



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) in Vanuatu		
Country(ies):	Vanuatu	GEF Project ID: ¹	9847
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	P02457
Other Executing Partner(s):	Government of Vanuatu, DEPC	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	220,541

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-1 Program 1 (select) (select)	GEFTF	1,592,798	4,101,500
BD-1 Program 2 (select) (select)	GEFTF	490,092	1,262,000
BD-3 Program 6 (select) (select)	GEFTF	367,569	946,500
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		2,450,459	6,310,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective:						
Project Components	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1 Strengthening capacity for the management of a protected area network	TA	1.1 Government, NGOs and communities are using ECARE tools to more effectively manage protected areas	1.1.1 Design of appropriate management effectiveness tools for protected areas 1.1.2 On-the job training program designed and implemented for management effectiveness tools 1.1.3 Management effectiveness	GEFTF	450,000	1,400,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT guidelines](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>1.2 More comprehensive and accurate baseline information sets are being used by Government to inform protected area planning and management</p> <p>1.3 Protected area managers and decision makers have increased awareness about the required systems and measures for improving management effectiveness</p>	<p>assessments conducted for three representative categories of protected area</p> <p>1.2.1 Collation of priority information about terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity assets and protected areas</p> <p>1.2.2 Analysis of information to determine status, trends, issues and needs</p> <p>1.3.1 Awareness interventions for stakeholders designed and delivered for outcomes 1.1 and 1.2</p>			
<p>Component 2</p> <p>Improving the financial sustainability of Vanuatu's protected area network</p>	TA	<p>2.1 Increased Government revenue for protected area is expended on management actions.</p>	<p>2.1.1 A comprehensive assessment of the cost of administering and operating Vanuatu's protected area network under different scenarios is undertaken and disseminated with operational and budgetary recommendations</p> <p>2.1.2 Review of existing maritime compliance systems and preparation of a strategy to optimize financial sustainability.</p> <p>2.1.3 Legal and institutional framework for revised maritime compliance system to be given effect in law and in practice.</p>	GEFTF	440,000	1,100,000

		2.2 Conservation stakeholders use ECARE knowledge products to improve sustainable financing mechanisms.	2.2.1 Review of existing income generating enterprises for protected areas and design of good practices toolkit for national use. 2.2.2 Disseminate toolkit nationally via a training program designed and trialed during the term of the project and modified as necessary for ongoing use.			
Component 3 Expansion of a representative network of marine protected areas	TA	3.1 Government of Vanuatu increases the coverage of marine ecosystems under protection by at least 5,000,000 ha	3.1.1 Collation of at least 150 marine datasets for use in the marine spatial planning processes 3.1.2 Three rounds of national consultations on marine spatial planning are conducted to agree Vanuatu's ocean zones 3.1.3 Development of the legal and institutional basis for Vanuatu's marine spatial plan (including network of marine protected areas). 3.1.4 Draft legal and institutional framework for the marine spatial plan, (including network of marine protected areas) to be given effect in law and in practice	GEFTF	1,150,000	3,000,000
Component 4 Communication, awareness, monitoring and evaluation	TA	4.1 Key political and Administration stakeholders make decisions based on commitment to protecting Vanuatu's biodiversity 4.2 Significantly more ni-Vanuatu	4.1.1 One political out-reach program designed and implemented to advocate for biodiversity. 4.2.1 Project monitoring, evaluation	GEFTF	293,770	490,000

		(Government) are able to manage environmental projects and design new ones	and reporting systems established and implemented as required by agreements between funding agencies, IA and EA. 4.2.2 Training program designed and implemented to build capacity in Government to manage and implement the current and future projects.			
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					2,333,770	5,990,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				GEFTF	116,689	320,000
Total Project Cost					2,450,459	6,310,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ()

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Government of Vanuatu	In-kind	4,215,000
Donor Agency	MACBIO Phase II	In-kind	400,000
Donor Agency	BIOPAMA	In-kind	645,000
Donor Agency	NZPPOA	In-kind	250,000
Donor Agency	PEBACC	In-kind	350,000
Donor Agency	RESSCUE	In-kind	450,000
Total Co-financing			6,310,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
IUCN	GEFTF	Vanuatu	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	2,450,459	220,541	2,671,000
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total GEF Resources					2,450,459	220,541	2,671,000

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$100,000					PPG Agency Fee: 9,000		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
IUCN	GEF TF	Vanuatu	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	100,000	9,000	109,000
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total PPG Amount					100,000	9,000	109,000

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	5,000,000 Hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	0 Hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	0 Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	0 Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	0 metric tons
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	0 metric tons
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	0 metric tons
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	0 ODP tons
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries: 1
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries: 1

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁸ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Vanuatu includes more than 200 islands, of which about 68 are inhabited. The land area of all islands is some 12,000 km² with a combined coastline of 3,598km. The total area of the EEZ is about 813,000km² with the marine area comprising 98% of the total area. Vanuatu is also a culturally diverse nation with over 110 language and cultural groups amongst its population of 265,000 people. The vast majority of people still adhere to traditional 'kastom' but this is under constant change as the modern economy develops.

Vanuatu is fundamentally an agricultural and coastal marine resources oriented society, where the majority of the population is involved in farming and fishing activities, either for subsistence, livelihood or cash income. The economy is based primarily on this subsistence or small-scale agriculture and fishing activity, which provides a

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF, SCCF or CBIT.

⁸ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

living for over 60% of the population. The mainly rural and coastal population also relies heavily on biodiversity for food security and cultural identity. Vanuatu's principal domestic exports in 2011 and 2012 were copra, coconut oil and kava. Fishing, offshore financial services and tourism are other mainstays of the economy. Marine ecosystem services essential to ni-Vanuatu are valued up to USD 64.25 million/year (MACBIO National Marine Ecosystem Service Evaluation 2013). By comparison the Government expenditure is about USD150m/year.

Vanuatu is part of the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, one of the most biologically important regions on the planet in terms of species richness and endemism. Rapid speciation and sub-speciation are able to occur because of conditions such as the presence of bodies of water separating two islands, and rugged interiors that separate catchments and lowland habitats.

