	Micronesia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	54,750.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Please provide justification

*Note: \$200,000 requested to enable inclusion of all four States in the project, based on risks from land degradation and the need for progress towards land degradation neutrality. The PPG will incur high travel costs (Yap State is 2,777 km from Kosrae State) and more days in the field for PPG team to consult closely with each state and the communities to understand their context/needs and secure their engagement, and to gather the required information for a strong baseline.

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
985.00	925.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	313.00	320.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
353.00	380.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Natural grass	208.00	115.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
111.00	110.00		

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)
7064.00	8376.00	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)
722.00	2,181.00		

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,342.00	6,195.00		

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
580.00	585.00		

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Type/name of the third-party certification			

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
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Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)	3433	31582	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)	3,433	31,582		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2023	2024		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting		20		

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,421	2,258		
Male	2,421	2,258		
Total	4842	4516	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

Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (925 ha): This includes 320 ha of agricultural lands (agro-forestry and taro patches); , 380 ha of forest and forest lands; 115 ha of savannahs (grasslands and shrub lands) and 110 ha of wetlands Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) covering 8,376 ha and consisting of: (a) Sub-Indicator 4.1 (Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity) of 2,181 ha that consists of 192 ha of forests, 11 ha of Riparian upland wetlands and 303 ha of savannah within the 4 demonstration sites and 500 ha outside the

demonstration sites (in the high islands) that will benefit from biodiversity mainstreaming in land use plans in the high islands and (b) sub indicator 4.3 (area of landscape under SLM in production systems covering 6,195 ha consisting of 695 ha within the demonstration sites of agroforestry and taro lands and 5,500 ha of landscapes within the remaining high island areas, the latter through mainstream SLM in NAP, SAPs, etc. Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved management (excluding PAs) of 585 ha consisting of 186 ha of mangroves, 257 ha of lagoons and 142 ha of reefs Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigation of 31,582 tCO₂-e Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries consisting of 4,516 persons (Male: 2,258, Female: 2,258) who will benefit from improved agriculture, fisheries, livestock agroforestry, fisheries, livelihoods, value addition and improved landscape conditions

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) Global Environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

--Very minor changes from the PIF (Refer Annex H)--

Annex H: Changes from PIF

Summary of changes made	PIF	GEF CEO ER/ Prodoc	Rationale
Outcomes	No changes		
Outputs	No changes		

Targets	<p>Area of land restored ? 985 ha</p> <p>Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas ? 7,064 ha</p> <p>Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas)? 580 ha</p> <p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e) - 3,433 tCO2-e</p>	<p>Area of land restored ? 925 ha</p> <p>Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas ? 8,376 ha</p> <p>Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas)? 585 ha</p> <p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e) - 31,582 tCO2-e</p>	Some slight revisions based on detailed mapping of demonstration sites
Component Costs	<p>Component 1: USD 638,270</p> <p>Component 2: USD 785,562</p> <p>Component 3: USD 2,945,860</p> <p>Component 4: USD 540,075</p>	<p>Component 1: USD 731,918</p> <p>Component 2: USD 774,807</p> <p>Component 3: USD 2,679,264</p> <p>Component 4: USD 723,766</p>	Minor changes in Components 1, 2 and 3 that are around 10% or less. Component 4 has increased on account of the following: (i) inclusion of a stand-alone M&E Output to cover continuous monitoring of RFA, SESP, ESMP, SEP etc. to provide guidance for adjustment and adaptive management; and (ii) recommendation of the UNDP HACT assessment and increased emphasis on M&E
Co-financing	USD 33,143,251	USD 33,492,144	A very slight increase from PIF values.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) comprises 607 islands in the western Pacific[1]¹, with an exclusive economic area of 2.98 million km² and a total land area of 702 km². The country comprises

four semi-autonomous States (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap) with a total population of around 105,000^[2],^[3] which has declined since 2000 due to out-migration. The States have a significant level of autonomy with ownership of land and aquatic areas varying between the States. In Kosrae and Pohnpei, land is both privately and state owned, with aquatic areas being managed by the state as public trusts. In Chuuk, most land and aquatic areas are privately owned and acquired through inheritance, gift, or more recently, by purchase. In Yap almost all land and aquatic areas are owned or managed by individual estates and usage is subject to traditional control. These land and aquatic tenure systems have critical bearing on the strategies and actions required to sustainably manage and protect the natural resources of these islands. Responsibility for environmental issues is shared between the national government and the individual state governments. Almost a third of the population live in poverty^[4], particularly affecting children and female-headed households. The country's low annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth^[5] is constrained by extreme remoteness from major markets, small population and landmass, geographic dispersion and vulnerability to external shocks and environmental fragility. The domestic economy is highly dependent on imports, with foreign aid and the selling of fishing rights being the main economic drivers.

Globally significant environmental features include: an astonishing range of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems lying within the Polynesia-Micronesia global biodiversity hotspot and comprising part of two Global 200 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) ecoregions^[6]; two endemic bird areas^[7] and 58 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) ^[8]; one of the world's most endangered rainforests on the peak of Mt. Winpot (Chuuk State); the largest green turtle *Chelonia mydas* rookery in the insular Pacific; globally rare montane cloud forests at just 450 m on Pohnpei and Kosrae; and a diversity of marine ecosystems from high volcano islands of more than 80km² with fringing and barrier reefs to coral atolls including Chuuk Lagoon, among the world's largest (3,130 km²) and deepest (60 m), as well as the world's deepest trench (Marianas). The diversity of terrestrial plants and animals within the FSM varies from east to west due to differences in climate (particularly rainfall), geology, topography and geographical isolation. Major vegetation types in the FSM are: cloud forest, native upland forest, palm forest, agroforest, secondary vegetation, savanna, grass and fern lands, freshwater marsh, swamp forest, mangroves, atoll forest, limestone forest of rocky coasts and beach strand. The area covered by each vegetation type varies between the States and some types may not occur on all islands. Cloud forests are restricted to the cloud shrouded mountainous peaks of Pohnpei and Kosrae, which are absent in Chuuk and Yap. Upland forest and agroforest are the major vegetation types in all States, but the area of relatively intact native forest is very limited in Chuuk and Yap. Over 1239 species of ferns and flowering plants have been described for the FSM. Approximately 782 species are native, including about 145 species of ferns, 267 species of monocots and 370 species of dicots. Each State of the FSM is represented by their unique biodiversity (refer Table 1). The diversity of marine organisms and their

assemblages within the FSM is high. Species richness and diversity for all inshore marine habitats decrease from west to east. Marine habitats and associated species compositions, due to the small geographic scale of the shallow water marine areas, function on small spatial scales. This condition provides a wide range of habitats within a small geographical location, which directly increases species biodiversity, but it also increases the potential for loss of biodiversity if the environment is under threat. The coral reef ecosystems is the dominant shallow marine feature of the nation. Coral reef biodiversity and complexity is high within the FSM and this diversity diminishes notably from west to east within the region. All major types of coral reefs are found within the FSM, including barrier reefs, fringing reefs, atolls and submerged reefs. Common reef habitats in the FSM include lagoon reefs (pinnacle, patch), passes, channels, shallow reef flats, terraces, submerged reefs, slopes, reef holes, embayments, quasi estuaries, seagrass beds, mangroves, mud flats and sand flats. In addition, mangrove forests and seagrass beds are well developed especially along the fringes of the high islands and some atolls, and they are essential habitats to a very wide range of marine organisms. The condition of reefs and inshore marine environments within the FSM are healthy with natural processes controlling reef condition and marine biodiversity. However, reef and marine degradation and the loss of biodiversity (especially among food fishes) are attributed to various anthropogenic sources within urban centers.

The terrestrial ecosystems of FSM's high islands are dominated by forests (87.1% of the land area), primarily upland/montane rainforest (29.4% of the total) and agroforest (27.3%). These forests harbor important biodiversity and provide critical ecosystem services in particular the provision of water (quality and quantity), clean air and carbon sequestration. Coastal (strand) forests also help to stabilize the coastal dunes, reduce the extent of beach erosion, and provide a windbreak from strong winds, desiccation, and salt spray. Forest cover in 2016 was estimated to be 54,386 ha^[9], with the largest expanse in Pohnpei (33,000 ha), and the smallest in Yap (almost 7,000 ha). Agroforestry is integral to the culture and subsistence economy on which 60% of the population depends^[10]¹⁰, and the agriculture sector provides food, livelihoods, and employment for a significant proportion of the population. 90% of households engage in agriculture^[11]¹¹ and 63% in agroforestry^[12]¹², with agriculture and livestock accounting for 14% of household income^[13]¹³. Due to the small land area and tenure systems, farm production is generally small scale for local consumption and to support relatively small export sales. Traditional agro-forest systems are based on biotic diversity and polyculture and have served as the main source of indigenous food crops, for culture, health, environment, economic and food security over generations. There are many varieties and cultivars of staple food crops, such as 55 banana, 133 breadfruit and 171 yam cultivars for Pohnpei alone^[14]¹⁴, all of which are potentially important for food security and more so in the face of climate change. Properly managed, these home garden /agroforestry systems can be highly productive whilst also delivering important environmental services such as soil stabilization, carbon sequestration, clean water, and air. More than half of the crops cultivated are tree crops (e.g., papaya, breadfruit, banana, coconut) and root

crops (e.g., taro, yam, tapioca, sweet potatoes) followed by cash crops (mainly kava in Pohnpei and betel nut in Yap). Farmstead livestock production (particularly pigs and chickens) is also important for subsistence and cultural use[15]¹⁵. Despite this production, 35% of household budget is spent on imported processed food and non-alcoholic beverages. Recent changes in lifestyle and diet have been accompanied by a shift from subsistence to a cash economy and increases in non-communicable diseases / decline in health which is promoting a return to local fresh island foods[16]¹⁶

The major coastal habitats of the high islands (mangroves, seagrass beds, lagoons, and coral reefs) form highly integrated ecosystems between the offshore marine and terrestrial areas, supporting multiple ecosystem services and rich biodiversity. Coral reefs cover 4,925 km² across the country, serving as breakwaters and providing the sand and sediment in which mangroves and seagrasses grow. At the same time, the mangroves (covering 9,112 ha) and seagrass beds sequester large amounts of carbon[17]¹⁷, [18]¹⁸, stabilize currents, settle sediments from the land (potentially with a strong capacity to offset sea level rise[19]¹⁹) and provide nutrient inputs (detritus) into the coastal ecosystem, as well as habitat / nursery grounds for many species of invertebrates, fish, and turtles. Mangroves are particularly important to coastal protection from erosion and storm waves and provide products for subsistence economies such as firewood and building material as well as regulating water quality (buffering the effects of runoff sedimentation and pollution). Inshore fisheries in mangroves, reefs, and lagoons are vital to livelihoods and food security. They are particularly important to subsistence (artisanal) fishers who utilize small-scale fisheries for sale at local, small markets, generally using traditional fishing techniques and small boats.

While responsibility for environmental issues is shared between the national and individual state governments, the States have significant autonomy, with the national Government providing guidance and technical assistance when needed and requested on matters related to planning, economic development, natural resources, fisheries, and the environment. Land tenure can be complex and varies between the states, greatly influencing the use and management of natural resources and options for facilitating Sustainable Land Management (SLM)[20]²⁰. In Yap, approximately 98% of land (including reef systems) is privately owned by family and clan groups or managed by individual estates. In Chuuk, most land and nearshore marine areas are owned by families, and customary rights are still followed. In Kosrae and Pohnpei, land is both privately and state owned, while marine areas are owned by the State. Group and communal ownership of land is the prevalent form of private ownership, influenced to varying degrees by customary land tenure systems.

Overall, biodiversity and natural resources in FSM face a number of threats, with selected amphibians, birds, mammals and plants affected by different threats resulting in 90% of assessed species in the FSM area affected by habitat loss, 38% by invasive species, 48% by over-exploitation and 10% by pollution. Overfishing/overhunting is recognized as the biggest threat to the Areas of Biodiversity Significance identified in the ecoregional approach to conservation adopted in the FSM. In the period 2006-2015, catch per unit effort for coastal fishing in Pohnpei decreased, while marketed reef fish volume declined approximately 20%, demonstrating the impact of unsustainable fishing practices.[21]²¹(Rhodes, 2018). Land degradation, largely from human activities is the main threat to the FSM's remarkable terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems, their biodiversity and the vital ecosystem services they provide to communities throughout the four States and is the focus of this proposed GEF-7 project which will be implemented on the 'High' islands of each State, where most people reside. The project builds strongly on the achievements of previous GEF interventions (see project baseline) and addresses national and state priorities by focusing on mainstreaming of sustainable land management and biodiversity into the agriculture and infrastructure sectors and building the foundations for achieving land degradation neutrality. There is a complex traditional system of land tenure that still predominate, with individual states having separate and distinct land tenure arrangements, including group and communal ownership of land.

Root Causes, Threat and Impacts

The primary threats to biodiversity and direct causes of ecosystem degradation are described below:

Land degradation: Although FSM is covered with extensive forests, there has been a long history of disturbance from human settlement and use primarily through conversion of native forest for agroforestry. While, it is unclear what extent of forest cover has been lost recently, disturbances have influenced forest structure and species composition over time particularly in the lowlands, but also in the uplands of Pohnpei and to a lesser degree Chuuk and Kosrae. Whilst well managed agroforestry following traditional practices can sustain communities with limited impacts on ecosystem services, recent trends and practices that are shifting away from traditional practices are resulting in more apparent land degradation and negative impacts on critical ecosystem services and biodiversity. These trends have been exacerbated on some islands by demand for farmland for cash crops and because of migration of people from outer islands or lagoon islands to the high islands (e.g., in Pohnpei and Yap). While, shrinking job opportunities in the public sector are spurring some individuals to return to subsistence agriculture, in some cases moving to relatively intact forest areas to farm. Additional causes of land degradation are changing agricultural practices and include the increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and an increased focus on cash crop monocultures. Declining soil fertility is a key concern for all states exemplified by depleting essential soil nutrients and soil organic

carbon content and decreasing the infiltration capacity of the soil. By 2016, 45% of forest area showed signs of disturbance from human activities and climate events, and in 2020 it was estimated that only 6,213 ha of intact forest remained[22]²². For instance, in Pohnpei, encroachment of sakau *Piper methysticum* (a high-value cash crop) into the upper watershed severely reduced the area of primary forest from 15,000 ha in 1975 to 4,200 ha in 2002 with direct impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, affecting vulnerable and endemic species, facilitating expansion of invasive plants, and increasing erosion, diminishing soil fertility and water quality[23]²³. This is clear evidence of recent impacts to relatively intact forest systems on a large scale and a subsequent change in forest cover. These areas may still have some type of forest cover but it is different than that of the more pristine remaining forest in the highlands. Forests in all four states are also being degraded by other activities such as bulldozing, unsustainable timber harvests (for firewood and logging), conversion to other uses and wildfires (particularly Yap). Degradation of watersheds on high islands increases erosion and sediments entering waterways and eventually lagoons, affecting surface freshwater quality as well as leading to siltation of the fringing reefs surrounding the islands and causing significant damage to critical inshore fisheries and biodiversity. This, combined with poor wastewater control due to inappropriate management of livestock (particularly piggeries) and a lack of proper sanitary systems, brings increased risk of bacterial contamination and impacts on the health of the population. This is of particular concern in Pohnpei and Kosrae where communities use surface water from small streams as sources of drinking water. Solid Waste Management (SWM) also contributes to land degradation in all four states due to the lack of a strategic approach through regulations and enforcement and provision of proper facilities for recycling and landfill.

Infrastructure development: The limited land area, high population density and shift from subsistence to a cash-based economy have impacted land use and increased the need for services and therefore need for infrastructure in all four States. Movements from the outer islands to the main islands, and of high island residents to urban areas[24]²⁴ or inland, are increasing the demand for housing, roads, airstrips, utilities, and community facilities[25]²⁵. This demand, the availability of modern machinery, and (now declining) funding for infrastructure improvements under the Compact of Free Association with the United States has resulted in considerable and ongoing degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats. Roads pose direct threats by their 'footprint' but can also impound and divert freshwater flows. The poor design of drainage systems contributes to erosion and sedimentation affecting homes and infrastructures. They also provide access to forests and extend the reach of secondary and private roads, opening land to further agricultural and other development. Roads also serve as a primary pathway for many invasive weeds and other pests expanding their ranges. On the high islands, mangroves and freshwater wetlands are also under severe threat from new developments and are often being destroyed illegally for development land (fragmentation, channels, landfill and conversion, harvesting and pollution[26]²⁶), and are often used as waste dumps. The hydrological functioning of

these wetlands can be greatly impacted by poorly constructed roads that bisect them without properly located culverts. This threatens biodiversity and food security as mangroves support fisheries and adjacent freshwater wetlands provide habitat for traditional *taro* patches.

Infrastructure development also dramatically increases the demand for natural resources such as freshwater, timber, sand/coral, and gravel for construction. These demands compound the problems of land degradation from agriculture in the watersheds and have a particular impact on sensitive coastal habitats where loss and degradation of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and lagoons are having serious impacts on coastal protection, inshore fisheries, and biodiversity in all four states. Coral reefs are mined for limestone and construction materials for use as bricks or road-fill or added to dredged sand from lagoons to make concrete for construction. Mining destroys reefs which are unlikely to recover for centuries[27]27 and causes other indirect impacts such as sand erosion, land retreat, sedimentation and affects water circulation. The cost of destroying or mismanaging 1 km² of reef results in losses estimated between US \$137,000 and US \$1.2 million over a 25-year period[28]28. 30% of the FSM's coral reefs are estimated to be under medium to high threat from local pressures[29]29.[30]30 including coral dredging and sand mining. Rapid Ecological Assessments conducted in Pohnpei (2005)[31]31, Yap (2007)[32]32, Kosrae (2006)[33]33 and Chuuk (2008) indicate that fish populations in reefs close to the larger, more urbanized areas are severely depleted. In some areas, reef destruction from over-fishing, road building, dynamiting, and dredging is extensive. For example, blasting had already damaged about 10% of the reefs in Chuuk lagoon (the largest single barrier reef in Micronesia) according to a 1994 survey and since then heavy urbanization, especially on Tonowas and Weno, has spurred dredging and filling for land expansion and development[34]34. Large volumes of dredged coralline materials (~40,000-120,000 m³/ project) are also regularly used for construction projects in Yap[35]35. On Kosrae, dredging of the reef to use as fill in the construction of the airstrip may have caused coastal erosion. Physical damage to the coral reef framework is also caused by anchoring.

Sedimentation from land-based construction activities as well as agriculture has contributed to the degradation of nearshore coral reef ecosystems in all four states[36]³⁶. Coastal development is the lead cause of soil erosion and sedimentation in Kosrae. The construction of the circumferential road connecting Utwe and Walung exacerbated the impacts of soil erosion and sedimentation on the corals along Kosrae's southern reefs. Housing developments for residential and business purposes along the

coast also contribute a great deal to the problem of sedimentation. Coastal development is one of the biggest stressors to the coral reefs of Pohnpei as well, with more than 50 dredge sites and mangrove clearings (man-made channels) surrounding the coast.

Climate change: The Global Climate Risk Index ranks FSM as the third most at risk of the Pacific Island countries[37]³⁷. The main concern at the community level is rising sea-levels and increasing frequency/severity of typhoons with the resulting loss of agricultural capacity, pollution of drinking water and impacts on infrastructure and critical natural habitats such as mangroves. Sea levels are rising by 10mm per year[38]³⁸, more than three times the global average, leading to more aggressive king tides and coastal erosion. Climate change scenarios suggest a real possibility of islands (particularly the low-lying atolls) reducing in landmass, with increased land fragmentation, impact to coastal infrastructures and limited access to traditional agricultural sites e.g., coastal taro swamps and this is also a severe problem around the coast of all the high islands. For example, most of mainland Yap's most fertile (alluvial) soils are vulnerable to storm surge and recent high waters have damaged or destroyed taro production areas in low lying areas and most taro patches in the outer islands. Access to wetlands which are used in many cases to raise taro may be an issue but a bigger issue is the salt water intrusion into wetlands, changing their structure including reducing their potential for use in growing crops such as taro. What is more, the taro patches being impacted or which can be potentially impacted by rising sea levels, higher tides or storm generated waves are not only coastal but also include wetlands located away from the coasts. In many of the small lagoon islands this is very true as there is generally a coast strip around the circumference of the island with some limited forest and a wetland in the center. Given the small size of many of these islands, even these centrally located wetlands are at high risk of impact/destruction by salt water intrusion due to climate change. And in many of these smaller islands, even today, these taro swamps are a primary source of food.

Due to the traditional land tenure system for some states, loss of landmass can potentially trigger inequalities among the communities and migration to other countries or other islands. Indeed, residents of high islands are increasingly moving inland as a result of coastal erosion and shifting weather patterns, contributing to land degradation due to the increasing demand for housing and infrastructure[39]³⁹. What is more is that this is exacerbated due to increasing migration from outer islands to the main high islands, often due at least in part to similar climate induced impacts reducing the viability of human settlement, agriculture and near shore fishing on the outer islands. Therefore main high islands are being impacted both by increase in human populations but also by populations moving in land away from traditional coastal areas. And these changes are impacting watersheds and land productivity across the islands.

Therefore, climate change is impacting people, infrastructure and ecosystem services, affecting water and food resources, and the coastal protection provided by coral reefs and mangroves. Droughts, wildfires, and storms associated with more frequent typhoons and severe El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) activity are having increasingly serious impacts on watersheds and forests, posing a great threat to traditional agroforestry systems (including through saltwater intrusion near the coast), which on many small islands, the entire island, including its interior is near the coast and has the potential to be impacted. On two occasions in the last 30 years, at least 22% of Yap has been burnt during drought periods. Agroforestry was impacted by typhoon Maysak and the El Niño-induced drought of 2016¹⁷, considerably affecting FSM's household subsistence economy. In addition, by 2030, projections for thermal stress and ocean acidification suggest that all FSM reefs will be threatened with about 50% at high, very high, or critical threat levels^[40]⁴⁰. These impacts provide a glimpse of impacts of climate change.

The overall root cause of biodiversity loss and ecosystem and land degradation in FSM arises from the slow progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into different sectors (including those that bring high risk of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) incursions and impacts, as well as cause 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, minimizing the risk of IAS incursions, reducing impacts from established IAS and securing the integrity of land and seascapes for the benefit of current and future generations.

Barriers to achieving this vision are:

Barrier 1: Insufficient policy, regulations, resources and coordination to promote sustainable land management and achieve land degradation neutrality: Although the FSM ratified the UNCCD in 1996, no National Action Program (NAP) is in place to implement the Convention and policies and practices to promote sustainable land management are in need of improvement. Furthermore, Land degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a relatively new concept, about which there remains little awareness or adoption and thus little or no understanding of the goal, objectives, how to set the baseline, mechanisms identified/achieved, enabling environment (inter alia adoption into policies and plans, financial resources, system for monitoring progress towards LDN targets). Lack of an overarching policy, legal and regulatory framework for addressing land degradation inhibits strategic action and dissipates the already limited human and financial resources, which are a barrier in themselves. This is compounded by the sharing of responsibility for the legislative framework at the national, state, and municipal levels that can result in duplications, gaps, and lack of clarity. There are specific policy and regulatory gaps

and institutional differences in all four states to address land degradation and related losses of ecosystem services and biodiversity including for: watershed protection; coastal development (zoning plans, dredging for sand/coral materials for construction, mangrove management and harvesting); animal husbandry (to ensure proper safeguards to prevent negative impacts). Stringent permit requirements (e.g., for extending agriculture into forests, dredging of coastal habitats or infrastructure development) and effective enforcement are seriously lacking, and government funding to tackle these stressors is reducing. Complex political and institutional structures, and bureaucratic channels for communication also hinder progress. Effective policy implementation to address land degradation will require multiple agencies and groups to work in concert on clear policies and plans that mainstream SLM and biodiversity that are agreed by all. Although some states have joint enforcement agreements between national, state, and local government, this is not the case for all. There is a need to focus and coordinate functions across agencies and with non-government and private sector stakeholders ? a key role at national level for the national Department of Resources and Development. Although cross-sector working groups for sustainable natural resources management exist in some FSM states, their capacity is low and they need to be nurtured to achieve self-sufficiency. Land use plans need to be developed or improved and areas in need of rehabilitation need to be accurately mapped for the purposes of planning and budgeting.

Barrier 2: Lack of information, tools and capacity in government: Even though natural resources are being degraded at a rapid rate, there is no system to monitor land degradation, no agreed indicators, targets or baseline against which to measure progress. Without a proper assessment, monitoring, and planning regime for the maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity, managers will continue to struggle to integrate environmental information and risk assessments into decision-making. Vegetation maps are considerably out of date and there is an urgent need to access up to date high resolution remote sensing imagery to determine degradation of watersheds and coastal zones and to produce updated vegetation /degradation maps to determine trends and prioritize areas for rehabilitation[41]⁴¹. There is an urgent need for best practice protocols and technical guidelines to assist the states to effectively plan land-use and development so as to avoid and mitigate land degradation in watersheds and the coastal zone through the application of ecologically acceptable norms and standards as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Expert advice, protocols and technical guidelines are particularly needed to guide planning and development activities on the coast where insensitive engineering and infrastructure development is frequent. Dredging of lagoons for aggregates also has severe impacts and requires clear protocols. Practical expertise is also required in the maintenance and restoration of mangroves to protect coasts. Similarly, there is a lack of ecologically acceptable rehabilitation protocols relating to agriculture and infrastructure development in watersheds which can lead to inappropriate practices in rehabilitation. There is a lack of best practice guides for managing watersheds, forests, agroforest, and mangroves as well as for sustainable infrastructure.

Capacity at all levels, from government and policy-making to implementation at the community level, is an ongoing challenge. Limited human resource capacity and budgets in the natural resources sector severely constrain leadership, coordination and the level of support services provided by government agencies. Extension services provided by the College of Micronesia (COM) are constrained by a lack of technical and vocational training, lack of appropriate methods, inadequate budgets, and limited human resources. As a result, farmers lack vital extension services information on sustainable land management and food production, and opportunities for improving their livelihoods ? leading to further land degradation. There is a need to increase the capacity and equipment of the designated Geographic Information System (GIS) practitioners in each state so they can enhance spatial analyses on land degradation using new technologies.

Barrier 3: Insufficient demonstration of how to combat land degradation at landscape scale, and the benefits of conserving ecosystem services and biodiversity by adopting sustainable land management practices: Although there are some examples of community-based natural resources management in FSM, 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. None have been implemented in a concerted way to meet targets for achieving land degradation neutrality at landscape level. 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 knowledge and experience to adopt sustainable land management (SLM) approaches and technologies which could contribute to maintaining (or increasing) crop yields thus food security and incomes. Climate change is further exacerbating the latter, with increasing frequency of high intensity of rainfall events.

Land Use Planning (LUP) is becoming increasingly important in the Pacific, to match land systems, soil types and land uses in the most rational way possible, to optimize sustainable resource development and management to meet the needs of increasing populations including work towards achieving LDN. 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. This is a major constraint to catalyze the required participatory 'bottom up' planning processes, beginning at the local level, to fully utilize the experience and local knowledge of land users to identify priorities and to draw up and implement plans towards FSM achieving LDN. An integrated approach to problem solving including land use planning at all levels would allow communities to make informed choices about their future sustainable land use, as they face the impacts of climate change and the frequency of natural disasters which confront communities, particularly affecting food production.

Increase in demand for land for subsistence and commercial production, as well as ongoing infrastructure development raises urgent issues about carrying capacity of the land, further encroachment into watersheds and sustainable production methods[42]⁴². As strategies for climate change adaptation, the Joint State Action Plans (JSAPs) from the four states highlight the need to protect ecosystems and biodiversity through landscape level management as well as enhancing coastal protection, rehabilitation, and management (including mangroves[43]⁴³). Land use plans exist for only two of the four states, are not yet being implemented effectively and they do not incorporate targets for achieving land degradation neutrality. The diverse and complex arrangements around land tenure (including customary traditions) also make landscape level working more complex and demand a high degree of public participation. There is a need for a stronger consultative process for environmental planning, including children, elders, women, and communities in order to effectively develop or enforce management plans[44]⁴⁴.

Farmers are only likely to change to more sustainable practices if there are economic or resilience benefits from doing so ? legislation is unlikely to be successful because of the challenges of enforcement due to weak government capacity and contradictions with cultural norms. Efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and land management must focus on improving profitability and resilience by reducing costs to farmers as well as supporting value chains that can supply local markets. There is a need therefore to demonstrate such approaches and re-align extension services to help farmers address soil fertility, crop production, pest control and post-harvest management in ways that reduce the need for expensive chemicals and seeds. Similarly, the culture of entrepreneurship with associated skills in business practice is lacking. As a result, processing and value-adding of agricultural products is very limited.

Barrier 4: Inadequate awareness and knowledge exchange and mainstreaming of women and youth to achieve LDN and protect ecosystem services: The tremendous global significance of the biodiversity of FSM, the threats (many of which may remain undocumented), and the wide range of ecosystem services provided by terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems remain poorly appreciated by most islanders, particularly by rural people who have high rates of illiteracy, but are dependent on these ecosystem services for their food security and livelihoods. Awareness and understanding about IAS, LD, SLM and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is limited at all levels and in sectors, which is still suboptimal and engagement overall lacking. 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 SLM/CSAs. As a consequence, low value is accorded to these matters in fiscal policy instruments as reflected in the low funding allocations to DECEM and Department of Resources and Development, 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

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) or communities in SLM or IAS management in natural ecosystems. Similarly, most Government and State entities does not invest in awareness raising, training and capacity building on SLM/CSA either for staff or land users.

Mid Term Review (MTR) of the GEF-5 project reported a lack of public understanding about the linkages between terrestrial and coastal-marine systems, and therefore the ecosystem services they provide and the consequences of land degradation. As a consequence of inadequate awareness and therefore lack of advocacy by the communities, low value is accorded to sustainable land management in fiscal policy instruments. There is also poor awareness of solutions to environmental problems through sustainable land management via the agriculture and infrastructure sectors. There is a need to raise awareness in traditional community networks and among private landowners to marshal cooperative actions and sustainable practices, including watershed and coastal zone management, to address threats from land degradation. Raising awareness may also help mitigate the lack of resources in government, by reducing the need for enforcement of laws.

One of the major barriers to reversing LD and implementing SLM responses is the lack of institutional and human capacity at national and regional levels for monitoring and assessing LD and adoption of SLM, also for using results for learning, knowledge sharing and planning effective interventions. Many field practitioners have limited information about the range of either traditional or innovative SLM approaches and technologies that could be promoted and up scaled in each context. There is also poor information about the costs and benefits of SLM practices and likewise of the value of SLM in terms of sustaining ecosystem services (including crop yields).

Knowledge sharing in the FSM on best practices on sustainable land management is lacking at local, state, and national levels, and with other countries due to the lack of mechanisms and knowledge of where best practices can be found. Loss of knowledge on traditional cultivation of local crops and transfer of traditional agroforestry knowledge has become an important constraint. Although demonstration farms exist in each state they are inactive due to lack of incentives. There is also a need for more farmers' organizations in each state, run by farmers for farmers, to give farmers a voice, share best practices and engage farmers at landscape scale in sustainable land management and related livelihoods initiatives. Similarly, social media and knowledge sharing platforms need to be strengthened. Because of the cultural constraints, women and youth do not have the same opportunities as men and older people to access knowledge-sharing opportunities. Women and men both face constraints learning about sustainable agricultural practices, especially in remote areas where agricultural extension services are limited. Gender and age disaggregated information is rarely collected to monitor project outcomes. There is therefore the potential that raising awareness by the project that can help in some way to mitigate the lack of resources in government for enforcement etc.

Project conceptual model: The complex interacting web of factors that threaten globally significant marine biodiversity in FSM is illustrated in a situation analysis in Figure 1. This indicates the key areas (indirect and direct factors) and the points where project intervention can contribute towards a reduction in the level of threats, and therefore contribute towards the conservation of biological ecosystems and ecosystem services and food production systems. The main project intervention strategies are shown as yellow hexagons in Figure 1.

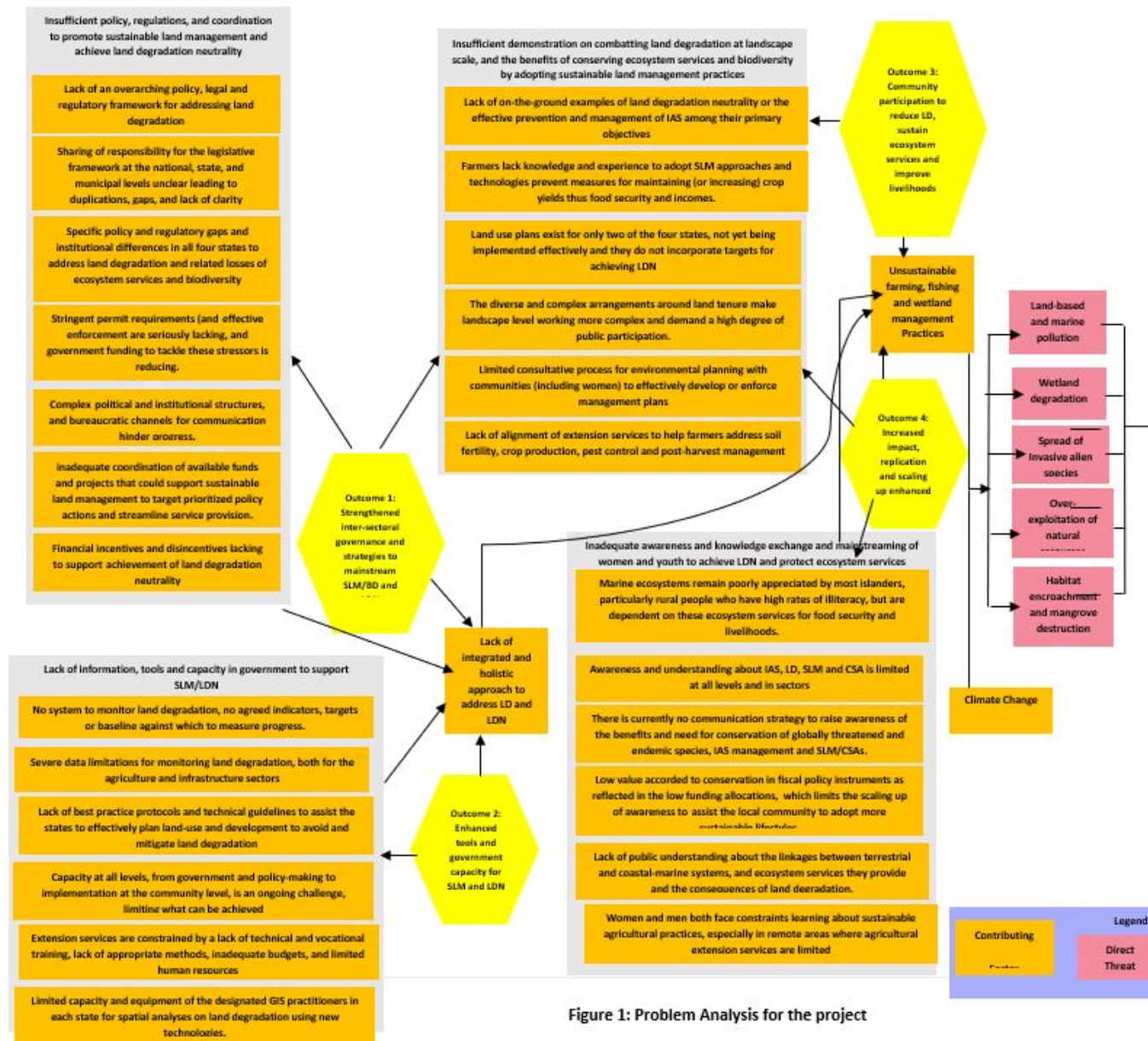


Figure 1: Problem Analysis for the project

1) Baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

While the overarching Constitution defines the National and State Government's roles in implementing the FSM's environmental management as well as environmental conventions, many key national and state government policies, laws and regulations, plans and initiatives underpin the targeted approach proposed by this project. Detailed information about the national and state level legal system and regulations is provided in a national database[1] and Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environmental Program (SPREP) has published a review of natural resource and environment-related legislation[2]. The table below provides details of baseline activities:

Table 1: Summary of Baseline Activities and Additional Complementarity

Baseline Project/Activities	Key Objectives of baseline project/activities related to the GEF project	Additional Complementarity with proposed GEF project
UNDP/GEF-3 medium-sized Capacity building, policy development, and mainstreaming of sustainable land management project (2008-11) ? USD 1.43M	The project objective was to strengthen capacity and the enabling environment for sustainable land management to address priority land degradation issues as well as raising awareness, building capacity and partnerships (including with NGOs) and improving the baseline understanding of SLM.	The GEF 7 project will build on the lessons learned from the SLM project in terms of awareness, capacity building and partnerships with NGOs, and identify key constraints to mainstreaming SLM into the development processes, and that fundamental improvements that are still needed
GEF-4 Micronesia Challenge: Sustainable Finance Systems for Island Protected Area Management project (2010-16) ? USD 19.4M	The project success lay in being able to launch implementation of the Micronesia Challenge (see below), whose overall aim is to ?effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020?. A key achievement was capitalization of the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund (MCEF) to support protected areas across the region.	The GEF 7 will attempt to capitalize on the Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund to ensure co-financing and support for complementary long-term, sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation. The FSM Department of Resources and Development (FSM R&D) is the lead FSM organization for the Micronesia Challenge and the project will seek guidance from DRD to identify complementary priorities investments for FSM