About 74% of land in Vanuatu is covered with natural vegetation which includes tropical lowland evergreen rain forest, broad-leaved deciduous forest, closed conifer forest, montane rain forest, cloud forest and coastal forest. Substantive rivers, coastal wetlands and lakes occur on the larger islands however the most common freshwater habitats are steep-gradient mountain streams. The extensive marine environment comprises a wide range of physical characteristics including seamounts, deep ocean canyons and ridges, oceanic trenches and deep water basins. Important ecosystems include inter-tidal zones, mangroves, seagrass beds and over 1 million ha of coral reef habitats within fringing reefs, barrier reefs, atoll reefs and lagoons. These areas support rich assemblages of plants and animals utilized for artisanal and subsistence fishery purposes. Nearshore and offshore waters support numerous species of marine mammals and sea turtles, and a range of commercially valuable pelagic fish species.

Vanuatu has 65 endemic species that have been assessed for their conservation status using the IUCN Red Listing of Endangered Species system. Of these, 12 rated in one of the categories which show the risk to their survival– 1 near threatened, 3 vulnerable, 6 least concern, and 2 data deficient. It has a secure population of dugong and its habitat – one of only two outside Australia in the Pacific – is the subject of a multi-nation GEF financed program. As has often been the case elsewhere in the Pacific and globally much of the perception of species extinction has been predicated on iconic species such as mammals and birds. While it is true Vanuatu's birds and bats have declined (warranting the reassessment mentioned elsewhere), there have been anecdotal evidence that its endemic herpetofauna and invertebrates (e.g. Lepidoptera) have also declined.

However, as a complex bio-geographic region so much about Vanuatu's biodiversity remains unknown. Island separation, big variations in latitude and island altitude, large oceanic areas and frequent disturbance due to the passage of tropical cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic activity, combine to exert profound effects on the distribution and abundance of species.

Vanuatu's biodiversity faces a range of threats that stem from the root causes of exploitation of natural resources, population growth and climate change.

Exploitation of Natural Resources: Both Vanuatu's national economy and the subsistence livelihoods of most of its population are built on the utilization of natural resources. Vanuatu has an agriculture-based economy with copra, cocoa, kava and cattle continuing to dominate the sector. Forestry was traditionally the major source of export income and there has been immense pressure on some timber species on the larger islands, where harvesting was concentrated. Although large scale logging has been banned since the late 1990s, extensive areas formerly subject to commercial forestry remain degraded. Many landowners have used their logged forest lands for alternative activities like commercial agriculture. The impacts of invasive species have been pronounced, placing further pressure on the natural environment. Poor agricultural practices often result in release of pollutants, loss of riparian habitat, erosion of soil, increased turbidity and fertility decline.

Terrestrial habitat loss continues as a result of: conversion of agricultural land for subsistence farming or for cattle grazing (as a response to international demand for Vanuatu's high-quality beef), infrastructure and development as well as large scale agriculture along the coastline, forcing the former occupants to move inland and convert more forests for the livelihoods, and land lease arrangement and subdivision for residential and industrial activities.

Fisheries, both coastal and offshore, represent a very large part of the national economy. The value of tuna alone to Vanuatu, mainly from access fees, was about Vt160 million in 2013. Coastal habitats are also of enormous value; subsistence fishers valued at about Vt580 million, small-scale inshore commercial fishers at Vt290 million, coastal protection at Vt1.6 billion and carbon sequestration at Vt760 million (Pascale et al 2015).

These extensive and valuable marine resources and environment are directly threatened from expanding human actions such as overfishing, shipping and pollution as well as the potential for seabed mining. Commercial and industrial fishery activity – mostly encompassing the tuna fishery – has also impacted locally based operations not to mention unmeasured knock-on impacts via the food chain. The introduction of improved modern fishing equipment and techniques has further increased the pressure on reef fishery. Freshwater prawns, giant clams, trochus and green snails are fisheries that are over-exploited and are in danger of being depleted.

Population Growth: An additional driver on terrestrial habitat loss is Vanuatu's high population growth rate of 2.3% per annum. Increasing human settlements are generally concentrated in the coastal lowlands putting pressure on these ecosystems through increasing processes such as coastal development, land reclamation, infrastructure provision, large scale agriculture and cattle grazing. Consequently, biodiversity is most at risk in these lowland and coastal areas and on small islands but remains relatively intact in the rugged, higher altitude forests of larger islands. However, as these demands are displacing existing populations and forcing occupants to move further inland the resulting shift is putting increasing pressures relating to expanded forest conversion for subsistence agriculture purposes and also a shift in hunting practices. Vanuatu's growing population and a tendency for improper waste disposal practices have also had a negative impact on biodiversity

Climate Change and Natural Disasters: For four years, Vanuatu has been ranked the world's most disaster prone country, being vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and Tsunamis. These events are a major threat to biodiversity as they destroy habitats and can cause local extinction of many species. On 13-14 March, Tropical Cyclone Pam swept through Vanuatu with 250 km/hour winds and heavy rains leaving behind almost 90 percent damage to buildings, to agriculture, infrastructure and ecosystems.

Climate change is already devastating Vanuatu's natural systems. Unprecedented mass coral bleaching events due to high and prolonged sea temperatures; devastation of large tracts of mangrove forests; leveling of littoral forests and coastal erosion due to intense storm and cyclone events, are well documented. Rare and increasingly threatened tropical montain forest ecosystems are severely impacted by worsening cyclones and now consequently at higher risk of being compromised by invasive alien species in highly disturbed areas. Detrimental changes in the marine environment are occurring faster than previously anticipated, compounded by rising ocean temperatures, acidity and sea level rise as well as the increasing intensity and frequency of cyclones and other extreme weather events.

The nation of Vanuatu faces many barriers in protecting its extensive and critical natural resources from these human and environmental threats. Key barriers that need to be overcome are:

Barrier #1 Institutional capacity and management effectiveness

Local tenure and ownership systems in Vanuatu mean that the predominant national model for protecting and managing natural resources revolves around communities. While these traditional systems have been generally adequate at very small local scales, Vanuatu requires increased capacity and skill sets within Government to manage against the complex threats. Pressures from the increasing threats to the environment call for new skills in terms of advocacy, financial enterprise, governance, project design and coordination, participatory processes, enforcement requirements, monitoring, use of new technologies, and being able to scale up successful activities are clear. Evolving issues such as invasive species and impacts of climate change also represent new and complicated challenges that require new skill sets. Investment in capacity has characteristically been through site specific interventions and more focus is needed on the capacity needs or systematic gaps within Government.

At present the Government of Vanuatu's capacity to manage an effective, financially sustainable, comprehensive and representative network of protected areas (including offshore) that preserves Vanuatu's biodiversity is not yet

sufficiently developed. Improving this situation and meeting the challenges of the future is a long term endeavor and requires suitable decision and management tools, better access to relevant information for decisions, tailored capacity building programs and sharing of successful experiences.

Management effectiveness assessments are also needed to commence a more rigorous approach to planning around these issues and to identify capacity gaps and prioritize actions needed. Management effectiveness and financial sustainability of existing protected areas is low but improving on a project site basis. At present average METT scores are 31.9. Government stakeholders and CSOs are increasing their capacity to manage their responsibilities with respected management of PAs and Government's policy, legal and institutional frameworks are also improving in some areas. On a small scale, CSOs are supporting and engaging with selected communities on a site basis. The Government is increasing its focus on engaging with the tourism sector for sustainable financing of selected protected areas.

Barrier #2 Lack of information and evidence based decision making:

Government information and data systems for decision making on protected areas are minimal. Government does have a register of key biodiversity areas for Vanuatu and access to an open database (the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal, PIPAP) in which they can store, organize, manage, access, visualize and analyze their information about protected areas, biodiversity values, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, species and habitats, pressures and threats, and management and governance. It is a secure, reliable and free information platform but has not been populated.

The lack of information is a key barrier to Vanuatu's ability to undertake any strategic prioritization for the establishment and resourcing of Vanuatu's protected areas. The current strength and extent of Vanuatu's protected area network is that it has been motivated by bottom up local interests and initiatives rather than national or regional priorities based on a range of scientific information. While this community basis is a strength it also means that the myriad of community sites have not necessarily been established on the basis of ecological system connectivity or biodiversity values such as representativeness or in response to priority threats.

As a result the current network is still far from meeting Vanuatu's stated biodiversity priorities as well as other national and sectoral policy priorities. The lack of much of the baseline information on biological diversity (including native and invasive alien species distribution and status) is a key barrier in guiding the establishment of protected areas in pursuit of strategic policies. Vanuatu does not currently have the capacity to establish and maintain its own organized, accessible information systems that can display maps and supporting information about biodiversity values, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, species and habitats, pressures and threats, and management effectiveness and governance. More survey work is needed to verify the status of many of these more obscure but just as valuable species.

While protected areas will always be established and managed in collaboration with local communities, Vanuatu has the potential to greatly enhance this local network with its community buy-in to develop a stronger, more representative and better managed system of protected areas.

Barrier #3 Adequate and sustainable Financing:

National government budgets for protected areas are inadequate to meet targets described in various environmental instruments such as the NBSAP. The lack of sustainable finance sources to support protected area work remains one of the most critical barriers. Like most developing countries, Vanuatu is largely reliant on external aid to support environmental endeavors. While this funding and support has been essential to place Vanuatu in a better position to address issues relating to nature conservation, it is important that the country steadily moves toward becoming more self-reliant in terms of funding and to have a degree of certainty about its capacity to find, create and maintain its own internal financing measures. Low or intermittent funding conditions are a major problem at local, provincial and national levels where resources are needed for research surveys, overall network planning, site management activity, enforcement, capacity development activities, awareness initiatives and monitoring and reporting.

While some communities self-fund customary practices to initiate establishment of small community conserved areas, they mostly lack the financial resources to scale up their efforts to protect larger areas or to even maintain their smaller site efforts. At the provincial government level, the very low institutional capacity to meet conservation mandates is a direct consequence of a lack of staff with conservation responsibilities and associated funding to implement work programs. Government ministries have hugely inadequate budgets to support enough staff to do country-wide field assessments, policy development, planning, community support, consultations, information management, reporting and to be responsible for national commitments on international agreements. Adequate and reliable annual budgetary allocation (including to provincial governments) for conservation and protected area functions, along with other sustainable sources of finance is urgently needed. There is a need to fully identify all relevant costs involved in establishing and maintaining a protected areas network and to place a projected valuation on various management scenarios.

Barrier #4 Limited national capacity to plan for the protection of Vanuatu's oceanic territory:

There has been little significant progress towards the establishment of a recognized system of protected areas across Vanuatu. Records for protected areas are variable between different reporting analyses and what types of areas are 'counted' as protected. There are currently no exact, authoritative figures. As at July 2017, the World Database on Protected Areas (www.protectedplanet.net) identifies 35 protected areas in Vanuatu (see map / Annex). These include a total 52,800ha of land (4.2% of the total land area of 1,257,510ha) and 4,800ha of marine (0.01% of the total marine area of 62,207,320ha). The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (2013) also cites protected terrestrial and inland waters comprising 4.2% of the total land area, with approximately 45 km² of coastal and marine areas having protected status. However, the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation have registered five areas (three forest, one coastal/marine and one mangrove area) covering an estimated area of 11,000ha. By all accounts there is little formal protection within Vanuatu's total marine area, with the exception of some small, albeit very important, coastal managed and protected areas.

This brief snapshot highlights that baseline situation for marine biodiversity in particular requires significant improvement if the vast marine resources are to be protected and sustained. There are no significant offshore marine protected areas, which represents a significant area for attention in meeting the ambitions of the national Oceans Policy. Given Vanuatu's total sovereign territory is 98% ocean the lack of protected areas (including consideration of traditional management approaches) in the wider/offshore (or even near-shore) marine environment is a key barrier to the health of the marine environment with 45 km² (or 0.01%) of coastal and marine areas are covered by some form of Protected Area status in Vanuatu (Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, 2013). Like many Pacific countries, the intensity and monitoring of fishery activity is one of their most pressing management dilemmas. While near-shore areas, understandably, have a strong element of local community interest and usage, there is a strong need to prioritize and plan wide-scale protection and sustainable management of marine biodiversity assets across the within the wider oceanic territory.