<p>GEF-5 project Implementing an integrated 'Ridge to Reef' approach to enhance ecosystem services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods in the FSM (2015-2020) ? USD 22.6M</p>	<p>Implementation of integrated ecosystem-based management through a 'ridge to reef' approach on the High Islands of the four States. This project has supported the development of land use planning and strengthening the management effectiveness within new and existing Protected Areas (both marine and terrestrial) but has been challenged by the over-ambitious scope and targets of the project design</p>	<p>The GEF 5 project provides important experiences and learning that could be applied such as: (i) approaches to ILMP efforts to promote ecosystem-based planning that can be applied to the demonstration sites; (ii) applicable; SLM interventions and their appropriateness; (iii) measures for rehabilitation of critical ecosystems, including agricultural lands, natural habitats; (iv) methods for biological and ecological monitoring, etc.</p>
<p>GEF-6 project Safeguarding biodiversity from invasive alien species in the Federated States of Micronesia^[3] (2020-25) - US\$13M</p>	<p>The project will start implementation shortly and aims to safeguard biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems and in agricultural and fisheries production systems from the impacts of invasive alien species. It will focus on strengthening the national biosecurity governance framework and financing, enhancing biosecurity awareness and capacity, improving biosecurity protocols and access to and management of information on IAS</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project will coordinate with this project to draw best practices, lessons learned, technical support and training to help farmers and land users to address the prevention and management IAS, including identification of eradication and management measures</p>
<p><i>Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030</i> will build on the Micronesia Challenge 2030 (2021-2024)</p>	<p>Tri-country regional program aimed at conservation, community benefit, and process targets, recognized by MC2030 partner jurisdictions. It will support coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management. Develop national policies, plans and tools to support national integrated management of marine resources under Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets. It also aims to strengthen the capacities, communication, and planning to ensure regional coordination of the MC2030 and improved monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and communication of knowledge products generated through the project, including through IW:LEARN. Conservation target is to effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2030</p>	<p>The GEF project will draw on the success of the Micronesian Challenge in terms of marine resource management, in particular, looking at tools to support integrated management of marine resources, successes at strengthening capacities, communication, and planning and monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and communication of knowledge products</p>

<p>UNEP/SPREP regional GEF-PAS Prevention, control and management of invasive alien species in the Pacific Islands project (2010-13) - The US\$ 7.76M</p>	<p>The project resulted in publication of a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2016-21 (NISSAP), which provides extensive and detailed action items for national and state entities to engage in invasion reduction and addressing impacts/reducing presence of existing pest organisms throughout the FSM.</p>	<p>The NISSAP will offer measures for the prevention, control and management of IAS, including measures to keep IAS out of the project sites, deal with rapid assessment of IAs threats and emergency response mechanisms</p>
<p>GEF Small Grants Program (SGP)</p>	<p>The GEF-SGP has financed several community projects on SLM including a dry-litter piggery revolving fund on Pohnpei to finance the moving and conversion of piggeries in order to reduce contamination of the watershed</p>	<p>The GEF 7 will draw on lessons learned from the SGP, in particular related to community organization and collective actions for SLM and related activities</p>
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>Provides technical assistance and training for the conservation of soil and water resources to maintain productive and resilient agroforestry systems, including development of a natural resources plan, training, and implementing various agriculture, agroforestry and piggery demonstration projects and assisting individual farmers with conservation plans to protect and improve the soil resources on their farms and promote best practices.</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project should engage with the NRCS in supporting developing and potentially providing various training activities as well as working directly with communities both within and beyond the project demonstration sites.</p>
<p>Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in FSM - Adaptation Fund[4] (2018-2023) SPREP US\$ 9.0M</p>	<p>The project is a comprehensive national effort to focus on increasing the resilience of FSM's most vulnerable communities to climate change-induced food insecurity. Planned measures include introducing sustainable agricultural practices and developing climate-resilient agriculture value chains aims to reduce the vulnerability of selected communities to risks of water shortage and increase their adaptive capacity to drought and flood-related climate and disaster risks, focusing on the outer islands.</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project should engage with these efforts and utilize knowledge on BMPs, technology transfer and linkage chains, communication, etc. as appropriate.</p>

<p>Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia project. Adaptation Fund US\$ 0.97M (2018-21) Micronesia Conservation Trust</p>	<p>The core focus of this project is to increase communities' resilience through ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures. The project is to ensure there is adequate protection/rehabilitation of natural assets or ecosystems that are already under management and institutionalizing a nation-wide Protected Area Network (PAN). It works with state leaderships to put the appropriate legislations in place to support the establishment of the PAN, establishing a Technical Committee for the network, developing an Operations Manual to guide the operations of the network, and placing a State PAN Coordinator in each of the four states. It also is to increase communities' resilience through strengthened ownership and financing of climate change adaptation and risk reduction measures at the local level as well as develop a knowledge management system to facilitate future scaling-up and replication of effective Marine Protected Area Management and community-led ecosystem-based adaptation actions.</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project should engage with this project and may do well to review and consider mechanisms for engaging with state and national leadership to support development, adoption, and institutionalization of legislation, policies and regulations needed to support SLM and LDN activities and long term strengthening. The project should also coordinate with these efforts for scaling up and utilization of BMPs for increasing community and landscape resilience to climate induced changes.</p>
<p>Climate resilient food security for farming households across the Federated States of Micronesia project proposal to the Green Climate Fund GCF (2021-2026) USD 9.4 million</p>	<p>The project is a comprehensive national effort to focus on increasing the resilience of FSM's most vulnerable communities to climate change-induced food insecurity. Planned measures include introducing sustainable agricultural practices and developing climate-resilient agriculture value chains</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project should keep in mind the potential for this lateral project and work towards a harmonized and cross supportive role with the potential GCF project</p>

<p>FSM prioritized road investment management and enhancement project US\$40M (2021-28) World Bank</p>	<p>Aims to improve the resilience of the country's primary road network to natural disasters and climate change. It provides access to important social services like schools and health centers, as well as enabling vital economic activity through the movement of goods and services. In addition, as severe weather events increase in frequency and severity due to the realities of a climate-impacted environment, a more resilient road network will be critical to ensuring connections to services like health, education</p>	<p>The World Bank project is particularly relevant to the Yap demonstration site in the GEF 7 project, as it will support SLM in the Gagil-Tomil Island that might be affected by the roads project. This provides a close collaboration between the 2 projects to ensure the effects of the road project are effectively mitigated in relation to management of the foreshore, seabed, estuaries, mangroves and waterways within the project area of influence and receive stormwater run-off.</p>
<p>The Micronesia Mangrove Adaptation Initiative (MMAI) 2016 USD 120,000</p>	<p>There has been an increased focus on management of mangrove habitats resulting from wider awareness of their role in shoreline protection and as a nursery habitat for fish. The Micronesia Mangrove Adaptation Initiative (MMAI) builds local capacity on Pohnpei and throughout Micronesia to increase coastal and community resilience by providing tools for communities and local governments to determine stresses on mangroves and plan actions to alleviate these stresses given climate change. As a part of this initiative the Micronesian Conservation Trust is supporting a Pohnpei Mangrove Management Planning project incorporating findings from a comprehensive mangrove vulnerability assessment and extensive stakeholder consultations. This will ensure that Pohnpei's mangroves and communities are more resilient to climate change and inform mangrove planning in other jurisdictions.[5]</p>	<p>The GEF 7 project will link into the MMAI project as/when feasible to utilize specific information for sites where mangrove may exist, need to be conserved and/or restored</p>

Conservation Society of Pohnpei's Green Road Show	Over 200 classroom visits per annum to secondary schools. An environmental student summer camp takes place in Chuuk, and a Youth-to-Youth program has been established in Kosrae. Various departments of the College of Micronesia are engaged in raising awareness and expanding environmental knowledge. Such efforts have increased the willingness to plant trees for coastal and watershed protection as described above	The GEF project will benefit from collaboration with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei in supporting marine, terrestrial and education, environmental policy development and capacity building and conservation finance. CSP through its over 200 members and partners can facilitate efforts to tap Pohnpei's business community and private citizens for conservation actions
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(3) The Proposed Alternate scenario

The proposed project aims to secure the FSM's critical ecosystem services through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to LDN. The long-term goal is to support achievement of all five objectives of LDN which are to: maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; maintain or improve productivity in order to enhance food security; increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land. The project will build on the technical guidelines of GEF Science and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)[6] and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)[7] for achieving LDN in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) using the LDN building blocks as a stepwise process. These are:

- ? **Leveraging LDN:** facilitating the engagement of decision makers and stakeholders involved in land management and the LDN target-setting process
- ? **Assessing LDN:** strengthening countries' capacities for making informed decisions on what action to take by assessing the current state of land and the drivers of land degradation, using the best available data
- ? **Setting LDN targets and associated measures:** supporting countries to define goals and objectives in combating land degradation by defining LDN targets and measures, and
- ? **Achieving LDN:** helping countries to create an enabling environment by integrating LDN into national policies and identifying investment opportunities along with transformative LDN programs and projects

The fundamental aim of LDN is to preserve the land resource base, by ensuring no net loss of healthy and productive land as measured at the national level by following the response hierarchy of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation. In this hierarchy, avoid and reduce have priority over reversing past degradation, so that an optimal combination of actions can be identified and pursued with the aim of achieving no net loss across the landscape. The proposed project will address each element of the

response hierarchy: Avoid - through improved land use planning and stopping further encroachment and impact of agriculture and infrastructure into natural habitats; Reduce - through SLM in the agriculture sector, and by improving standards and regulations affecting new infrastructure; Reverse - through targeted rehabilitation of degraded lands using nature-based solutions (natural infrastructure as well as promoting environmental improvements to the performance of existing physical infrastructure). This is to be achieved through equipping and empowering local communities to safeguard the country's native biodiversity, natural ecosystems, ecosystem services and food production systems from unsustainable land use practices (including those practices that promote and sustain invasive species, also those which restore and maintain fertility of currently degraded agricultural lands through climate smart agriculture approaches). To achieve these objectives, knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively throughout the country and that residents and visitors need to be aware of the impacts of unsustainable land management practices, but even more importantly engaged and empowered to play a significant role of addressing existing these issues.

The project, first off recognizes that strengthening efforts to reduce risk and impacts associated with unsustainable and destructive agricultural, coastal and land management practices and enhancing safeguarding requires addressing gaps at the national level with a focus on supporting management efforts in a harmonized, cross sectorial structured manner that is supported by legislation, policy and long term funding, enabling the strengthening of best practice tools and mechanism and the development and full and adequate implementation of the LDN (when it is developed). The GEF alternative will aim to remove the barriers to the long-term solution to restore degraded agricultural lands through SLM/CSA) through (1). Enhancing coordination and promoting improved tools, information and capacity in government to support sustainable land management, work towards the achievement of land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making and planning processes; (2) Develop a national framework to catalyze implementation of LDN by articulating the goals and objectives, setting the baseline/mechanism toward LDN, creating an enabling environment and supporting development of a suitable system for monitoring neutrality; (3) Effective management of selected landscape/seascapes for biodiversity, soil and water conservation and food security whilst ensuring LD risks are minimized across sectors through a holistic framework that embraces the fundamental role of ecological integrity. This is intended to be delivered primarily through the empowerment of stakeholders, including local communities to maximize ownership and long-term sustainability and promoting opportunities for nature-based economic livelihood development; and (4) Improving communication and awareness on the linkages and benefits of conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services with the food security, economic wellbeing and prosperity of rural communities, recognizing the critical role that women and youth can play in this effort.

The project also recognizes that the demonstration landscapes/seascapes underpin the lives and livelihoods of many local communities, including women, men, youth and indigenous communities and that implementation of a coherent strategy to promote effective and sustainable land management towards LDN and development of a blue/green economy is an integral part of the solution. The project

seeks to achieve this solution to improve management and conservation of forest, agricultural, coastal and marine ecosystems and livelihoods using a landscape approach. The intention of the project is also to effectively reduce risks and impacts associated with IAS, unsustainable land management and other disruptive resource use activities in that knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively throughout the country, but even more importantly engaged and empowered to play a significant role of addressing constraints to effective land management.

In summary, the project will be implemented over a 6-year period based on the following principles:

- ? Ensuring that at harmonized cross sectoral and holistic national level policy, planning, coordination and capacity are in place to support implementation of LDN, and other relevant drivers to ensure long term nationwide coordination of land management activities;
- ? Introduce the goals and objectives of LDN at all levels, develop the LDN baseline (measuring the LDN indicators on land cover (LCC), land productivity (NPP) and soil organic carbon (SOC), create an enabling environment for LDN, empower communities to halt and reverse LD through rehabilitation and monitor progress towards the FSM LDN goals;
- ? Furthering a *holistic and integrated land and seascape approach* for safeguarding native biodiversity, natural ecosystems and food security rather than an exclusive sector- centric approach;
- ? Supporting and implementing a *participatory/consultative bottom-up project planning and implementation approach* that maximizes community ownership and long-term sustainability;
- ? Supporting *decentralized planning and management by communities, local administration using the existing traditional decision-making processes* as the building blocks for integration of localized best practices and sustainable land and resource use that is commensurate with sustainable natural resources and climate risk management;
- ? *Strengthening capacities* of communities, women and youth, local administration and other key stakeholders (including the private sector) within a cross-sectoral and holistic planning framework to LD related concerns;
- ? Improving *coordination and collaboration* between local administration and national sector agencies to deliver technical expertise extension and best practices for planning, management and monitoring for achievement of LDN;
- ? Mainstreaming sustainable resource use practices into key development sectors (forestry, agriculture, fisheries, etc.) and management of the interface between natural areas (terrestrial and marine) and surrounding community productive areas through strengthening of community-managed marine, terrestrial and integrated sustainable management areas;
- ? Ensuring that in its development and implementation, gender is mainstreamed so that the project contributes to equality and equity, through the creation of equitable opportunities and benefits for both women and men
- ? Creating an *effective knowledge base* that builds on successful lessons and experiences from previous and on-going programs and projects;
- ? Ensuring an *adaptive management approach* that considers ecological, demographic, social, safeguards, market, technological and economic factors at LD control and management; and

? Selectivity with respect to interventions and locations within the catchments to demonstrate cost-effective SLM that at least in some cases may be replicated elsewhere.

The long-term goal of the project is to support the achievement of all five objectives of LDN, which is to maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; maintain or improve productivity in order to enhance food security; increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land. Project interventions will contribute to safeguarding globally significant indigenous species and critical coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services that are currently at risk from land and coastal wetland degradation and unsustainable resource uses that can have a significant impact on the biodiversity and productive potentials of the landscape, including the security of food production systems. First and foremost is the fundamental value of piloting an integrated landscape catchment management approach to transform sustainable management of production systems within the country. In the long-term this will require reductions in environmental impacts which can be achieved by addressing threats to native species and critical ecosystems, while also ensuring that food security systems are safeguarded from unsustainable resource use and impacts from climate, IAS, etc. This will be achieved through establishing the following institutional, legislative and technical measures to facilitate policy development, coordination and implementation to reduce risk and impacts of LD issues on a broad scale and implement specific management actions within the selected target landscapes/seascapes to improve protection of both biodiversity and food production systems from unsustainable and destructive land and wetland utilization, implementation of BMPs, which can then be upscaled and applied more broadly throughout the nation:

? A national cross-sectoral, institutional, legislative and governance SLM program that aims to strengthen decision-making, regulations, capacity, engagement and implementation of informed and cost-effective risk management measures to address land degradation threats across sectors, inclusive of biodiversity and globally significant ecosystems and key economic production sectors (i.e. agriculture and food production), as well as improved planning, guidance and regulation of infrastructure development;

? Improved site-level planning, monitoring and implementation framework for demonstration of integrated management approaches to safeguard indigenous species, natural ecosystems and food production systems from unsustainable resource management practices across landscapes and seascapes;

? Improved site-level sustainable management of forests, agriculture, fisheries and other production systems, as well as infrastructure development, to reduce the risks of further land degradation and implement actions to return already degraded sites, enhancing the productivity of these sites and promote a blue/green based economy; and

? Improved awareness and knowledge for identification, risk assessment, planning and management for improved land and resource management approaches and technologies.

The above expectations have informed the project's components and approach which is based on the premise that biodiversity loss and land, forest and wetland degradation are fundamentally interconnected and can be successfully tackled by addressing them simultaneously in ways that deliver benefits to local communities.

Project objective: To ensure that FSM's critical ecosystem services are secure through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality. This will be achieved through four interlinked components. The project's incremental value lies in demonstrating the application of integrated landscape interventions to sustainable land and coastal management and resource use applying a community-based resource governance and management approaches. This will entail that communities are actively engaged in planning and decision-making on best approaches to manage and use agricultural and forest land and coastal ecosystems so as to help conserve native biodiversity and natural ecosystems, as well as to prevent and restore land and natural resource degradation so as to safeguard food production systems. In these target landscapes a land degradation information management and monitoring network will be strengthened, initially for the project areas, later to be extended to cover the entire country. The information system will allow for defining which habitats and ecosystems can be effectively managed and restored in terms of land degradation, in order to support retention of critical biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem integrity and support productivity of agriculture, forestry, sustainable land and coastal resource use over the long term. It will also help develop capacities and the required enabling frameworks through "learning-by-doing" approaches in the selected target catchments (to raise awareness of the benefits of SLM/CSA). The project will be able to develop and demonstrate a matrix of best restoration practices for protection and strengthening of FSM's ecosystems and native biodiversity for scaling up and replication in other catchments in the country. A series of knowledge management publications and awareness events will support the achievement of these targets.

The project objective will be achieved via four interrelated and complementary strategies (Project Components comprising Outcomes and Outputs) that focus on removing the four key barriers that constrain the accomplishment of the desired long-term solution (**Figure 1**) by means of intervention pathways shown in the theory of change diagram (**Figure 2**). Indicators and assumptions for the accomplishment of expected Outcomes under the respective Components are given in the Project Results Framework. The four planned Components of the project are:

Component 1. Strengthening the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation

Component 2. Enhancing information, decision support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation

Component 3. Embedding climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones (demonstration activities)

Component 4. Effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M& E

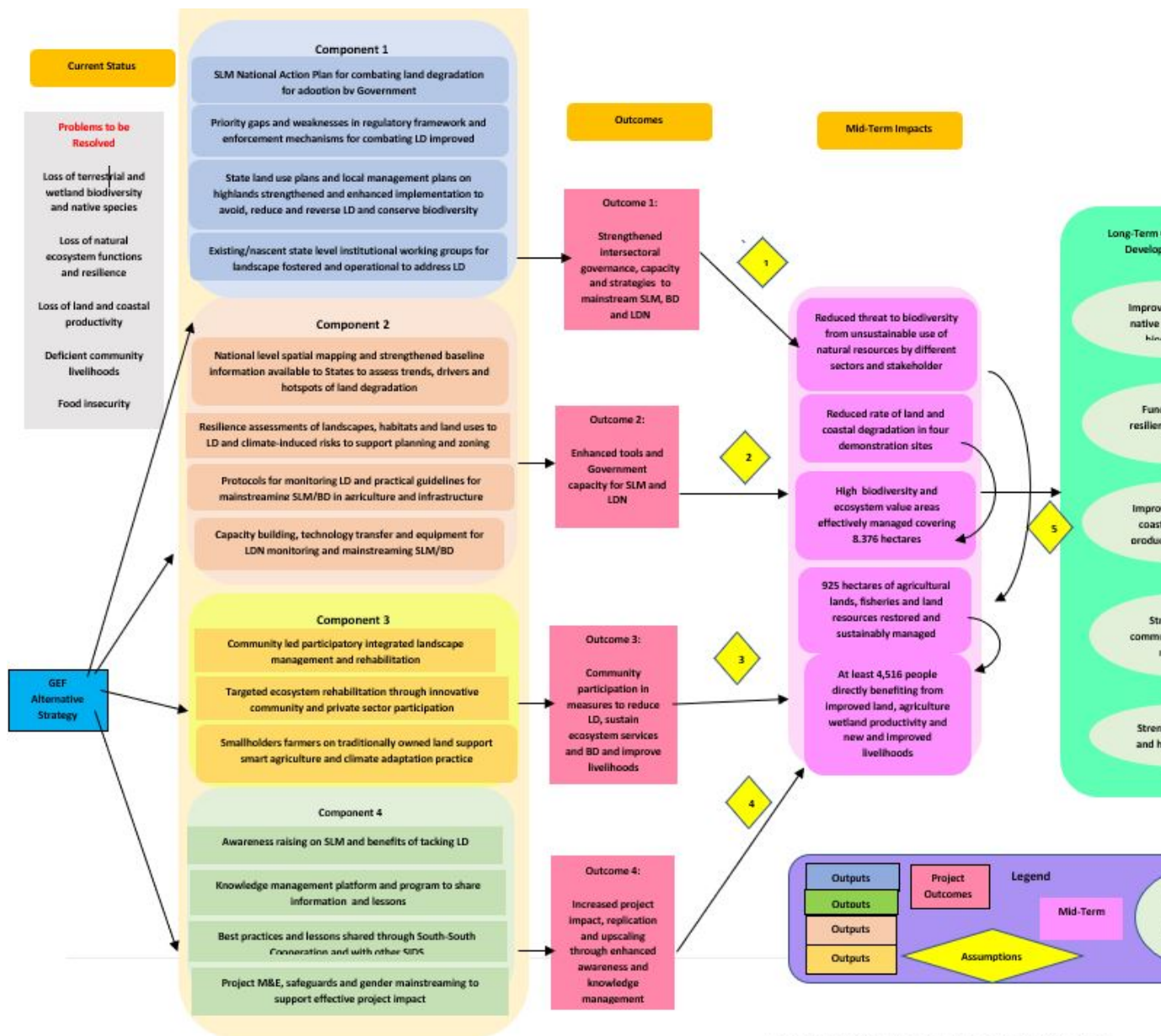


Figure 2: Project Theory of Change

[1] <http://fsmlaw.org/fsm/index.htm>

[2] See <https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/EMG/sprep-legislative-review-fsm.pdf> - to be updated during the PPG

[3] <https://www.thegef.org/project/safeguarding-biodiversity-invasive-alien-species-federated-states-micronesia>

[4] <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/projects-programmes/>

[5] <http://piccc.net/project/micronesian-mangrove-adaptation-initiative/>

[6] <https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/STAP%20LDN%20Guidelines%2016-pager%20web%20version.pdf>

[7] UNCCD and FAO. 2020. Land Degradation Neutrality in Small Island Developing States. Technical report. Bonn, Germany.

Table 2: Key assumptions underpinning the Theory of Change

Number in Figure	Assumption	Notes and References
1	The increased capacities of local stakeholders, including fishers, farmers, and other coastal resource dependents ensure sustainable and appropriate use and management of land and natural resources that results in reduction of threat to endemic species and ecosystems	The FSM government is placing a strong emphasis on ensuring improved management of its land and wetlands as well as preventing, controlling and managing unsustainable and destructive natural resource use in the country. This is to be achieved through improved capacity and coordination across different sectoral agencies and between national and State entities, establishing foundation for LDN through the preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP) and State level plans to achieve LDN targets and outcomes and establishing the requisite policy and legislative frameworks to ensure complementarity among key sector policies to facilitate achieving LDN as well as develop appropriate State level land use plans to address LD and SLM practices. The government's commitment towards ensuring sustainable management of its landscapes is expressed in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as part of the strategic priorities and supported by specific actions. Since the adoption of the NBSAP, a number of government and donor funded activities have been implemented in the country.

2	<p>There is political support for the strengthening the legal, governance and institutional framework for detection, control of unsustainable land and development activities</p>	<p>The FSM government recognizes that there needs to be a system to monitor land degradation, establish targets and baseline against which to measure progress. It also recognizes that without best practice protocols and technical guidelines, States will not be able to effectively plan land-use and development so as to avoid and mitigate land degradation. Capacity at all levels, from government and policy-making to implementation at the community level, is an ongoing challenge. As a result, farmers lack vital extension services information on sustainable land management and food production, and opportunities for improving their livelihoods ? leading to further land degradation.</p>
3	<p>The developed capacities of governmental (particularly agencies that would be responsible for environment, agriculture, farming and infrastructure management) and supporting collaboration, coordination and technologies are sufficient to create a viable and effective means to prevent biodiversity and ecosystem degradation</p>	<p>In line with the above, there is an increasing realization that there is a need for an improved management of terrestrial and coastal habitats in the country and strengthen integrated measures for its planning and management, monitoring and enforcement. To support this, a critical aspect of the project is to ensure that there is an improved landscape management plans for the proposed landscapes, enhance community management capacities for SLM and resource conservation and sustainable use, reduction of threats and LD and prevention and management of IAS.</p>

4	The raised awareness and increased knowledge management expand political understanding and actions supporting biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management within the country	The importance of actively addressing LD and natural resource management and is recognized as fundamental to ensure the maintenance of native species and ecosystems in the country. The project promotes increased awareness, a monitoring system and information and knowledge promotion. If this is achieved, it will provide the country with a tested approach to direct and support natural resource conservation efforts throughout the nation.
5	There is stability in the economic and political global environment	The achievement of long-term impacts will likely be achieved if the assumptions from 1 through 4 are effective. However, this achievement is ensured based on the following assumption, namely that national and international macroeconomic conditions and other natural or man-induced factors (such a Covid-19) remain stable and manageable, so that this does not shift government priorities.

Project objective: To ensure that FSM's critical ecosystem services are secure through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality. This will be achieved through four interlinked components. █

Component 1. Strengthening the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation

(Total Cost: USD 5,483,500; GEF project grant requested: USD 731,918; Co-financing: USD 4,751,500)

Outcome 1: Strengthened inter-sectoral governance, capacity and strategies to mainstream sustainable land management, biodiversity and LDN

This will strengthen intersectoral governance, capacity, strategies and tools for conserving and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services to support a nature-based development pathway. This will be achieved through promotion of the voice, participation and empowerment of men and women by ensuring that they have access to information, gender sensitization and have equal representation in technical and governance committees. Potential impacts from ?upstream? project

activities, which involve planning support, capacity building, policy advice and reform. This Outcome will be supported by four Outputs:

Output 1.1: A SLM NAP for combating land degradation prepared for adoption by government, incorporating indicators, targets and priority actions for achieving LDN across each state, with support for mainstreaming into priority policies

Output 1.1 will support the preparation and approval of FSM's first SLM National Action Program (NAP) for combating land degradation, which is a priority for government and key requirement under the UNCCD. This will be achieved through linked national and states intersectoral land management working groups (Output 1.4). **The National Land Management Working Group (NLMWG)** will be established under the President's Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (PCCCS). The SLM NAP will incorporate strategies, indicators, and targets for achieving LDN (the over-arching principle of the UNCCD that deliver multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits through avoiding, reducing, and reversing land degradation to deliver improved ecosystem services using best practice guidance from STAP[1] and FAO for SIDS)[2]. It will integrate LDN planning and implementation with other relevant processes while minimizing trade-offs and unintended adverse impacts. The NAP (program) will be a top down, national policy for SLM that points towards how LDN goals can be set and then achieved through implementation and/or strengthening of existing efforts and plans, but also through implementation of new actions as required. The NAP would be a relatively short but comprehensive program that pulls together the various existing strategies and plans which are inclusive of SLM (or relevant to) and combines, prioritizes and strengthens efforts by all sectors to work towards a harmonized nationally directed SLM implemented through state regulations and largely by local communities (i.e. this requires that both state and local communities are engaged and have buy-in from the beginning). The underlying premise is that the FSM will set their national LDN targets for 2030. They can be as ambitious as the country would like. Initial targets are set for 2030. The expectation is not that there will be zero land degradation by 2030 but rather whatever the FSM sets its targets at, that these will be achieved by 2030 and then new targets can be developed beyond that. The project will support each State, through existing inter-sectoral working groups (further strengthened through this project) such as the **State Environmental Working Groups (SEWGs)** established under the R2R Phase 1 project. However, these SEWGs which are operational, with the exception of Kosrae, and which were initially established with an environmental focus, will need to be broadened to include other sectors that are involved with, or impact on natural resources and land management (such as agriculture, infrastructure, water resources and other sectors as appropriate). The Kosrae Environmental Working Group will also need to be revived and made functional and serve as a multi-stakeholder platform to cover land and natural resources management issues more broadly. The SEWGs will guide and support the GEF 7 Project PMU to facilitate the development of SLM State Action Plans (SAPs) with prioritized actions for achieving LDN through the implementation of the SLM SAPs and NAP. The SLM SAP plans will be multi-sectoral and inclusive of all key sectors. SLM planning must include all key sectors such as forestry, agricultural, environmental, infrastructure, community planning, shoreline plans, road plans, etc. Given that the

FSM currently has many sectoral plans, the SLM multi-sectoral efforts should pull from the various plans and support the implementation of priority actions from each and every sector that is engaged. These integrated actions across all land-use types will include measures to: a) avoid future land degradation; b) reduce land degradation through promoting more sustainable agriculture and infrastructure; c) reverse existing land degradation by rehabilitating degraded areas. The SLM NAP and associated SAPs will be used to identify and target potential LDN funding frameworks for LDN transformative projects and programs to support the states in combating land degradation[3]. Preparation of the SLM NAP should involve all relevant stakeholders and sectors at each level, including scientists, policy makers, practitioners, and civil society representatives. For both the preparation of the SLM NAP and the SAPs, and associated policy and plan reviews, consultants will be hired to facilitate this process.

Support will also be provided to the PCCCS and to relevant sectoral departments of national and state governments to foster policy coherence by mainstreaming the SLM/LDN approaches and targets into overarching national and state development policies as these come up for review, so as to guide the implementation of transformative projects and programs. Priority high-level policies for consideration would include the FSM Strategic Development Plan and state development plans, the Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy and Joint State Action Plans, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State BSAPs as well as Agriculture and Forestry sectoral policies.

Activities to be implemented under Output 1.1 include the following: (i) **Recruitment of National Consultant to facilitate the development of the SLM NAP** who will work closely with the DECEM. The International Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) will provide technical oversight and guide this process that would also involve extensive stakeholder engagement. This effort will be coordinated by the PMU and undertaken in Year 1 of the project; (ii) **SLM NAP developed, finalized and approved** that would be overseen by the intersectoral NLMWG (refer output 1.4). The NAP will set realistic and appropriate LDN goals and a framework that provides for the steps to achieve the goals set through setting national policy which is then engaged by the States through regulations to achieve implementation of actions to achieve the LDN goals. The SLM national action program would set national level policy for SLM and targets for LDN and direct agencies, states, etc. to implement actions towards achieving targets. Given that the NAP is to set policy and targets, it should be approved by government. The entire process of preparation of the SLM NAP will include efforts to engage a range of stakeholders, including government, private sector, NGOs and local community organizations. The SLM NAP will serve as a guidance for determining measures for improvement of institutional capacity and training for mainstreaming of LD into relevant policies, strategies and plans, knowledge sharing systems, conduct of awareness and capacity to encourage behavioral change, maintain systematic databases with quality checks and finalization of national land policy and SLM policy, with the objective of achieving the agreed LDN goals. The SLM NAP will incorporate strategies, indicators, and targets for achieving LDN. SLM NAP should be finalized by end of Year 1. Approval of the SLM NAP is to occur on its finalization and is anticipated in Year 2. Approval should include government

endorsement that would then enable States to develop their own SLM State Action Plans (SAPs) to achieve the proposed LDN targets set by the NAP. The SLM NAP should be reviewed, updated and implemented for another 5-years with same process occurring every 5-years to ensure that SLM in the FSM is continuously advancing and building on lessons learned. (iii) **SLM State Action Plans (SAPs) developed and approved:** As part of the SLM NAP process the project will support each of the four States to prepare a prioritized SLM State Action Plan (SAP) for achieving LDN by 2030. These SLM SAPs will be harmonized with the SLM NAP to facilitate implementation. These integrated actions across all land-use types will include measures to: a) avoid future land degradation; b) reduce land degradation through promoting more sustainable agriculture and infrastructure; c) reverse existing land degradation by rehabilitating degraded areas. National consultants will be recruited in each of the four States to work under oversight provided by the State Environment Working Groups (SEWGs) to facilitate the preparation of SAPs, along with key stakeholder inputs. SAPs should be finalized and approved in Year 2. Approval should include government endorsement for implementation. (iv) **SLM SAPs implemented:** Implementation of the SLM SAPs should commence after approval, preferable by the end of Year 2. Implementation should be overseen by the SEWGs with annual project reports to track progress. SAPs should be updated every five years to ensure they remain relevant and incorporate lessons learned while advancing SLM efforts. (v) **Review and updating of key priority national policies, plans, programs and budgets for mainstreaming of SLM/LDN principles and targets** and elements for targeting and schedule developed. This review is to be conducted as part of the contracted efforts to develop the SLM NAP with results of review process incorporated into the SLM NAP. From this review, at least one or two key policies should be selected for updating during the life of the project, and the others will take time beyond the project to be updated. The updating of the policies, plans, etc. should begin as soon as the NAP has been finalized. Updating is to be coordinated by the PMU under the guidance of the NLMWG and conducted by relevant stakeholders for each element with end results being updated national level policies, plans, etc. that incorporate SLM/LDN activities and strengthen and mainstream efforts across sectors to address land degradation. (vi) **Review and updating of key States? policies, plans, programs and budgets for mainstreaming of SLM/LDN principles and targets** and elements for targeting and schedule developed. This review is to be conducted as part of the contracted efforts to develop the SLM SAPs with results of review process incorporated into the SLM SAPs. The updating of the policies, plans, etc. should begin as soon as the SAPs have been finalized. Updating is to be coordinated by the PMU under the guidance of the respective SEWGs and conducted by relevant stakeholders for each element with end results being updated state level policies, plans, etc. that incorporate SLM/LDN activities and strengthen and mainstream efforts across sectors to address land degradation.

Output 1.2. Priority gaps and weaknesses in the regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms for combatting land degradation identified, and improvements achieved through technical support and advocacy leading to adoption by state and national governments

Output 1.2 directly supports the review of regulatory frameworks (laws, regulations, ordinances and standards) at National and States? levels to identify both strengths and weaknesses leading to the strengthening of existing efforts to address land degradation as well as prioritizing barriers and identifying pathways towards overcoming existing gaps, mainstreaming SLM and biodiversity into the

agriculture and infrastructure sectors. To support these effort, the project will provide technical and advocacy support to address the priority gaps through updating of existing, or drafting of new, regulations and standards (for subsequent approval by governments[4]). Priorities will vary between the states but may include: mangrove and watershed protection/moratorium (anti-pollution, solid and septic waste and anti-littering; soil/earth removal; infrastructure development and sand dredging/coral mining; strengthen EIA regulations and establish coordinated project review processes; research permit regulation; and zoning. The regulatory priorities to be addressed will be informed by the robust and comprehensive LDN target setting process and resilience assessments under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, which are to include assessments of land degradation and determination of effective and appropriate solutions. Activities under Output 1.2 include the following: (i) **Review of States LDN regulatory frameworks** undertaken with gaps and weaknesses identified and prioritized. The SEWGs will provide oversight to these efforts which are to be conducted through the consultants contracted by each state to complete the SLM SAP (Output 1.1) as a component of that effort. (ii) **Review of National LDN regulatory framework** undertaken with gaps and weaknesses identified and prioritized. The NLMWG will provide oversight to these efforts which are to be conducted through the consultancy contracts to complete the SLM NAP (Output 1.1) as a component of that effort. (iii) **Review of States LDN enforcement mechanisms** undertaken with gaps and weaknesses identified and prioritized. The SEWGs will provide oversight to these efforts which are to be conducted through the consultants contracted by each state to complete the SLM SAP (Output 1.1) as a component of that effort. The project will support a review of current procedures, protocols and enforcement track records for existing LDN mechanisms and identify gaps as well as strengthens and weaknesses, inclusive of potential barriers to effective enforcement; (iv) **Review of national LDN enforcement mechanisms** undertaken with gaps and weaknesses identified and prioritized. The NLMWG will provide oversight to these efforts which are to be conducted through the consultancy contract to complete the SLM NAP (Output 1.1) as a component of that effort. The project will support a review of current procedures, protocols and enforcement track records for existing LDN mechanisms and identify gaps as well as strengths and weaknesses, inclusive of potential barriers to effective enforcement; (v) **Priority gaps and weaknesses in LDN regulatory framework addressed at the states level;**The SEWGs will guide these efforts within each state in coordination with key state offices and departments following guidance from the SLM SAPs and NAP to address prioritized gaps and weaknesses in LDN regulations, inclusive of provisioning of technical support and stakeholder consultations. On the basis of the reviews, technical support and advocacy will be provided to identify measures/recommendations to strengthen enforcement, that will include in particular to (a) clarifying roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies; (b) promoting establishment of a joint enforcement agreement between National, State and local governments; (c) establishing a harmonized approach to on-line state-level reporting of enforcement; (d) considering options for establishment of Environmental Courts; (e) reviewing penalties; (f) raising public awareness; and (g) exploring other mechanisms (e.g. offsets) to mitigate the impacts of land degradation; (vi) **Priority gaps and weaknesses in LDN regulatory framework addressed at the national level;**The NLMWG will oversee these efforts in coordination with key stakeholders following guidance from the SLM SAPs and NAP to address prioritized gaps and weaknesses in LDN regulations, inclusive of provisioning of technical support and stakeholder consultations. On the basis of the reviews, technical support and advocacy will be provided to identify measures/recommendations to strengthen enforcement, that will include in particular to (a) clarifying roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies; (b) seeking opportunities for promoting joint

enforcement agreements between National, State and local governments; c) establishing a harmonized approach to on-line state-level reporting of enforcement; (d) reviewing current penalties; (e) raising public awareness; and (f) exploring other mechanisms (e.g. offsets) to mitigate the impacts of land degradation; (vii) **Priority gaps and weaknesses in LDN enforcement addressed at the states level:** Offices and departments with LDN enforcement mandates with support from the SEWGs will lead these efforts or where a particular LDN enforcement entity many not already exist, then the SLMWGs will directly lead these efforts in coordination with partnering government entities to develop and emplace any needed enforcement bodies inclusive of supportive regulatory code and TORs; and (viii) **Priority gaps and weaknesses in LDN enforcement addressed at the national level:** Offices and departments with LDN enforcement mandates with support from the NLMWG will lead these efforts or where a particular LDN enforcement entity many not already exist, then the NLMWG will directly lead these efforts in coordination with partnering government entities to develop and emplace any needed enforcement bodies inclusive of supportive regulatory code and TORs.