Barrier #5 Lack of knowledge and awareness of the value of biodiversity and the role of protected areas:

A final barrier to sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation is the general lack of knowledge and awareness of the value of biodiversity and role of protected areas. Despite the depth of traditional knowledge and management systems, reliance on natural resources and the strong policy frameworks, the models for local economic development, agricultural production, local forestry practices and marine harvesting and fishing exert continuing large pressure through the extraction of natural resources or the substitution of natural ecosystems. Models using nature-based solutions for development and production that promote the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems services are a more sustainable, but less used, approach.

Greater political awareness in particular is required to support positive consideration and uptake of nature-based solutions as a viable pathway to national development goals and to get greater government investment. There is a significant opportunity to create context-specific communication material and political awareness campaigns that demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of ecosystem goods and services and of biodiversity.

2. The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

The Government of Vanuatu has a strong policy framework for the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of its critical ecosystem services. The National Sustainable Development Plan “Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan 2016-2030” articulates a vision that includes “ensuring the resilience and effective long term management of our natural, financial and human resources”. It has three equal pillars - Society, Environment and Economy. The Environment pillar operates in conjunction with Vanuatu’s National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan (NEPIP) 2016-2030 which provides clear direction towards the creation of a well-managed and financed network of protected areas that are supported at the local, provincial and national levels. The draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2030 also commits to the establishment of a comprehensive and representative system of marine and terrestrial reserves and conservation areas that is well managed, financially sustainable and includes examples of all habitats and species, at both national and local levels.

These national level policies also promote ambitious targets including: 15% of natural forest and 10% of wetland areas to be conserved through effective community and government management measures by 2030; 90% of community management committees complying with their CCA reporting obligations by 2020; and 10 registered CCAs in Vanuatu by 2020. The Vanuatu Forestry Policy has set a target to actively manage 30% of Vanuatu’s forest by 2030. The Vanuatu Ocean Policy has set a goal to establish, by 2020, a national ecologically representative system of marine protected areas.

While policy frameworks are in place there is a paucity of protected areas registered under the Environmental Protection and Conservation (EPC) Act. This largely reflects the historic limitations concerning structured approaches to recognizing areas in Vanuatu’s that have forms of conservation practice in the context of customary land ownership, but it also reflects limited government capacity to monitor and record relevant information. There has been significant buy-in by local communities and organizations to the model of community-based protected areas (Community Conservation Areas – CCAs as the term defined by the EPC Act). Further, there are around 50 legally recognized CCAs albeit they are not currently registered under the EPC Act. During consultation on the NBSAP 2016-2030 some 600 sites were documented that were subject to community based resource management practices. Many communities were favorable to having some form of protection or sustainable management for these sites using community-based models which incorporated traditional methods and values. Some pilot sites exist already in both marine and terrestrial KBA’s.

While Vanuatu’s policy framework and targets are commendable, community buy-in is growing and there are several programs in place to support government, it is clear that a greater level of support is needed if Vanuatu is to overcome critical barriers and achieve its ambitious targets with respect biodiversity. GEF engagement under the IUCN GEF Project ECARE will provide a critical investment to enable Government to move towards greater representativeness in its protected area network as well as significantly expand the protected area coverage and protect ecologically representative examples of Vanuatu’s critically important marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Under the current baseline scenario, the IUCN GEF project ECARE will cooperate and coordinate closely with three GEF funded projects underway, and these are outlined as follows:

Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management (Ridge to Reef) FAO/GEF 2017- 2021:

At the national level the project is supporting the development or strengthening of various sectoral policies in support of integrated and sustainable land and coastal management, within a ridge-to-reef vision. The program has a protected area component which will support an expansion of terrestrial CCAs and (coastal) marine protected areas in three new target locations: Aneityum, Tanna and Efate. It will also seek to further expand on two sites, South Pentecost and Gaua. The R2R program will include a focus on management capacity and financial sustainability in these sites, seeking to increase the CCA and MPA area by 5000ha, increase the average Management Effectiveness

Tracking Tool (METT) score from 31.9 to 85 and see an increase by \$150,000 per year in financial resources from tourism for PA management with a specific focus on cruise-ship companies and locally-managed alternative tourism initiatives. ECARE will be able to provide significant additionality to these outcomes by working closely with the Ridge to Reef program.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF):

CEPF supports various grantee projects including projects designed to: strengthen the financial and institutional structure of community-based environment committees; develop business plans for long-term sustainable financing options; strengthen the Environment Advocacy Network and launch environmental awareness campaigns; increase understanding of freshwater biodiversity; conduct site specific baseline surveys of plant diversity, and; build capacity and financial sustainability of environmental civil society groups. CEPF produced a registry of key biodiversity areas for the East Melanesian Islands, including Vanuatu. This work provides a good illustration of areas requiring conservation efforts. Vanuatu CEPF grants are mostly focused on discrete sites and issues rather than addressing the full suite of national needs. ECARE can coordinate closely with CEPF to ensure work undertaken by grantees can be shared and inform other initiatives.

Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO) Protected Area Management:

Vango is supporting local communities to create and manage terrestrial conservation areas (Community Conservation Areas or CCAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This includes registering and formalizing the areas, and providing technical assistance. They will support interventions to protect natural habitats and forests in 5 islands (Santo, Malekula, Efate, Tanna and Erromango) by assisting the indigenous peoples understand their duty and rights to protect biodiversity and implement conservation projects. This actions being implemented by this project also have the opportunity to be scaled up from their site specific locations and expanded where there are additional resources available to do so.

The baseline scenario also includes five projects that ECARE will enter into technical and co-financing partnerships with:

Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) (EU funded) 2014-2017 and 2017-2022

BIOPAMA is supporting 15 Pacific ACP countries to develop and improve baseline information inventories, including maps, that guide planning, designating and managing protected areas and enable more accurate reporting. The online portal above (Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal, BIPAP) hosted at SPREP was developed under BIOPAMA. From 2018, up to five small to medium sized grants will be available per country for targeted priority work concerning protected areas that enhances information inventories, enables management effectiveness assessments and supports management planning and good practices for protected and managed areas. An additional important service by the PIPAP administrators is to provide hands on capacity building to support key national stakeholders with information management skills. National stakeholders will also be able to apply for grants that extend the number of relevant, representative actions that could be undertaken by the ECARE. These grants would apply to site specific situations and could include: information inventories, management effectiveness assessments, management plans. ECARE will provide the additional technical and financial assistance needed to translate better baseline information into better decision making and resource allocation by Government.

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO)

The Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety's (BMUB) International Climate Initiative (IKI). It is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with the countries of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. It has technical support from the Oceania Office of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is working in close collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). Through the development and

provision of a spatial planning framework for territorial waters and EEZs, the project will support partner countries in setting up and expanding national protected area systems that are ecologically representative of existing marine and coastal ecosystems and habitat types. The project aims to mainstream and extend re-designed MPA networks using seascape- level planning and will demonstrate effective approaches to site management, including payment for ecosystem services. The project aims to adopt tried and tested concepts and instruments throughout the project countries and the wider Oceania region.

The first phase of the regional project will finish in mid-2018 and a second phase is currently being planned. The objectives of MACBIO are to: ensure that the economic value of marine ecosystems are considered in national development planning; that EEZ wide spatial planning frameworks are used to align protected area systems with ecosystem conservation; that best practices for the management of marine protected areas, including payments for environmental services, are demonstrated at selected sites. MACBIO has supported the Government to develop and implement its Ocean policy but the second phase does not have the technical or financial resources to support Government with its implementation. ECARE can provide the resources needed to finalize data sets and design and establish a network of marine protected areas that is ecologically representative of existing marine and coastal ecosystems and habitat types.

New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (NZPPOA) – (New Zealand Funded)

The New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification project is a collaborative effort between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the University of the South Pacific, and the Pacific Community which aims to build resilience to ocean acidification in Pacific Island communities and ecosystem. In Vanuatu it is working in one site, Eratap to build ecosystem and social resilience to ocean acidification by reducing local stressors on the marine environment.

Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Adaptation to Climate Change (RESCCUE) – (French Development Agency Funded)

The aim of RESCCUE is to support adaptation to climate change through integrated coastal management, resorting especially to economic analysis and economic and financial mechanisms. It works at a pilot site level to strengthen integrated coastal management, strengthen the use of economic analysis for integrated coastal management; ensure economic and financial sustainability of integrated coastal management; and facilitate learning, dissemination and replication of experiences gained from pilot sites. In Vanuatu, activities to be implemented are primarily located in North Efate, but some activities may also be undertaken at the national level. The site covers the 2 existing networks of marine protected areas in North Efate: Tasi-Vanua and Nguna-Pele. It begins at the edge of the village Mangaliliu and ends with the village of Epao (included) covering a distance of 45 km, and includes the islands of Nguna, Pele, Lelepa, Emao and Moso. ECARE will work closely with RESCCUE to expand existing mechanisms to replicate and scale up good practice.

Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PEBACC) – (German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB))

PEBACC is a five-year project that explores and promotes Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) options for adapting to climate change. The Project is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The overall intended outcome of the project is: EbA is integrated into development, climate change adaptation and natural resource management policy and planning processes in three Pacific island countries providing replicable models for other countries in the region. Protected areas are a key EbA strategy and ECARE will be able to draw from lessons learned under PEBACC's Protected Area activities in Vanuatu and share mechanisms for scale up and replication.

ECARE will partner with RESCCUE, PEBACC and NZPPOA to ensure their experiences with management and financial sustainability feeds back into national management tools, capacity development programs and strategies for

greater financial sustainability. These programs will work together to strengthen and expand the existing mechanism for replication, scale up and outreach to more communities.

Vanuatu has clear policies in place to protect its unique biodiversity through better managed and expanded protected areas and there are several programs in place to support various elements of these policies as described above with the majority focused on pilot site work. The baseline scenario presented several strategic opportunities for GEF investment to deliver additional significant outcomes for Vanuatu in meeting its national policies and international environmental obligations with respect protected areas.

3 The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

Key Features of ECARE:

As above, the business as usual scenario presents significant opportunities for further GEF investment to expand Vanuatu's protected area coverage, the effectiveness of its management and its longer term sustainability. Most notably there is an opportunity to provide the additional technical resources required to support a strategic shift towards a more ecologically representative protected area system across the entire archipelago with particular opportunities in offshore marine areas. In summary, and in line with the key barriers described, the GEF alternative is:

- Greater protection of Vanuatu's ocean: While work is still required on terrestrial ecosystems the clear area for greater investment for increased global environmental benefits is the marine sector given the size of Vanuatu's EEZ and the current lack of protection. There is a clear opportunity to provide the resources needed to support Government actually commence a broadened focus on marine protected area planning and management in partnership with the second phase of MACBIO.
- Improved management effectiveness and financial sustainability: There is a clear opportunity for GEF funds to synthesize resources and information by taking experiences of pilot/model sites in baseline projects to develop best tools for use nationwide with relevant training for end-users. Lessons have been learnt about how to work with local communities such as through the Critical Ecosystem Protection Fund (East Melanesian Island Hotspot program) with particular local examples empowering local CSO's but these lessons need to be drawn out and extended to include a wider range of communities.
- Strengthening Government capacity: Government personnel carry a weighty responsibility to oversee the organization, implementation and fulfillment of national environmental targets, laws and policies and a wide array of conservation initiatives. The ECARE project will build specific necessary skills in government staff in the areas of: advocacy and awareness raising; financial management; policy and planning; project design and coordination; management effectiveness; legal and institutional frameworks; participatory processes; compliance and monitoring, and; use of new technologies especially information platforms.
- Lack of information and evidence based decision making: GEF resources could support the technical activities required to develop and implement the information, assessment, consultation and planning required to prioritize an expanded and representative protected area network at national scale. This includes investing in establishing the governance and technical systems to operate such a network and the tools to manage such a network including the support of the widest range of stakeholders, including local communities where appropriate. GEF funds could draw together valuable data into a national system for designing (technically – such as capturing representative bio/geodiversity) and governing protected areas under a coherent national system. In partnership with BIOPAMA, GEF6 resources can build a more complete information and evidence base – quantitative, technical, knowledge and more importantly to provide technical assistance to ensure it actually supports decision making on expansion, management effectiveness and resource allocation. They can also undertake the targeted interventions required to harness the services of the PIPAP and aid decision makers. The work proposed in

this project will set the foundations for a comprehensive biodiversity assessment which will form a baseline for future monitoring, evaluation, management and planning.