Output 1.3 State level land use plans and local management plans on the high islands strengthened with enhanced implementation to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and conserve biodiversity

Currently, State level land use plans exist for only two States (the Pohnpei Integrated Environmental Management Plan and the Kosrae Land Use Plan), whereas several local, community-based management plans exist for all the high islands (e.g. forest stewardship, watershed and mangrove management plans, municipality plans, etc.). The main challenge has been the slow implementation of these plans due to lack of financial resources and capacity. The development of new plans is therefore not a priority, and indeed can be a very slow process due to land tenure issues. Based on a review undertaken, this Output will support strengthening and implementation of existing land use plans as well as local management plans for the high islands to address land degradation. Under this Output, the aim is to draw from the various sectoral plans at each level to support implementation of priorities which directly support achieving the set LDN targets and as needed, where sectoral plans may not cover, adding to the existing plans, strategies, etc. to best ensure comprehensive and effective SLM. While there are many good sectoral plans and strategies already in place within the FSM, the SLM national program and state and community plans in order to address land management must pull from various plans such as biodiversity, agriculture, infrastructure, etc. to be a comprehensive all sector inclusive device to address landscapes as a whole regardless of specific sectors. So that under SLM each sector is addressed and actions are prioritized to best suit the overall landscape recovery and protection to achieve what the FSM sets as their LDN goals. Planning at each level is required due to the differences amongst both states and communities. The NAP should set the SLM national policy for achieve realistic LDN goals by 2030. The state plans should incorporate the NAP policy directives into implementable state plans supported by either existing or to be developed state level policy and supportive regulations. The community land management plans should understand the national policy and state requirements and be the basis or road map for how on a local level through direct action national LDN targets will be achieved through implementing state regulations and policy at the local level within the demonstration sites and where these direct local efforts succeed and show promise then through state support similar efforts should be engaged across each state at sites beyond the initial demonstration areas.

Activities to be covered under Output 1.3 include the following: (i) **Review of high island, state and local level land use plans with weaknesses and gaps identified and prioritized:** The SEWGs will provide oversight to these efforts which are to be conducted through the consultancy contracts by each state to complete the SLM SAP (Output actions 1.1.5 & 1.1.6) as a component of that effort. Reviews should identify the priority actions from existing plans that could contribute towards achieving LDN targets and response hierarchy (Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation) including specifically targets for achieving land degradation neutrality under Output 2.1, as well as the SLM NAP and SAPs.; (ii) **Address priority gaps and weaknesses in high island, states and local level land use plans:** The SEWGs will oversee and guide these efforts within each state in coordination with key state offices and departments and local land management bodies following guidance from the SLM SAPs and NAP to address prioritized gaps and weaknesses in states level land use plans, inclusive of provisioning of technical support and stakeholder consultations. On the basis of the reviews of existing plans and programs to draw on various sectoral plans at each level to support implementation of priorities which directly support achieving the set LDN targets. Technical support and advocacy will be provided to identify measures/recommendations to strengthen and harmonize land use planning across each state. Provide technical support for design of implementation measures to achieve LDN targets. The implementation measures will be designed through a consultative process with the relevant stakeholders (state agencies, municipalities, community groups and the private sector); (iii) **Strengthen implementation on high islands of states level land use plans:** The SEWGs will lead these efforts within each state in coordination with key state offices and departments following guidance from the SLM SAPs and NAP to address prioritized gaps and weaknesses in existing states level land use plans, inclusive of provisioning of technical support and stakeholder consultations. On the basis of the reviews, technical support and advocacy will be provided to identify measures/recommendations to strengthen and harmonize land use planning across each state. Provide technical support for implementation measures to achieve LDN targets; and (vi) **Strengthen implementation on high islands of local level land use plans:** Local land management bodies will lead these efforts with support from the SLMWGs within each state in coordination with key state offices and departments. On the basis of the reviews, technical support and advocacy will be provided to identify measures/recommendations to strengthen and harmonize land use planning at localized levels. Provide technical support for implementation measures to achieve LDN targets.

Output 1.4 Existing/nascent state level intersectoral working groups for landscape management fostered and operationalized to address land degradation, and national level intersectoral working group established and supported to oversee formulation and mainstreaming of the NAP, both with engagement of the private sector.

To address land degradation, and national level intersectoral working group established and supported (under Output 1.1) is expected to oversee formulation and mainstreaming of the NAP, both with engagement of the private sector and other local stakeholders. The project will support and further strengthen the operation of existing/nascent State working groups that have responsibility for tackling cross-sectoral issues for improved landscape management, as a mechanism for mainstreaming SLM

and biodiversity, in particular the State Environmental Working Groups established under the R2R project. The project will support these working groups to develop and drive implementation of the state-level action plans for achieving LDN (developed under Output 1.1), including in particular (as described under Output 1.1) to be broadened to include other sectors that are involved with, or impact on natural resources and land management (such as agriculture, infrastructure, water resources and other sectors as appropriate) as well improve the functionality of the working groups. Activities under Output 1.4 include the following: (i) **Ensure that all states have broadened and functional State Environmental Working Groups (SEWGs):** Existing SEWGs will be strengthened to ensure the composition, functionality and their effectiveness is in line with expectations and needs for enhancing their ability to coordinate and drive SLM actions at the State level. Provide technical assistance and training support to strengthen the functionality of these State-level working groups for taking responsibility for tackling cross-sectoral issues for improved landscape management through implementation of the SLM SAP, as a mechanism for mainstreaming SLM and biodiversity. This will include pursuing improved institutional mechanisms (ideally a single agency for planning, coordination and M&E of the plan with other partner support); joint enforcement and monitoring, engagement of the private sector through public private partnerships, SLM improvements in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors and solid waste management (through composting and reducing waste disposal in critical areas). This will entail developing/refining TORs of the SEWGs to be composed of intersectoral stakeholders and to lead and oversee development and implementation of SLM guidance and activities at the state level and assist/enable local land management bodies with similar at local levels. Effective and comprehensive TORs for the SEWGs should be in place in Year 1; (ii) **SEWGs approved at the State level:** The newly updated/broadened SEWGs for each state should be supported through the State Governments and provided with a mandate to work across sectors to implement national SLM policy and implementing actions at state level towards achieving LDN targets. These SEWGs should be ensured permanency and provide oversight at the state level for such as well as harmonizing policy amongst state offices and departments as well as engaging the private sector in support of state and national SLM policy through the NAP and SAPs. The SEWGs are to be fully representational through direct support from States' government working with the PMU to ensure that key stakeholders are engaged through active membership in each State's SEWG. Efforts to strengthen membership and participation in the SEWGs should be an on-going process that is tracked annually over the life of the project; (iii) **SEWGs are functional and meeting regularly** to advance and oversee state level land management activities, including reducing and protecting against land degradation and overseeing development and implementation of state level land management plans. The project will provide technical support, training and limited financing to strengthen the SEWGs to oversee and drive implementation of the SLM SAPs for achieving LDN (developed under Output 1.1); (iv) **National Land Management Working Groups (NLMWG) established:** NLMWG identified and verified established or created and placed by project month-4. Efforts are to be coordinated by the National government working with the PMU. Enhance SLM coordination at the national level across sectors through supporting the President's Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (PCCSD) to establish the cross-sectoral NLMWG to oversee the SLM NAP development and implementation, LDN target setting and identification of strategic LDN interventions (Output 1.1). The project will provide technical support to this group for consensus-building on policy actions and investments for achieving LDN and strengthen institutional mechanisms for enforcement and reporting (e.g., through joint enforcement agreements (national, state and local governments, including EPAs)

proposed under Output 1.2. Participation of women and private sector representatives will be strongly encouraged for both national and state level groups. AS part of ensuring the functionality of the NLMWG, TORs will be developed with oversight of the National Government working with the PMU enabling the NLMWG to be composed of intersectoral stakeholders and to lead and oversee development and implementation of SLM guidance and activities at the national level and assist/enable States to development and implement appropriate SLM oversight and actions. Effective and comprehensive TORs for the NLMWG should be in place by second half of Year 1; (v) **NLMWG approved at national level:** The NLMWG is to be supported and strengthened by approval within national law or appropriate directive, enabling the NLMWG to support national and state SLM activities and provide cross-sectoral oversight at the national level for such as well as harmonizing policy amongst national offices and departments as well as engaging the private sector in support of SLM policy through the NAP and SAPs. Development of MOUs between agencies/sectors to enable improved vertical and lateral SLM coordination amongst national and states entities and (vi) **NLMWG oversees development and implementation of the SLM NAP as well as coordination with SEWGs at State level**

Component 2: Enhancing information, decision/support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation

(Total Cost: USD 5,874,807; GEF project grant requested: USD 774,807; Co-financing: USD 5,100,000)

Outcome 2: Enhanced tools and government capacity for SLM and LDN

Information currently exists in part for some of the land degradation issues with FSM, but in general this information is very limited, incomplete and/or in need of updating. Specifically, there is a dearth of information about the soils and land degradation issues across the country. While, nationwide reconnaissance level assessment of soil types have been undertaken, which classified soil types and described the physical geography, climate, soils, and land cover, the information of condition of forests, land, land and agricultural productivity and agriculture opportunity areas of the country is limited or lacking. Addressing SLM requires an in-depth overview of the nation's land resources where geology, landforms, soils, climate and vegetation are emphasized. Some of these elements remain, but many are outdated/insufficient thus new surveys are needed to provide the baseline and for monitoring LDN (i.e. LCC, NPP and SOC). In addition, the collation and application of remote sensing and other data on soils and land degradation status will help assess land use changes and threats to inform priorities for achieving LDN, including the key indicators of land cover, NPP and SOC. This will also require development and testing (in the demonstration landscapes under Outcome 3 of protocols for LDN monitoring). An appropriate information system structure once established will then help to populate over the remainder of the project and should be fully operational by the end of the project, inclusive of the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for long-term updating and maintenance of this system beyond the life of the GEF project. Additionally, this information system will be regularly reviewed and types and levels of information entered modified to best support the needs of end users of the system i.e. the relevant stakeholders within FSM. The information system once established and

populated should permit a detailed understanding of key established drivers and threats of LD, improved priority setting for interventions, informed decision-making on sectoral policies and investments, and easy access to information for decision makers and other users.

Output 2.1. National level spatial mapping and strengthened baseline information available to states on existing platforms to assess trends, drivers and hotspots of land degradation and targets set for LDN sub-indicators

Existing databases will be reviewed and combined as appropriate as part of the review processes under this project with notable gaps and updating documented and prioritized for addressing. One of the big gaps noted during the PPG period in regards to GIS data available for the FSM is that many existing plans, etc. appear to be relying on outdated GIS layers, especially in regards to areas considered forested or well forested with native forest. It was difficult if not impossible to develop explicit actions for SLM in part due to non-existence (or at least unobtained) GIS layers that even closely resembled what could be seen from satellite imagery in regards to impacted forest which again layers and plans we encountered generally referred to areas, especially in the project demonstration landscapes as native forest when much of this area from satellite imagery clearly appears impacted and in some cases with little remaining tree cover. These discrepancies should be addressed (as well as others which may exist) though a detailed updating of GIS layers for the country and then maintaining these and future updates available through an online sharing platform. In regards to SLM updating mapping along with development of national and state policy to support SLM and LDN coupled with comprehensive state regulations to support LDN are the key essentials this project should undertake beyond specific efforts within the demonstration sites.

Achieving LDN requires determining the expected cumulative impacts of land use and land management proposals, and targeting actions to minimize impacts (including possible denial of proposed actions), and counter-balancing anticipated impacts through strategically planned rehabilitation or restoration of degraded land, within the same land type. The project will follow the UNCCD's Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality[5] which provides a scientifically-sound basis for understanding and implementing LDN and informing the development of practical guidance for pursuing LDN and monitoring achievement of LDN. Building on existing information available, the project will help improve access to up-to date high-resolution satellite imagery which will be made available to link with other spatial and non-spatial information (topography, forest/vegetation cover, hydrology, soils, land use, slope, population, agricultural production, etc.) in order to have the best possible tools for assessing proposed projects, supporting determinations and as needed selecting areas for remedial actions to conserve land and water resources, minimize impacts and when feasible support remediation of degraded areas. Output 2.1 will support the following activities (i) **Full time GIS/IT specialist for existing national spatial sharing platform** hired and in place with necessary equipment/tools available to ensure input and updating of spatial data and functionality of technical systems; (ii) **Identification and resourcing of states level spatial information offices:** Assessment of needs, including satellite imagery, GIS equipment and training for each State to help establishment of baseline values for core LDN indicators. The needs assessment will be undertaken through consultations with GIS Unit of DECEM, Department of Resources and Development (FSM

R&D) and GIS specialists from each of the four States. Efforts overseen by DECEM and completed by end of Year 1; (iii) **National level mapping of landscapes** completed/updated with support from states' spatial information offices inclusive of field data collection: Efforts overseen by DECEM (national mapping office) in coordination with appropriate states offices and completed in Year 2; (iv) **National level spatial information consolidated** within existing platforms and made available to states. The existing platform should be maintained and there should be staff assist states and national entities with acquiring/searching data as well as coordinating with the states to ensure that all data is maintained updated and hence relevant. This activity will be overseen by DECEM (national mapping office) in coordination with appropriate government offices and other stakeholders as warranted. Consolidation completed by Year 2; (v) **Updated land use information input into national spatial sharing platform:** Uploading of LDN indicator baseline maps and other relevant spatial data to the existing Digital Atlas of Micronesia.[6] Baseline and targets for the LDN sub-indicators, will be established to cover the following: (a) trends in land cover; (b) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (c) trends in carbon stock above and below ground. Efforts overseen by DECEM (national mapping office) in coordination with appropriate government offices and other stakeholders as warranted. Completed by end of Year 2; (vi) **Training provided to states for using national spatial sharing platform to inform and strengthen SLM/LDN/BD;** Mapping training provided to the States to help establishment of baseline values for core LDN indicators. Provision of training to enable regular monitoring of the global (at approximately 4-year intervals) and local indicators to track changes relative to the baseline value for each land unit, and the results will be published. Local knowledge, citizen science and other data will help verify and interpret the monitoring data. The LDN/SLM knowledge management portal (Output 4.2) will be populated with the required information for sharing and verification of monitoring data on the LDN indicators, particularly to assist the states. Efforts overseen by DECEM (national mapping office) in Year 3, with follow-up training (as warranted) during Year 4 or other timing as most appropriate based on needs; (vii) **Establish the 2030 LDN targets for achieving neutrality:** Collaboration will be promoted with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Initiative[7] on LDN, as well as the IUCN/GEF Target Setting Program on LDN[8] for technical assistance with setting LDN baselines, targets, monitoring and reporting land degradation. This will ensure that methods are compatible/equivalent with the work undertaken by UNCCD and the Global Mechanism through the LDN Target Setting Program, and that the format and software will be compatible for the next reporting cycle using PRAIS and eventually Earth.Trend; and (viii) **Support provided to states to identify the SLM measures required to meet LDN targets:** Efforts led by DECEM (national mapping office) starting in Year 3.

Output 2.2 Resilience assessments of landscapes, habitats and land uses to land degradation and climate-induced risks to support planning and zoning.

This output will build on previously conducted large-scale assessments of resilience and vulnerability to land degradation such as those presented in the Forest Action Plan 2020-2030 and FSM State of Environment Report 2018, and the planned assessments on climate change vulnerability to be undertaken by the recently approved GCF/MCT Food Security project. The project will build from and complement these initiatives, using the results of the baseline assessments of the three LDN sub-indicators and the 'resilience assessment' approach of the UNCCD Scientific Conceptual Framework

for LDN and tools such as the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework and the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP). The work will be conducted in close cooperation with the GCF project.

Output 2.2 will support the following activities: (i) **State resilience assessments:** International consultant will be contracted to facilitate state resilience assessments in each state, including determination of degradation drivers and impacts to ecosystem services. This activity will be overseen by SEWGs and completed in Year 3. The States level landscape resilience assessments conducted inclusive of habitats and land uses with focus on land degradation and climate-induced risks concerns/potential drivers. Assessments will include detailed spatial mapping and field data collection. Detailed evidence-based assessment of landscapes, habitats and land uses that are particularly exposed to land degradation, identifying land degradation hotspots by comparing the LDN baseline assessment with the spatial changes over a period of 10-15 years to assess rates and intensity of change. Priorities will differ between the States but will include watershed assessments/mapping of forest loss, soil erosion and landslide vulnerability (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei); Coastal vulnerability inundation assessment to sea level intrusion (Kosrae, Yap); Mangrove vulnerability assessment (all states except Pohnpei); Dredging, land reclamation and landfill survey (Kosrae, Pohnpei); Water quality vulnerability assessment (Pohnpei); (ii) **Assessments input into national spatial sharing platform:** Efforts to be completed in Year 4 by states offices which have received appropriate training (output activity 4.2); (iii) **Determine drivers of land degradation:** Using completed assessments, determine drivers of land degradation in hotspots and their impacts on ecosystem services. Efforts overseen by the SEWGs and documented by the consultants and included in the assessment reports by the end of Year 3. Based on the detailed assessments determine the causal chains/drivers of land degradation in the degraded areas (hotspots) and their impacts on ecosystem services. These can then be targeted in land management plans and SLM SAPs can be updated accordingly. Examples might include: a) targeting areas for movement of piggeries away from watercourses and promoting the use of dry litter piggeries; or b) reducing the reliance on coral for construction by using land-mined aggregate instead (identifying sources of land rocks that can be quarried will require EIAs to be completed for each proposed quarry and associated activities), or by increasing the cost of coral materials to make it cost prohibitive.

Output 2.3 Protocols for monitoring land degradation and practical guidelines for promoting/mainstreaming SLM/BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

This Output will address the lack or limited protocols for monitoring land degradation and availability of practical guidelines to be used by States and local communities to promote SLM and biodiversity integration in key sectors, in particular agriculture and infrastructure, which are the two likely sectors to have the greatest impact on land degradation.

This Output will support the following indicative activities: (i) **Infrastructure and agriculture sector reviews at State level:** This will be undertaken by the PMU with advise from the SEWGs. National consultants will be contracted to support this review in Year 3. The review of infrastructure and agriculture sectors in regard to existing practices and how they pertain to SLM and BD and to provide prioritized recommendations for strengthening each sector's capacity to support SLM and BD. Agriculture and infrastructure are the biggest sectors in regards to land use. Assessing other sectors

would also be beneficial but these appear to be the two biggest users and therefore potential impactors of land and therefore should be minimally engaged, reviewed, supported and better regulated in a holistic manner towards minimizing further land impacts and as feasible reversing/restoring existing degradation. The States reviews will identify key gaps and weaknesses in each states' infrastructure and agriculture sectors in regard to SLM and BD and develop prioritized recommendations to address these barriers. These might include, but not be limited to the following: (a) Protocols: Protocols for monitoring the three LDN global indicators for assessing and monitoring LDN based on global best practices including identifying data sources, frequency of monitoring etc.; water testing protocols; protocol for earth moving, including checklist, permit conditions and land use application form; protocols for reducing the impact of coral/sand dredging (e.g. requiring use of silt curtains); protocol for climate-proofed roads and banks which ensure critical hydrological flows in the freshwater/saltwater interface. (b) Guidelines: Coastal/beach strand rehabilitation guideline; riparian habitats management/rehabilitation guideline; mangrove/wetland rehabilitation guideline, forest rehabilitation guideline; Composting guideline; strengthened EIA guidelines including robust monitoring and evaluation. (c) Guidebooks: Guidebook for farmers on SLM traditional agroforestry and climate-smart practices (in collaboration with GCF project); Guidebook on smallholder farm business development (diversification, food processing and value-addition); Guidebook on SLM best practices in the infrastructure sector; (ii) **Identify best practice materials** (internal and external) to assist the states in addressing land degradation. This will be an attachment to each State's infrastructure and agriculture sectors review report and provided by the contracted consultant to complete the review. To be completed by end of Year 3 as part of the review report. Efforts overseen by the SEWGs? (iii) **Develop protocols for monitoring land degradation in agriculture and infrastructure sectors**: This will be an attachment to each State's infrastructure and agriculture sectors review report and provided by the contracted consultant to complete the review: and (vi) **Develop guidelines for strengthening SLM/BD in agriculture and infrastructure sectors**: This will be an attachment to each State's infrastructure and agriculture sectors review report and provided by the contracted consultant to complete the review. To be completed by end of Year 3 as part of the review report.

Output 2.4: Capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs, etc., plus technology transfer and equipment for LDN monitoring and mainstreaming of SLM/BD ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender-responsive

The intent of this Output is to build long term capacity within the country to support local communities with developing and implementing SLM activities to support achieving LDN goals. Priority areas should be determined as part of the assessments but it is clear that for at least some if not all landscapes building skills to address and reverse land degradation should be a high priority. This can and likely should include such things as identifying native plants and trees for rearing, selecting, acquiring seeds/seedlings, caring for and nurturing plantings, planting out stock, maintaining planted out stocks, maintaining planted areas through activities such as biosecurity and managing existing invasive pests, and building off of successes will all be part of this process. Similarly, developing community buy-in so that it is not only a few individuals doing all the work but that the communities are truly engaged through a clear understanding of how these efforts benefit each member of the community. Also another key area will be strengthening riverine areas, developing protected buffer zones for waterways where activities such as raising livestock is not permissible but where planting of trees to retain soils and shade water is undertaken by all within each community.

The following are indicative activities to be supported under this Output: (i) **Contractual arrangements for carrying out training**: Contractual services through firms of institutions such as the COM (or international consultant, if deemed necessary) will be enlisted to provide training to

stakeholders for monitoring and strengthening of SLM and BD conservation as well as providing extension-based train the trainer style training. These efforts will be overseen by the respective SEWGs. The contracted firm/institution will undertake consultation to undertake a capacity and core functional assessment of the state and national government departments and extension services concerned with SLM to identify training needs and any required improvements to operational roles for achieving LDN. This assessment will be used to formulate a detailed capacity building plan for mainstreaming SLM/BD and achieving LDN for implementation during the project; (ii) **Development of Training Plan:** Based on the assessment undertaken in Activity 2.4.1. the contracted firm/institution develop a training plan to build capacity of key state and national level stakeholders on the principles and stepwise approaches for planning and achieving LDN to ensure that adequate human-resource skills are in place in priority sectors. This will include training for monitoring the standard LDN indicators and progress towards LDN (e.g., at 5-year intervals) and for reporting on the LDN status at the global level by 2030. The training will focus on government officers, extension staff, community groups, including women and youth, NGOs etc., to enable technology transfer and equipment use for LDN monitoring and mainstreaming of SLM and BD. Training and extension programs will be gender-focused and gender-responsive; (iii) Training of trainers: Provide training the trainer training for extension offices at states and national level For SLM and BD strengthening. The contracted firm/institution will provide training during the third year of the project. Extension service providers (government and COM) and active NGOs will be trained in participatory methods to build local capacity for SLM. This will focus on training, will be defined through the capacity needs assessment, but could likely include aspects of traditional agroforestry and related improvements, plus increasing the technical, management, and marketing skills of farmers, state farmer associations and small agribusiness enterprises for innovation and added-value product development (see Output 3.3). Support will be given to improve the coordination and partnership between extension providers to enhance the efficiency of extension provisioning; (iv) **Provide training to key stakeholders:** Training to be provided by the contracted firm/institution. Targeted technical training courses led by relevant experts to build the capacity of communities, government and the private sector stakeholders in both the agriculture and infrastructure sectors to implement SLM. This may include some training such as enhancing capacity for conducting EIAs and preparing environmental impact statements (e.g., for dredging, quarries, roads, dams, water drainage schemes, etc.), understanding and following laws and regulations, law enforcement, and building capacity for nature-based versus engineered solutions for land degradation, etc. Specific technical training will be provided on the demonstration activities to be conducted under Component 3 for reducing and reversing land degradation. Priorities requested by the States for Output 3.1 and 3.2 include: such things as identifying native plants and trees for rearing, selecting, acquiring seeds/seedlings, caring for and nurturing plantings, planting out stock, maintaining planted out stocks, maintaining planted areas through activities such as biosecurity and managing existing invasive pests, soil and water conservation activities, and building off of successes will all be part of this process. Similarly, developing community buy-in so that it is not only a few individuals doing all the work but that the communities are truly engaged through a clear understanding of how these efforts benefit each member of the community. Also another key area will be strengthening riverine areas, developing protected buffer zones for waterways where activities such as raising livestock is not permissible but where planting of trees to retain soils and shade water is undertaken by all within each community. Priorities training applicable to Output 3.3 for sustainable climate resilient agriculture include: soil fertility training (composting / green waste recycling including use of

equipment (e.g., wood chippers), soil pH training for farmers, climate resilient crops, integrated pest management (plus pesticide training of trainers with certification); water quality monitoring and provision of equipment); (v) **Provisioning of equipment:** Detailed assessments once completed should include prioritized actions towards addressing gaps and weaknesses and within this context should also be included very in specific detail on materials/equipment. Efforts would be overseen by the SEWGs starting in Year 3. States have identified the potential need for land survey equipment inclusive of Geographic Positioning System (GPS) units and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) (commonly referred to as drones). These and other potential equipment needs (ex. Wood chippers, pesticide applicators, storage cabinets, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc.) will be identified, assessed and prioritized as part of the assessment reviews (output activity 2.4). Priority equipment needs will be addressed as funding permits; (vi) **Training for use of equipment:** Provide training for equipment and technology use to key offices/groups as well as broadly to end users, strengthen linkages and technology utilization. The contracted firm/institution will provide training in Year 3.. One training focus will be on the collection of relevant landscape data, including the use of GIS units and transferring collected data to GIS layers for mapping purposes at both state and national level with detailed training to enable full functional efficiency to support planning and monitoring of land degradation and sharing of information through the national level information portal (Output 4.2). Other specific training may include items such as certification in the use of UAVs. Priority gaps in hardware or software including access to on-line apps such as Collect Earth and Trends.Earth, geo-database development, etc. will be identified to assist analysis of land degradation and trends. In addition, actions which support strengthening BD and LDN may also support other ongoing efforts and projects such as the FSM GEF-6 IAS project and training to collect information on identification of pests and documentation of their presences across landscapes should also be engaged; and (vi) **Evaluation of the training programs:** The effectiveness of the training program will be evaluated at mid-term and end-of-project to ascertain relevance and effectiveness of the training to help adjust and retool the training to achieve targeted impacts. Evaluations should be completed through the oversight of the PMU with evaluations occurring at project mid-term and the conclusion of the project. Mid-term evaluations will be utilized to review activities and as needed make adjustments to strengthening ongoing efforts. The final assessments will help provide a record of how the project has strengthened efforts towards LDN and BD conservation from baselines at start of the project.

Component 3: Embedding climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones (demonstration activities)

(Total Cost: USD 20,079,264; GEF project grant requested: USD 2,679,264; Co-financing: USD 17,400,000)

Outcome 3: Community participation in measures to reduce land degradation, sustain ecosystem services and biodiversity and improve livelihoods and wellbeing

Outcome 3 will demonstrate how sustainable nature-based economic development pathways can be engaged by communities (including women and youth), improving livelihoods of men, women and youth and strengthening biological conservation and reducing threats and impacts from land degradation. Community based land management working groups to oversee implementation of

activities within the demonstration sites. It is essential that these are set up early on in project implementation and that the PMU is regularly coordinating with these groups and the communities in general. The project will focus on integrated planning and delivery across 4,114 ha in five landscapes representative of the terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, mangrove forests and coastal wetlands, watersheds and agro-ecosystems of FSM. The proposed demonstration landscapes are:

- ? Gagil-Tomil Island Northern Road Improvement Project in Yap state (1,187 ha)
- ? Wichen River, Weno Island in Chuuk state (237 ha)
- ? Pehleng landscape and Awak Demonstration Landscapes in Pohnpei state (1,615 ha)
- ? Tofol-Innem Watershed in Kosrae state (1,075 ha)

The three outputs of this component will bring together best practices from traditional knowledge, previous projects in the FSM and from international experiences to address the threats from land degradation in an integrated way across these four demonstration landscapes.

At the PPG phase an initial assessment of the feasibility of implementing community-based integrated ecosystem management and threat reduction at land/coastal level was undertaken. More extensive field visits will be undertaken by the Project State Technical Coordinators (supported by the PMU and CTA) during the initial stages of project implementation by the contracted consultants along with representatives from these sites to ensure that they are properly engaged/consulted prior to the finalization of boundaries of the demonstration sites. The intent is also to further engage and raise awareness with relevant community groups to ensure informed access to project information and activities, their rights and for implementation of a FPIC process. As the implementation of the project (and its relevant activities) progress, additional screening will be required to assess potentially emerging risks or to re-categorize the significance of currently identified risks; which could trigger the need for new assessments and management options. Through on-going engagement, consultation and monitoring of consultative processes of Component 3-related activities, potential risk/adverse impact areas such as access restrictions, economic displacement, livelihoods, access and benefit sharing, cultural heritage for communities can be identified early-on. The implementation of a robust, mutually agreed and Social and Environment Screening (SES) and Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The three outputs of this component will bring together best practices from traditional knowledge, previous projects in the FSM and from international experiences to address the threats from land degradation in an integrated way across these four landscapes.

Output 3.1 Community-led participatory integrated landscape management and rehabilitation plans co-designed, agreed and implemented to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation to protect ecosystem services and biodiversity

Output 3.1 concerns the elaboration of an integrated landscape management plans for the demonstration landscapes with strengthened community governance developed and implemented for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management at the four demonstration sites, integrating traditional and new knowledge to reduce threats and impacts from land degradation and unsustainable natural resource use. Open and active dialogue across multiple stakeholder groups (including specifically with local groups, women and youth) will be adopted to build a common understanding of priorities, providing co-benefits and resolving conflicting aspirations for each site, including landscape-level target setting for biodiversity and LDN. Design of the plans (or updating of existing plans) will involve full engagement and agreement of local communities, vulnerable groups, women and youth and consideration of local needs and rights including the identification of diversified blue/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 landscape-level baseline assessments (e.g. using the Biological Rapid Assessment (BIORAPS)[9] methodology, while also including priority livelihood and land degradation assessments and finalized during the first year of the project. Each management plan (linked to the SLM NAP and SAP) will be supported by an appropriate Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) for each of the demonstration landscapes. The CLMWGs will be supported by TORs, and represent the key stakeholders (e.g. community groups, smallholder farmers, local government, private sector), including men, women and youth who will oversee implementation, monitoring and adaptive management and risk/impact mitigation within each landscape. Planning will focus on integrating LDN principles and measures into plans where they already exist or establishing new plans. The goal is to achieve a mosaic of zoned land uses across the four landscapes that ensure that the land resource base is used for the purposes to which it is best-suited, so that it can continue to supply ecosystem services and biodiversity such as provision of food and regulation of water and climate, while enhancing the resilience of the communities that depend on it. This will include measures to avoid further land degradation, and to reduce and reverse existing land degradation through the measures outlined for Outputs 3.2 and 3.3 ? thereby meeting the goal of LDN. The mapping and strategic planning implemented through this output will provide information for long-term zonation of the landscape for different economic uses and development activities, facilitate permitting processes that meet biodiversity-friendly norms, supported by government-led environmental impact assessments, and help develop appropriate governance and enforcement systems to ensure that development is sustainable and environmentally appropriate.

The proposed activities for Output 3.1 include the following: (i) **Finalize the demonstration landscape:** The demonstration sites would need to be finalized within each state, with appropriate coverage for land restoration and improved practices in production systems. The PIF project development phase identified potential demonstration landscapes within each state and the PPG phase

supported and expanded on these efforts. It is anticipated that the States will utilize the selected landscapes but if adjustments are required they should be discussed and as appropriate undertaken within the first months of the project implementation, led by State offices in close coordination with local communities, the PMU and DECEM as well as other key stakeholders; (ii) **Strengthen Community Working Groups:** Establish (or utilize existing) Community Land Management Working Groups (CLMWGs) with appropriate TORs and membership for each demonstration site. CLMWGs should include representation of the key stakeholders (e.g. community groups, smallholder farmers, state/municipal government, private sector) who will coordinate SLM/LDN and BD conservation implementation, monitoring progress and ensuring review and engaging adaptive management, reinforcing responsible governance, accountability and transparency according to local and traditional norms as well as protecting human rights, including tenure rights. The CLMWGs should be established and active by the end of the project month-12 including have established Terms of Reference (TORs), meeting regularly and being supported by both state government and local stakeholders; (iii) **Resource Availability:** Ensure that CLMWGs are appropriate resources and linked with state and national partners. The SEWGs will facilitate this progress in collaboration with the PMU; (iv) **Development of Demonstration Site Land Management Plans:** Consultants will be recruited for each State to facilitate the development of the Demonstration Land Management Plans (DSLMPs) for each of the demonstration landscapes. Oversight will be provided by the SEWGs and the CLMWGs with contracts in place for each demonstration landscape in Year 1; (v) **Assessment of Demonstration Sites:** Detailed assessments of each demonstration landscape will be undertaken by the contracted consultants in consultation with local officials and communities. If there are existing plans that cover all land/near shore sea aspects of SLM and addressing land degradation for the demonstration sites that are comprehensive then they should not be duplicated but rather use existing plans. But expectation is that while there are many sectoral plans and even some multi-sectoral plans that their focus is likely not as broad as will be required to develop full SLM/LDN planning documents for the full sized demonstration landscapes which in 3 of the 5 demonstration landscapes are not specifically aligned with individual watersheds. The assessments will (a) characterize the landscape through a participatory process with key stakeholders (especially land users); (b) describe the key biophysical and socio-economic features of the landscape including its boundary delineation, ecosystem services and ecological functions; (c) identify what forms of land degradation are affecting productivity and natural ecosystems (e.g. soil erosion including loss of topsoil, gullying, pollution, loss of soil fertility, coastal inundation, sedimentation); and (d) identify the drivers of land degradation (e.g. drought, migration, market forces), and the pressures and unsustainable land use practices (e.g. forest conversion to agriculture, poorly planned development, infrastructure (e.g. roads), extraction of natural resources). Assessments are to be undertaken by mid-year 2 with the final assessment report for each landscape being attached to the DSLMP for that landscape.

This will be followed by the following activities: (vi) **Development of DSLMPs:** Based on the assessment undertaken in Activity 3.1 (i), DSLMPs will be developed for each demonstration site ensuring that the development process includes input from local, state and national partners. Based on each of the demonstration landscape assessments support a detailed community-driven consultative process to identify priority areas in each landscape to avoid (i.e., no-go areas), reduce and reverse (i.e.

areas to be rehabilitated land degradation. The DSLMPs, like the state and national level NAP efforts should not be sector specific, but should harmonize existing and new efforts across each landscape in a prioritize manner towards achieving the LDN targets set at the national level on the local community scale. So, where forestry plans focus on forest or components that directly relate to forests, the landscape management plans should include forestry but also infrastructure, planning, biodiversity, other aspects of agriculture, general community planning, etc. The key element to ensure happens at each level for SLM is that development, planning and implementation should not be restricted to one or a few sectors but truly engage all land and near shore stakeholders and be a comprehensive device from which specific sectors can be supported but not focused on exclusively to the detriment of other sectors within each landscape. The priority areas will be accurately mapped, zoned and prioritized. Finally, a simple and costed plan will be prepared and approved for implementing actions towards achieving LDN identifying delivery mechanisms and partners. Mapping will help identify, prioritize and inform on-the-ground actions at landscape levels to support biodiversity conservation and SLM/CSA within the five main sectors (forestry, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure and aquaculture). It will facilitate identification of (a) areas for conservation of biodiversity, in particular for endangered and endemic species and their habitats and their dispersal corridors, such important ecological areas (including water sources and along rivers); (b) areas for sustainable community natural resources management and use, including sustainable harvesting and extraction, community based conservation and forest management, watershed conservation and climate risk management; (c) degraded areas for community forest restoration and fire management; (d) degraded agricultural areas for restoration using SLM/CSA for sustainable agricultural development; (e) area of mangroves; and (f) areas and activities that can promote blue/green livelihood improvement. The CLMWGs will oversee the development of the DSLMPs by the contracted consultants for each demonstration landscape during Year 2 with plans finalized by the end of Year 2; and (vii) **Implement DSLMPs:** Implementation of the DSLMPs will be facilitated through acquisition of Contractual Services (Firms or NGOs) starting from Year 3 onwards and are reflected in Outputs 3.2 and 3.3. The CLMWGs will oversee implementation of the DSLMPs with significant involvement of local communities and sector agencies (forestry, fisheries and agriculture). Capacity training to support implementation will be provisioned under project Output 2. Capacity building within the demonstration landscapes will empower local communities, inclusive of women and youth, to support implementation of the DSLMPs.

Output 3.2: Targeted ecosystem rehabilitation measures (nature-based solutions) piloted in innovative partnerships with communities and the private sector in degraded watersheds and coastal zones to reduce and reverse land degradation and enhance biodiversity

This output will focus on implementation of well-designed, climate-smart nature-based solutions identified under Output 3.1 to reduce and reverse land degradation across natural habitats in the demonstration landscapes including: (i) rehabilitation of degraded native forests in critical watersheds through implementation of community reforestation/tree planting projects including fire breaks where necessary; (ii) rehabilitation of riparian corridors including vegetated buffer strips and setbacks for piggeries and waste disposal to improve water quality; (iii) rehabilitation of strand forest/green belts to stabilize and reduce coastal erosion; (iv) rehabilitation and conservation of mangrove forests mitigating climate change and coastal degradation following the principles of ecological mangrove restoration[10]

where possible encouraging natural restoration resulting in heightened survival rates, faster growth, and a more diverse, resilient forest structure; (v) rehabilitation/conservation of freshwater wetlands and traditional taro patch systems inclusive of the prevent of saltwater intrusion; (vi) community-led rehabilitation of formerly productive land degraded by infrastructure development (e.g. small-scale land levelling and replanting with native vegetation etc., where appropriate with support of private sector partners[11]). To implement these innovative rehabilitation projects, technical support will be provided by Contractual Services contracts with Firms or NGOs, as appropriate in each State to community/landowner groups. This will include providing support for community tree nurseries that can provide planting materials both for the rehabilitation of natural habitats, but also for sustainable agroforestry. Efforts at improving the productivity of agricultural lands will be supported by the project and actively engaging land owners and farmers. Efforts will be undertaken to engage and train women and unemployed youth to implement rehabilitation projects, to raise their environmental awareness and future employment prospects and provide certificates for skills learned. These nature-based solutions are expected to simultaneously deliver benefits for SLM, climate change, biodiversity and livelihoods.