The GEF alternative proposed under the Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) project in Vanuatu is strategic investments designed to achieve the following incremental benefits:

- Significantly expanded the coverage of Vanuatu's MPAs or other effective marine conservation measures (minimum additional 5,000,000ha)
- Improve the management effectiveness (50% increase in METT scores for selected PAs) and greater financial sustainability (minimum of US\$500,000 additional funds secured for PAs)

ECARE is primarily aligned with the BD-1 objective: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems, supporting the outcomes of both Programs 1 and 2, but it also aligned with BD-3 Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Globally Significant Coral Reef Ecosystems through Program 6 by focusing on Marine Protected Areas. Further, the program will contribute directly to the following Aichi targets 11: PA expansion and management effectiveness enhancement, 19. BD knowledge sharing, transfer and application, and 20. Resource mobilization.

ECARE's Objective is: Improved national systems and capacity for achieving a representative, effective and expanded protected areas network in Vanuatu.

Project actions in support of the achievement of this objective will be structured into the following four components:

Component 1 will focus on strengthening capacity for the management of a representative, effective and expanded protected area network. The capacity to manage protected areas in ways that are effective, strategic and prioritized in order to meet national targets requires suitable decision support tools, access to relevant information and tailored capacity building and sharing of experiences at the national level. National and provincial government staff and protected area managers will be the beneficiaries of the capacity support. Target indicators proposed (to be defined at PPG phase) are a 50% improvement in METT and other context specific scores and that PA management plans meet independent professional critical review. Improved baseline information will provide a more robust basis for decisions and monitoring. The longer term sustainability of these efforts will be supported by improvements in financial sustainability from component 2 (see below) as described in section 6.

Outcome 1.1: Government, NGOs and communities are using ECARE tools to more effectively manage protected areas

Output 1.1.1 Design of appropriate management effectiveness tools for protected areas

Proposed activities will include: review of previous management effectiveness assessment processes and synthesis of good practice from pilot sites; review of available tools for compatibility with user skills and circumstances; design and trial of revised management tools with refinement and design for national use.

Output 1.1.2 On-the-job training program designed and implemented for management effectiveness tools
Development of a capacity building plan responding to priority gaps and investments required and creation of forums convened sharing experiences gained from management effectiveness assessment activities. Roll out of on-the-job training for national and provincial government staff.

Output 1.1.3 Management effectiveness assessments conducted for three representative protected area categories

Activities will include: analysis of context, threats, opportunities; review of existing or required management plans; identification of necessary resourcing, and; assessment of capacity gaps and priority needs. The capacity development plan developed under 1.1.2 will be refined in response to updated needs assessments.

Outcome 1.2: More comprehensive and accurate baseline information sets are being used by Government to inform protected area planning and management

Output 1.2.1 Collation and development of priority information about terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity assets and protected areas.

Activities will include: capacity building in information management skills; necessary information sets are identified; information holders are engaged in sharing information, and; the central protected area portal at SPREP is utilized to store, display and analyze information.

Output 1.2.2 Analysis of information to determine status, trends, issues and needs.

Activities will include: data analysis; a tailored training module developed on use of information for decision making; workshops delivered on information use, including monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management responses, and; provision of information in suitable formats to decision makers.

Outcome 1.3: Protected area managers and decision makers have increased awareness about the required systems and measures for improving management effectiveness

Output 1.3.1 Awareness interventions will be implemented for key stakeholders and designed and delivered based on outcome 1.1 and 1.2.

Activities will include: awareness sessions designed and delivered for relevant stakeholders based on new management tools and more comprehensive baseline information; peer to peer forums convened to maximize exchange of experiences, challenges and solutions; tailored training modules in management effectiveness, and; allied tools are designed for Government and CSO's and tested for suitability with three protected areas to be identified in the PPG phase. Wherever possible existing government mechanisms will be used and expanded to undertake this outreach such as Provincial Protected Area committees and those structures developed under other allied projects. It is also envisaged that existing CSOs and their networks will be strong partners in the roll out of these awareness interventions. Details of these and other effective outreach mechanisms will be designed and negotiated with government and community during the PPG phase. Care will be taken to ensure the coverage required is adequate to achieve outcomes desired.

Component 2 will focus on improving the financial sustainability of Vanuatu's protected areas and is a critical strategy for the overall sustainability of ECARE. The capacity for protected area financial sustainability requires a comprehensive assessment of the costs of running the MPA network for different scenarios. Generating the ongoing funds required on a sustainable basis will need to approach and partnerships, particularly for the wider EEZ. Options for ensuring financial sustainability of maritime compliance systems are particularly essential. Scaling up successful models across the country requires greater sharing of information on successful models through targeted dissemination strategies such as toolkits and related training programs. Proposed indicators, to be refined during the PPG process, include a minimum of US\$500,000 additional finance for PAs and 25% reduction in the difference between calculated costs of managing PA's nation-wide and actual realized funds during the course of the project in selected sites.

Outcome 2.1: Increased Government revenue for protected area is expended on management actions.

Output 2.1.1 A comprehensive assessment of the cost of running Vanuatu's protected area network under different scenarios is undertaken and disseminated with operational and budgetary recommendations.

In order for Government to plan effectively for the costs of running a protected area network, a comprehensive assessment of costs is required. Given the limited resource base, it is essential that this assessment is carried out under different scenarios ranging from total protection to different levels of use and threat mitigation. Activities would include data collection, financial analysis, and development of scenario modeling and stakeholder

consultations. Most importantly clear operational and budget recommendations would be effectively communicated to Vanuatu's policy makers.

Output 2.1.2 Review of existing maritime compliance system and preparation of strategy to optimize financial sustainability.

Activities would include: analysis of existing maritime compliance systems including penalties for illegal activities by foreign vessels, (e.g. shipwrecks, dumping, illegal fishing) and analysis of institutional capacity required to implement compliance system, and; stakeholder consultations to design a strategy to optimize the existing systems in order that they contribute to a self-funding compliance system for Vanuatu.

Output 2.1.3 Legal and institutional framework for self-funding maritime compliance system to be given effect in law and in practice.