Initial calculations were developed as part of the PIF and agreed to at that stage. Sizes were adjusted during the PPG, but not extensively. i.e. the target figures are in large part based on what was accepted from the PIF and further refined based on available GIS and satellite imagery as the PPG team was not able to ground truth via site visits. SLM activities should be realistic based on budget availability, capacity and timelines. Targeted projected restoration will include a total of 925 hectares as defined in Table 3 below. Specific actions to restore and regenerate these ecosystems might include the following: for agricultural lands: improved agriculture practices, SLM, erosion control, improving water storage, weed control, fertilizer management, etc. for forest lands: tree planting, assisted natural regeneration, fire control, pest control, weed control (*Merremia* sp), grazing management, etc. for natural grasslands and shrubs: IAS control, fire and grazing management, removing overgrown grass, suppressing unwanted plants, etc. for wetlands: cleanup/removal of garbage and plastic, reduction/removal of solid waste disposal, reducing erosion, weed control, pig control, improved drainage, rehabilitation of degraded areas (e.g. mangroves) etc.

Table 3: Calculations for core indicator 3: Area of Land Restored

GEF Endorsement Calculations for Core Indicators 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4			
Area of degraded agricultural land restored (includes agroforestry and taro patch) (3.1)	ha	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored (3.3)	ha
	Chuuk landscape		50
Kosrae landscape	55	Kosrae landscape	0
Pohnpei landscape	165	Pohnpei landscape	5
Yap landscape	50	Yap landscape	90

Total	320	Total	115
Area of forest and forest land restored (3.2)	ha	Area of wetlands restored (3.4)	ha
Chuuk landscape	100	Chuuk landscape	2
Kosrae landscape	150	Kosrae landscape	31
Pohnpei landscape	80	Pohnpei landscape	37
Yap landscape	50	Yap landscape	40
Total	380	Total	110

Actions to be implemented under Output 3.2 include the following: (i) **Prioritization of areas for restoration:** Calculations at PPG stage were based on best available information which were in most cases outdated GIS layers and satellite imagery. Ground truthing must take place early in project implementation stage and adjustments made once the actual ground situation can be viewed and developed into current GIS layers which can be inclusive of high value targets across the landscape. i.e. identification of what are the key degradations, what is the extent of these areas and where can activities best be directed to 1. prevent further degradation and 2. begin to address and rehabilitate existing degradation. It is likely that shorelines and stream/river buffer area developments will be some of the priority areas as may also be ridge lines and boundaries of existing natural forest stands. The consultancy groups contracted to develop the DSLMPs (Output 3.1) will complete this activity as part of the DSLMPs assessment and plan development with oversight by the CLMWGs in Year 2 and 3. Results will be detailed in the DSLMPs; (ii) **Partnerships for restoration of degraded habitats:** Establishing partnerships between communities and the public sector will be promoted for the restoration of degraded habitats such as mangroves, greenbelts, wetlands and traditional taro patches. This will occur under the implementation of the DSLMPs and overseen by the CLMWGs and SEWGs. MOUs will be established with clear lines of roles and responsibilities of all partners; and (iii) **Implementation of land restoration activities:** Local communities, inclusive of vulnerable groups, women and youth and the private sector will implement land rehabilitation activities for mangrove, taro patch, greenbelts and near shore areas as well as other key priority areas. Efforts will be overseen by the CLMWGs. The project will support implementation of best management practices for restoration BMPs for degraded lands within the demonstration landscapes that takes into consideration the specific needs of vulnerable groups, women and youth.

Output 3.3 Smallholder farmers on traditionally owned lands supported to implement traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices for SLM and climate change adaptation that contribute to LDN, protect ecosystem services, biodiversity and food security, and enhance incomes.

Assessment of the landcovers/landscapes is one element. Assessment of existing activities across the landscape and within specific landcovers is another. Both should occur on the ground within each demonstration landscape in order to develop a baseline of what the situation is with both aspects at point zero (project initiation). These assessments should be critical towards informing how the project can best support the communities and address LDN across each landscape. This output will focus on implementation of well-designed, climate-smart nature-based solutions to reduce and reverse land

degradation across the demonstration landscapes. Under this output, smallholder farmers (including men, women, youth and vulnerable groups) will be supported to implement innovative agricultural practices to reverse on-going land degradation and rehabilitate degraded areas, increasing resilience to climate change through SLM/CSA towards achieving LDN, protecting ecosystem services and improving incomes through increasing crop and livestock yields. The project will provide technical support through firms/NGOs to work with local land owners and farmers, including women and vulnerable group to assess suitable farming systems and locations for interventions in each landscape that will be established under Output 3.1.

None of the proposed demonstration landscapes include large-scale commercial farms, The proposed demonstration landscapes contain a variety of small-scale farms where a mixture of subsistence and cash crops are grown. Innovative approaches to SLM/CSA implemented under this project will support development of more reliable, crops, more profitable crops, and/or crops with increased yields thus improving food security in all landscapes also raising farmer incomes in the semi-subsistence systems, 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 the three key variables required towards achieving LDN in the demonstration landscapes (LCC, NPP and SOC) including land use plans and targets. In order to build capacity and sustainability, technical training on SLM technologies will be conducted through the extension services, also lead farmers in each community, with a particular focus on engaging women and youth. Support will be provided to train land users to adopt SLM/CSA to replace current damaging practices (e.g. slash and burn and encroachment into forested areas, lack of restoration of SOC, repetitive tillage, inappropriate chemical use, etc.) which will lead to an increase in crop yields/reduction in yield variability ? thus increasing incomes. Traditional knowledge of sustainable land management systems will be integrated and promoted[12]; targeted interventions will include composting, mulching, cover crops, reduced tillage, crop rotations, restoration of fallow periods, use of appropriate beneficial agroforestry systems and terracing to reduce soil erosion, all contributing to increasing soil organic matter content, fertility, water and nutrient management and improved livestock (poultry, piggery) systems, along with measures to reduce the threats to land degradation, including support for addressing risks posed by IAS. Project support for addressing threats and impacts to land and other natural resources degradation will vary according to the contexts and priorities of the land users in the different landscapes. Towards the conclusion of the project, lessons will be shared and scaling-up and laterally of successful interventions through community exchanges and visits (Component 4) and through incorporating lessons into guidelines and agricultural training and extension programs. Smallholders and farmer cooperatives will be assisted to improve post-harvest storage, processing and development of value chains, with improved access to finance.

There are many opportunities for development of new island products and existing or new local markets for traditional, healthy local foods. FSM has a long list of island farm produce (breadfruits, bananas, taros, yams, black pepper, citrus, sakau, betel nuts, coconuts etc.) with business potential, but

lacks capacity to turn them into business commodities. Livestock production could also be improved through various mechanisms such as provisioning of new and better suited genetic stock.

Activities contribute to Output 3.3 include: (i) **Compilation of information regarding traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices:** The project will recruit through a contractual service agreement a suitable firm to engage with local landowners and farmers to compile information regarding traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices and develop a training strategy for each demonstration landscape; (ii) **Development of gender sensitive training and extension strategy:** The contractual service agreement (as mentioned in Activity (i) above) would also cover the development of a gender sensitive training and extension strategy for each demonstration landscape. This will be initiated in Year 3 of the project. The strategy will build on successful experiences such as Yap's Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Resilience project, supported by USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund. The above-approach will attempt to catalyze efforts to attain LDN, including recognition of land degradation issues, also SLM and CSA approaches to halt and reverse land degradation; (iii) **Implementation of training to extension offices and similar stakeholders:** The project will support the training of extension and similar stakeholders to support local communities with implementing both traditional and innovative climate smart agricultural practices. While SEWGs will oversee this activity, efforts will be looked into the engagement of the College of Micronesia (COM) in close collaboration with the recently approved GCF/MCT project on food security to conduct the training. This will be undertaken in Year 3 of the project; (iv) **Long-term efforts to institutionalization of training:** Introduction of land degradation and SLM/CSA components into the curricula of COM and relevant Rural Training Centers will be supported so that the training becomes part of the curriculum of these institutions; (v) **Training of local communities on SLM/CSA:** Training will be provided to local communities for the implementation of traditional and innovative agricultural practices. Training and extension services will start in Year 3 with focus on promoting 'farming as a business' with the aim of increasing profitability and creating jobs (particularly for women and youth) focusing on value-added marketable products from sustainable agriculture and agroforestry. Trainees will include lead farmers, landowners, women and youth in demonstration landscapes, extension officers (linked to Output 2.4) and focus on implementing innovative agricultural practices to reverse ongoing land degradation and rehabilitate degraded areas, increasing resilience to Climate Change through SLM/CSA towards achieving LDN, protecting ecosystem services and improving incomes through increasing crop/livestock yields. Training will be sensitive to the needs and barriers of participation of vulnerable groups, women and youth. Training will highlight the benefits of participation to encourage increased engagement in project-related activities. Training will be contracted out to an institution, such as the College of Micronesia; (vi) **Improving opportunities for promotion of small-scale local business development:** Engagement of consultancy services contract to identify opportunities to improve farmer/land owner access to small grants, credit (micro-finance) and savings facilities for farm business and product development. This contract will also through collaboration with NGOs such as the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) and their "Go Local" campaign for promoting local food for its "CHEEF" benefits (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security) identify at least one product from each State to be promoted to sustain profitable and sustainable local added value businesses. Activities will cover the full spectrum of business incubation support: selection of a

resource person or NGO to lead product identification, training (with COM and private sector organizations), market assessment, product preparation, quality control, packaging, labelling, pricing and monitoring (all with NGO, private sector and existing marketer support to share appropriate expertise/knowledge). Farmers will focus on quality production for value addition and potentially for direct marketing. Because of high transport costs, the primary focus will be on local markets; however, opportunities will also be made to identify and develop potential high-value agricultural commodities and products for the export market. Following the identification of suitable products, the contracted firm will provide technical support, advise and identify private sector linkages to farmers and landowners for product development, quality control and marketing. If there are existing projects that have this focus and they support SLM then it might be of value for this project to work within these existing efforts.

Through the strengthened SLM through management planning for the demonstration sites, capacity building and training and availability of best practices and extension services, this could lead to the enhance of improved practices within demonstration landscapes and seascapes that conserve biodiversity. Actions may include reduced chemical inputs, regulations and BMPs to protect riparian zones, training and extension services for BMPs and implementing sustainable traditional knowledge and traditional/native crops. Based on these actions, it is projected that 2,181 hectares of terrestrial landscape areas and 585 hectares of marine seascape within the demonstration areas would be under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (Core Indicators 4,1 and 5 respectively), while 6,195 hectares of production landscape will be under sustainable management practices (Core Indicator 4.3). Additionally, through the implementation of SAPs and state high island land management plans, mainstreaming BMPs and strengthened policy and regulations supporting achieving LDN goals and protection of BD, training and extension services, would lead to the enhance of improved practices in the high island areas outside the demonstration sites. The targets for achieving Core Indicator 4 is reflected in Table 7. This will be measured by the following actions, namely (a) SLM management plans approved for target sites and high islands; (b) biodiversity and LDN mainstreamed into land use or other related plans for high islands; (c) monitoring system in place to monitor improved outcomes, (d) approval and implementation of SAPs; (e) state high island and demonstration site land management plans approved (f) mainstreaming best management practices (g) strengthened policy and regulations supporting LDN goals and protection of BD, etc. The area of marine seascape (core indicator 5) under improved practices within the demonstration sites to benefit biodiversity is 585 hectares and is reflected in Table 4. This would be measured by: (a) agreements reached with communities to implement improved conservation, sustainable resource use practices and habitat restoration efforts (i.e. mangroves planting), removal of garbage and solid waste, etc. (b) reduction in pollution and waste inflows; (c) management prescriptions approved for target sites; and (d) monitoring system in place to monitor improved outcomes

Table 4: Calculations for core indicator 4 and sub-indicators 4.1 and 4.3

GEF Endorsement Calculations								
4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems			
Demo Site	Forests	River/Riparian/upland wetland	Savannah	Total (ha)	Demo Site	Agroforestry	Taro and cultivated land	Total (ha)
Chuuk	6	0	2	8	Chuuk	16	0	16
Kosrae	520	16	0	536	Kosrae	225	1	226
Pohnpei	585	34	12	631	Pohnpei	360	32	392
Yap	192	11	303	506	Yap	54	7	61
sub-total				1,681	sub-total			695
Additional assumed for BD mainstreaming outside of demonstration landscapes			500		Additional assumed for BD mainstreaming outside of demonstration landscapes			5,500
Total (ha)			2,181		Total (ha)			6,195

Table 5: Calculations for core indicator 5

GEF Endorsement Calculations					
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity					
Demo Site	Mangroves	Lagoons	Seagrass Beds	Reefs	Total (ha)
Chuuk	0	35	0	0	35
Kosrae	42	69	0	23	134
Pohnpei	99	153	0	33	285
Yap	45	0	0	86	131
Sub-totals	186	257	0	142	
Total (ha)					585

Component 4: Effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M&E

(Total Cost: USD 5,423,766; GEF project grant requested: USD723,766; Co-financing: USD 4,700,000)

Outcome 4. Increased project impact, replication and upscaling through enhanced awareness and knowledge management

Outcome 4 will focus on supporting the development and implementation of a communications strategy inclusive of both gender mainstreaming plan and an awareness and engagement plan. The gender mainstreaming plan will assist with ensuring that women, vulnerable groups (including persons with disabilities) and youth are empowered to become active agents, participants and beneficiaries of the project interventions. The communication strategy overall will support collecting, packaging and sharing information and knowledge about the practices promoted by the project, the processes involved in these, and the short and medium-term results from implementation of the project activities. This knowledge and information will be shared with State and community level authorities to further guide future programming around similar issues and widely disseminated to the rest of the State. By the end

of the project, it is expected that local land users, farmers and other key decision-making stakeholders within in the target landscapes, will be better skilled and more knowledgeable on practical solutions to monitor and address impacts of unsustainable land use practices on biodiversity and food and water security challenges they are faced with, and how to tackle them at farm and landscape levels. Emphasis on the importance of local community knowledge in terms of land and wetland habitat management, but with consideration of both genders and marginalized groups:

- ? Understanding of the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming and land and coastal wetland management from a gender equity perspective; e.g. with explicit recognition of information gaps that are felt by women and vulnerable peoples;
- ? Understanding the interdependence of livelihoods and the landscape, inclusive of their connectivity with coastal and marine habitats;
- ? Strengthening of information collection and sharing mechanisms that meet the needs of target audiences, recognizing that target audiences include women and marginalized people;
- ? Improved awareness of the tools and methods available (and where to go) for individuals to establish sustainable businesses and other livelihood options;
- ? Understanding of concepts related to sustainable land and coastal resource management,; and
- ? Understanding of the role and importance of women, men, marginalized people, and different sectors in landscape planning and management.

The project will increase public understanding, particularly in four landscapes on how ecosystems are linked and how actions on land and coast impact people and place and their engagement as active participants in these areas. This knowledge, combined with integrated landscape approach will promote reductions in negative impacts on biodiversity and the landscape in general, while increasing the number of local, community driven sustainable natural resource management (agriculture, fisheries, livelihood, etc.) activities in FSM.

Output 4.1: Awareness-raising program on SLM and the benefits of tackling land degradation delivered through targeted communications, education, campaigns and community participation.

Considerable effort is required to raise awareness of the links between land degradation, the loss of ecosystem services/biodiversity and impacts on health, well-being and resilience ? for the public, decision-makers and the private sector. Influencing stakeholders across sectors to engage in supporting LDN, biological conservation and reducing/preventing climate impacts in a hands-on way in many cases will require changing opinions and attitudes through understanding the essential importance of resource protection and conservation to each and every community?s and individual?s well-being and providing examples of activities that both individuals and communities can implement towards effectively addressing such concerns. Addressing these concerns in part through community and individual ownership is a high priority for all four states and for local municipalities, particularly concerning watersheds and critical coastal habitats (particularly mangroves). This output will facilitate the development of a communications strategy and action plan, based on an analysis of lessons learned from other GEF projects in the Pacific to raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the risks and impacts from land degradation and the broad benefits of ecosystem-

based management and importantly engagement in strengthening the protection of resources across the landscape. An overall communications strategy will be developed during project months 7-18 and will be inclusive of both a gender mainstreaming plan and an awareness and engagement plan. Training for implementation of the strategy will be provided and then the various components of the strategy will be implemented during project month-26. Implementation will be in coordination with State governments, relevant sectors and NGOs/Community Based Organizations (CBO) partners on the ground, as well as news media and social media. Effectiveness of the strategy and plans will be evaluated internally at project mid-term, and adaptive measures/lessons incorporated. Specific approaches, tools and materials will be needed to address the local languages, potentially lower levels of literacy in some rural areas and challenges with absence or reduced presence of electricity, internet, mobile services, etc., which may occur in some remote areas (e.g. by working through local shortwave radio, extension services and face to face-meetings supported by local teachers, church leaders or nurses, women and youth in the target demonstration landscapes? for eventual upscaling). Communication products and approaches included in the strategy might include State-level posters or videos of importance of ecosystems, benefits of SLM/CSA technologies which contribute to halting and reversing land degradation, as well as targeted campaigns for iconic species conservation or to address specific threats. Community and church leaders will be engaged as important advocates in the demonstration communities. Sustainability mechanisms will be explored to ensure that DECEM can maintain a communications function beyond the end of the project. To the extent feasible, the project will work with NGOs, women's organizations, farmer associations, and youth clubs to promote awareness on SLM activities so that they become a voice for SLM and watchdogs for land degradation.

Activities contributing to Output 4.1 include: (i) **Development/finalization and implementation of the framework for measuring knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP):** The PMU should complete the KAP survey on SLM/LDN and BD mainstreaming that would serve as a baseline to assess progress in improvement of community knowledge and awareness on BD and SLM issues. The PMU will undertake the KAP survey in the first half of Year 1. The PMU would also report on KAPs implementation at both the project mid-term and conclusion of the project; (ii) **Development of Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy:** A national consultant will be recruited to develop the communications and knowledge management strategy. The PMU will oversee this effort, but NLMWG and DECEM will review and finalize the strategy by the end of Year 1. Development and Implementation of the gender sensitive Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy, is intended that (a) the Project is well understood, accepted, and implemented effectively and equitably; (b) knowledge management products are shared and used, (c) understanding of landscape planning is increased; (d) understanding and implementation of best practices is improved; and (e) the public has an increased understanding of impacts of LD and benefits of SLM/CSA practices to support engagement with both management actions. Ultimately the public and visitors should champion the unique biodiversity and ecosystem of FSM at both national and State levels and be strongly engaged with preventing LD through personal and community actions; (iii) **Gender mainstreaming plan developed and implemented:** Development of the gender mainstreaming plan will be part of the contracted effort as a component plan of the overall communications strategy Activity 4.1 (ii). The gender mainstreaming plan will support (a) a gender and

socially inclusive perspective applied to project activities; (b) research on gender and social roles in the landscape informs resulting plans and ensures equitable distribution of benefits; and (c) information is collected and shared across gender and social lines and is to be implemented by all project partners throughout the life of the project starting in project month-19 when the plan is made available; (d) National communication and knowledge management plan implemented: The development of this plan that is part of the contracted effort from output activity 4.1.(ii) and will be a component plan of the overall communications strategy will be implemented to engage policy makers, public and private sector entities, visitors and local communities in regards to SLM/LDN and BD; (iv) **Training for communication and knowledge management plan**:_An institution will be contracted in each state to train key persons and entities within the FSM to conduct awareness and engagement campaigns, as well as gender mainstreaming activities. End results should be a cadre of SLM, LDN and BD providers/trainers within each state that can in turn work with national and state stakeholders as well as local communities to strengthen engagement for SLM activities inclusive of gender mainstreaming; (v) **Training and Awareness raising among local communities**: The trained persons and entities in each state, landscape level workshops/meetings will be organized to facilitate dissemination of field lessons and help inform actions relevant to land and coastal conservation practice. Specific topics of learning and success that might evolve from the demonstration sites. The initial documentation of these lessons will be included as part of the participatory monitoring process, that would be complemented by additional national technical support to distil and document lessons and experiences. The project will support regular workshops at the State and landscape level to share lessons and experiences and a national workshop at the end of Year 6 to facilitate the sharing of lessons more widely and enable replication throughout the FSM; (vi) **Citizen science and volunteer program**: A national consultant will be hired to design a citizen science program. The focus of the programs will be on environmental and land degradation issues, including monitoring, land and coastal conservation, and SLM good practices. Programs will be inclusive of gender mainstreaming and youth; and (vi) **Promote SLM/LDN AND BD awareness within schools**:_A national consultant will develop strategy for promoting_SLM/LDN and BD within schools in the demonstration areas. Efforts will begin in Year 3 and supported by trained individuals to engage schools and children with SLM/LDN and BD activities through existing and new mechanisms such as Conservation Society of Pohnpei's Green Road Show, developing environment clubs, booklets, comics, coloring books, and competitions.

Output 4.2 Knowledge management platform and program to share information and project lessons between states, landscapes and communities including through an on-line portal, learning exchanges and demonstration farms/farmer associations

Output 4.2 will support knowledge sharing, tools, events and networks for safeguarding biodiversity, managing the threats and impacts from land degradation, and demonstrating the benefits of SLM, LDN and BD conservation to aid effectiveness and up-scaling. The project will use mobile communication via videos and other technology to document activities and best practices, as well as supporting exchange visits between landscapes[13]. Low-cost, community-run SLM, LDN and BD and sustainability information/learning programs will be established for coordination and knowledge

sharing in each landscape. Participation in regional and international events by local community representatives will be supported where clear benefits are identified, including via virtual means as appropriate. This output will also support all other outputs to promote vertical and horizontal learning, knowledge-sharing and upscaling of project results. It will support the development of a national level SLM on-line portal (as part of DECEM's existing portals) for use by each state and nationally, to ensure availability and use of key documents, GIS and remote sensing imagery and information for use in research, evidence-based approaches, monitoring, and outreach activities, including the LDN indicators.

Activities under Output 4.2 include the following: (i) **SLM/LDN platform and portal development:** Contract national consultant to assess current situation and determine where the SLM/LDN platform and portal should be located and how it should be managed. This effort will be guided by DECEM to determine if existing resources at DECEM (or other partner) can be leveraged to support these efforts. Determination of where the platform will be housed and basic concepts regarding functionality of the platform and portal will be developed and in place by end of Year 2. Based on this assessment, the consultant will develop the SLM/LDN platform and portal in conjunction with stakeholders and the designated office; (ii) **Training to facilitate use of the platform and portal:** Based on the assessment conducted under Activity (i) above, the consultant contracted for the assessment will provide training to key stakeholders at national and states levels with utilizing the platform and portal including inputting information; (iii) **Input knowledge management and other SLM products into the SLM platform:** Efforts overseen by the platform management, and conducted by partners trained to implement. Documentation and dissemination of knowledge management products to increase awareness and capacity related to control and management of land degradation in the country, integration of land and coastal management into activities in key natural resources sectors (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, infrastructure, etc.). In particular, this Activity will support knowledge management products such as: (a) development of guiding documents, tools and manuals of best practices related to SLM/CSA, taking into account low levels of literacy and language constraints; (b) a menu of SLM and CSA compatible farming practices to manage LD and IAS; (c) tools and procedures for enhancing livelihoods and sustainable income opportunities; (d) lessons from trialing of land, forest and wetland restoration processes; and (v) documentation of traditional knowledge and skills on SLM and related livelihoods, etc.; (iv) **Learning exchanges:** Conduct learning exchanges amongst states and local communities on a regular basis with oversight by national, state and local planning groups as appropriate. These efforts are to be overseen by SEWGs and partnering states' offices and should commence in Year 2 for the life of the project and beyond. Localized workshops and meetings to facilitate partnership building and dissemination of information including success stories and Best Management Plans (BMPs) for SLM, LDN and BD. Provisioning of technical reports, publications, and other knowledge management products (including in local languages and accessible to local communities. Activities undertaken are to be documented and shared with the SLMWGs and NLMWG for inclusion in annual project reports (Output 4.4); (v) **Develop policy notes on project tested approaches:** With support from the PMU, the NLMWG should lead these efforts with input from partners. Policy notes development should begin in Year 2 and occur annually as warranted with results incorporated into annual project reports (Output activity 4.4). Policy notes are to facilitate

future replication and upscaling of SLM, LDN and BD activities which are locally profitable and support sustainable livelihoods; (vi) **End of Year national seminar:** End of project seminar is to be supported by the PMU under the oversight of the NLMWG and should occur before the end of the project. The intent of the seminar is to present an overview of the project's outcomes and lessons learned and include follow-up recommendations for future implementation and continuation of SLM, LDN and BD strengthening and up and lateral scaling of activities throughout the FSM and (vii) **Demonstration Farms:** Establish demonstration farms with support from public sector and state planning group. Efforts to be led by the CLMWGs for each state and initiated in Year 3 with support from partners and specifically the SLMWGs and associated states offices and agencies. The demonstration farms are utilized to further engage local and statewide communities as part of the awareness and engagement campaigns with increased engagement of the public sector statewide and examples implemented elsewhere within each state

Output 4.3 Best practices and lessons learned for addressing land degradation exchanged through South-South cooperation with other SIDS across the Pacific and elsewhere to support LDN/SLM.

To bring the voice of the people of FSM to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on SLM, LDN and BD issues. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries and other regional partners that are implementing SLM and/or BD initiatives. In particular, this would include close collaboration, knowledge sharing and exchange visits with Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) that are implementing similar projects. The GEF-7 project will seek opportunities for collaboration with the (a) UNCCD Knowledge Hub[14] and LDN knowledge e-platform; (b) the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (Caribbean)[15]; (c) the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC) network; (d) the Micronesians in Island Conservation (MIC) peer-learning network for conservation leaders; (e) other programs of SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC) including the latter's Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agricultural Research and Development which is developing ways to increase crop production, improve marketing opportunities and raise local incomes based on community-driven land-use planning. The following are indicative activities under this output: (i) **Best practices and lessons learned:** The PMU with support from DECEM and the NLMWG will lead this efforts and obtain the services of a national consultant to produce an annual project overview (with inputs from the States and demonstration landscapes), inclusive of key stories and lessons learned and ensuring dissemination throughout the FSM as well as regionally through appropriate means which will likely include both a web platform and printed materials; (ii) **Participation in regional events:** A limited number of participants will be supported to participation in regional conferences or similar learning events to provide overview of project activities and benchmarks and to share effective lesson learned with regional partners; and (iii) **Promote knowledge sharing:** The project will support knowledge through formal and informal networks and forums that support vulnerable groups, including women and youth. Networking activities may include on-line webinars, workshops and forums, social media networks, sharing of best practice materials; where

significant benefits can be identified (e.g., for youth champions) international exchanges within the Pacific may be supported, etc. Knowledge sharing activities undertaken by stakeholders should be documented and reported to the PMU and coordinated through the appropriate level NLMWG, SLMWG and/or CLMWG for inclusion in the project annual reports, 'Bright spots' should be recorded and used to highlight project success for vulnerable groups, including women and youth (Output activity 4.4.3).

Output 4.4 Project M&E, safeguards and gender mainstreaming to support effective project management and maximize project impact.

Output 4.4 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 within the Pacific region. As part of this effort, Output 4.4 will support: (i) the development and implementation of monitoring framework, based on the Results Framework Agreement to validate baselines and monitor progress in achieving project outcomes and impacts will be undertaken; (ii) a review and regular update of M&E plan, including results framework baselines, tracking tools, Theory of Change to subsequently adopt these findings to implement all aspects of the project; and (iii) a mid-term and terminal evaluation will be conducted in line with UNDP/GEF requirements and incorporate and adapt recommendations of MTR to revised project plans and monitor their implementation. The following are indicative activities under this output: (i)

Development and implementation of monitoring framework: Monitoring framework developed based on the Results Framework Agreement to validate baselines and **monitor** progress in achieving project outcomes and impacts. The PMU will develop and implement the monitoring framework with support from DECEM and the NLMWG with inputs provided by project partners and stakeholders on at least an annual basis or perhaps quarterly as feasible. The PMU will work with the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the project on a national level; (ii) **Annual Work Plans:** Development and implementation of Annual Project Work Plans will be undertaken by the PMU with support from DECEM and the NLMWG with input from other stakeholders as warranted. DHSA will be consulted to ensure the needs and barriers for women and youth participation is addressed in each State. Annual project work plans will be shared with project partners and implemented annually; (iii) **Prepare annual project reports:** The PMU will prepare an annual project report with support from DECEM and the NLMWG as well as other stakeholders as warranted. The annual project report will be the basis for the annual project package prepared in Output activity 4.3.1 for dissemination of project advancements and lessons learned; (iv)

Review and regular update project component plans, etc. M&E plan, including results framework baselines, tracking tools, Theory of Change to subsequently adopt these findings to implement all aspects of the project. Reviews and updating (as needed) would occur annually and be led by the PMU with support from DECEM and the NLMWG. Documentation of reviews and updates will be provided in annual review reports. Updated component plans, etc. will be made available as completed; and (v)

Conduct mid-term and final evaluation: Evaluation will follow UNDP/GEF requirements and incorporate and adapt recommendations of MTR to revised project plans and monitor their implementation. Mid-term and final project reviews will be conducted through consultants contracted by UNDP in coordination with the PMU with support from DECEM and the NLMWG.

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

- ? BD Objective 1-1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes;
- ? LD Objective 1-1: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management
- ? LD Objective 2-5: Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation

Through its objective of securing the FSM's critical ecosystem services through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to land degradation neutrality, this proposed project is aligned with the GEF-7 Land Degradation and Biodiversity focal area objectives as follows:

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 and infrastructure) through improved policies and plans, inter-sectoral governance and information management within the framework of the NBSAP; b) mainstreaming biodiversity into these sectors through better regulations and standards, sharing of information and improved tools for decision-making, technical capacity building; and c) demonstration and knowledge sharing of improved landscape and coastal zone management to be more biodiversity-positive by reducing the impacts of land degradation, with a focus on working with communities to make agroforestry livelihoods more resilient and deliver new income while also contributing to SLM and biodiversity conservation.

LD1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management. Under Component 3 and supported by the enabling framework of Components 1 and 2, the project will focus on smallholder farms (production landscapes) that sustain up to 90% of households, where agricultural management practices underpin the livelihoods of rural farmers. The project will include support for improved access to technical assistance and finance for smallholders to implement innovative agricultural practices for sustainable land management that achieve LDN, protect ecosystem services, and improve profitability (improved profitability will be used as an indicator of project success). 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 and improved access to markets including in the tourism sector, as well as improvements in the environmental performance of the infrastructure sector.

LD-2-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN. The STAP LDN Guidelines for GEF projects [16] have been used to inform the development of and detailed design of project activities. Key modules of the guidance have been captured within project outputs, 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 the FSM 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 and updating the national and state level legal, policy and land use planning frameworks for SLM/LDN. Technical guidelines for LDN and SLM best practices including climate smart SLM agriculture and livestock systems for rural communities, and well as for infrastructure development and operation will be prepared to support upscaling across States and communities, supported by appropriate training of extension officers.

(5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Table 6: Incremental Cost Reasoning

Baseline	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact including GEBs
<i>Strategic enabling framework and capacity for addressing land degradation</i>		

-Absence of national / state level strategic framework for addressing land degradation, with clear indicators, targets and monitoring, and lack of integration of SLM/BD and LDN targets and approaches into policies plans and practices.

-Key laws for SLM and BD are in place, but there is great variation between the states in the extent to which these have been transposed into regulations and are being enforced effectively.

-A number of governmental agencies are managing programmes with implications for land degradation; poor coordination means that the limited available resources are inefficiently used.

-Lack of capacity across government and its extension services (COM-FSM), the private sector and in communities for addressing land degradation and promoting SLM will continue to hamper progress.

-Government lacks the information and tools to tackle land degradation there is inadequate knowledge sharing

-FSM's first National Action Program (NAP) for combating land degradation incorporating strategies, indicators and targets for achieving LDN, with mainstreaming into national/state and sectoral policies, programmes and plans, including state-level land use plans
-Enhanced regulations covering activities causing land degradation, and better enforcement including through joint enforcement agreements.
-Enhanced intersectoral coordination in place at national and state levels to tackle land degradation
-Capacity for addressing land degradation is raised at all levels, particularly in the extension services
-Improved information, mapping

-Government effort to address land degradation is focused on achieving LDN, through development of NAP and SAPs
-SLM/LDN mainstreamed both vertically and horizontally, including through state level land use plans
-Joint or more harmonized regulatory approaches to addressing land degradation and more efficient use of resources.
-Improved coordination and capacity for mainstreaming LDN and SLM/BD,
-Greater and more effective targeting of efforts to tackle land degradation and ability to monitor outcomes.

assessments
and guidance
tools for
tackling land
degradation,
with wide
knowledge
sharing

Community-based, climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes

<p>-Degradation of land and water resources will increase, ecosystem services, biodiversity and livelihoods will be impacted, and land degradation neutrality will not be achieved because of ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agricultural encroachment into natural ecosystems including watershed forests and wetlands - loss of soil nutrients and health from smallholder agroforestry farms because of poor agroforestry practices, causing further pressure on land resources - damage to water quality in rivers and coastal habitats arising from pollution of riparian land (piggeries and waste) - Damage to multiple ecosystem services and livelihoods arising from poorly located, planned or executed infrastructure projects, such as roads or dredging. 	<p>-Community-based landscape-level plans developed and implemented at ecosystem scale to demonstrate SLM, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoiding agricultural encroachment in watersheds and wetlands (zoning, enforcement, improved livelihoods) and rehabilitate forest - promoting sustainable agroforestry and improving soil and water conservation by traditional and contemporary good practices - reducing pollution into watercourses by moving and upgrading piggeries, creating buffer zones and removing waste - Avoiding and reducing the impacts of inappropriate infrastructure development 	<p>-Improved management of 4,114 ha of priority demonstration landscapes, including forested, agricultural and inshore coastal ecosystems leading towards achievement of LDN in demonstration landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -925 ha of habitat important for critical ecosystem services and biodiversity restored /rehabilitated including forested watershed and riparian zones, and coastal habitats -8,376 ha of critical landscapes across 4 states under improved management, including 2,181 ha under improved management to benefit biodiversity and 6,195 ha under sustainable land management in production systems; -585ha of marine areas under improved management -Direct carbon sequestration benefits estimated at 31,582 tCO₂eq over a 20-year period, with indirect benefits to flow from replication and policy uptake
<p><i>Community wellbeing and livelihoods</i></p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rural communities suffering health, wellbeing and livelihoods challenges because of limited engagement in sustainable land and forest management practices that protect and enhance ecosystem services - Reduced resilience to external shocks including natural disasters, pandemics, etc. - Poor access to quality locally grown healthy foods - Limited opportunities and ability for business development based on smallholder agroforestry and therefore few incentives to improve production - Low public awareness of the benefits of reducing land degradation to enhance ecosystem services means environmental quality continues to decline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Communities participating in improved management of landscapes using indigenous and contemporary knowledge and best practices. -Promotion and production of local food for its "CHEEF" benefits (Culture, Health, Environment, Economy and Food security). -Business incubation support for sustainable agroforestry to assist emergence of green livelihoods that benefit household incomes, particularly for women and youth. -Awareness raising of the benefits of SLM, BD and LDN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At least 4,516 (50% women) benefiting from project activities in terms of agroforestry, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, livelihoods and value chain benefits -30% increase in community engaged and awareness of the benefits of SLM -Greater community resilience to shocks -Improved diet and health (food security) of local population -New sustainable businesses, jobs and value-added products, leading to 10% improvement in household profitability -Improved understanding and awareness of the threats and risks posed by land degradation to ecosystem services.
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6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will reduce threats from land degradation across critical terrestrial and coastal landscapes of the FSM, demonstrating synergy between the goals and targets of UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[17]. By promoting the achievement of LDN the project will

provide crucial support to meeting commitments under these conventions. The project will target land degradation neutrality and generate global environmental benefits for ecosystem services and biodiversity over 4,114 ha of forested, agricultural and coastal demonstration landscapes on the high islands of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap states. Additional benefits will be derived in downstream coastal zones and through mainstreaming SLM and BD at state and national levels. Integrated and inclusive ecosystem-based management will demonstrate how SLM contributes to more resilient and engaged communities, improved ecosystem services and biodiversity including climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

The project will reverse land degradation in critical watersheds and coastal ecosystems by targeting restoration measures over an estimated 925 ha of landscapes (Core indicator 3), and by bringing 2,181 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and a further 6,195 ha in production systems under sustainable land management (Core indicator 4). In addition, a further 585 ha of inshore marine ecosystems will benefit from improved management, particularly of upstream watersheds (Core indicator 5). A conservative estimate of 31,582 tCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions will be mitigated (Core Indicator 6) through avoided forest degradation from expansion of agricultural areas and conversion of current unsustainable smallholder practices to SLM.

This 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 ecosystems and improved protection from severe weather events as a result of habitat rehabilitation. Project implementation will provide direct benefits to an estimated 4,516 people (50% female) primarily in the demonstration landscapes who depend on these landscapes for the rich ecosystem services they provide. Indirect benefits will flow to populations right across the high islands, a majority of whom are expected to be engaged in agriculture. The project will demonstrate livelihood benefits for smallholder farmers in the demonstration landscapes (greater resilience and 10% improvement in household profitability) through reduction in input costs, enhanced income from added-value products and improved marketing and diversification, with the potential for wide replication. This will result in reduced conflicts within and between communities over natural resources and with the government and private sector, as well as reducing threats to biodiversity.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The proposed project will for the first time in the FSM support a holistic approach to addressing the critical threat of land degradation, simultaneously integrating in one concerted approach the formulation of a National Action Program, LDN target setting, mainstreaming into sub-national plans and regulations, capacity and tools development, demonstration of SLM on the ground, awareness raising

and knowledge sharing. This brings significant additionality from the GEF investment compared to any single investment in one of these activities. The project will also build on, and try to replicate the lessons from proven 'best practices' from the LDN target setting process in PSIDS and provide a way forward for policy makers and stakeholders on future action to address land degradation. This will take into account cross-cutting issues and linkages between emerging and existing challenges and priorities, notably climate change, biodiversity recovery and building-back from the impacts of COVID-19. While, the proposed integrated approach will benefit greatly from existing high levels of ownership by local communities, it will further try to integrate the existing community managed areas into a broader and holistic integrated planning and management approach through innovative coordination mechanisms and platforms that involve a wider range of government, non-governmental and community partnerships. This move from a local village planning approach to a more holistic and integrated site-specific planning approach is an innovative and modern approach to mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land (and wetland) management that is innovative in that it facilitates effective ecological linkages between production areas (community lands) and high conservation forests and wetlands and the implementation of conservation practices at a land/wetland scale, thereby guaranteeing the long-term conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and sustainable land management for the country. Other opportunities for innovation include the establishment of a cadre of community-based farmer trainee practitioners trained in a variety of semi-technical topics to build capacity within communities. Specifically, the project will support an intersectoral committee with a mandate for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, overseeing implementation of SLM and achieving LDN, at the national and state-levels and elaborating a strategy for a community livelihood and economic development (Outputs 3.3 and 3.4); provide a coordination platform and initiate the foundations for achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) (Output 1.1); along with demonstrating integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation and SLM across four target landscapes (Component 3). Communities will be at the heart of the project, leading the improved management of biodiversity and sustainable resource management 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.

Overall, the project focuses on demonstration of nature-based solutions to rehabilitate degraded watersheds, rivers and coastal zones and will use innovative partnerships between government, community and the private sector to deliver multiple benefits including livelihoods, biodiversity and food security (e.g. mangrove, reef and lagoon restoration to protect from storms and improve fisheries, riparian buffers and rehabilitated/created wetlands for water purification, strategic forest rehabilitation to reduce erosion and flood risk). Innovative climate-smart agricultural practices will also be demonstrated on smallholder farmers on traditionally owned lands for sustainable land management and climate change adaptation that contribute to LDN, protect ecosystem services and food security and enhance profitability (reduced use of chemicals and water, better soil conservation, agroforestry and tree nurseries, mixed cropping, marketing of local produce etc.). The project will also bring a new focus on the infrastructure

sector as a major source of land degradation, supporting innovative best practices to avoid new and solve existing problems.

Sustainability

Institutional Sustainability: The long-term commitment of the Government of the FSM to protecting its natural endowments provides very positive signs for sustainability of project impact. The project will further build on this commitment, by helping support and build the capacity of entities such as government departments, decentralized state 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 SLM outcomes. Specifically: under Component 1, the project will support development of National Action Program for combating land degradation and identification of priority actions for achieving LDN, with clear indicators and targets that would then be implemented through state-level plans, building on the establishment of a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at national and state levels to provide oversight and guide the achievement of LDN. Under Component 2, the project will support spatial planning and strengthen baseline information and build tools, guidelines and protocols and support capacity building of existing extension services and use/strengthen existing portals for sharing information; under Component 3, demonstration landscapes/coastal wetlands 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 FSM, 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 communities to be sustainable. Thus, the project will employ a community-driven, participatory approach to support community natural resource management governance systems. To facilitate long-term sustainability of existing land management efforts in FSM, the project will ensure the following: (i) support tailored training and capacity building to strengthen functionality and capability of extension workers; (ii) strengthened collaborations for comprehensive SLM management, including strengthening of the agencies that are responsible for land management; (iii) outreach and awareness programs delivered at national, state and village levels in parallel to build local community and stakeholder support for SLM, forest and coastal resource conservation. Financial sustainability will be achieved through: a) alignment of existing government funded programs with LDN objectives; b) promotion of public-private-community partnerships; c) development and promotion of new business models for agroforestry based on improved profitability and opportunities for added-value products and improved ecosystem services (soil fertility, water quality, climate change adaptation etc.); d) facilitating market linkages (including with the tourism sector), encouraging the private sector to invest in sustainable and profitable SME businesses; e) ensuring sustainable infrastructure development that avoids costs from damage to ecosystem services. Through these measures, the project will demonstrate livelihood benefits for smallholder farmer households in the demonstration landscapes (greater resilience and 10% improvement in profitability) through reduction in input costs, enhanced income from added-value products and improved marketing and

diversification, with the potential for wide replication. Social sustainability will be achieved through strengthening stakeholder participation mechanisms between local government, communities and the private sector (including infrastructure) in the demonstration landscapes. Project communications will facilitate awareness and enhance stakeholder participation. PPG consultations have ensured that collective decision-making mechanisms is built into project design and the stakeholder engagement plan will ensure that key decisions on landscape management priorities have strong buy-in from all stakeholders.

Potential for scaling-up: Under Component 1, support for 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, protocols and guidelines for monitoring land degradation and capacity building will play a big role in ensuring continuation of project learning and best practices, as well as development of land management plans for the high islands. Demonstrations of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, and SLM in Component 3 will have high potential for replication, with additional communities in the concerned states. 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 is also designed to provide demonstration models for up-scaling in the country. In particular, the capacity building and the development of best practices to control and manage land degradation will strongly support up-scaling. Ensuring that activities, impacts and lessons learnt from the demonstration sites are disseminated widely helps generate a bottom-up demand for similar activities throughout the country. The project's investment component will seek to develop synergies among rural development actors and programs with an objective of raising additional emphasis on SLM and will expand current models of sustainable resource use and alternative livelihood activities within and outside of the targeted landscapes and coastal seascapes. Overall, by demonstrating a strategic approach, the project will place the FSM in a much stronger position to access substantial investment programs for scaling-up LDN, such as traditional multilateral and bilateral funding and new innovative financing options and incentive packages. Upscaling at local level will be achieved through agricultural training and extension programs and sharing of successful interventions through exchanges and visits between communities, landscapes and states.

[1] <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/guidelines-land-degradation-neutrality-published>

[2] <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7469en/CA7469EN.pdf>

[3] See guidance on opportunities in <http://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1273768/>

[4] Approval depends on political will and speed of government processes and cannot be promised during the project period. However, the project can facilitate these processes through advocacy and technical support.

[5] <https://www.unccd.int/publications/scientific-conceptual-framework-land-degradation-neutrality-report-science-policy>

[6] <https://islandatlas.org/>

[7] <https://earthobservations.org/index.php>

[8] Options for collaboration and support will be explored during the PPG, despite the FSM not being a formal partner

[9] <https://pipap.sprep.org/content/bioraps-biological-rapid-assessment>

[10] <https://mangroveactionproject.org/mangrove-restoration/>

[11] Options for private sector partner involvement were consulted during PPG stage

[12] 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>

[13] This will also provide an adaptive management mechanism for the project if COVID-19 travel restrictions are prolonged.

[14] <https://knowledge.unccd.int/>

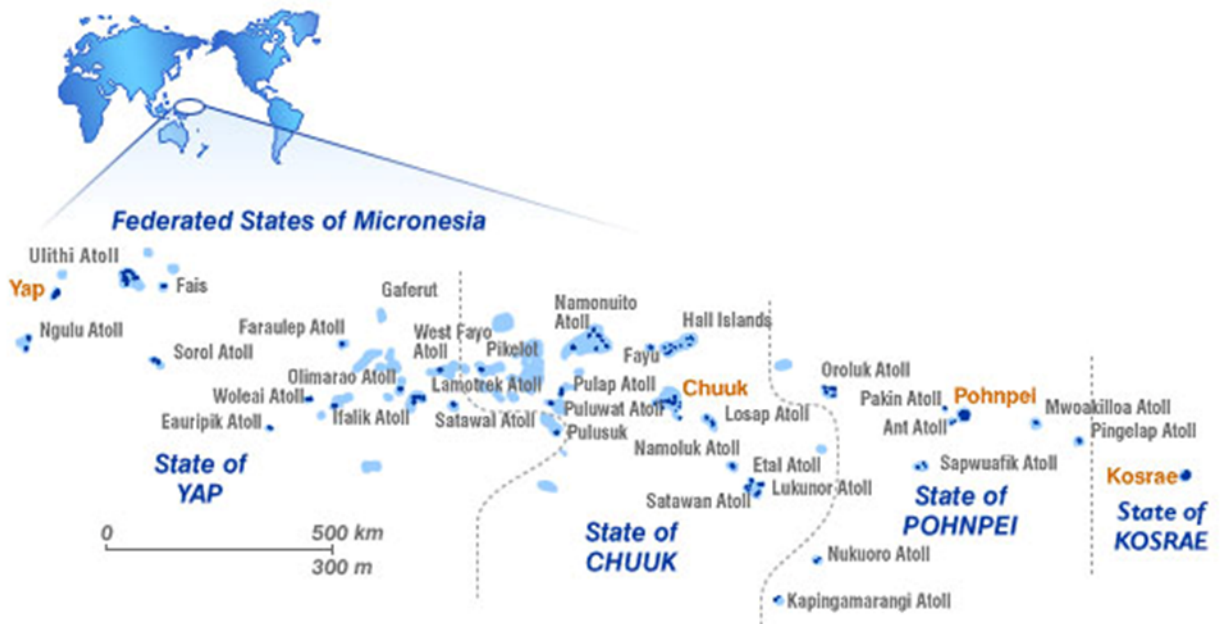
[15] <https://pislmsids.org/>

[16] <https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/STAP%20LDN%20Guidelines%2016-pager%20web%20version.pdf>

[17] Primarily SDG15 Life on Land and SDG 14 Life below Water; but also SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, and SDG 5 Gender Equality.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



Map 1: Map of FSM showing its four states Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

During the PPG phase, the Project objectives, and potential activities/interventions were introduced to all the identified stakeholders, including local communities at demonstration sites, municipal, State and national agencies, and private sector representatives. Extensive field consultations were undertaken to the four demonstration sites. The project team consulted with potentially affected persons/stakeholders. A full list of stakeholders engaged during his process has been recorded via attendance lists.[1]

The Project also has an overall Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8), whose ultimate purpose is to ensure that all stakeholders participate in the Project implementation, including their contributions to assess potential social and environmental impacts and the development of adequate management measures. If necessary, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be updated during Project implementation, with special considerations of incorporating any relevant element(s) related to improving engagement of vulnerable groups, women and youth.

The project will develop a Communication and Knowledge Management Plan in the early part of project implementation. The objective of this plan will be: (a) to reach out to the project's main stakeholders, including in particular local communities to inform them about the project and the expectation of their basic roles and responsibilities; (b) to take advantage of their experience and skills; and (c) to secure and safeguard their active participation in different project activities to reduce obstacles in its implementation and in its sustainability post-completion. The approach is based on the principles of fairness and transparency in selection of relevant stakeholders and, through consultation, engagement and empowerment, ensure: (i) better coordination between them from planning to monitoring and assessment of project interventions; (ii) access to relevant information and results; accountability; (iii) application of grievance redress mechanism if necessary; and (iv) sustainability of project interventions after its completion.

Identification, Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders:

Stakeholders are identified in Annex 8 of the UNDP Project Document, along with their potential roles and responsibilities. The Communication and Knowledge Management Plan will identify goals and guiding principles, target audiences, community needs, and tools and key messages. The following initiatives below will be taken to ensure participation of stakeholders in project activities.

Project inception workshop:

Project stakeholders will participate in the multi-stakeholder inception workshop within three months of the start of the project. The purpose of this workshop will be to create awareness amongst stakeholders of the objectives of the project and to define their individual roles and responsibilities in project planning, implementation and monitoring. The workshop will be the first step in the process to build partnership with the range of project stakeholders and ensure that they have ownership of the

project. It will also establish a basis for further consultation as project implementation commences. The inception workshop will address a number of key issues including: assisting all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project; detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of project partners in terms of implementation of R2R planning and management; and discussion of the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project structure, including reporting and communication lines, monitoring and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Awareness and Engagement Strategy and Action Plan:

This Plan will facilitate improved awareness and engagement of stakeholders (in particular local communities) of the project and its contents; and it includes details on best practices to use with particular stakeholder groups. The project will regularly review and update the Plan to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an ongoing basis about the project’s objectives, activities, progress, and opportunities for involvement. The project will develop and maintain public pages and other locally adaptable communication means (Output 4.1) for sharing and disseminating information on sustainable land, marine, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, good agricultural and fisheries practices, marine and coastal resource use and waste management practices, IAS prevention and management. Activities in the Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy to engage stakeholders and stakeholder groups include:

- ? **Quarterly meetings with key stakeholders.** On a quarterly basis, DECEM will hold meetings that involve key stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges faced, corrective steps taken, and future corrective actions needed for the implementation of planned activities. Results-based management and reporting will be informed by stakeholder inputs during such meetings.
- ? **Sharing progress reports and work-plans.** Copies of annual and quarterly progress reports and work plans will be circulated to stakeholders to inform them about project planning, implementation and outcomes, as well as through public forums, including web based.
- ? **Participatory approach for involving local communities.** Such an approach will be adopted to facilitate the participation of local communities, either as a group or through their local community organizations, including men’s, women’s, and youth groups in the planning and implementation of the project activities. Facilitation training for state planning teams will be supported. To ensure participation of local communities, the project will develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with community groups or their institutions before implementing key project activities.
- ? **Stakeholder consultation and participation in project implementation.** The national awareness and engagement plan will be developed and implemented immediately and reviewed at quarterly meetings with stakeholders to assess its effectiveness.

Table 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities / Mandate	Engagement During Implementation
Government Entities		

Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management (DECEM)	Mandate includes environment protection, climate change and disaster management, waste. Houses the GEF Operational Focal Point and focal point for UNCCD Secretariat of the President's Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development	Project Executing Agency. Coordination of activities with other national partners and through its state focal agencies. Attending/chairing meetings, hosting the PIU and providing the secretariat and Chair for the project Board. Arranges meetings for the President's Council on CC&SD that is chaired by the Vice President. All Components and Outputs.
Department of Resources & Development (FSM R&D)	Mandates include: Forestry Fisheries, Agriculture, Biosecurity services, Coastal fishery, Protected Areas Network and Tourism	Key partner for all aspects of SLM and coordination of activities with its state counterparts, attending / organizing meetings. All Components and Outputs.
President's Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development	Advise the President on climate change and sustainable development issues, with oversight of global environmental responsibilities and obligations including UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC.	Can influence and garner political support for the project. This Council is part of the proposed project management structure. Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 1.4
Department of Health and Social Affairs	Lead on gender issues, and engages CSO partners focusing on youth, women and environment in each state.	Ensure gender equality is mainstreamed throughout project Outputs: 4.4
Department of Education	Policy and coordination for schools and educational programs. Provision of training on environmental studies.	Support curriculum development on environmental studies and educational awareness activities. Output: 4.1
Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure	Manages all interstate and international sea and air transportation, regulates the radio communication spectrum, and implements, coordinates, and manages all capital projects funded by the FSM Congress	Outputs: 1.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
Office of Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management	Oversight and States-national coordination functions of overseas development assistance funds.	Coordination between existing and pipeline projects to maximize project potential. All Components and Outputs.
College of Micronesia (COM-FSM)	COM-FSM operates through its Cooperative Research & Extension Services on campuses within each state, with funding from National and State governments, and US Department of Agriculture. Key program areas are aquaculture, small island agricultural systems and food, nutrition and health.	Key partner for capacity development and awareness raising in the farming sector. Outputs: 2.4, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3

FSM Telecommunication Corporation and Pohnpei Public Broadcasting Corporation	Government-owned broadcasting on TV, radio and internet.	Implementation support through awareness Outputs: 4.1, 4.2
State Governments (Analogous offices in each State)		
States Attorney General's Office	Legal review and enforcement of policies and regulations on natural resource management.	Reviews/enforcement of existing laws. Draft new legislations Outputs: 1.2
State Governments and Governor's Association	States are responsible for natural resource management within state boundaries.	Involve the Governor and personnel in multiple aspects of the project. Outputs: 1.3, 3.1
States Council of Traditional Leaders	Community leadership.	Endorsement of activities (usually at community, island wide level). Outputs: 3.1
Local governments/municipalities	FSM States are subdivided into 76 municipalities, with responsibilities for environmental management. Municipalities are increasingly partnering with State, NGO, and community actors to enforce NRM regulations.	Key stakeholder for implementation Outputs: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
Chuuk State		
Chuuk State Environment Protection Agency	Responsible for environmental protection, including law enforcement, awareness, monitoring, solid waste control, control of water and wastewater. Focal point for environment and climate change activities.	Focal point of DECEM for project execution at state level. Coordination with other state-level partners All Components and Outputs
Chuuk State Department of Agriculture and Forestry	Focal point for SLM activities in Agriculture, livestock and forestry	Key partner for SLM implementation at state level. All Components and Outputs.
Chuuk State Department of Marine Resources	Lagoon and reef protection and monitoring	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2
Chuuk Department of Administrative Services	Administers Chuuk State budget.	Coordination of state agencies to prevent budget duplication and ensure compliance. Output 4.4
Chuuk Department of Transport and Public Works	Responsible for public works, seaports, airports and landfill management	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2
Kosrae State		

Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA)	Semi-autonomous agency; focal point for biodiversity and climate change. Its scope covers environmental protection, marine conservation and surveillance, forestry and GIS-related programs.	Focal point of DECEM for project execution at state level. Coordination with other state-level partners All Components and Outputs
Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs	Oversees marine and land resource management. Divisions responsible for agriculture and land, (model farming, export promotion programs, sustainable livelihoods) and fisheries development in support of sustainable livelihoods and marine surveillance unit.	Key partner for SLM implementation at state level. All Components and Outputs.
Kosrae Infrastructure Policy Implementation Committee (KIPIC)	Lead the planning and implementation of infrastructure policies in Kosrae	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2
Kosrae Department of Public Works	Responsible for waste and landfill management	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2
Kosrae Department of Fisheries	Lagoon and reef protection and monitoring	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2
Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization	Protection of natural resources, comprising representatives of government and non-governmental organizations, police and Municipal conservation officers. Collaboration to enforce existing legislation and regulation for natural resource management in general	1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2
Pohnpei State		
Pohnpei State Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Semi-autonomous agency and focal point for climate change and environmental protection. Oversees waste recycling and waste management.	Focal point of DECEM for project execution at state level. Coordination with other state-level partners All Components and Outputs
Department of Resources & Development	Responsible for Economic Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Conservation	Key partner for SLM implementation at state level. All Components and Outputs.
Department of Land and Natural Resources	Planning, organization, budgeting, staffing, monitoring, and evaluation of statutory and regulatory mandates on State land system	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1
Department of Public Safety	Responsible for safeguarding and protecting the lives and property, keeping the peace, and assuring compliance with all applicable laws	Regulation and enforcement for terrestrial and marine areas Outputs 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 4.1., 4.2
Soil and Water Conservation Board	Promotes soil and water conservation by preventing erosion and improving the use	Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2
Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture	Responsible for health of the inshore marine ecosystem, fisheries management and aquaculture	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation	Engineering and planning, power, water and wastewater	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2
Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	Responsible for landfill management	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2
Yap State		
Yap State Environment Protection Agency	Semi-autonomous environment protection agency with responsibilities for awareness and law enforcement	Focal point of DECEM for project execution at state level. Coordination with other state-level partners All Components and Outputs
Yap State Department of Resources & Development	Division of Agriculture & Forestry (DAF) covers agriculture, livestock, forests. Also has Division of Land Resources (responsible for land registration and GIS) and Division of Marine Resources Management	Key partner for SLM implementation at state level. All Components and Outputs.
Office of Planning and Budget	Responsible for aligning departmental/divisional activities with State plans and priorities. Coordinates state-wide planning for coastal and terrestrial management.	Key partner for landscape level planning Outputs: 1.1, 1.3, 3.1, 4.4
Yap State government Department of Transport and Public works	Responsible for public works, infrastructure, sea ports and airports, oversees landfill management	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2
NGOs, regional/international organisations, bi-lateral partners and private sector		
Nationwide NGOs	Island Conservation, Micronesia Catholic Relief Services, Micronesia Productions. FSM Women's Council	Key stakeholders for ensuring grassroots involvement in needs assessment, planning implementation All components and Outputs
State-level NGOs	Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Chuuk Conservation Society, Chuuk Youth Council, Chuuk Women's Council, Ship-Hoops (Chuuk), Yonkgu Association (Chuuk), Kosrae Women's Association, Kosrae Women in Farming, Kosrae Farmers Association, Kosrae Youth Development Association, Yela Environmental Landowners Authority (Kosrae), Pohnpei Women's Council, Yap Community Action Program (YAPCAP), Yap Fusion, Yap Locally Managed Area Network, Yap Institute of Natural Science, Yap Women's Association.	Key stakeholders for ensuring grassroots involvement in needs assessment, planning implementation, raising awareness Outputs: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2

Regional/International	Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), The Nature Conservancy ? Micronesia, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), Local Managed Area Network, Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS), Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community (PIMPAC), Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC), Micronesia Challenge Regional Office.	Key partners for technical assistance and knowledge sharing Outputs: 4.2, 4.3
UNDP including: Joint Presence Office (Pohnpei), Regional Office (Fiji) and UNDP/GEF RTA	Key development partner of government.	GEF Agency All Components and Outputs and project oversight
US Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service)	Through USDA Cooperative Agreement, these two US Federal Agencies provide technical assistance through grants, conservation planning and field support on forestry and soil conservation.	Technical support Outputs: 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3
Business/Private Sector	Farmers (small and large), traders and local food vendors, processors, exporters/importers. Farmers Associations and cooperatives, State Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Development Centers (in each State), Media e.g. Kaselehlie Press, C4Life Initiative, Vital's Coconut for Life project. National/state infrastructure organizations (utilities (e.g., Vital - national energy supplier), FSM Telecom), construction companies.	Improving environmental performance to reduce land degradation; enhancing livelihoods; and potentials to support implementation Outputs: 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

[1] See Annex 8 of the ProDoc, (Stakeholder Engagement Plan)

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

FSM's National Gender Policy (NGP) 2018 - 2023, was endorsed by the FSM Government in May 2018 and is intended to "promote gender equity, equality, social justice and sustainable development in the country". The NGP is aligned with: the goals and objectives of the National Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023; the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLEGD); the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the mandate of the Department of Health and Social Affairs and State Offices responsible for Social Services. The NGP commits the FSM Government to take action in the following six areas:

- ? Women's advancement
- ? Gender mainstreaming
- ? Strengthening women's programming
- ? Strengthening youth organizations programming and leadership
- ? Establishing social inclusion and social services for the elderly, and
- ? Addressing the economic, political, social and legal needs of people with disabilities and those with special needs.

In FSM, among those who participate in the subsistence economy, gender is a major organizing principle in the division of labor. Women are the primary child-care providers and gardeners. They are responsible for many domestic chores including meal preparation and laundry. Women also harvest subsistence produce, weave mats, tend livestock, glean shellfish, and fish inshore. Men are the primary builders and carpenters. They do much of the heavy labor associated with subsistence horticulture and conduct the more dangerous fishing activities beyond the reef. High status positions in religious and traditional political hierarchies are primarily held by men, although women's church organizations provide a separate system of ranking among the women in some societies. Participation in the market economy has blurred the strict demarcation of gender roles associated with subsistence production. Across the FSM, 52 percent of females 15 years of age and older participate in the cash economy compared to 66 percent of males. Men still hold the higher status jobs in government, but the

increasing frequency of female employment in the labor force often requires men to perform domestic tasks traditionally performed by women.

With the exception of Yap and a few coral atoll societies in Pohnpei, Micronesian societies emphasize matrilineal descent. Women, therefore, are the channels through which identity, titles, land rights, and property are acquired. This provides women with a level of status that is not found in more patriarchal societies, allowing women to exercise considerable influence over the conduct of domestic affairs, and even the allocation of use rights to land. Men typically control the political and economic affairs in the public sphere and have ultimate authority over domestic decisions, but the complementarity of tasks provides males and females with valued roles in society. The shift towards a market-oriented economy, however, has unsettled traditional gender relations. In many societies, the patrilineal emphasis of Western cultures is eroding matrilineal inheritance practices, while greater female participation in the cash economy is challenging male roles and diminishing the complementarity of tasks performed by males and females

In terms of gender mainstreaming across various government agencies, slow progress has been made. The slow uptake of gender mainstreaming has been attributed to the traditional roles of women as carers and nurturers and not visible in the formal economy or decision-making arena. This, however, is changing with time, with a growing commitment to include women. There are different levels of understanding of gender equality, with a passive ignorance within communities and, according to national officials within the Department of Social Affairs, 'no conscious intent to exclude or aggressive attempt to include' women. While there is political will at the national level, there is, in general, not enough action. Gender sensitization has been done in FSM with assistance provided by the NGO sector, but there is room to do more, combined with adequate allocation of resources. Technical capacity is limited, and there is a need for more people with appropriate skills and abilities to conduct gender mainstreaming within sectors.

In terms of women's role in specific sectors, analysis seems to largely exist in the fisheries sector. On Kosrae, women have traditionally been regular providers of seafood for the family, through netting, handlining and reef gleaning activities. Men's contribution was mainly in catching those species that required fishing beyond the reef in boats or in diving or spearfishing. In Yap, fishing is not considered as such an important activity for women, but women are involved in many aspects of fisheries from gleaning, processing and marketing. This is similar to Chuuk and Pohnpei, where women tend to be more involved in the collection of shellfish and other invertebrates as an important subsistence activity, rather than fishing beyond the reef. In Chuuk, women also undertake a significant amount of inshore fishing. In Yap, 20% of fishers were women and in Chuuk 32% were women. Eighteen years later, women in FSM are still active players in the fisheries sector, with some notable shifts of women going out with their husbands when they go night fishing in Kosrae and Yap. This has been attributed to better boats and also mobile phones, so there are fewer risks involved in going out fishing at night and it is safer for women. In Chuuk, there are significant differences in fishing practices by women who live in the lagoon area and those who live on the outer islands. Also in Chuuk, the fisheries officials noted an increase in the number of women now managing the marketing and selling of fish, which was attributed to women being better managers of financial resources. In Kosrae, many women have no

choice but to accompany their husbands or to fish for their livelihood, as the youth or the men now work in Guam and Honolulu.

Overcoming gender disparities, in particular for women requires a number of actions, including improving the production and analysis of disaggregated data relevant to gender equality, strengthening the capacity to monitor on the impacts of policies, plans and services on rural population, strengthening gender mainstreaming capacity in key natural resources agencies, providing training on gender equality, strengthening monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation, supporting studies to identify economic opportunities for women in the context of blue and green economies, strengthening women's resilience to climate change impacts and their ability to sustain their natural resource based livelihoods, increasing access to extension and development support and enhance the quality of delivery of rural services. In relation to the above, gender and social inclusion considerations have been integrated into the project design following the development of the Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming Action Plan (Annex 10 of UNDP Project Document). As the project entails a multi-stakeholder approach in dealing with natural resource use and management in the four pilot sites, integration of gender concerns is critical to ensure equity and participation of both men and women. Rather than focus only on gender alone, the project adopts an approach that does not simply focus on women, but rather on overall inclusivity and multiple vulnerable populations. The approach may have significant long-term impacts on both gender and social groups, and thus the Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming Action Plan includes specific actions for applying a gender and socially inclusive lens to every decision, expanding representation, filling in gender and social-based research gaps, and investing in approaches to gather and share information among more groups. It is the intent of this project for it to become a model for improving gender and social mainstreaming into government and planning processes. Gender mainstreaming in the project will be addressed (refer Annex 10 of UNDP Project Document) through the following actions:

- ? Potential opportunities 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 SLM committee (Output 1.4) and in state or landscape coordination committees; targeted capacity building and support from extension services (Output 2.4),
- ? Reducing the burden of work on women and improving their livelihood opportunities through improved access to resources and services.
- ? Ensuring gender equality in opportunities for education, skill building, training and capacity building.
- ? Promoting the voice, participation and empowerment of women, and reducing opportunities for elite misuse of benefits and leaders' sole decision making
- ? Ensuring that project materials, including meeting agendas, reporting templates, communications materials, and all written policies include gender and social mainstreaming;
- ? Creating and requiring minimum standards for community planning teams, including representation from multiple gender and social groups and/or tasking of planning team members to speak for vulnerable peoples;
- ? Capacity building and training for project staff and planning team facilitators to include the input of multiple groups into resulting plans (Output 2.4);

- ? Investing in staff to enable adequate connections with multiple groups. Instead of general community meetings, meetings with (i) women's groups; (ii) men's groups; (iii) youth groups; and (iv) individuals with access to or influence over vulnerable people (e.g., landowners or village leaders);
- ? Applying a gender and socially inclusive lens to every meeting, report, plan, and activity;
- ? Diversifying sustainable livelihood opportunities, specifically for women and youth involvement in SLM and support for marketing of agricultural produce (Output 3.3);
- ? Implementing the Communications and awareness plan, including holding multiple, targeted meetings by disaggregated groups;
- ? Knowledge sharing on gender mainstreaming successes and lessons learned (Output 4.2).
- ? Making better use of oral/audio content, with less emphasis on writing to better communicate with women and youth; and
- ? Incorporating gender and socially sensitive indicators and collecting gender-disaggregated data for monitoring and evaluating project results.

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 Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

As described under Section 3. Stakeholders, a number of private entities and non-governmental organizations will support local communities in income generating activities. Farmers (small and large), traders and local food vendors, processors, exporters/importers. Farmers Associations and cooperatives, State Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Development Centers (in each State), Media e.g. Kaselehlie Press, C4Life Initiative, Vital's Coconut for Life project. National/state infrastructure organizations (utilities (e.g., Vital - national energy supplier), FSM Telecom), construction companies. The newspaper network such as the Marianas Variety, Pacific Daily News, Kaselehlie Press, Island Times and smaller community newspapers and newsletters will be valuable partners in bringing awareness to the project and more importantly to creating awareness on LDN and SLM issues. The Coconut for Life (C4L) is an initiative by FSM Vital Energy (Vital), supported by Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) can support community efforts to rehabilitate the copra industry to support commitment to improve the livelihoods of the people of Micronesia. It would help the capacity for the buying, selling, exporting, manufacturing, processing, and distribution of copra and other products from coconut trees in the FSM. New community-based revenue streams are created for the people as opportunities become available for farmers to market coconuts. Similarly, there are opportunities to engage with tour operators and hotels to promote community-based ecotourism and income-generation

activities. These eco-tourism could also provide flexible employment opportunities for women youth. Additionally, the project will seek support from small-private business investors and tourism operators and agents to support ecotourism activities for local communities, training and marketing for small-business development activities. There is good potential to promoting small-scale community-private sector partnerships for the agriculture, fisheries and sustainable marine resource sectors through engagement between local producers, agricultural cooperatives and retailers 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 for example through the establishment of small rolling funds, managed by those enterprises.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risks will be monitored by the PMU with oversight from UNDP CO. Since the risks are not directly related to achievement of results, the risks innate to the co-financing relates largely to availability of staff time, office space and utilities and in terms of the 'Parallel Financing' these are existing commitments from international development agencies or NGOs that have limited risks and likely will not affect the implementation of the project. The key project risks, including social and environmental risks and measures for management and mitigation of these risks are presented in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Risks and Risk Management Measures

Risk Description Risk Category [1]	Significance of Risk [2]	Mitigation Measures
General Risks		
Implementation Risk 1: Competing mandates and poor coordination between national government/state agencies/Departments, exacerbated by the federated arrangements of the FSM may disrupt project activities	Moderate	Proper coordination between national government departments and agencies and with and between the states enhances and sustains project progress that is aligned with agreed priorities. All relevant agencies have been engaged in project development and initial discussions on implementation arrangements commenced. DECEM will ensure proper coordination and management of stakeholders.
Implementation Risk 2: Reduced funding for the environment sector, limited human resources in government and competing priorities may impact 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, DECEM. 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 SLM.
Implementation Risk 3: Local communities do not fully commit to project	Moderate	Local communities and individuals engage when they fully understand their roles and the associated benefits they will get from the initiative or project. Consultations and stakeholder engagement plan ensures that local communities and other stakeholders were involved in designing, co-creating and promoting the proposed project interventions/solutions, 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.

<p>Implementation Risk 4: Limited capacities of local stakeholders, including fishers, farmers, and other natural resource dependents ensure sustainable and appropriate use and management of natural resources that results in reduction of threats to endemic species and ecosystems</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project will benefit from best practices of tested innovative approaches for community management of terrestrial, coastal and marine areas under local community governance mechanisms. These approaches will be innovative and build on existing tested practices as well as best practices available from other parts of the country or regionally. The support for improved livelihood measures will build adequate incentives to enhance local community participation in ensuring conservation outcomes.</p>
<p>Implementation Risk 5: Due to its complex and technical nature, the project could be difficult to implement and may be unable to lever significant transformational change</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>An assessment was made of the levels of the project and number/size of demonstration landscapes in relation to the funding available as well as external factors and it was deemed that the design and scope was appropriate given the institutional constraints that operate in the country. 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.</p>
<p>Implementation Risk 6: The overall feasibility and likelihood of the long-term sustainability of the project might be constrained by the varied activities leading to the fragmentation of resources and impacts</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The design of project activities was made following an extensive review (and consultation) of institutional capacity, resources and skills to determine realistic targets and activities for project investment. On the basis of this, project design entailed (i) selection and focus of demonstration activities to ensure impacts and benefits to communities; (ii) planning at site level will be made in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders to ensure that these are meaningful and manageable within the community capacity; (iii) planning and implementation of on-the-ground activities to be made through existing community organizations than create new institutions; (iv) planning and implementation will be undertaken in consonance with efforts at enhancing community capacity and skills, demonstration and extension provided to enable uptake, with the support of local agricultural, tourism, and forestry staff; (v) enhanced coordination along key line agencies to ensure that activities in the 4 demonstration sites are planned and implemented taking into consideration the human, time and financial resources at the disposal of each site); (vi) ensure that activities and expectations were realistic given the capacity and institutional structures within the country; (vii) ensure that efforts are directed at investments that are cost-effective, likely to succeed and provide direct economic benefits to local communities, avoid overlap and enhance collaboration with sector activities and build on what has already been done; (viii) regular monitoring investments on the ground to enable adaptive management, as and when necessary; etc.</p> <p>The project design includes significant level of technical oversight, extensive training and extension services to build capacity within the country.</p>
<p>Social and Environmental Risks</p>		

<p>SES Risk 1: Impacts to traditional rights or access to some land and resources.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>At the national level, the four states of the FSM include communities with a diversity of customs, customary laws, norms, cultural practices, languages and traditions meeting the broad UNDP definition of Indigenous Peoples. However, at the state level, the communities within each state are considered to be homogenous in language, culture and practices. This means that project benefits or impacts will not adversely affect indigenous people under the UNDP definition at the individual landscape level. For this reason project Aps are considered as a level community encompassing marginalised and vulnerable groups and individuals. Best practice will be used and FPIC will be integrated throughout project design and stakeholder engagement. An individual IPP is not required as FPIC is embedded in the project design and implementation.</p> <p>Strengthening or introducing SLM measures could restrict access to and use of resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods. This could include restriction of accessed/ used by disadvantaged/vulnerable groups. There is that chance that such new management plans and/or measures could restrict/amend current use of resources by communities, including potentially disadvantaged/vulnerable people. Additional assessment is required during the implementation phase as proposed sites are identified and management measures are further defined, in order to identify any proposed restrictions/alterations to access and use of wetland resources which may adversely affected some individuals, groups or communities. Such assessment will identify, through stakeholder consultation, which users/user groups might be affected, the magnitude and severity of any associated impacts, and measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or manage such impacts will be developed and implemented.</p> <p>Changes to land use and management practices identified as having potential to entail such restrictions to access to resources will not be commenced until suitable, agreed (through FPIC) management measures are in place.</p> <p>Given that much of the land is in customary ownership 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. Integrating an inclusive and participatory planning process into activity design, encompassing FPIC, will ensure that sites selected for project activities have the broad support of all affected community members. As part of this, the activity design detailed in the ProDoc recognises that activities and associated management measures will be community driven and only implemented with broad community support. This community support will be established using FPIC principles and a GEDSI approach. Obtaining FPIC will be given highest priority during the 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 FSM nor is there any national association of indigenous people, therefore, the design team during project implementation will</p>
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	<p>implement global best practices to meet the three principles of FPIC: the right to be consulted; the right to participate; and the right to their lands, territories and resources. It will work with community leaders and with existing community groups formed for natural resource management to design and agree the process in each landscape for obtaining FPIC. This process is integrated into project design such that written FPIC is obtained prior to confirmation of the activity type and site.</p>
<p>SES Risk 2: Marginalization and discrimination of women and other marginalized or vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Women and other marginalized groups could face discrimination or lack voice within decisions, benefits and resources surrounding project design and implementation, leading to grievances or reprisals against those voicing them.</p> <p>A gender specialist was hired to conduct a detailed assessment of specific local challenges and inequalities for women and other marginalized groups. This determined 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>Additional assessment is required during the implementation phase as proposed sites are identified and management measures are further defined, in order to 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>Moderate</p> <p>The key recommendations from the gender analysis have been 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. Following on from PIF stage, gender and youth considerations have been integrated into project outcome targets. Implementation should aim to reduce gender inequalities and support rights for women in the demonstration landscapes 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>The goal for gender-rights development within the project will be Gen 2, following the UN Markers meaning that the project will promote gender equality significantly.</p>

<p>SES Risk 3: Duty bearer lacking capacity to implement project activities</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Duty bearers may not have the capacity to uphold their duties within the project. This risk has been rated Moderate as the capacity of duty bearers will need to be improved and sustained on an ongoing basis to ensure project success.</p> <p>A capacity assessment of national and provincial stakeholders has been undertaken under PPG to understand current challenges relating to capacity to uphold duties, rights and safeguards, including consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Based on the findings of the capacity assessment, training and capacity building have been 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 has been 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>SES Risk 4: Impacts to physical and cultural heritage</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The proposed project may result in interventions in the demonstration landscapes 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). The FSM boasts a wealth of historical and traditional sites, many of which are of great significance to the people. Few sites have formal preservation or management in place, and many sites are not documented. Traditional agricultural practices and products (including yam, sakau, breadfruit, taro and pigs) are important for ceremonial purposes and gifting which helps cement social bonds. The proposed integrated management plans and SLM interventions to tackle land degradation proposed under Component 3 may impact cultural sites or intangible forms of culture. This risk is rated as Low as it can be easily avoided, managed or mitigated.</p> <p>During the identification of intervention sites, this risk will be assessed in detail, identifying risk areas and vulnerable cultural heritage in each demonstration landscape. 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. This is reflected in the ESMF and in the project's design as feasible and appropriate.</p>

<p>SES Risk 5: The introduction of incentives and support for sustainable land management or improved 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, leading to grievances or reprisals against those voicing them</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>During the implementation phase, a livelihoods assessment will be conducted to assess the current socio-economic relations within the demonstration landscapes, 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 any ongoing reported consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, e.g., on cash flow and food security.</p> <p>Financial incentive mechanisms and support for enhanced / more diverse 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 sustainable and resilient livelihoods. All measures will be incorporated into a Livelihoods Action Plan to be prepared in Year 1.</p>
<p>SES Risk 6: The effects of climate change such as flooding, droughts and storms could impact project areas and activities and vulnerable communities.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Planned project activities will 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. All PPG proposed activities consider climate vulnerability by adopting local and expert advice over areas most at risk as well as communities or livelihoods that could be affected.</p> <p>Project design will take into account the results of climate assessments and fully integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through sustainable land management, livelihoods, capacity building and awareness. Demonstrations on the ground will show how avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation can be a key tool in addressing climate change impacts.</p>

<p>SES 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</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>While this risk and likely impacts can be understood at PPG phase, the specific interventions and sites have not yet been identified therefore it is not possible to assess its the full extent of this risk in the PPG phase. However, the risk is considered low through implementation of the ESMF during activity design. Assessments triggered by the ESMF will consider impacts particularly relating to the demonstration sites and to proposed SLM and livelihoods enhancement measures, including policy and legislative changes.</p> <p>The project design will ensure that new and existing threats to biodiversity from land degradation are avoided, reduced and reversed. Mainstreaming of SLM into particularly the agriculture and infrastructure sectors under Component 1 will follow the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach. The SESA should be applied to all new policies and legislation/regulations prior to approval by Government and this will be built into detailed project design and budgeting as needed. Under demonstration activities in Component 3, the project document specifically states that no non-native species will be used for SLM, re-forestation or for livelihoods development. Control methods for IAS (if proposed) will require prior approval by Government and will take place under clear SOPs and management plans, with consideration of potential environmental and social impacts. Measures such as management or rehabilitation plans will ensure compliance with regulations and follow international best practices to avoid negative impacts on natural habitats, globally threatened or endemic species, or production systems. This is reflected in the PPG ESMF, and in the project's design to the extent appropriate and feasible.</p> <p>This risk is rated as Low as impacts can be easily avoided, managed or mitigated.</p>
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<p>SES Risk 8: Measures to address unsustainable agriculture and infrastructure may create hazardous waste or cause environmental pollution. Due diligence also needs to be completed to ensure there are no enhanced safeguards risks from working with any private sector organizations with whom the project may cooperate to support LDN/SLM activities.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>During the implementation phase SLM experts to cover both the agriculture and infrastructure sectors will be hired to assess this risk in detail. The analysis will consider existing and proposed environmental regulations, standards and guidelines and their application as well as knowledge of standard operating procedures and capacity to follow them.</p> <p>Potential private sector partners and related activities (including co-financing) will be confirmed during the implementation phase. Each will be subject to completion of due diligence, including use of UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.</p> <p>If found to be necessary, the assessment will recommend the development of a targeted plan for reducing the impacts of measures to address unsustainable agriculture and infrastructure, including standard operating procedures to reduce environmental and social risks (to be prepared in Year 1 of the project).</p> <p>Partnership agreements will be detailed and established with each private sector partner prior to the start of any partnership working. Such agreements will be fully compliant with UNDP's private sector partnerships policy including any conditions according to the findings of UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.</p>
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During project development, the project was reviewed using UNDP's social and environmental screening procedure (SESP). The analysis identified a range of potential social and environmental impacts associated with the project activities. The SESP report ([Annex 5](#) of UNDP Project Document) details the specific environmental and social risks that apply.

The UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) has resulted in an overall 'moderate' risk rating for the project. According to the 2022 SESP Guidance Note, a project is considered to have 'moderate' social and environmental risk when it *includes activities with potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that are few in number, limited in scale and largely reversible and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and readily addressed through application of recognised good international practice, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during project implementation. Moderate risk projects range from ?to those where the full extent of the limited impacts in unclear and further assessment and management planning is required. ?*

The Project's design has integrated the requirements triggered by the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in order to ensure that any potentially adverse effects can be avoided or mitigated during implementation, and that the anticipated positive social and environmental outcomes are achieved. Nevertheless, there are some specific project activities and locations that will not be fully defined until the Project is initiated. Therefore, the project's ESMF ([Annex 9](#) of UNDP Project Document) establishes a

framework that guides the screening and categorization, level of impact assessment, required institutional arrangements, and processes to be followed for components or activities of the project that will be further specified during project implementation. A summary of the risk significance under each SES principle and standard, and the project-level safeguard standards triggered by the relevant project interventions/activities, are shown in **Table 9** below.

Table 9: Summary of safeguard standards triggered based on screening conducted during project preparation

Overarching Principle / Project-level Standard	Triggered	Risk Level
Principle 1: Human rights	?*	Substantial
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	?*	Moderate
Principle 4: Accountability	?*	Moderate
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	?	Moderate
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	?	Moderate
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	?	Moderate
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	?	Substantial
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	?	Moderate
Number of risks in each risk rating category		
High	-	
Substantial	1	
Moderate	9	
Low	-	
Total number of project risks	10	
Overall Project Risk Categorization	Substantial	

Overarching Principle / Project-level Standard	Triggered	Risk Level
Number of safeguard standards triggered	8**	

* - SES Principles are triggered for all projects

** - Includes the SES Principles As a consequence of the initial project SES categorisation, an ESMF was developed (Annex 9) as part of project preparation. The ESMF identifies the steps required for detailed assessment of the project's potential social and environmental risks, and for preparing and approving the required management plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating and managing identified adverse impacts. It also sets out the additional safeguards measures that apply to the project during the inception phase, including but not limited to:

Using a **Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)** approach to involving planning support, policy advice and reform, and/or capacity building;

Screening of project activities and specific interventions/outputs not yet fully specified, using the SESP checklist, to ensure that associated impacts are adequately managed;

Developing **Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)** for proposed activities within demonstration landscapes;

Ensuring adequate consultation through **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** to achieve consensus with affected stakeholder.

The relevance of the currently identified risks may vary across demonstration landscape proposed activity sites, and the significance or likelihood of the risks or impacts identified by the current SESP will not necessarily be uniform across all locations. Further screening is required to identify site-specific risk significance, and to effectively target any required further impact assessment or management.

Climate risk screening

The following climate risk screening has been updated at PPG 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. (Refer Annex 19 for Climate Risk Assessment)

Key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios in the FSM

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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 2-4 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:

o Coastal Zones: Saltwater intrusion into habitats, loss of ocean biodiversity, damage to coastal infrastructure

o Agriculture: Decreased crop yield and food security, increased drought frequency/duration, groundwater salinization

- o Health: Decreased water quality and availability, decreased nutrition and food security, shifts in infectious disease patterns
- o Livelihoods and Tourism: Decreased economic output, reduced interest in ecotourism, damage to coastal ecosystems
- o Water resources: Salinization of drinking water sources, decreased water availability for crops, reduced hygiene and sanitation
- o Energy and infrastructure: Increased energy costs, damage to key infrastructure, decreased economic output

How the climate scenarios are likely to affect the project, during 2021-2050

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Climate change is therefore a significant threat to ecosystems and to the livelihoods, wellbeing, culture and survival of islanders throughout the FSM, compounding the effects of land degradation. 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 national and state governments have recognized these and other challenges and initiated a series of policy reforms to ensure that development is more inclusive, resilient and sustainable, leading to some recent, progressive environment-related policies and strategies. The over-arching FSM Strategic Development Plan, 2004-23 and the related FSM 2023 Action Plan outline the challenges and ambitions for achieving sustainable development, mainstreaming environmental considerations including climate change into national policy and planning. The nation-wide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy (2013) and Joint State Action Plans (JSAPs) demonstrate the great importance attached to increasing FSM's adaptive capacity to adjust to climate change. The Agriculture Policy 2012-2016, the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) 2016-25, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2018-23) all 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.

Table 10: Climate Risk Assessment and mitigation measures

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
Project outcomes are at risk because of climate change	Moderate	Project activities have been developed in line with national land management and climate plans/frameworks/ actions/agendas, ensuring they are cognizant of and resilient against climate threats, thereby supporting FSM's efforts in enhancing the abilities to adapt to such risks. Activities have been designed with a climate lens applied and will be conducted with readiness to adapt management should unforeseen impacts arise that affect project implementation. Project activities will be planned and executed efficiently to ensure that issues are mitigated, and experienced options remain for adaptive strategies.
Climate sensitivity has not been adequately addressed	Low	Climate sensitivity is applied to all activities to varying degrees. This document has been developed in collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders who hold significant knowledge/experience relating to climate/disaster action and mitigation. Hence, climate sensitivity is believed to have been applied comprehensively. Furthermore, project activities aim to enhance the country's ability to respond to climate risks and mitigate its vulnerability and sensitivity to climate threats.
Resilience practices and measures do not address projected climate risks and impacts adequately	Moderate	Strong consultation and collaboration between various stakeholders, including Government agencies, CSOs and the general public will ensure that project activities adequately address national goals and interests, including mitigation against climate risks and impacts. This collaborative and inclusive approach is already underway with inclusion of the key stakeholders contributing to the development of the project. This support will continue throughout project implementation.
There is inadequate technical and institutional capacity and information to address climate change	Moderate	Capacity building forms a core part of project activities, and it will include a climate lens throughout to ensure these considerations are sufficiently included. Strong collaboration with national and regional partners will also ensure the collective intellectual and technical capacities of FSM and the Pacific region are harnessed and maximized in response to climate threats and impacts.

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

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management (DECEM). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP

Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

DECCEM will be supported by sub-level responsible parties within each of the States as shown in Table 17. Further, other responsible parties/sub-level responsible parties will be established as needed to support project implementation. The College of Micronesia-FSM will be established as a responsible party for delivery of the modular biosecurity training course, selected on comparative advantage. Local NGOs will be appointed to support delivery of activities at project sites ? this will be done through a competitive process.. Responsible parties for this project will act on behalf and designed by the Implementing Partner on the basis of a written agreement or contract defining specific roles and responsibilities following government rules and regulations.

Table 11: Implementation Arrangements at each State

FSM/State	Federal Implementing Partner and State Sub-level Responsible Parties
FSM	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) ? Implementing Partner

	Department of Resources and Development (Implementing Partner) ? Division of Agriculture ? Division of Marine Resources
Kosrae State	Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (sub-level responsible party) ? Division of Forestry ? Division of Marine Conservation ? Department of Resource & Economic Affairs ? Division of Agriculture
Pohnpei State	Environmental Protection Agency (sub-level responsible party) ? Department of Resources and Development ? Department of Land and Natural Resources ? Department of Economic Affairs
Chuuk State	Environmental Protection Agency (sub-level responsible party) ? Department of Agriculture and Forestry (terrestrial sites) ? Department of Marine Resources (marine sites)
Yap State	Department of Resources and Development (sub-level responsible party) ? Division of Agriculture and Forestry ? Division of Marine Resources Management ? Environmental Protection Agency

Project stakeholders and target groups:

The key beneficiaries, namely the local wetland resource dependents in the 4 sites that will be directly involved through their respective community institutions in all aspects of the project, namely in the integrated landscape planning process, in the planning and management of conservation, habitat restoration, sustainable land and coastal resource use, livelihood and small-scale enterprise development activities, as well as overseeing and supporting the monitoring of the condition of the landscape sites through their individual community committees. The project will invest in technical and capacity development support to strengthen existing communities and their organizations, support training and capacity development of these institutions, provide extension support in relation to agriculture, fisheries and coastal resource conservation and sustainable use, income generation, and other livelihood improvement activities. Other beneficiaries will include the population living around the four high lands that will benefit from the improved quality of the terrestrial and wetland systems, the management of pollution and erosion as well as provide safe and pleasant recreation and tourism experiences.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

First line of defense: UNDP oversight of project support to IP cannot be UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR.

Second line of Defense: Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at Portfolio level;

BPSS NCE RTA overseas technical quality assurance, and GEF compliance. BBPS NCE PTA overseas RTA functions.

UNDP NCE Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Program and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

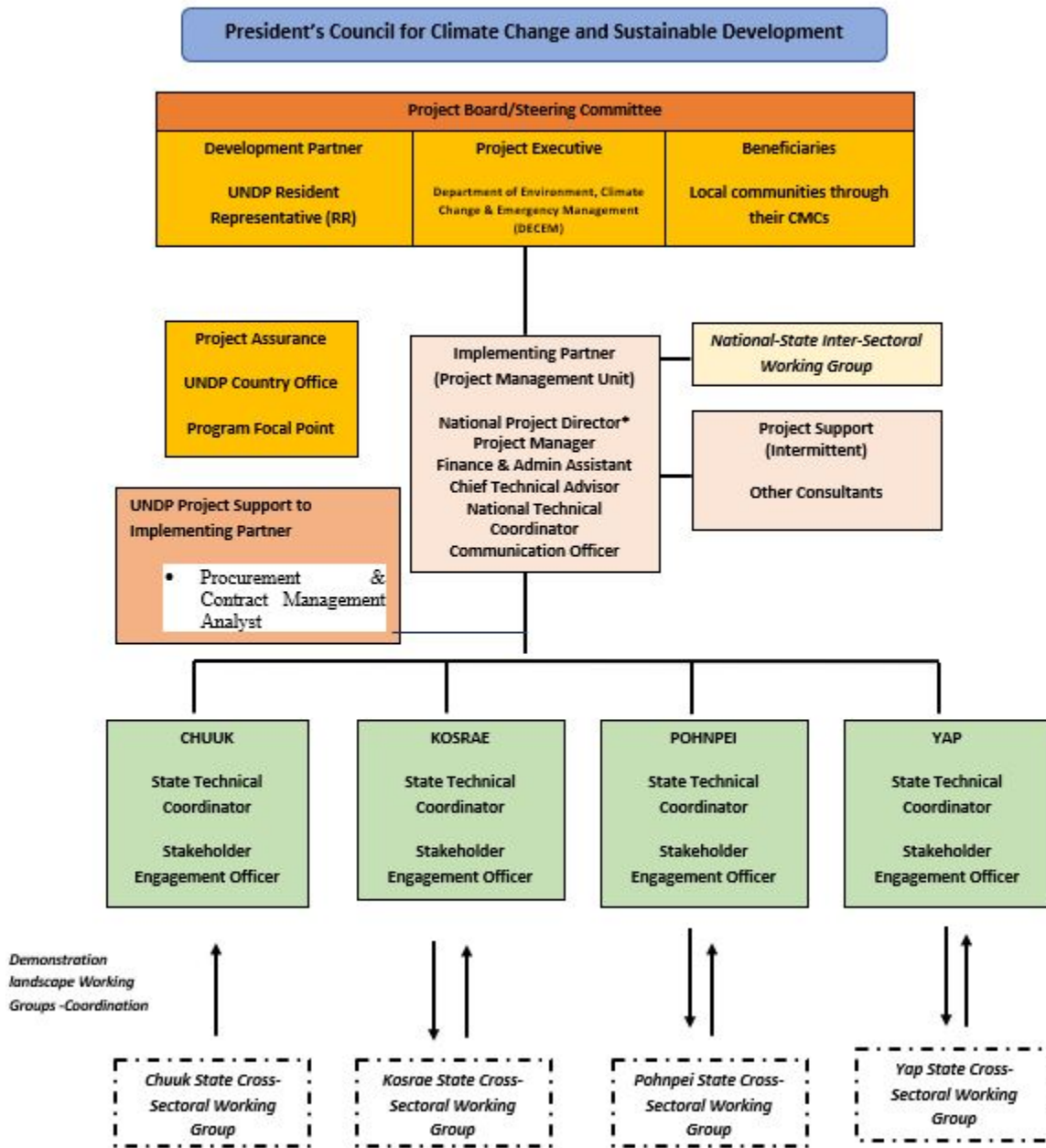
Section 2: Project governance structure

The governance structure for the project is presented in the organogram below. The PMU will be supported by a National-State Inter-Sectoral Working Group (NLMWG) that will oversee and support the implementation of the project, including the preparation of the NAP, SAPs and other key policy and legislative actions. At the State level, State level SLM Working Groups will oversee the review and updating of selected/priority States' policies, plans, programs and budgets for mainstreaming of SLM/LDN principles and targets. Each State will be supported by a State Technical Officer and support staff from the State EPAs to implement the project at State level, including activities in the demonstration sites. Demonstration Landscape Technical Working Groups will facilitate and support technical coordination among the government sector entities, NGOs and local communities to plan, implement and monitor activities at the demonstration sites.

The Project Steering Committee/Project Board will provide high level policy, strategic and regulatory guidance to the Technical and Working Groups and support for cross-sectoral coordination and partnership in stewardship of the target areas. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary of DECEM. It meets once or twice a year and is responsible for calling the meeting, preparing the agenda and a meeting information package that includes: the Annual Evaluation Report; recommendations from the Technical Working Committees; details on any major proposals (projects, initiatives or infrastructure developments); and proposed activities for the following year. The Steering Committee discusses progress towards the achievement of Targets and Objectives, based on the monitoring and evaluation information provided by the PMU, and the recommendations from the Technical Committees. They review any major projects put forward for submission to external funding agencies and endorse, or propose amendments to, those initiatives

The composition of the Project Board will include the following organizations, subject to confirmation during the project inception period. Observers may be included at PSC meetings upon the agreement of the PSC members.

- ? Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management (DECEM) -Chair, Secretary
- ? Department of Resources and Development
- ? Department of Foreign Affairs
- ? UNDP



*Indicates co-financed positions.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-?-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

In this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function ? is performed by UNDP Resident Representative and may be delegated to Country Manager/Deputy Resident Representative. UNDP's execution support role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by UNDP Operations - finance, procurement, and human resources, who will report to UNDP Operations Manager.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

- 1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the [?Provide Oversight?](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
- 2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the [?Manage Change?](#) section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

- ? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ? Meet annually; at least once.
- ? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- ? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Board:

- ? Consensus decision making:
 - o The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
 - o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
 - o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.

- o In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

- o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

? Oversee project execution:

- o Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.

- o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.

- o Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;

- o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

- o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.

- o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.

- o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.

- o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? Risk Management:

- o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.

- o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.

- o Address project-level grievances.

? Coordination:

- o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

- o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: **Secretary**,

Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management (DECEM) - Chair,

2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: **Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs**
3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: **UNDP Resident Representative**

b) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is/are: **CCR (RSD) Team representatives and a Representative of the Management Performance and Oversight Team ((Program Oversight Specialist) .**

c) **Project Management ? Execution of the Project:** The Project Director (PD) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is overall responsible for the management of the project. The PD will be a senior member of the DECEM and will be funded through co-financing. The PD will be supported by a national Project Manager (PM) who will be responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The PM typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The PMU will also have a National Technical Advisor, a Finance/Administrative Assistant and a communication officer. Each of the four States will have a State Technical Coordinator and a State Stakeholder Engagement Officer. Terms of Reference for staff of the PMU are provided in Annex 7 of UNDP Project Document.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

The primary PMU representatives attending board meetings are: **National Project Director and Project Manager**

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

X National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

X National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD

X National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

The formulation of this proposed project follows an extensive consultative process lead by DECEM with the four States to determine their priorities for GEF-7, which concluded in a commitment to focus FSM's GEF-7 resources on the critical issue of land degradation and progress towards LDN. Land degradation from unsustainable agriculture and urban (infrastructure) development is recognised as a key threat/pressure in the following national policies/plans

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2018-23, The Government of FSM ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1994 with the focal point as FSM R&D. The principal instrument for implementing the CBD at the national level is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The National Biodiversity Action Plan is implemented alongside BSAP's for each state. The project is fully aligned with the NBSAP Vision: "FSM will have more extensive, diverse, and higher quality of marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems, which meet human needs and aspirations fairly, preserve and utilize traditional knowledge and practices, and fulfil the ecosystem functions necessary for all life on Earth". In particular it will contribute to the following NBSAP strategic goals: Theme 1 Ecosystem management: A full representation of the FSM's marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are protected, conserved and sustainably managed, including selected areas designated for total protection; Theme 4 Agrobiodiversity: The conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity contributes to the nation's development and the future food security of the FSM; Theme 5 Ecological Sustainable Industry Development: Economic development activities in the FSM meet the needs of the population while sustaining resources for the benefit of future generations; Theme 9 Resource owners: Traditional resource owners and communities are fully involved in the protection, conservation, preservation and sustainable use of the nation's biodiversity; Theme 10 Mainstreaming biodiversity: All economic and social activities of the FSM take full account of impacts on and fully consider sustainability of biodiversity.

National Environment Management Strategy (2019-2023) recognizes the following priorities. Under Theme 2: Terrestrial Resources to: improve land use plans for all States, protect and conserve forest ecosystems by ensuring ecological management practices and sustainable livelihoods, implement forest and mangrove restoration programs, increase awareness and education on the importance of mangroves, forests and associated ecosystem services, watershed and river management, support farmer associations and promote sustainable agriculture. In terms of Theme 3: Marine, it recognizes the need for: develop fisheries management, develop alternative livelihoods to reduce fishing pressure and, improve compliance and monitoring. Theme 4 Conservation of Biodiversity: undertake comprehensive biological resource surveys, develop programs for conservation of nature and species, engage communities, national and state DoE to promote awareness and cooperation to conserve species and habitats. In terms of Theme 5: Built Environment address waste disposal, recycling, sewer infrastructure, sound waste management and ensure EIAs are conducted for all development projects. Theme 7: Environment Governance mainstreaming and capacity development supports the review and strengthening existing national, state and municipal government environmental legislation and acts to incorporate relevant actions from the NBSAP/NEMS and ensure integration of all themes across all relevant sectors within the nation, support enforcement of legislation, increase coordination and networking between national and state agencies, sharing and exchange of knowledge.

Climate Change Policy Assessment (2019) recognizes that climate change is an existential threat and made significant strides to counter it but more action and sustained international support is required. Increasing frequency and intensity of coastal storms threatens infrastructure and livelihoods, as do increased risks of coastal flooding and drought. FSM has recognized this by engaging forcefully in international discussions, setting out an ambitious agenda for mitigation and putting in place a wide range of adaptation policies and strategies. However, significant gaps remain particularly with regard to a National Adaptation Plan and a comprehensive Disaster Resilience Strategy (DRS). The challenges facing the country remain daunting and will require sustained international support along with increased private sector participation and domestic revenue mobilization. International support should focus on grant financing for adaptation investments and disaster response and capacity building to complete strategies and improve public investment management.

Accelerating adaptation investments is paramount, which requires addressing critical capacity constraints and increasing grant financing. FSM's overall planning for adaptation is fragmented and individual sectoral projects include varying levels of adaptation measures. Progress has been hindered by capacity constraints, particularly in investment project execution at the state level. The assessment identifies the following priorities that are relevant to the GEF 7 project namely: Develop an overarching National Adaptation Plan which reconciles Infrastructure Development Plan; address capacity shortage in order to accelerate infrastructure investment and integrate climate adaptation measures into sectoral strategies and develop and enforce a land use policy and a national building code that take into account climate risks, and incorporate energy efficiency requirements.

UNCCD. The FSM ratified the UNCCD in 1996 with the focal point as DECEM. The proposed project will support the FSM in its work to achieve the objectives of the UNCCD through supporting preparation of its National Action Program to combat land degradation (NAP), engagement in the LDN target-setting processes, building capacity for achieving land degradation neutrality and demonstrating SLM approaches as well as aligning with work on the SDGs[1] and other relevant commitments for SIDS, including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Habitat Principles for Urbanization, and the SAMOA Pathway.

UNFCCC: The Government of FSM is party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in 1999 and the Paris Agreement in 2016 and with the focal point in DECEM. The government submitted its first Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015, committing unconditionally to a 28% reduction by 2025 of its GHG emissions below emissions in year 2000 (35% with additional international support), and also highlighting that adaptation constitutes a priority. The project will support both mitigation and adaptation measures.

[1] Particularly SDG 15 Life on Land (Target 15.3 Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world)

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Component 4 (Outputs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3) addresses knowledge and its management and is conceived as a key-crosscutting element of this project that will be addressed in all components. Key knowledge products will be identified in during the preparation of the communication and awareness strategy, along with their means of access and sharing among key stakeholders. Knowledge will be distributed and shared using the existing information systems within DECEM as well as other existing platforms to the extent possible. These will include national web-based platforms. The communication strategy overall will support collecting, packaging and sharing information and knowledge about the practices promoted by the project, the processes involved in these, and the short and medium-term results from implementation of the project activities. This knowledge and information will be shared with State and community level authorities to further guide future programming around similar issues and widely disseminated to the rest of the State. By the end of the project, it is expected that local land users, farmers and other key decision-making stakeholders within in the target landscapes, will be better skilled and more knowledgeable on practical solutions to monitor and address impacts of unsustainable land use practices on biodiversity and food and water security challenges they are faced with, and how to tackle them at farm and landscape levels. Emphasis on the importance of local community knowledge in terms of land and wetland habitat management, but with consideration of both genders and marginalized groups:

The costs for specific knowledge management activities for the project (excluding capacity building) is discussed in Table 12 below:

Table 12: Knowledge Management Products and Costs

Knowledge Management Products	Costs USD
Design and implementation of awareness and communication programs	44,000
Demonstration farms for knowledge transfer	64,000
Consultation and knowledge management workshops	28,000
Learning exchanges	48,000
Dissemination events for demonstration	32,000
School education programs	40,000
Citizen science program	20,000
Travel costs for dissemination events	126,000
Launch and end of project Workshops	10,000
TOTAL	412,000

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. The Monitoring Plan (included in Section VI of the project document) details the roles, responsibilities, and frequency of monitoring project results. While project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements, additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The GEF Core indicators included as Annex F will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to the TE. The updated monitoring data should be shared with TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. The evaluation will be independent, impartial and rigorous. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The total indicative costs of the project's M&E are USD 245,420 with a break down in Table 13 as follows:

Table 13: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop(s) and Final Workshops Report	25,000 (including travel)	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	82,560 (includes travel)	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	NA	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of [SESP, ESMP GAP, SEP]	63,860 (includes travel)	On-going.
Supervision missions	NA	Bi-Annually
Learning missions	NA	As needed
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):	32,000 (includes travel)	Includes international and national consultants and travel costs Date: September 30, 2026
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE): <i>costs associated with conducting the independent evaluation to be commissioned by UNDP not the Implementing Partner or the PMU.</i>	42,000 (includes travel)	Includes international and national consultants and travel costs Date: September 20, 2029
	245,420	Equivalent to TBWP component (M&E)

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The socio-economic benefits in the project will be observed at the individual (household level) as well as at the collective community level for economic groups like farmers, fishers and forest dependents as follows:

- At least 4,516 people (50% women) living, in and around the 5 demonstration marine areas will directly benefit through improved natural resource use, sustainable agriculture and fisheries activities, agroforestry, diversified livelihood improvements, value chain development and improved ecosystem services.
- Improved conservation of terrestrial and marine seascapes and their watersheds, wetlands, marine habitats, fisheries and community production practices will enhance the ecological value of the respective ecosystems for community benefits.
- Implementation of strategies and mainstreaming of sustainable resource use via the community organizations will result into sustainable practices in agriculture, fisheries, marine resource use, tourism and value chain products and services. This will collectively result in better conservation and livelihoods outcomes;
- Improved access to basic goods and technical services, technology and improved agriculture, fisheries, waste management and marine resource use practices, as well as diversification of livelihoods including tourism and resource-based products will ensure more livelihood options and better prices and income.
- The focus on addressing gender inequality wherein various initiatives, such as promotion of alternative livelihood options, participation of women in various local conservation committees are proposed. The project envisages more gender equality in context of sex ratio, decision making powers, ownership and control on marine sources and women leadership as well as participation;
- A reduction in the resource use conflicts and increase in effective implementation of sustainable resource use practices.
- Incremental funding through sustainable agriculture and resource measures will protect critical biodiversity hotspots and provide for improved and diversified livelihoods and incomes and a sustainability of such investments beyond the life of the project;
- Incremental funding through new and innovative financial measures will protect critical ecosystems and provide for improved and diversified livelihoods and incomes and a sustainability of such investments beyond the life of the project;
- Stable or improved populations of native species and improved environments will greatly enhance visitor experiences for increasing potential for ecotourism and community financial benefit.

11. 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/Approva I	MTR	TE
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Please refer to Section 5 of the GEF portal

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 9 ESMF	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 5	CEO Endorsement ESS	
PIMS 6567 GEF7-FSM- SESP__020821	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

<p>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): <i>SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture); SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development) and SDG 15 (Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss)</i></p>				
<p>This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): Climate Change, Disaster Resilience , and Environmental Protection (Outcome 1): By 2022 People and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability, disasters and environment protection is strengthened</p>				
	<p>Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)</p>	<p>Baseline</p>	<p>Mid-term Target</p>	<p>End of Project Target</p>
<p>Project Objective:</p>	<p>To secure critical ecosystem services through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia</p>			
	<p>Indicator 1: <u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 11</u> # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)</p>	<p>Current number of direct beneficiaries not available, however, some sustainable resource use and extension services available, but no wide spread and comprehensive actions being implemented</p>	<p>At least 500 people (including 250 men and 250 women) directly benefiting from project activities (improved agriculture, fisheries, livestock agroforestry, livelihoods, value addition and improved landscape conditions</p>	<p>At least 4,516 people benefiting from project activities, including 2,258 men and 2,258 women</p>
	<p>Indicator 2: <u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 3:</u> Area of land restored - -</p>	<p>Limited efforts and resources for restoration of terrestrial and wetland habitats</p>	<p>At least 200 hectares under restoration and sites locations and restoration measures defined for the balance 685 hectares</p>	<p>At least 925 hectares restored, including agricultural lands, forest lands, savannahs and wetlands</p>

<p>Indicator 3: Mandatory GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscape under improved management (excluding protected areas)</p> <p>CI 4.1 Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity ? 579 hectares, which includes the remaining biodiversity rich habitats of the demonstration landscapes not already covered by the other indicators (rivers/riparian and wetlands) which will benefit from improved management by inclusion in the integrated landscape management plans (=79ha), plus an estimate of 500ha of the area of landscapes across the remaining land area of the high islands that will benefit from mainstreaming biodiversity and LDN into land use or management plans).</p> <p>CI 4.3 Area of landscapes under SLM in production systems ? 7,030 hectares which includes: a) 1,530 ha within the demonstration landscapes of mainly agroforestry/forestry), plus; b) a conservative estimate (5,500ha) of the area of landscapes across</p>	<p>Insufficient efforts currently exist for demonstration landscapes with limited ability to integrate holistic natural resources management and local community engagement in effective SLM practices</p>	<p>Management plans developed for target sites and around 2,181 hectares under land use plans for the high islands</p>	<p>At least 2,181 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and advance LDN as measured by: (i) <i>commitment of local communities to implement improved conservation and land use practices;</i> (ii) <i>technical support and training being delivered to communities;</i> (iii) <i>management plans approved for target sites and high islands;</i> (iv) <i>biodiversity and LDN mainstreamed into land use or other related plans for high islands;</i> and (v) <i>monitoring system in place to monitor improved outcomes</i></p> <p>At least 6,195 hectares under SLM in production landscapes as measured by: (i) <i>implementation of SAPs;</i> (ii) <i>state high island and demonstration site land management plans,</i> (iii) <i>mainstreaming BMPs</i> (iv) <i>strengthened policy and regulations supporting LDN goals and protection of BD</i> and (v) <i>reduced chemicals, protection of riparian zones, training and extension services of BMPs and implementation of traditional practices</i></p>
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the remaining land area of high islands			
<p>Indicator 4: Mandatory GEF <u>Core Indicator 5:</u> Area of marine habitats under improved practices to benefit biodiversity Includes area of mangroves, lagoons, seagrass beds and reefs included in the project landscapes (less the area of mangroves to be restored under Core Indicator 3.4 to avoid double-counting), which will benefit from improved management practices as well as reduced sedimentation and pollution because of their inclusion in the integrated landscape management and rehabilitation plans (Output 3.1) and SLM measures in Outputs 3.2 and 3.3.</p>	Limited efforts and resources for applied to marine habitat management, including seagrass beds and , mangroves	At least 100 hectares of marine habitat (mangroves, lagoons, seagrass beds and coral reefs) in four target landscapes under improved management practices to benefit biodiversity and strengthen efforts towards achieving LDN..	At least 585 hectares of marine habitat (mangroves, lagoons, seagrass beds and coral reefs) in four target landscapes under improved management practices to benefit biodiversity and achievement of LDN. This would be measured by: <i>(i) agreements reached with communities to implement improved conservation, sustainable resource use practices and habitat restoration efforts (i.e. mangroves planting); (ii) reduced pollution and waste inflows; (iii) management prescriptions approved for target sites; and (iv) monitoring system in place to monitor improved outcomes</i>
<p>Indicator 5: Mandatory GEF <u>Core Indicator 6:</u> Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e) Benefits generated through promotion and adoption of sustainable land management practices in agroforestry, which will result in avoided forest degradation and rehabilitation of degraded lands, resulting in expansion of vegetative cover across the landscapes</p>	Currently limited or no efforts to assess carbon values	Monitoring system and methodology established for monitoring and staff trained	31,582 tCO ₂ -e mitigated over 20 year period

Project component	Strengthening the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation			
Project Outcome 1 Strengthened inter-sectoral governance and strategies to mainstream SLM/LDN and BD	Indicator 6: Number of national and state prioritized actions plans developed and approved for achieving LDN by 2030	Although other plans exist at national and state levels (e.g. FSM Strategic Development Plan, State Development Plans, Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Joint State Action Plans, NBSAP and State BSAPs) there are no National Action Plans (NAP) required under UNCCD, nor State level plans to address land degradation)	National-State inter-sectoral working group established, consultations completed and first draft of national SLM NAP under review. Arrangements for development of State level plans to combat land degradation agreed to.	SLM NAP developed and approved, with indicators, targets and priority actions for achieving LDN by 2030, and four State level plans identifying priority actions for achieving LDN developed and approved at States? level.

	<p>Indicator 7: Number of laws and regulations to prevent land degradation reviewed and updated based on a robust and comprehensive LDN target setting process and resilience assessments</p>	<p>Existing national, state, and municipal regulations currently result in duplications, gaps, and effective enforcement seriously lacking, and institutional differences in addressing land degradation</p>	<p>Review/assessment completed in terms of existing national, state and municipal laws, regulations, ordinances and standards, with gaps and weaknesses identified and prioritized, resulting in improved coordination towards addressing prioritized actions and strengthening of regulations and protocols for combatting land degradation and mainstreaming SLM and biodiversity into the agriculture and infrastructure sectors.</p>	<p>At least three regulatory instruments reviewed and updated to ensure consistency across institutional responsibilities and enforcement to strengthen achievement of LDN</p>
	<p>Indicator 8: Status of state-level land use and local management plans in terms of strengthened implementation to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and conserve biodiversity</p>	<p>Land use plans exists for two states, but lack targets for achieving LDN. In general community plans lacking or do not address LDN.</p>	<p>Land use plans updated for two states to include targets for achieving LDN and the remaining two state develop SLM State Action Plans (SAPs) Demonstration landscapes SLM action plans or community land management action plans (CLMAPs) with prioritized actions developed</p>	<p>Two existing State-level land use plans updated and two new State land use or relevant management plans developed/updated to include detailed priority actions (with timelines) to contribute to LDN targets. Demonstration landscapes SLM action plans or community land management action plans (CLMAPs) of project plans at both levels are being implemented with demonstratable/measurable results.</p>

	Indicator 9: Functionality of State level inter-sectoral working groups for landscape management in overseeing and mainstreaming NAP	Nascent state level intersectoral working groups for landscape management exists, their capacity is low	State inter-sectoral working groups reconstituted and strengthened, with approved TORs and capacity to oversee development of LUPs, state-level SLM NAPs and their implementation	All four State level SLM working groups for landscape management fully functional and SLM NAP implemented
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	<p>1.1 National Action Program (NAP) for combating land degradation prepared for adoption by Government, incorporating indicators, targets and priority actions for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) across each State, with support for mainstreaming into priority policies.</p> <p>1.2 Priority gaps and weaknesses in the regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms for combatting land degradation identified, and improvements achieved through technical support and advocacy leading to adoption by state and national governments.</p> <p>1.3 State level land use plans and local management plans on the high islands strengthened with enhanced implementation to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>1.4 Existing/nascent state level intersectoral working groups for landscape management fostered and operationalized to address land degradation, and national level intersectoral working group established and supported to oversee formulation and mainstreaming of the SLM , both with engagement of the private sector.</p>			
Component 2:	Enhancing information, decision/support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation			
Outcome 2 Enhanced tools and government capacity for SLM and LDN	Indicator 10: Number of practical guidelines, protocols and tools for SLM/BD in agriculture and infrastructure sectors	Currently there is limited acceptable norms and standards, protocols and technical guidelines as well as the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. to guide planning and development activities on land, coastal and marine environments	Priority guidelines to facilitate SLM/BD in agriculture and infrastructure sectors identified and under development	At least 5 practical guidelines, protocols, and tools established for SLM/BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors

	<p>Indicator 11: Extent of baseline and sub-targets for LDN established for each State</p>	Limited of no baselines and sub-targets for LDN established in each State	Baseline, targets and priority actions for achieving LDN identified by each State	Baseline and targets for the LDN sub-indicators established for each State, including: (i) trends in land cover; (ii) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (iii) trends in carbon stock above and below ground).
	<p>Indicator 12: increase in capacity for SLM/LDN and BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors for both women and men as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard</p>	Limited capacity at present as reflected in capacity development baseline of 12 of a total of 42	At least 10% increase in capacity for SLM/LDN and BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors for both women and men as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard	At least 30% increase in capacity for SLM/LDN and BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors for both women and men as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	<p>2.1 National level spatial mapping and strengthened baseline information available to states on existing platforms to assess trends, drivers and hotspots of land degradation, and targets set for the LDN sub-indicators</p> <p>2.2 Resilience assessments of landscapes, habitats and land uses to land degradation and climate-induced risks to support planning and zoning</p> <p>2.3 Protocols for monitoring land degradation and practical guidelines for promoting/mainstreaming SLM/BD in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors</p> <p>2.4 Capacity building for government officers, extension staff, community groups, NGOs etc.), plus technology transfer and equipment for LDN monitoring and mainstreaming of SLM/BD ensuring that training and extension programs are gender-focused and gender-responsive</p>			
Project component 3	Embedding climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones (demonstration activities)			
<p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Community participation in measures to reduce land degradation, sustain ecosystem services and biodiversity, improve livelihoods and wellbeing</p>	<p>Indicator 13: Number of initiatives successfully implemented to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity and reverse land degradation</p>	Currently limited initiatives for SLM under implementation and their effectiveness uncertain	At least 5 initiatives initiated to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity and reverse land degradation from agriculture and infrastructure sectors through nature-based solutions, engaging both youth and an equal participation of women and men	At least 8 initiatives implemented to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity and reverse land degradation from agriculture and infrastructure sectors through nature-based solutions, engaging both youth and an equal participation of women and men

	<p>Indicator 14: Extent of application of practices to reduce land degradation in smallholder farms</p>	<p>Smallholder farmers have limited opportunities for application of SLM due to lack of extension services and best practice guidelines and knowledge available to them</p>	<p>At least 100 smallholder household farms initiated SLM activities through support from project funded extension services, training and best practice guidance</p>	<p>Reduced land degradation in at least lands belonging to 335 smallholder household farms (50% of households in the landscapes) adopting SLM techniques</p>
	<p>Indicator 15: Percentage increase in incomes from smallholder farms adopting SLM, diversification of products and small-scale microenterprises</p>	<p>Baselines for community incomes will be established in Year 1</p>	<p>At least average of 2 % improvement in net household profitability (including female-headed households) from smallholder farms adopting SLM and related added value products / marketing / diversification initiatives</p>	<p>At least average of 10% improvement in net household profitability (including female-headed households) from smallholder farms adopting SLM and related added value products / marketing / diversification initiatives</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1 Community-led participatory integrated landscape management and rehabilitation plans co-designed, agreed, and implemented to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation to protect ecosystem services and biodiversity</p> <p>3.2 Targeted ecosystem rehabilitation (nature-based solutions) demonstrated in innovative partnerships with community and the private sector in degraded watersheds and coastal zones to reduce and reverse land degradation and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>3.3 Smallholder farmers on traditionally owned lands supported to implement traditional and innovative climate-smart agricultural practices for sustainable land management and climate change adaptation that contribute to LDN, protect ecosystem services, biodiversity, and food security, and enhance incomes</p>			
<p>Component 4:</p>	<p>Effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M&E</p>			

Outcome 4 Increased project impact, replication and upscaling through enhanced awareness and	Indicator 16: Percentage increase in awareness and attitudes towards sustainable land management and protecting ecosystem services in participating communities	Baseline of awareness and attitudes towards sustainable land management and protecting ecosystem services in participating communities will be established in Year 1 through KAP surveys	At least 10% improvement in community awareness and attitudes towards sustainable land management and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) survey	At least 30% improvement in community awareness and attitudes towards sustainable land management and protecting ecosystem services and biodiversity as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) survey
	Indicator 17: Number of best practices and lessons of SLM/LDN being applied	Limited number of best practices on SLM available to farmers	At least 3 project best practices and lessons on SLM/LDN (including on gender and youth mainstreaming and socio-cultural benefits) are accessed and being documented	At least 5 project best practices and lessons on SLM/LDN (including on gender and youth mainstreaming and socio-cultural benefits) are accessed and applied throughout the FSM
	Indicator 18: Number of initiatives being implemented through active participation and knowledge exchange in regional and global platforms	Limited and uncoordinated knowledge exchange with regional and global platforms	Coordinated efforts being made to enhance partnership arrangements with regional and global networks and programs	At least 5 initiatives demonstrating active participation and knowledge exchange in regional and global SLM/LDN initiatives
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	4.1 Awareness-raising program on SLM and the benefits of tackling land degradation delivered through targeted communications, education, campaigns and community participation 4.2 Knowledge management platform and program to share information and project lessons between states, landscapes and communities including through an on-line portal, learning exchanges and demonstration farms/farmer associations 4.3 Best practices and lessons learned for addressing land degradation exchanged through South-South cooperation with other SIDS across the Pacific and elsewhere to support LDN/SLM. 4.4 Project M&E, safeguards, and gender mainstreaming to support effective project management and maximize project impact			

[1] *Baseline, mid-term and end of project target levels must be expressed in the same neutral unit of analysis as the corresponding indicator. Baseline is the current/original status or condition and needs to be quantified. The baseline can be zero when appropriate given the project has not started. The baseline must be established before the project document is submitted to the GEF for final approval.*

The baseline values will be used to measure the success of the project through implementation monitoring and evaluation.