Activities will involve: legislative, institutional and governance analysis of strategy; stakeholder consultations; preparation of recommendations for Government to given enhanced maritime compliance system legal effect and implementation, and the provision of policy, legal and technical advice to complete necessary documentation required to operationalize the self-funding maritime compliance system.

Outcome 2.2: Conservation stakeholders use ECARE knowledge products to improve sustainable financing mechanisms

Output 2.2.1 Review of existing income generating enterprises for protected areas and design of good practices toolkit for national use

Activities will include: analysis of the effectiveness of income generating enterprise from pilot sites under programs ECARE is coordinating with (Ridge to Reef, VANGO, CEPF) and in formal partnerships with (RESSCUE, NZPPOA); consultations to confirm most effective approaches for Vanuatu context as good practice examples, and; design of a toolkit for national use.

Output 2.2.2 Disseminate toolkit nationally via a training program designed and trialed during the term of the project and modified as necessary for ongoing use (after the project term).

Activities will include: design of effective training program which includes general awareness sessions; tailored multiple exposure training modules and on the job coaching for both Government and CSO's stakeholders; roll out of training program in target sites, and; review of effectiveness and ongoing modifications.

Component 3 will focus on the establishment of an ecologically representative network of MPAs in Vanuatu within a broader, comprehensive, nation-wide marine spatial plan. Greater protection of Vanuatu's extensive EEZ is critical. Policy frameworks and strategies are now in place to take this forward along with other improvements in the management of Vanuatu's ocean but capacity to take forward remains limited. ECARE, in partnership with MACBIO (Phase II) will provide the data, finance and technical activities needed to ensure the level of protection of Vanuatu's nationally and globally important marine biodiversity increases while also ensuring fishery, tourism and economic development needs are taken into account through a marine spatial plan. Proposed indicators to be refined in the PPG process include the gazettal of a minimum of 5,000,000ha of new MPA's including protection of biophysically representative examples of the marine ecosystems of Vanuatu as well as enhanced protection of special and unique marine areas.

Outcome 3.1: Government of Vanuatu increases the coverage of marine ecosystems under protection by at least 5,000,000 hectares

Output 3.1.1 Collation of at least 150 marine datasets for use in the marine spatial planning processes

Activities will involve the necessary surveying, data collation and preparation of over 150 datasets for use in the marine spatial planning decision-making process by the Government of Vanuatu.

Output 3.1.2 Three rounds of national consultations on marine spatial planning are conducted to agree Vanuatu's ocean zones

Activities will include: planning and design of consultation processes to effectively engage national government, civil society and private sector stakeholders on the agreement of a marine spatial plan for Vanuatu; roll out of consultation process; documentation of write up of process, and; decisions which will include identifying candidate and then final areas for different types of ocean zones, including MPAs.

Output 3.1.3 Development of the legal and institutional basis for Vanuatu's marine spatial plan (including the network of marine protected areas)

Activities will involve: legislative, institutional and governance review and analysis; stakeholder consultations, and; preparation of recommendations for Government to give a marine spatial plan legal effect and implementation.

Output 3.1.5 Draft legal and institutional framework for the marine spatial plan, (including network of marine protected areas) to be given effect in law and in practice

Activities will involve the provision of policy, legal and technical advice to complete necessary documentation required to establish MPA's under the Marine Spatial Plan.

Component 4 will focus on awareness, monitoring and evaluation. An effective and appropriate investment under ECARE to expand the reach and effectiveness of Vanuatu's protected areas must include greater emphasis on providing key political and bureaucratic stakeholders with compelling evidence and advice on its value. Key outputs from ECARE such as the comprehensive assessment of the cost of running Vanuatu's protected area network under different scenarios will only achieve stated outcomes if they are effectively communication and disseminated with operational and budgetary recommendations to the right policy makers. Effective M&E systems that are designed and implemented to ensure both accountability and reporting on project effectiveness as well as to support adaptive project management are also central to success. The indicators proposed will be an increased commitment to conservation from Government as demonstrated by greater allocation of resources to their protection and management.

Outcome 4.1: Key political and bureaucratic stakeholders make decisions based on commitment to protecting Vanuatu's biodiversity

Output 4.1.1 One political out-reach program designed and implemented to advocate for biodiversity using ECARE products.

While the specific theme and target audience for the political outreach may be determined in the PPG phase, activities under ECARE will include undertaking the appropriate political economy analysis to maximize the chance of success. ECARE will then design the out-reach program; trial with target audience; monitoring of effectiveness and rollout of the campaign to relevant political and bureaucratic stakeholders and revise accordingly.

Outcome 4.2: Significantly more ni-Vanuatu (Government) are able to manage environment projects and design new ones

Output 4.2.1 Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented as required by agreements between funding agencies, IUCN and Government

Activities will include: design of effective performance management systems; on-the job training in their application; quarterly performance and financial reporting; regular monitoring visits; performance information collection; annual

reflection on progress against outcomes; annual reflection on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of ECARE.

Output 4.2.2 Training program designed and implemented to build capacity in Government to manage and implement the current and future projects

Activities will include: development and roll out of an educational training program to support foundations for effective performance management, design and commissioning of evaluations; implementation through on the job training and applied learning methodologies.

4. Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions to the baseline, including co-finance

GEF investment under ECARE will offer cumulative and incremental benefits to the ongoing initiatives supporting Vanuatu's projected area's needs. It will provide a common binding mechanism between existing projects and fill the gaps required to collectively provide a national programme for a marine protected area network. The contribution of GEF Ridge to Reef, CEPF, BIOPAMA, VANGO and small CSOs capacity building interventions can only partially address these needs and significant opportunities exist for the entire protected areas system. ECARE will offer a significant incremental benefit to the baseline in several ways:

Replication and scale up and out will be a primary focus for ECARE. Without GEF investment work on management effectiveness and sustainability will remain focused at individual site level without the necessary increase in capacity of Government. With GEF investment ECARE will have a strong leveraging effect on previous and current investments as it will enable success to be scaled up and out across the nation through ECARE tools through existing government, CSO and allied project mechanisms to be determined during the PPG phase. Through the development and roll out of contextually appropriate decision support tools, GEF will enable assessments of basic management situations, generate better understanding about whether they are having positive effect and will identify needs and priorities for capacity development. In Vanuatu's low capacity context, the incremental benefit of a more systematic approach to management capacity, including assessing its effectiveness, is very significant. It is expected this will enable a 50% improvement in METT and other context specific scores and that PA management plans meet independent professional critical review. GEF support is required to cover the incremental costs associated with more comprehensive, less piecemeal, capacity development within Government.