[2] Target is the change in the baseline value that will be achieved by the mid-term review and then again by the terminal evaluation.

[3] Provide total number of all direct project beneficiaries expected to benefit from all project activities until project closure. Separate the total number by female and male. This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.

[4] The GEF-5 R2R team calculated the area of the high islands to be around 62,000ha. Removing the terrestrial parts of the demonstration landscapes to avoid double-counting, we have taken a round figure of 60,000ha. We assume 10% of this area will benefit from SLM and BD mainstreaming (=6,000 ha), split 500ha for BD (Core indicator 4.1) and 5,500ha for SLM (Core Indicator 4.3) based on the relative focus of the project.

[5] Outcomes are medium term results that the project makes a contribution towards, and that are designed to help achieve the longer-term objective. Achievement of outcomes will be influenced both by project outputs and additional factors that may be outside the direct control of the project.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comment	Response	Relevant Section of UNDP Project Document and - GEF CEO ER.
Comments from GEF Secretariat at PIF Stage		

<p>Focal area elements</p> <p>1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment:</p> <p>To be confirmed at CEO endorsement, especially the specific global important biodiversity in the Areas of Biological importance targeted by this project.</p> <p>At CEO endorsement, also confirm the selected landscapes and their names (for instance the formulation of the Gagil-Tomil Island Northern Road Improvement Project in the Yap State stays a source of questioning)</p>	<p>The project is aligned with the GEF focal area elements. Information is provided on the geographic and demographic, ecosystem and biodiversity values of each of the five demonstration sites, including threats and recommended actions.</p> <p>The names of the five demonstration sites, maps and coordinates are also provided</p>	<p>Refer Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the GEFCEO ER (pages 44-47) and Annex 3 of UNDP project document for details on the ecosystem and biodiversity value of each of the demonstration sites</p>
<p>Co-financing</p> <p>3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment:</p> <p>We take note on the explanations and the changes. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>Co-financing arrangements are explained i</p>	<p>Refer Table C (page 5) of GEF CEO ER</p>

<p>Core indicators</p> <p>6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines?(GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>Addressed. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement</p>	<p>Detailed information on the core indicators are provided in the documents</p>	<p>Refer GEFCEO ER Table 3 (pages 38-39), Table 4 (page 41) and Table 5 (page 42) and Annex E and F and Annex 18 (carbon estimates) in UNDP Project Document</p>
<p>4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>Addressed. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>The project is aligned with focal area strategies</p>	<p>Refer Section 4 (pages 46-47) of GEF CEOER</p>
<p>6. Are the project?s/program?s indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>Addressed. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>Global environment benefits have been assessed</p>	<p>Refer Section 6 (page 40) s and Table 6 (pages 47-48()) of GEF CEOER</p>

<p>Project/Program Map and Coordinates</p> <p>Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>This is now provided</p>	<p>Refer Annex 3 of UNDP project document for details on the ecosystem and biodiversity value of each of the demonstration sites and Annex E of GEF CEOER</p>
<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>The PIF team did the maximum in the current conditions of the pandemic. Initial rounds of engagement with each State were conducted during preparation of initial concept notes during 2020. From January-May 2021 the PIF team engaged in numerous communications with key national and state level stakeholders; a PIF Working Group met remotely twice (for an inception workshop and a validation workshop), engaging state and national-level stakeholders in collective discussions and validation of the PIF. A preliminary list of stakeholders is provided with their potential role.</p>	<p>Numerous field discussions were conducted at the State levels as well as inception workshop, pre-validation consultation meetings and validation workshop to discuss project design features and receive valuable input from stakeholders</p>	<p>Refer Annex 17 of UNDP Project Document</p>

<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> <p>Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>A gender assessment and gender mainstreaming action plan was prepared at PPG stage to identify gender concerns and design key measures to enhance gender participation and benefit sharing</p>	<p>Refer Section 3 (pages 57-59) of GEF CEO ER and Annex 10 of UNDP Project Document</p>
<p>Private Sector Engagement</p> <p>Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>The engagement for the private sector is made, at least from a theoretical point of view. Deeper analyses are expected during the PPG to identify private partners, eventually co-financing partners.</p> <p>To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>This is discussed in more detail. However, we recognize that there is not a vibrant private sector presence in FSM, but efforts will be made to engage with small business enterprises, tourism associations, women's councils, farmer associations, and NGOs to enhance means for improving livelihood and income opportunities</p>	<p>Refer Section 4 (page 59) of GEF CEOER</p>

<p>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives</p> <p>Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>Addressed. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement</p>	<p>Risks are identified, including gender, social, environmental and climate related risks and management measures identified to reduce risk. SESP and ESMF have been developed at PPG stage and during early project implementation this would be further strengthened through preparation of an environmental and social management plan, updated SESP and specific management plans to deal with specific impacts</p>	<p>Refer Section 5 (pages 60-67) of GEF CEOER and Annex 5 (SESP), Annex 9 (ESMF) and Annex 19 (Climate Risk assessment) of UNDP Project Document</p>
<p>Coordination</p> <p>Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment</p> <p>During the PPG phase, UNDP will lead the implementation process in consultation with the country. In addition, the already submitted checklist cleared information on the separation between UNDP's oversight and execution role.</p>	<p>Based on HACT assessment, the project will be implemented through the national implementation modality (NIM) with limited UNDP execution support</p>	<p>Refer Section 6 of GEFCEOER and Annex 15 (HACT assessment) of UNDP Project Document</p>

Knowledge Management

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

Secretariat Comment:

Yes, To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.

This is now discussed in detail along with identification of a project component that deals exclusively with KM

Refer Section 8 (pages 68-69) and Component 4 (pages 42-46) of GEF CEOER

<p>Additional Comment s</p> <p>Secretariat Comments:</p> <p>At PPG, pay a particular attention to the empowerment and informed participation of communities of indigenous people, with effective FPIC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm the global environment benefits and the targets under each core indicator/ - Especially in the context of the pandemic and the potential related social instability, pay a particular attention to gender and inequality issues. At CEO endorsement, provide a Gender Action Plan and mainstream gender and inequalities issues in the result framework. - Provide the list of studies and assessments financed at PPG stage. - During the PPG, contact UNCCD to receive guidance on the NAP methodology and product. Recent NAP have made significant progress in terms of participative process, empowerment of stakeholders, mapping, monitoring, and integration of LDN targets. - Initial lessons have been taken from the existing and past GEF/UNDP portfolio. During the PPG, we recommend also taking lessons from implementation arrangements and partnerships of these different projects. - Provide a comprehensive risk analysis with mitigation measures. - Develop the partnerships with the private sector, eventually co-financing. - Maintain a KM strategy well embedded in the project. - Confirm co-financing. 	<p>Thank you for the comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We confirm that there are no IPs in the demonstration sites. Consultations have been undertaken with communities within the sites -Global benefits and targets for core indicators are provided -A gender assessment and action plan have been developed during the PPG stage -A comprehensive risk assessment was conducted using UNDP SES guidance -KM strategy is addressed through Component 4 -Co-financing confirmed 	<p>None</p>
<p>STAP Comments</p>		

General STAP Comments

STAP welcomes Micronesia's and UNDP's proposal 'Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality'. The project aims to tackle land degradation through a holistic Land Degradation Neutrality approach. Global environmental benefits will be achieved in land and forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation resulting from avoided emissions from agriculture, forests, and other land uses. The project also will tackle drivers due to infrastructure development ? e.g. coral mining.

The proposal is well-written and logically argued. STAP welcomes the comprehensive problem analysis, and proposed interventions embedding mitigations to tackle the adverse effects of climate change. As the proposal is developed, STAP recommends considering other long-term drivers that may influence the project's global environmental benefits, such as undesired fluctuations in the economy, or negative impacts of population changes. STAP also encourages the project team to consider one, or two, simple alternative impact pathways that are robust to anticipated changes.

The proposal is well-written and logically argued. STAP welcomes the comprehensive problem analysis, and proposed interventions embedding mitigations to tackle the adverse effects of climate change. As the proposal is developed, STAP recommends considering other long-term drivers that may influence the project's global environmental benefits, such as undesired fluctuations in the economy, or negative impacts of population changes. STAP also encourages the project team to consider one, or two, simple alternative impact pathways that are robust to anticipated changes.

STAP is pleased the project will conduct preliminary assessments of the enabling environment. In addition to

this analysis, STAP encourages the project team to pursue a land potential assessment

Thank you for these general comments that are individually addressed in the comments below

See responses to individual comments below

<p>to help define a baseline of the current land conditions, and plan for land rehabilitation, if these are not already available. A resilience assessment also will be critical to help anticipate unwanted changes, for example climate change may further exacerbate land degradation, despite this project's efforts to reduce, or reverse land degradation. Close attention ought to be given to counterbalancing any losses with gains in the application of LDN, or, preferably, avoiding the losses at all</p>		
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<p>Part I: Project Information</p> <p>B. Indicative Project Description</p> <p>(a) Project Outcomes</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>The project outcomes is defined and relates to problem analysis</p> <p>(b) Project Components (do they support the project?s objectives)</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>(c). Outcomes (Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?)</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes, the outcomes focus on strengthening sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>(d) Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes, with good monitoring and learning.</p>	<p>Thank you for the positive comments in relation to Part I B, items (a) through (e)</p>	<p>None</p>
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(e) **Outputs:** (Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?)

STAP Comments:

Yes

Part II: Project Justification:

1. Project description: briefly describe

1) the global environmental and adaptation problems, root causes and barriers

a) Is the problem well stated:

STAP Comments:

Yes, the problem is well-defined, as so is the context (e.g. land tenure and its relationship to adoption of sustainable land management) influencing environmental management, and livelihoods. The main drivers of degradation (biodiversity and land) are defined as economic development challenges, changing cultural practices, demographic shifts and climate change. The PIF also establishes links between ecosystem health and services, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

b) Are the barriers and threats well described and substantiated by data and references

STAP Comments:

Yes, barriers and threats are thoroughly described. During the project design, suggest embedding the barriers (those described in the PIF, as well as new barriers that might be identified by key stakeholders during project design) in the theory of change by asking which are the most significant barriers that need to be addressed to achieve outcomes.

(c) For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective

a) This information is further elaborated in the documents

(b) The barriers and threats were further elaborated during the PPG stage and reflected in the problem analysis and ToC

(c) Weak land management and planning over the long term, under valuing of natural resources, limited extent of land, freshwater and near-shore resources, minimal understanding and engagement to support preserving ecosystem services, limited understanding of the critical need by communities for these services are all key land degradation drivers in the FSM. Each and all of these drivers coupled with increasing pressure on land and sea resources by community and user groups augmented by increasing impacts from climate/climate related issues, the ever increase risks and impacts from an every increase number of invasive organisms, and changing community structures moving from traditional sustainable livelihoods towards modernization leading to substantial disconnection of individuals and families from the land and sea have and are continuing to impact land and sea resources at rates which are unsustainable and in many cases, especially on the main high islands of the FSM, natural resources have not been replenished leading to the current state in many locations of highly impacted areas which can no longer support local communities as they once did as communities are changing and even if or in areas under traditional use could not provided the same levels of resources as they once did due to the current levels of degradation and the increasing impacts from on going climatic changes and increasing impacts from pest organisms. The project design is aimed at addressing these drivers of degradation, including (i) improving land management and planning (Output 1.3), improved understanding and awareness (Outputs 4.1 and 4.2), improved livelihoods and productive systems to incentivize communities engagement in land management (Outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)

(a) Refer pages 10-12 of GEFCEO ER

(b) Refer Part II Part II ?Threats? Section (pages 6-14) and Figures 1 (page 16) and 2 (pages 23-24) of the GEFCEO ER

(c) Refer Part II Section (pages 6-14) of GEF CEOER and Part 3 (pages 28-29, 34-42 and 42-46)

well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?

STAP Comments

Yes, the problem analysis identifies multiple drivers that need to be addressed holistically through sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. During the project design, suggest defining more precisely the drivers of degradation based on the target site's context and traits ? i.e. biophysical (presence of degradation processes, e.g. soil and groundwater salinization), social traits (in, or out, migration, land tenure insecurity), economic development (coral reef mining), and other drivers of degradation that characterize the targeted site. Information about the selection of sites is included in the PIF, but at the end of the document.

The problem analysis identifies declining soil fertility as a cause for low agricultural production. Increased deforestation as a result of land clearing for agricultural production, unsustainable timber harvesting, and other causes, has diminished biodiversity and the quality of ecosystem services ? e.g. water quality, soil fertility. Migration (in-migration to high-islands due to job loss) has provoked changes in agricultural practices ? i.e. an increase in unsustainable subsistence agricultural practices. In other instances, an increase in cash crop production has occurred that is affecting water quality (agrochemical runoff) and biodiversity (monoculture of cash crops). Degradation of watersheds has increased, leading to erosion, which is affecting surface freshwater and quality, and the quality of submarine groundwater discharge into the ocean, causing damage to marine biodiversity. Solid waste management (SWM) also contributes to land degradation due to the lack of regulations and provision of recycling and landfill facilities. Infrastructure development also has

<p>influenced environmental degradation (e.g. increased and unregulated demand for sand, coral, timber, for construction) and fragmented natural habitats. Increased sea level rise and drought also pose severe threats to land and marine resources.</p>		
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<p>2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects</p> <p>(a) Is the baseline identified clearly?</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes, the problem is well-defined, as so is the context (e.g. land tenure and its relationship to adoption of sustainable land management) influencing environmental management, and livelihoods. The main drivers of degradation (biodiversity and land) are defined as economic development challenges, changing cultural practices, demographic shifts and climate change. The PIF also establishes links between ecosystem health and services, biodiversity, and livelihoods.</p> <p>(b) Are the barriers and threats well described and substantiated by data and references</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes. Several baseline initiatives are described that will underpin this project. GEF and non-GEF projects are described.</p> <p>Satellite imagery will be used during the project design to establish the baseline for LDN indicators on land cover, land productivity, and carbon stocks. FAO's EX-ACT tool also will be used for establishing the baseline, and monitoring, of carbon stocks.</p> <p>(c) Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits</p>	<p>(a) Thank you for the positive comment</p> <p>(b) In terms of baselines for LDN, EXACT indicators have been assessed as part of the PPG and existing satellite imagery along with existing shape files were utilized to establish general baselines for each demonstration site. The project proposes that in addition, within year one of the project ground truthing to update and improve the mapped extent of land cover types and other key components occur for each demonstration site. It was clear from existing satellite imagery that existing shape files for land cover types, etc. are outdated and/or not defined at the level to separate out degradation across the landscapes and that early in the project implementation phase, developing this specific and critical mapping data will be necessary to clearly establish baselines for each demonstration site to facilitate the tracking of progress across project years and into the future beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>(c) Core indicators presented in the project will for the most part be based on sub-national or states collected details and metrics. Metrics which can be considered at the State and/or site level would include, but not be limited to the following: area of intact mangrove, area of rehabilitated mangroves, area of mangrove in protected status, area of intact near shore marine systems, area of rehabilitated near shore marine, area of protected nearshore marine, area of intact riverine, area of rehabilitated riverine, area of protected riverine, area of intact upland forest, area of rehabilitated upland forest, area of upland forest in protected status, number of endemic species occurring within specific sites, number of critically listed species within specific sites,</p> <p>(d) see response to (c) above</p> <p>(e) see response to (c) above</p> <p>(f) thank you for the positive comment. Lessons from previous projects in FSM have been integrated into the project design, keeping in mind the technical capacity and manpower constraints that operate in the country</p> <p>(g) see comment (f) above</p>	<p>(a) (a) Refer Table 1 pages 17-19</p> <p>(b) Refer Section II pages 12-15 for barriers</p> <p>(c) Refer Section 3 pages 37-42 and Annex F of GEF CEO ER</p> <p>(d) Refer response in (c). above</p> <p>(e) Refer response in (c). above</p> <p>(f) None</p> <p>(g) None</p>
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STAP Comments

The baseline does not, as it is a narrative of projects. However, core indicators were provided which will quantify the project's benefits. STAP recommends identifying sub-national metrics, or indicators, that can complement LDN indicators and the core indicators to help monitor and track progress on LDN, biodiversity conservation, and the most important ecosystem services in the target sites. Additionally, it would be useful to identify metrics or indicators to track local benefits on improved livelihoods.

(d) Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?

STAP Comments

Yes. However, suggest complementing core indicators as suggested above.

(e) For multiple focal area projects:

STAP Comments

At this stage , yes. Suggest identifying complementary metrics and indicators as suggested above

(f) are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described;

STAP Comments

Yes, lessons are described.

(g) how did these lessons inform the design of this project?

STAP Comments

Lessons have only been generally identified. They will be defined more comprehensively and applied during project design.

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

(a) What is the theory of change?

STAP Comments

The project seeks to address land degradation through a holistic approach on LDN, while generating multiple benefits on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and climate resilience. The PIF includes a theory of change figure which STAP welcomes. A brief narrative is also included, which is good, with an excellent description of assumptions. STAP urges keeping these revised as the theory of change is improved.

Collectively, four components aim to achieve the project objective and deliver global environmental benefits on carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and improved ecosystem services. These components are: (i) strengthen the strategic (institutional, policy, regulatory) framework for addressing land degradation; (ii) improve the information, decision/support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation; (iii) demonstrate climate-smart sustainable land management in critical landscapes and coastal zones to improve ecosystem services and reduce land degradation; and, (iv) ensure effective knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, and M&E.

The PIF also makes eight causal pathways explicit (page 38), which STAP welcomes. As the project is developed, having a more comprehensive version of the ToC which reflects these explicitly will help to check and make the case that the proposed components truly are necessary and sufficient. Additionally, identify indicators, or metrics, to monitor changes in these causal pathways. Monitoring change will assist with the learning and scaling the project intends to achieve on sustainable

(a) During PPG stage a problem analysis was undertaken, on the basis of which an update TOC was developed that further elaborates the key explicit assumptions underpinning the TOC. The risk assessment further defines key assumptions leading to achievement of monitoring change

(b) see response in (a) above

(c) thank you for the encouraging comments. The project (Output 2.2) is aimed at building on previously conducted large-scale assessments of resilience and vulnerability to land degradation, using the results of the baseline assessments of the three LDN sub-indicators and the 'resilience assessment' approach of the UNCCD Scientific Conceptual Framework for LDN and tools such as the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework and the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP). Assessments will include detailed spatial mapping and evidence-based assessment of landscapes, habitats and land uses that are particularly exposed to land degradation, identifying land degradation hotspots by comparing the LDN baseline assessment with the spatial changes over a period of 10-15 years to assess rates and intensity of change. Priorities will differ between the States but will include watershed assessments/mapping of forest loss, soil erosion and landslide vulnerability (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei); Coastal vulnerability inundation assessment to sea level intrusion (Kosrae, Yap); Mangrove vulnerability assessment (all states except Pohnpei); Dredging, land reclamation and landfill survey (Kosrae, Pohnpei); Water quality vulnerability assessment (Pohnpei). The assessment will help target land management plans and SLM SAPs accordingly.

Overall, explicit assumptions, that will need to be met in order to achieve the intended results, including:

(i) that national and state Governments maintain political and institutional support and the necessary co-financing to strengthen the enabling environment to deliver Components 1 and 2: In order to ensure that this assumption is being met, annual review of component one progress is to be conducted. As importantly, the project management team throughout implementation must work with national and state governments to ensure that all elements of component one are being completed and

(a) Refer Figure 1 (page 16) and Figure 2 (pages 23 and 24)
(b) see (a) above
(c) Refer output 2.2 of GEFCEO ER (page 32)
(d) refer Figure 2 (pages 23 and 24) of GEF CEOER
(e) refer Figure 2 (pages 23 and 24) of GEF CEOER

land management, LDN, and biodiversity conservation.

The narrative also identifies 5

(a-e) other explicit assumptions which is good; establishing some way (perhaps quite qualitatively in some cases) of monitoring these during the project implementation is important to ensure they are met and that there is early warning if the project needs adjusting because they are not. We urge continuing to consider whether there are other key assumptions (some are probably implicit in the risk assessment) that should be included here by the time of the ProDoc to keep an eye on during implementation

(b) What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?

STAP comments

See above

(c) What is the set of linked activities, outputs and outcomes to address the project's objectives

STAP comments

Together, the four components aim to achieve the project objective to halt land degradation through integrated LDN planning that improves biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, while strengthening Micronesia's climate resilience.

For component 1, STAP is pleased that an assessment of the enabling environment (e.g. policies, regulations, laws) will be conducted for tackling land degradation, and embedding sustainable land

completed on schedule as incomplete or delay in completion of elements will likely have ramifications not only for specific elements but also for following elements and aspects not only of component 1 but across all 4 components of the project. The elements of component one are essential to the overall project success. Strengthening the institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks to enhance abilities to achieve LDN targets through application of SLM practices as presented in the PIF and ProDoc will be essential to project success and any weakening of the proposed elements or incomplete actions will be detrimental to achieve the proposed goals.;

(ii) that customary land tenure and/or conflicts between government and communities (or between communities themselves) do not prevent the implementation of landscape scale approaches to achieving LDN which is a precondition for delivering Component 3: To ensure that this assumption is met, it will be key for the project team and both national and state governments and their representatives to work closely with communities/community leaders across the four states and explicated within the demonstration sites and other locations where project activities may occur. All efforts to strengthening SLM with the FSM should be undertaken as consultive processes that engage communities through informing and presenting considerations, providing platforms for effective discussions, seeking input and opinion while working cooperatively to develop the most effective and community supported mechanisms for addressing degradation across land and sea scapes. These efforts must engage communities which in turn must willing contribute to development and implementation of SLM activities. Documentation of consultive processes and community engage activities will be essential and will be required to commence early in the project implementation period and be maintained throughout the project life, occurring on a regular basis to ensure that communities continue to be and feel engaged in all steps.;

(iii) additionally for Component 3, that improved livelihoods potential and other incentives can be facilitated to increase community support for SLM: One of the most important and effective mechanisms for ensuring that communities support and are engaged in the SLM process is ensuring that local communities see their role and support as essential and that

management and biodiversity conservation into the agricultural and infrastructure sectors. STAP encourages close attention is paid to land tenure security, stakeholder participation in land use decisions, and other social traits (governance, power dynamics) that enable the uptake of LDN through sustainable land management.

In addition to the baseline and resilience assessments described in component 2, STAP also encourages the project team to conduct a land potential assessment. This assessment is essential to defining interventions that rehabilitate the land (component 3), improve the land's resilience to shocks and stresses (climate and non-climate), and ensuring its long-term capacity to sequester carbon, conserve biodiversity, and generate ecosystem services. Please refer to STAP's guidelines on LDN for further information on land potential assessments. The following paper on the application of UNCCD's LDN framework is also a useful resource:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2017.10.011>

When designing and implementing LDN, STAP suggests remaining cognizant of potential land degradation so that losses can be anticipated and avoided as much as possible. In this regard, assessing for resilience will play an important part in planning counterbalancing interventions, and suggest a continued reference to RAPTA, or other resilience assessment methods during project design and implementation (e.g. Wayfinder). Possible degradation could result, for example, due to sea level rise affecting mangroves? abilities to serve as coastal resilience measures (mangroves? thresholds for sea level rise appears to be 6.1 millimeters a year); trees that are planted to ameliorate erosion might suffer from pests and disease; soil fertility and agricultural productivity might be affected by continuing effects of sea level rise, such as soil salinity. The project team is also encouraged to apply Module C (how to integrate counterbalancing in land use planning) of the LDN framework to pro-

they understand that reducing and reversing degradation has a positive impact on their communities and futures and importantly that through their actions effective change can be accomplished. This in part can be facilitated through directly and indirectly engage local community members through this project as well as through direct and effective training provided to assist community members with day to day activities such as water conservation, improve agricultural practices, and building local economic activities.;

(iv) 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

(v) that the project is managed effectively.

(d) Key explicit assumptions have been revised

(e) The TOC connects all 4 components of the project, including component 4 (aspects related to monitoring). Monitoring of progress and adjusting as needed will be an essential component of the project, especially for element of component 1 which are critical for establishing comprehensive, long term SLM standards, protocols and requirements and to build the necessary capacity and resources to implement and monitor SLM activities country wide. Adjusting the project to meet with any changes or delays is necessary. The project team and key government offices at both national and states levels monitor and discuss and make adjustments as needed to the project implementation both in terms of timelines and elements on a regular basis, at a minimal with quarterly monitoring reports/meetings with necessary adjustments implemented as may be required. It is important to note that changes may come from various sources include such items as increased effects of climate.

actively plan for anticipated losses in land-based natural capital with planned gains.

(d) Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?

STAP Comments:

Please revisit the initial assumptions with key stakeholders described thus far (assumptions listed on page 39). During this exercise, consider whether there are additional underlying conditions, or resources, that are necessary for planned changes to occur, or for the objective to be achieved

(e) Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?

STAP Comments:

Yes, component 4 will focus on adaptive management. Suggest connecting component 4 with the theory of change. The theory of change can also be used for results monitoring ? i.e. monitoring progress towards achieving the outcomes.

<p>5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing</p> <p>(a) GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes, with careful monitoring, evaluation, and learning.</p> <p>(b) LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?</p> <p>GEF comments</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p>(a) Thank you for the positive comment. Agreed, the project includes a monitoring plan. The monitoring plan indicates the targets and indicators, data sources and collection methods, frequency of monitoring, responsibilities for data collection, verification means and assumptions and risks Technical consultant support is included to ensure delivery of global targets</p> <p>(b) N/A</p>	<p>(a) Refer Table 15 monitoring plan (pages 95-107) of UNDP Project Document</p> <p>(b) None</p>
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<p>6) Global environmental benefits</p> <p>(a) Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?</p> <p>STAP comments</p> <p>Yes, the benefits focus on soil carbon sequestration, or emissions avoided from agriculture, forestry and other land use; and benefits from biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>(b) Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?</p> <p>STAP comments</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>(c) Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>(d) Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p>	<p>(a) Additional details of GEBs are provided that are measurable as defined in the monitoring plan</p> <p>(b) The PPG team has ensured that the targeted benefits and realistic in terms of the activities, technical capacity and manpower resources available in the country</p> <p>(c) Thank you for your positive comments. Also see response to (a) above</p> <p>(d) Yes, please refer management plan that defines the targets, methods of monitoring and verification and key assumptions underlying the achievement of these benefits</p> <p>(e) A detailed climate risk assessment was conducted at PPG stage that defines specific actions to mitigate risks. Given the limited size of the islands involved in this project and their remote tropic location within the Pacific Ocean, all activities undertaken are intended to have ability to increase resilience to climate change.</p>	<p>(a) Refer Table 15 monitoring plan (pages 95-107) of UNDP Project Document</p> <p>(b) none</p> <p>(c) none</p> <p>(d) Refer Table 15 monitoring plan (pages 95-107) of UNDP Project Document</p> <p>(e) Refer Section 5 (pages 65-67) of GEF CEO ER and Annex 19 of UNDP Project Document</p>
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Yes, EX-ACT will be used to measure and monitor carbon stocks, satellite imagery will be used to establish LDN baselines on land cover, and land productivity. Other methods will possibly be used.

(e) What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change

STAP comments

The project has taken an initial assessment of the climate risks. This analysis will be deepened during the project development, and mitigation measures applied.

Given projected changes STAP encourages the project to consider one or two pathways to ensure benefits resulting from the project outlast the long-term drivers of change, resulting from CC, population changes and fluctuations to the economy

<p>7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up</p> <p>(a) Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>The project is innovative in developing Micronesia's National Action Program on land degradation. The Program will apply a holistic LDN approach to effectively address land degradation while achieving co-benefits in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>(b) Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>Partly. In addition to training and knowledge exchanges, suggest articulating a pathway in the theory of change that details what is necessary to scale successful outcomes from an LDN approach, or other holistic practices. Some questions to consider when developing a scaling pathway include: who (including stakeholder partnerships/platforms) needs to be involved to successfully scale outcomes? what capacity is needed to scale; what are the enablers (e.g. secure land tenure), or barriers (e.g. lack of land tenure) to scale?; what resources are required? (e.g. financial, knowledge repositories); how will monitoring and evaluation (component 4) capture the learning and knowledge required for scaling? Suggest referring to STAP's workshop report on behavioral change, emphasizing the role of social</p>	<p>(a) Thank you for the comments;</p> <p>(b) The following approach is intended to scale-up the innovation of the project. Under Component 1, support for 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, protocols and guidelines for monitoring land degradation and capacity building will play a big role in ensuing continuation of project learning and best practices, as well as development of land management plans for the high islands. Demonstrations of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, and SLM in Component 3 will have high potential for replication, with additional communities in the concerned states,. 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 is also designed to provide demonstration models for up-scaling in the country. In particular, the capacity building and the development of best practices to control and manage land degradation will strongly support up-scaling. Ensuring that activities, impacts and lessons learnt from the demonstration sites are disseminated widely helps generate a bottom-up demand for similar activities throughout the country. The project's investment component will seek to develop synergies among rural development actors and programs with an objective of raising additional emphasis on SLM and will expand current models of sustainable resource use and alternative livelihood activities within and outside of the targeted landscapes and coastal seascapes.</p> <p>(c) Agreed, these are considered as part of the design based on a climate risk analysis conducted at PPG stage</p>	<p>(a) none</p> <p>(b) Refer Section 7 pages 50-51 of GEF CEO ER</p> <p>(c) Refer Section 5 (pages 65-67) of GEF CEO ER and Annex 19 of UNDP Project Document</p>
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structures (e.g. power dynamics) in achieving desired change.

(c) Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?

STAP comments:

Transformational change is likely to be required given the climate projections, particularly on The durability concerns currently addressed (Institutional, financial, social) are important but do not really address durability of the GEB outcomes in the face of changes in other drivers. STAP encourages the project team to consider uncertainty to cope with the level of change that will take place as result of climate change, and population changes (in and out-migration). A few pathways could be envisioned that map alternative courses of actions as suggested above. A source that is useful for developing scenarios and sequencing alternative pathways based on systems thinking is STAP's resilience information brief (refer to section on scenario planning) along with Resilience Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach Version 2 .

Although most stakeholders may understandably have a 10 to 20 year time horizon in their thinking, issues such as sea level rise unfortunately but unequivocally will not cease on that timeframe. Hence, taking a longer time horizon in thinking about these pathways will help ensure that path dependencies are not locked in that cause maladaptation in the decades following the project lifetime. For example, the project could explicitly commit to reviewing the promoted CSA practices over time as more information about climate impacts emerges.

<p>1b.</p> <p>Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>A good map has been provided</p>	<p>Additional maps are provided</p>	<p>Refer Annex E of GEF CEOER</p>
<p>2. Stakeholders</p> <p>(a) Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>The list of stakeholders is comprehensive. STAP encourages the project team to revisit the stakeholder list during the project design, identifying stakeholders that are essential for</p> <p>validating the causal pathways, scaling, and achieving the outcomes.</p> <p>(b) What are the stakeholders? roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>Stakeholders? roles have been identified in table under stakeholder section. STAP appreciates the level of detail in the table.</p>	<p>(a) The stakeholder map has been further update at PPG that identifies the specific roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders for project implementation and achievement of outcomes</p> <p>(b) Thank you for the comment</p>	<p>(a) Refer Section 2 (pages 52-56) of GEF CEOER and Annex 8 of UNDP Project Document</p> <p>(b) Refer Section 2 (pages 52-56) of GEF CEOER and Annex 8 of UNDP Project Document</p>

<p>1. Gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>(a) Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p> <p>STAP Comment:</p> <p>Partly. A gender analysis and action plan will be prepared by a gender specialist during the PPG with a view to mainstreaming gender in the project design. This plan is welcomed by STAP, especially as the problem analysis and interventions needs to be assessed from a gender perspective. STAP also commends how gender is mentioned throughout the document, not just in this section.</p> <p>(Component 3.3 may wish also to look at the Australian ACIAR groups of projects applying the well-established 'Family Farms Team' approach in PNG and the Pacific, which could be a helpful</p> <p>(b) Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?</p> <p>STAP comments:</p> <p>Please consider whether gender hinders the full participation of an important stakeholder group.</p>	<p>(a) A comprehensive gender (including youth) analysis and mainstreaming action plan was developed at the PPG stage following consultations with communities and other stakeholders, the findings of which are well integrated into the project Outputs.</p> <p>(b) The gender analysis undertaken at PPG identifies the gendered division of labor, access to land and resources and challenges and needs to ensure that this is not a hinderance to the project. The analysis assesses means to enhance gender participation and benefit sharing, and management of imbalances and discrimination and vulnerabilities.</p>	<p>(a) Refer Annex 10 of the UNDP Project Document</p> <p>(b) Refer Annex 10 of the UNDP Project Document</p>
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<p>5. Risks.</p> <p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?</p> <p>Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?</p> <p>STAP Comment</p> <p>The PIF describes several implementation risks, such as lack of coordination between government stakeholders, lack of commitment from indigenous peoples and local communities, and other risks. Suggest embedding into the theory of change these implementation risks, along with the social and environmental risks identified in UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP).</p> <p>Climate risks have been identified thoroughly, and mitigation strategies will be embedded throughout the project.</p>	<p>The risks section of the project has been substantially strengthened during the PPG stage and covers environment, social and gender related risks. An extensive climate risk analysis was undertaken during the PPG stage</p>	<p>Refer Annex 5 (SESP), Annex 9 (ESMF) and Annex 19 Climate Risk Analysis of the UNDP Project Document for details</p>
<p>2. Coordination.</p> <p>Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?</p> <p>STAP Comments:</p> <p>Yes. Some of the learning (lessons) are described in the list of coordination projects.</p>	<p>Thank you for the positive comment</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>8. Knowledge management</p> <p>(a) What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?</p> <p>STAP comments</p> <p>Examples of best practices and lessons learned from projects throughout the Pacific will be sought, along with best practices from projects in Micronesia. Lessons and learning will be embedded into the final project document.</p> <p>(b) What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?</p> <p>STAP Comments;</p> <p>The project will promote learning within the targeted landscapes (e.g. across communities), across the target sites, across the islands, and to other countries in the Pacific. STAP suggests applying the recommendations on scaling previously described in this report.</p>	<p>(a) Thank you for the positive comment</p> <p>(b) Agreed. This is now covered in more detail in outputs 4.2 and 4.3 of the project</p>	<p>(a) None</p> <p>(b) Refer Outputs 4.2 and 4.3 of GEF CEOER (Pages 44-46)</p>
<p>GEF Council Comments</p>		
<p>Canada Comments:</p>		
<p>Canada is supportive of this project and would appreciate clarification regarding the following wording in the project summary: ?The project will also generate more than 3,400 tCO₂eq from the AFOLU sector?. We wonder whether this should this read mitigate 3,400 tCO₂eq.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Refer Table E of GEF CEO ER</p>

Germany Comments		
<p>Germany acknowledges the insufficient budgetary allocation to the natural resources management sectors; however, this entails questions on the provision of co-funding. While it is good that most of the co-funding is in-kind provision from FSM ministries stemming from existing bilateral projects, USD 12.2 million remain to be financed by the FSM's public investment. We therefore request that the proposal provides a public investment plan that covers the remaining funds.</p>	<p>While some discussion were conducted in this regard, the intent is to have further discussion with FSM prior to the Inception workshop how these funds could be leveraged via public investment to better engage natural resources management. Potentially this could occur via locally managed areas (and demonstrated within the demonstration sites) as community based management of locally existing natural resources, but how this would best be linked to existing FSM funds as project co-financing. It may be that management would need to occur at the states or even national level. What is more it may be feasible for some of this funding amount to be engaged through the various training efforts to be provided to strengthen local/community resource management capacities. This will be further defined through an investment plan prior to commencement of the project.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Germany appreciates the efforts on enhanced data provision and coordination. In this regard we would appreciate if the proposals can provide information on how data collection will be coordinated and shared across all four island states and sustained in the long-term after project closure. Component 2 requires up-to-date high-resolution satellite imagery to set the baseline and targets for LDN monitoring. In discussion with partners such as DECEM GIS Unit, FSM R&D, and GIS specialists from each state, it should be agreed on data that is affordable (e.g. open source) and available for the FSM at national and state scale beyond the project duration to create a sustainable monitoring system.</p>	<p>Conceptually, the project supports long term collection, consolidation and sharing of data via the establishment of multiple positions at the national level to strengthen, management and maintain the national data portal for GIS. In part the project proposes that this be established through development (inclusive of MOUs if/as required) with states' partners for data gathering/development and sharing with the national GIS office for incorporation into the national portal, where partners and others have ready access. The project recommends that this mechanism be established under the project for long term use. The project proposes extensive trainings and equipment/material acquisitions to support both the national office strengthening/maintenance and the states' partners' ability to effectively develop strategies for data collection, engage in data collection, and support data sharing through incorporation into the national GIS portal system.</p>	<p>Refer Output 2.1 of GEF CEO ER)pages 29-30)</p>

<p>Germany welcomes that the PIF outlines engaging more national experts and increasing capacity in existing structures. We note that restricted human resources due to a small overall population, a restricted number of experts due to less budget allocation to natural resources management sectors, and the continued COVID-implications on international travel need to be considered within these efforts. It is therefore advisable to include a plan on how the project foresees to handle this.</p>	<p>Agree with this assessment that when feasible LDN/SLM should be incorporated into and engaged by existing systems inclusive of monitoring and reporting. It seems reasonably feasible that once LDN targets are set that state monitoring systems could engage with collecting data and reporting to national counterparts for reporting and that this could likely be accomplished via existing structures at both state and national levels. The project includes a number of national positions that would be complemented by limited international technical support</p>	<p>Refer Annex 7 of UNDP Project Document</p>
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<p>Project personnel on the ground is needed to get things moving in the FSM. There is currently a shortage in required technical skills due to small pool of national technical experts. Projects led and implemented by local staff tend to have greater ownership, and while the PIF aims to work with local communities, Germany notes that it may be worth finding out which NGOs/CSOs operate in FSM that could become potential implementing partners. We therefore appreciate to cover this aspect in the proposal.</p>	<p>Recommendation is to engage known NGOs/CSOs that operate within the country and their areas of expertise and where possible links/connections to their in-country offices/staffs. This information was developed during the PPG stage and other local counter parts. A list follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? USDA NRCS (has office and personnel in Pohnpei with a focus on community support for agriculture/forestry): This office should also be able to engage with other offices including the US Forest Service, which has been very active within the FSM ? SPC: has an office in Pohnpei and may be able to engage with community based activities and support including extensive marine and fisheries resources ? SPREP: works regionally and has various regional projects including invasive species programs that can support efforts within the FSM ? TNC (Nature Conservancy) has a local office in Pohnpei and has been very active in the FSM ? FAO is active in the region ? MCT (Micronesian Conservation Trust): located in Pohnpei: build partnerships, raise and manage funds, make grants, influence policy, and provide <i>conservation</i> and financing expertise ? Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP): ? Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS): ? Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) ? Yap Invasive Species Taskforce (YIST) ? Kosrae Invasive Species Taskforce (KIST) ? Chuuk Women's Council ? Micronesia Challenge ? WWF project: strengthening the Micronesia Challenge 2030: https://www.worldwildlife.org/projects/strengthening-and-enabling-the-micronesia-challenge-2030 	<p>Refer Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Table 18) on pages 76-80 of UNDP Project Document where the role of these NGOs/CSOs are identified</p>
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	? Conservation International: has worked in the FSM	
While GIZ currently does not implement projects on site within the scope of work, the new Global Program Data for Development (D4D), which is planned to start 01/22 with a duration of five years, is a potential partner to collaborate with. D4D will function in form of a Secretariat for the GEO-LDN Initiative (under Component 2, 2.1), and focuses on similar aspects regarding capacity development for reporting on LDN.	Thank you for this comment, The intent is to partner with all potential partners that operate within the country so as to build capacity and ensure complementarity of efforts	Refer Table 9 (pages 65-66) of UNDP Project Document t hat identifies collaboration opportunities
United States Comments		
We have strongly opposed the use of non-voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets because Land Degradation Neutrality is only one approach of many to combat the impacts of drought and desertification. We support in a general sense the aim or aspiration of land degradation neutrality, but we want to ensure that LDN is not promoted to the exclusion of other approaches or being codified with mandatory	The project proposes that in project year one, the FSM through internal consultation set their LDN targets. It is the projects position that the FSM has determined to engage this SLM/LDN project and that they in turn should determine what LDN targets and levels are most appropriate and realistic for achievement within the proposed timeframe and beyond given their unique situation and resources. We propose that LDN based on SLM is an important concept to engage and make realistic strides towards but also acknowledge that such efforts should not be undertaken to the exclusion or determinant to other efforts to address the country?s priorities. LDN should be seen as an overarching tool for supporting strengthening and improvement in numerous sectors through the application of SLM principles at community, state and national levels providing benefits across sectors at all levels.	Refer Output 1.1 (pages 41-42) of GEF CEO ER

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).

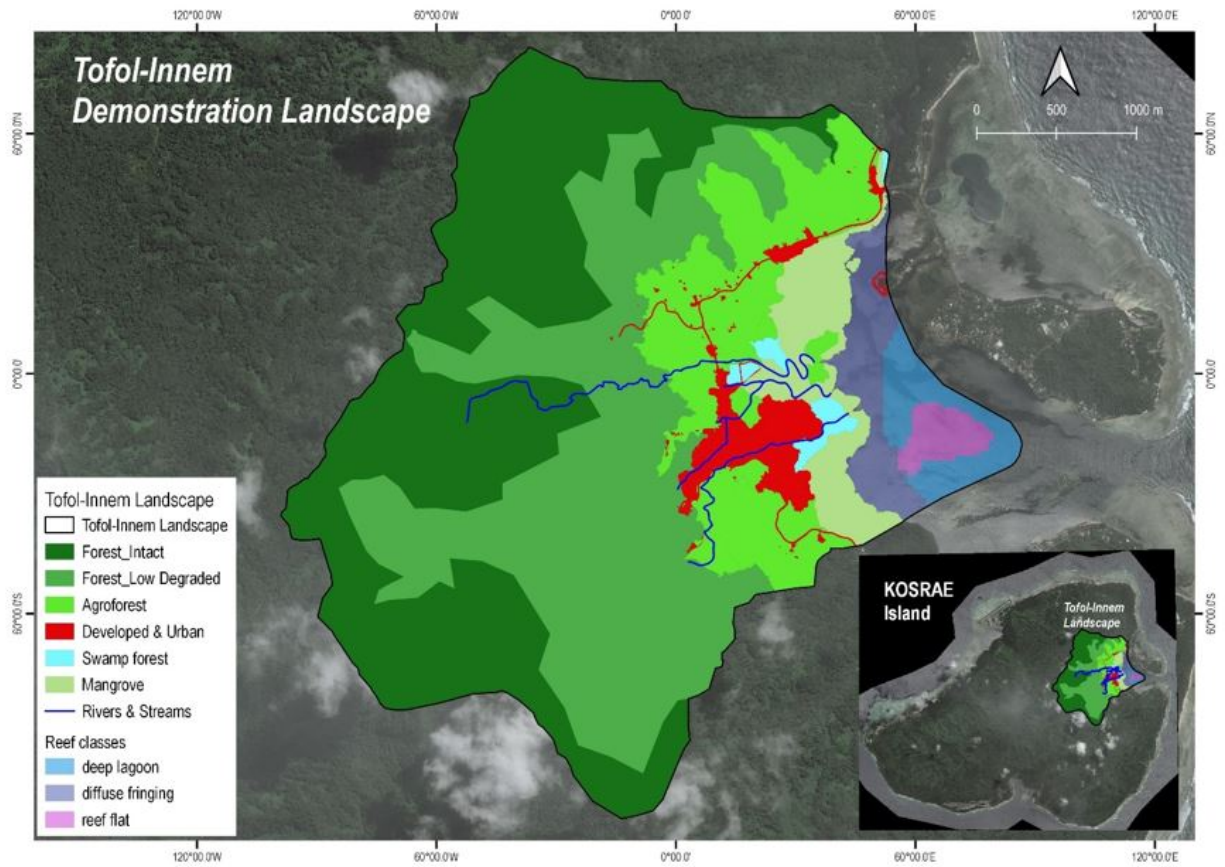
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

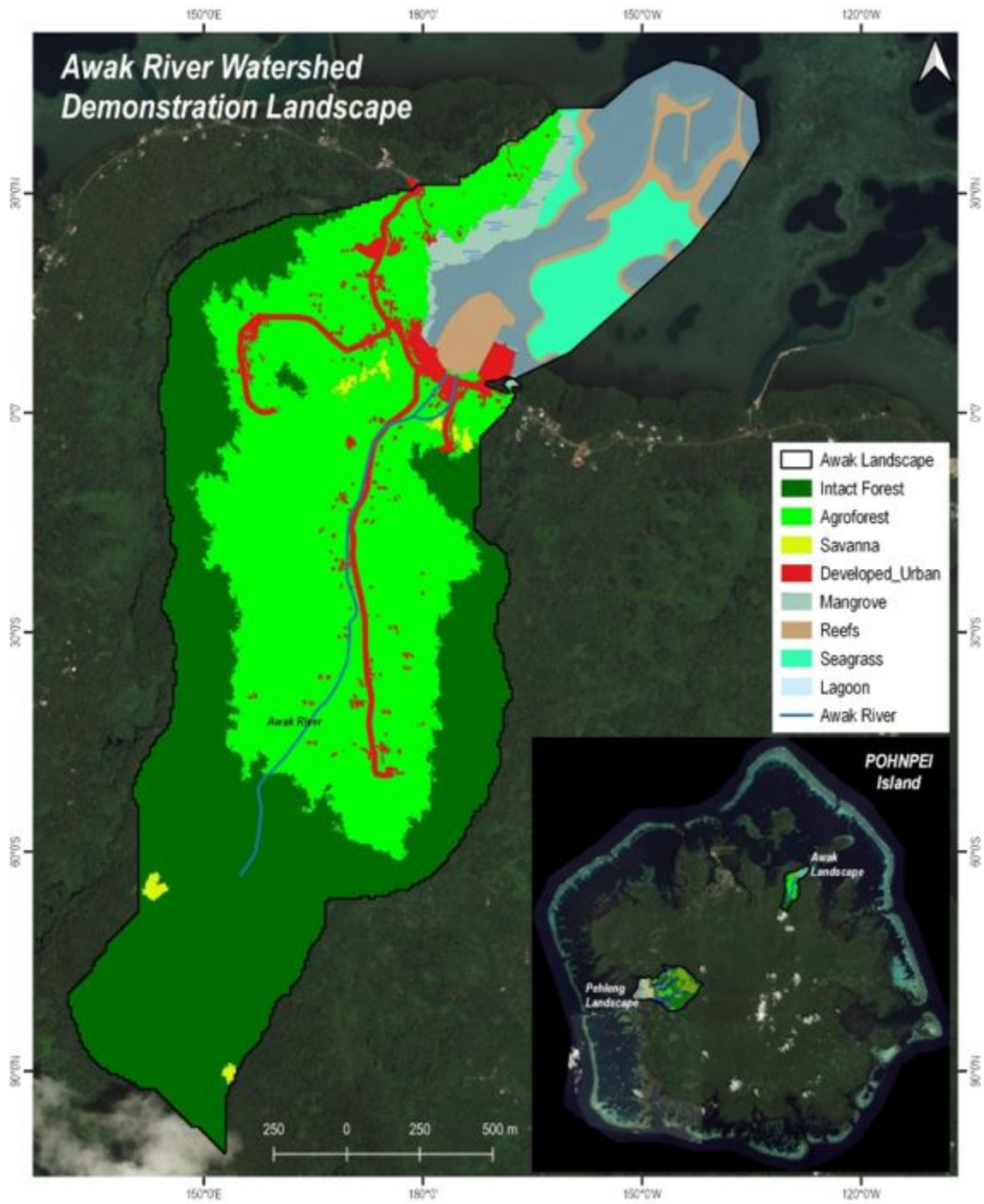
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>

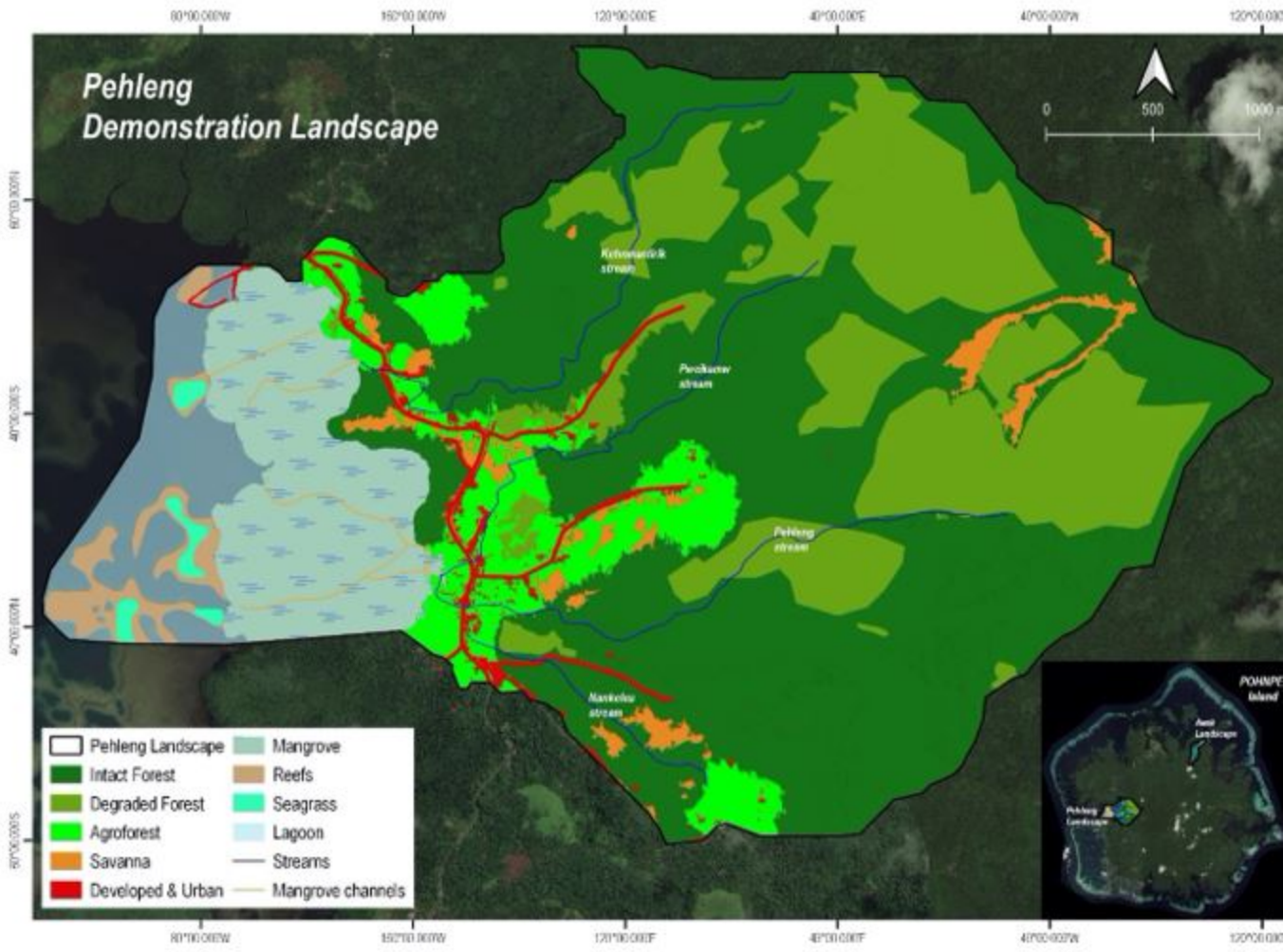
International consultants (3 consultants):	54,000	36,000	18,000
? One PPG Team Leader ;			
? One International SLM Specialist ;			
? One International Safeguards specialist			
Local consultant (5 consultants):	88,250	13,370	74,880
? One National SLM specialist (Yap and Chuuk);			
? One National SLM specialist (Pohnpei and Kosrae) ;			
? One National Livelihoods, Safeguards and Engagement specialist (Yap and Chuuk) ;			
? One National Livelihoods, Safeguards and Engagement specialist (Pohnpei and Kosrae) ;			
? One National GIS specialist			
Travel budget for PPG team, inc. DSA, flights and boat rentals	39,000	13,583	25,417
Supplies, stationary, inc. PPE/COVID-related contingency	9,750	0	9,750
Stakeholder workshops and consultation meetings with national and state level stakeholders and with local communities in landscapes.	9,000	0	9,000
Inception and Validation workshops			
Total	<u>200,000</u>	<u>62,953</u>	<u>137,047</u>

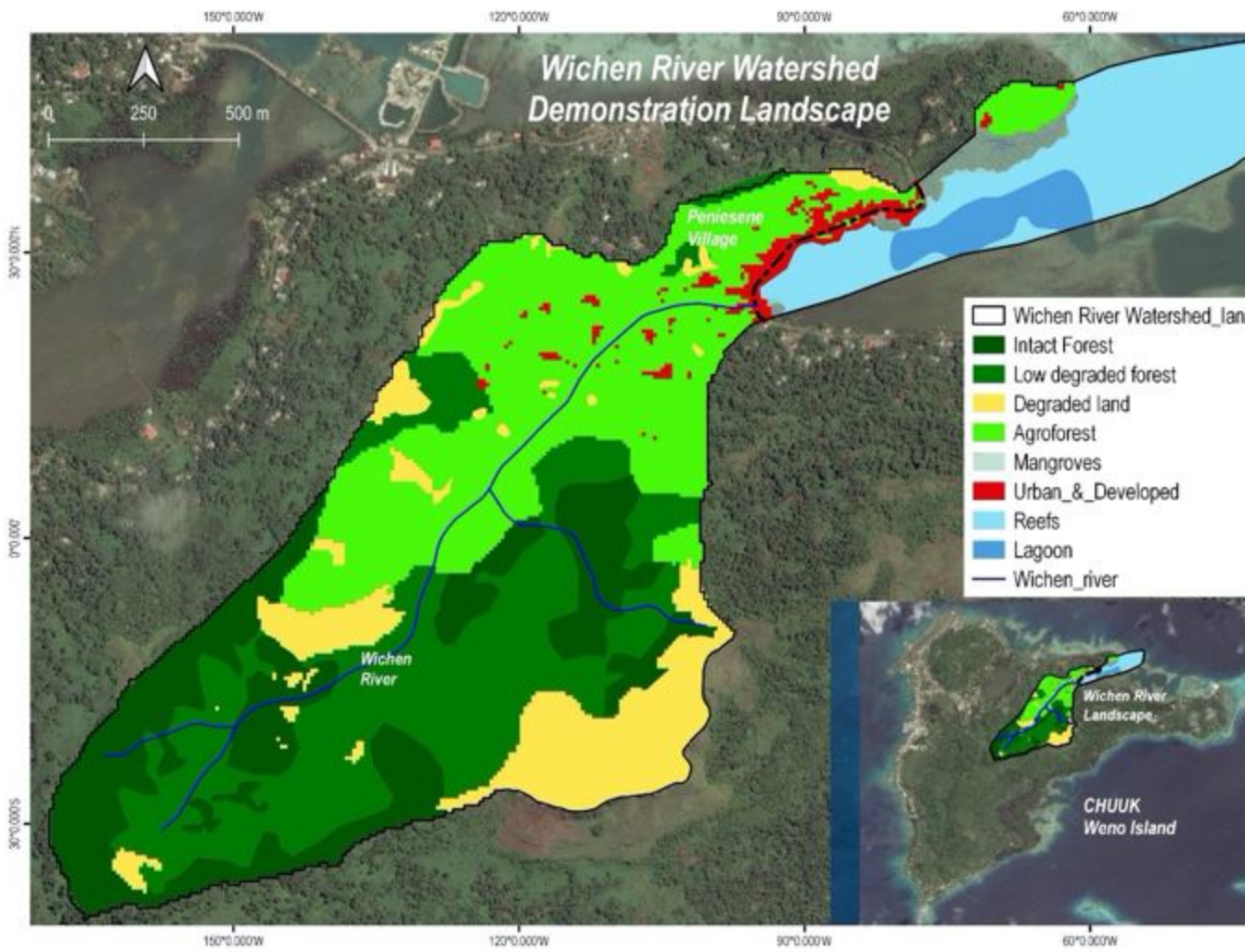
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

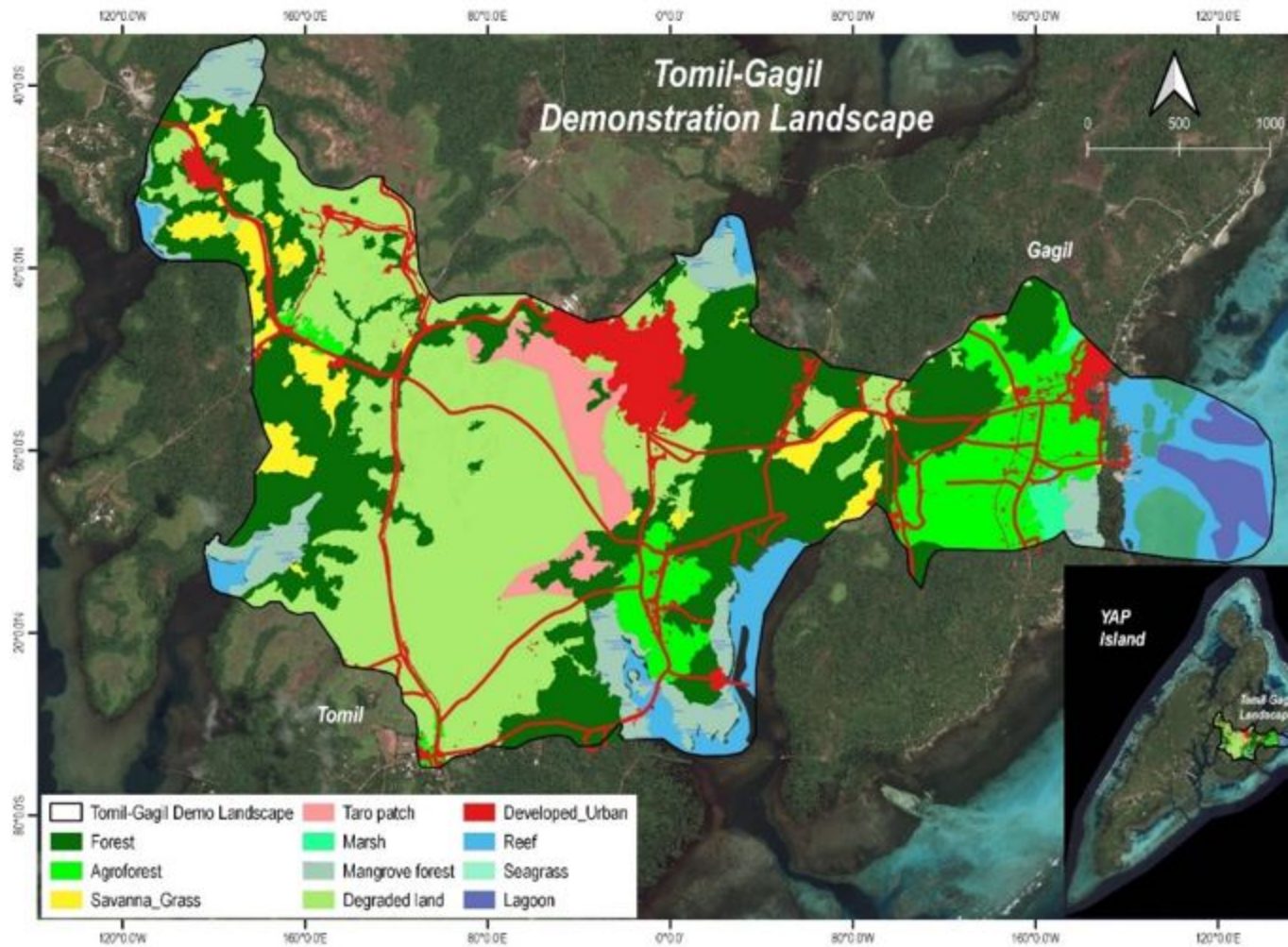
Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.











Please refer to Annex E: Project Maps and Coordinates of the CEO ER document

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component [US\$eq.]					
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E
Equipment	Equipment and Furniture (\$100,000) 1.Resource and equipment for state GIS office (software, GIS/GPS systems, drones, etc.) for all 4 States (Output 2.1) - \$12,500 x 4 = \$50,000 2.Priority equipment purchasing for SLM and BD such as land survey equipment for all 4 States (Output 2.4) - \$12,500 x 4 = \$50,000 3.IT Equipment in terms of computers, laptops, printers, etc. - \$20,000		100,000			100,000	
Equipment	IT Equipment 1.IT Equipment in terms of computers, laptops, printers, etc. - \$20,000		20,000			20,000	
Equipment	Equipment/Furniture to support implementation of land management practices with local communities in the 4 State demonstration sites (Output 3.2) - \$25,000 x 4 = \$100,000			100,000		100,000	
Equipment	IT Equipment (laptops and software) – \$14,000			14,000		14,000	
Sub-contract to executing partner	Services to projects -\$41,000					-	
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services – Imp Partn (\$237,918) 1.Project Manager (part costs) - \$30,081 2.National Technical Coordinator (part costs) - 26,841 3.State Technical Coordinators (4) Part Costs - \$17,023 x 4 = \$68,092 4.State Stakeholder Engagement Officers (Part costs) - \$17,023 x 4 = \$68,092 5.Communication Officer (part costs) - \$44,812	237,918				237,918	
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services – Imp Partn (\$303,807) 1.Land Use and GIS Specialist - \$150,000 2.Project Manager (part costs) - \$30,081 3.National Technical Coordinator (part costs) - \$26,841 4.State Technical Coordinators (4) Part Costs - \$11,349 x 4 = \$45,396 5.State Stakeholder Engagement Officers (Part costs) - \$11,349 x 4 = \$45,396 6.Communication Officer (part costs) - \$6,093		303,807			303,807	
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual services - Imp Partn (\$1,065,864) 1.Project manager part costs for technical aspects - \$135,364 2.National Technical Coordinator part costs - \$172,130 3.State technical coordinators (4) part costs - \$85,117.50 x 4 = \$340,470 4.State Stakeholder Engagement Officers part costs: \$85,117.50 x 4 = \$340,470 5.Communication Officer part costs - \$77,430			1,065,864		1,065,864	
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual services - Imp Partn (\$42,420) 1.Project manager part costs - \$22,560 2.National Technical Coordinator part costs - \$19,860				42,420	42,420	
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual services - Imp Partn (\$42,420) 1.Project Manager part costs for undertaking M&E of core indicators - \$22,560 2.National Technical Coordinator for oversight of SESP, ESMP and GAP - \$19,860					-	42,420
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual services - Imp Partn (\$186,000) 1.Project Manager part costs - \$60,000 (20% of total costs) 2.Financial/Administration assistant at \$21,000/year x 6 = \$126,000 (100% of total cost)					-	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual Services – Companies (\$168,000) 1.Update State Land Use and related Plans for 4 States (Output 1.3) - \$17,000 x 4 = \$68,000 2.Technical support to address LDN/SLM for 4 States (Output 1.3) - \$25,000 x 4 = \$100,000	168,000				168,000	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services – Companies (\$1,265,000) 1.Consultancy services to develop demonstration landscape management plan (DLMP) inclusive of assessment for all 4 State sites (Output 3.1) - \$15,000 x 4 = \$60,000 2.Consultancy services to implement land management practices with local communities in the 4 State demonstration sites (Output 3.2) - \$250,000 x 4 = \$1,000,000 3.Consultancy services to support local farms with implementation of traditional and climate smart BMPs in each state demonstration site (Output 3.3) - \$36,250 x 4 = \$145,000 4.Consultancy support to State CLMWG to promote local products and marketing through NGOS in all 4 States (Output 3.3) - \$15,000 x 4 = \$60,000			1,265,000		1,265,000	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services – Companies (\$74,000) 1.Develop and advance demonstration farm outcomes for each State (Output 4.1) - \$18,500 x 4 = \$74,000				74,000	74,000	
International Consultants	International consultants (\$48,000) 1. Chief Technical Advisor Part Costs (Component 1) - \$18,000 2.International Consultant to update priority national plans, policies, etc. to incorporate SLM/LDN (Output 1.1) - \$30,000	48,000				48,000	
International Consultants	Chief Technical Advisor for all 4 states (part costs) - \$18,000		18,000			18,000	
International Consultants	International consultant to develop gender sensitive training and extension strategy for demonstration landscapes - \$32,000			32,000		32,000	
International Consultants	Chief Technical Advisor (part costs) - \$18,000			18,000		18,000	
International Consultants	International Consultants (\$30,000) 1.International consultancy for preparation of ESMP and related management plans - \$30,000				30,000	30,000	

International Consultants	International Consultants (\$118,000) 1. International consultant for MTR (\$20,000) and TE (\$30,000) evaluation- Total \$50,000 2. Chief Technical Officer part costs - \$36,000 3. Consultant for monitoring safeguard actions - \$32,000					-	118,000
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (\$58,000) 1. National consultant to develop SLM NAP (Output 1.1) - \$18,000 2. National consultant to develop SLM NAPs for all 4 States (Output 1.1) - \$10,000 x 4 = \$40,000	58,000				58,000	
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (\$100,000) 1. National Consultant to support national and state governments with identifying LDN targets and specific activities required to achieve targets (Output 2.1) - \$20,000 2. National Consultants to undertake state resilience assessment focus on land degradation and climate induced risks/impacts in all 4 States (Output 2.2) - \$10,000 x 4 = \$40,000 3. National Consultants to undertake agriculture and infrastructure review, BMPs identified, Protocols and guidelines developed for all 4 States (Output 2.3) - \$10,000 x 4 = \$40,000		100,000			100,000	
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (\$60,000) 1. National consultants to compile and provide training on traditional and climate smart agricultural practices for 4 States (Output 3.3) - \$15,000 x 4 = \$60,000			60,000		60,000	
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (\$44,000) 1. National Consultant to develop communications and knowledge management strategy, including gender mainstreaming plan and awareness plan (Output 4.1) - \$44,000				44,000	44,000	

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshops and Conferences (\$162,000) 1. Stakeholder workshops for development of SLM NAP (Output 1.,.1) - \$4,000 2. Stakeholder workshops for development of SLM SAPs for 4 States (Output 1.1) - \$2,000 x 4 = \$8,000 3. Workshops for updating of priority national plans, policies, etc. to incorporate SLM/LDN (at least 2 plans updated annually) (Output 1.1) - \$40,000 4. Workshops for updating of priority state plans, policies, etc. to incorporate SLM/LDN for 4 States (Output 1.1) - \$5,000 x 4 = \$20,000 5. National consultation workshops to address priority gaps in LDN regulatory and policy framework (Output 1.2) - \$28,000 6. State consultation workshops to address priority gaps in LDN regulatory and policy framework for 4 States (Output 1.2) - \$3,000 x 4 = \$12,000 7. Consultations to support updating land use or related plan for all 4 States (Output 1.3) - \$3,000 x 4 = \$12,000 8. State Workshops to support development of SLMWG TORs and code for 4 States (Output 1.4) - \$600 x 4 = \$2,400 9. State SLMWG Quarterly workshops for 4 States (Output 1.4) - \$7,200 x 4 = \$28,800 10. National workshop(s) to support development of SLMWG TORs and code (Output 1.4) - \$1,200 11. NLMWG workshops (Output 1.4) - \$3,600 12. SLM/LDN consultant (Output 1.4) - \$2,000	162,000				162,000	
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Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshop, conference (\$93,000) 1. Training for states in use of national GIS platform (Output 2.1) - \$8,000 2. State consultations to support resilience assessment for all 4 States (Output 2.2) - \$2,000 x 4 = \$8,000 3. State consultations to support agriculture and infrastructure review for all 4 States (Output 2.3) - \$2,000 x 4 = \$8,000 4. State extension staff training for monitoring and strengthening of SLM and BD (Output 2.4) - \$65,000 5. Consultations associated with training needs assessment (Output 2.4) - \$4,000		93,000			93,000	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshop, conference (\$66,400) 1. Consultation workshops to support CLMWG establishment in all 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.1) - \$3,600 x 4 = \$14,400 2. Consultation workshops to support DLMP development in the 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.1) - \$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 3. Consultation workshops to provide training of traditional and climate smart practices for all 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.3) - \$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 4. Workshops to support development of gender sensitive training and extension strategy for all 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.3) - \$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 5. Workshops to provide of traditional knowledge training to communities for 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.3) - \$10,000 x 4 = \$40,000			66,400		66,400	

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshop, conference (\$121,000) 1.Consultation workshops to support the development of the communication and knowledge management strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 2.Consultations training for awareness and engagement campaign development and implementation provided to key stakeholders throughout the country (Output 4.1) - \$10,000 3.Training provided to trainers and awareness and gender mainstreaming providers within the four states (Output 4.1) - \$10,000 4.Community based land degradation awareness and engagement training for 4 States (Output 4.1) - \$1,000 x 4 = \$4,000 5.Consultation to support development of citizen science strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 6.Consultations to support development of the SLM school strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 7.NLMWG end of project national seminar (Output 4.2) - \$5,000 8.Learning exchanges for all 4 States (Output 4.2) - \$12,000 x 4 = \$48,000 9.Training for demonstration farms engaging with communities for all 4 States (Output 4.2) - \$8,000 x 4 = \$32,000				121,000	121,000		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Training, workshop, conference (\$5,000) 1. Inception workshop costs - \$5,000						-	5,000
Travel	Travel (\$58,000) 1.Travel to support NAP development (Output 1.1) - \$20,000 2.Travel to support land use planning for all 4 States (Output 1.3) - \$6,000 3.Travel to support development of MOUs (Output 1.4) - \$12,000 4.Travel to support steering and technical committee visits to provide guidance (all outputs) - \$20,000	58,000				58,000		
Travel	Travel (\$140,000) 1.Travel related to finalize/update mapping of land coverages and use in each of 4 States (Output 2.1) - \$10,000 x 4 = \$40,000 2.Travel to support GIS training (Output 2.1) - \$10,000 3.Travel to support development of LDN targets and measures (Output 2.1) - \$10,000 4.Travel to support resilience assessment for 4 States (Output 2.2) - \$2,500 x 4 = \$10,000 5.Travel to support agriculture and infrastructure review for all 4 States (Output 2.3) - \$4,000 x 4 = \$16,000 6.Travel association with extension staff training (Output 2.4) - \$24,000 7.Travel associated with training assessment and training evaluation in Year 4 (Output 2.4) - \$10,000		140,000			140,000		
Travel	Travel (\$58,000) 1.Travel to support mapping and finalization of demonstration landscape in all 4 States (Output 3.1) - \$10,000 2.Travel to support implementation of the DLMPs in 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.1) - \$4,000 x 4 = \$16,000 3.Travel to support compilation of traditional and climate smart practices in all 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.3) - \$12,000 4.Travel to support development of gender sensitive training and extension strategy for all 4 demonstration sites (Output 3.3) - \$10,000 5.Travel to support steering and technical committee visits to provide guidance (all outputs) - \$10,000			58,000		58,000		
Travel	Travel (\$126,000) 1.Travel to support the development of the communication and knowledge management strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 2.Travel to support development of citizen science strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 3.Travel to implement citizen science and/or volunteer activities for all States (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 x 4 = \$16,000 4.Travel to support development of the SLM school strategy (Output 4.1) - \$4,000 5.Travel for participants and resource persons to attend end of project national seminar (Output 4.2) - \$50,000 6.Travel for national government staff participation in 2 knowledge sharing events (such as conferences) annually (Output 4.3) - \$16,000 7.Travel for state government staff participating in 2 knowledge sharing events (such as conferences) annually (Output 4.3) - \$8,000 x 4 = \$32,000				126,000	126,000		
Travel	Travel (\$80,000) 1.Travel costs for MTR and TE evaluations – (\$12,000 each) - \$24,000 2.Travel costs for monitoring safeguard implementation - \$12,000 3.Travel costs for monitoring core indicators and impacts - \$24,000 4.Travel costs for participation in inception workshop - \$20,000						-	80,000
Office Supplies	Supplies (\$40,939) 1.Supplies to States related to promoting SLM and BD in schools in all 4 States (Output 4.1) - approximately \$10,234.75/state x 4 = \$40,939				40,939	40,939		
Office Supplies	Office supplies - \$487						-	
Other Operating Costs	Professional Services (\$18,000) 1. Annual audits at \$3,000/year - \$18,000						-	
Grand Total		731,918	774,807	2,679,264	478,359	4,664,348		245,420

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).