Without GEF investment there would not be the evidence, information and negotiation required to move towards a more biologically representative network of protected areas in Vanuatu. This is of central importance if Vanuatu is to protect its globally significant biodiversity and meet its obligations under MEA's which it has signed and ratified (e.g. the CBD). While platforms would exist for data storage they would not be populated with actual data, and important baseline information about protected areas would not be available for analysis. Decision makers would not have the information on which to determine financing needs and investment priorities.

Without GEF investment there would be no understanding of the true costs of running Vanuatu's protected area network. The medium-term and annual costs and funding needs for the protected area network, and individual protected areas, would not be identified and prioritized. While there may be successful models for income generation in protected areas, they would remain largely unknown to other communities and there would not be nationally designed capacity building activities to scale them up across the PA network. Without GEF investment Vanuatu would not realize the significant opportunity to optimize its maritime compliance system towards one that is self-funding. While it will be further refined at PPG phase, GEF investment under ECARE is expected to increase revenue for protected area systems by at least US\$500,000 in additional finance and a 25% reduction in the difference between calculated costs of managing PA's nation-wide and actual realized funds during the course of the project in selected sites.

Finally, the most significantly incremental benefit is to the strategic management of Vanuatu's ocean territory. Without GEF investment the government would not have the technical and financial support required to undertake the planning and processes that will enable additional global benefits through a significant expansion of protection in

its Vanuatu's ocean. These processes include: national ocean awareness raising; national consultation; revision of relevant legislation and establishing legal basis; a draft marine spatial plan including zoning; compliance implementation needs, and; monitoring systems. Without these processes Vanuatu would not be able to increase its representative coverage of protected marine biodiversity by 5,000,000 ha.

Total co-finance for this project is US\$6,310,000. As highlighted earlier, the co-finance will support Components 1, 2 and 3. Further co-finance commitments will be sought during the PPG phase of the program design.

5. Global Environmental Benefits

Given the nature of the protected area model in Vanuatu, it is not possible or desirable to prioritize protected areas exclusively on the basis of externally-defined criteria of global environmental importance. However, because the project will seek to strike a better balance between the areas of livelihood and cultural interest for individual communities, their importance for ecosystem services, ecological representativeness and national and global importance for conservation, it will have significant global environmental benefits.

The global environmental benefits are:

Progress towards an ecologically representative network of protected areas, underpinned by good information, capacity and financial resources. A shift in this direction will have significant environmental and, ultimately, socio-economic benefits by ensuring ecosystem resilience in Vanuatu.

Significant improvement to the management and financial sustainability of Vanuatu's Protected Area network. This will have clear global environmental benefits including:

- conserving 30 restricted range bird species in the Vanuatu/Temotu Endemic Bird Area (sensu BirdLife International) (Stattersfield et al., 1998)
- protecting a recognised terrestrial ecoregion (sensu Worldwide Fund for Nature) including endemic bird and mammal species (Olson et al., 2001)
- establishing protected areas within a recognised nearshore ecoregion (Aalbersberg et al., 2012)
- support conservation of iconic marine species including Dugong and seagrass habitat

In the marine sector, the significant expansion of protection under ECARE are anticipated to include a significant additional area of coral reef which are worldwide experiencing serious threats due to global scale environmental changes such as rises in sea temperature and increased acidification. The project's particular focus on marine areas and the potential for larger ecologically representative MPAs will facilitate a significant increase the global coverage of MPA and greatly contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Finally, through the expanded reach and effectiveness protected areas and the related conservation of biodiversity throughout the archipelago, critical ecosystem services to Vanuatu (and the world, in terms of global commodities such as Tuna) will also be secured.

6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

ECARE will be implemented using an innovative "Thinking and Working Politically" (TWP) Approach. Numerous environmental policies and plans have been agreed in the Vanuatu, yet environmental quality is still deteriorating. A TWP approach recognizes that while 'technical' solutions are necessary to achieving Vanuatu's ambitious national environmental priorities political dynamics are often more influential in determining impact. This innovative approach is critical to success as well as sustainability

There is growing literature on this innovative approach and the way in which development organizations are integrating it into their programs. In the Pacific IUCN has had extensive experience with its application. For over 5 years, IUCN has supported the "Green Growth Coalition" (funded by the Australian Government's Pacific

Leadership Program (www.plp.org), a coalition of leaders from government, faith-based organizations and the private sector that was formed to drive a ‘green growth’ and sustainable development agenda across the Pacific. It has succeeded in catalyzing the emergence of national green growth coalitions in various Pacific countries and related policy reforms including support to Vanuatu to develop their National Development Plan. ECARE will use several of the lessons from this highly innovative program to support a TWP approach.

ECARE will ensure all activities emphasize knowledge of the local context and political dynamics. By partnering directly with the Government of Vanuatu to execute ECARE, IUCN recognizes that sustainable outcomes for Vanuatu’s environment are fundamentally a political process that needs to be progressed by local people. Development partners can play a facilitative, rather than direct, role in bringing it about these changes. ECARE will keep a low profile and allowing local actors to lead reforms, ensuring reforms are genuinely (and seen to be) locally led.

ECARE will use local knowledge to identify and support the “network of local leadership” or “coalition for change” needed to progress sustainable change. Strong formal and informal political and bureaucratic leadership from this group will be critical to collaborative relationships and making sufficient human, financial, and infrastructural resources available for investment towards more effective conservation activity. ECARE will broker critical conversations to influence and shape policy and implementation. ECARE will work formally and informally using different channels (for example church networks) to build the relationships, commitment and support required to progress positive outcomes. Traditional legal and institutional arrangements for environmental protection are not enough.

ECARE will also use local knowledge to inform ways of working. For example, the development of Vanuatu’s first Marine Spatial Plan will be a highly contested space, with competing interests from tourism, fisheries, shipping and conservation. By taking a TWP approach ECARE will support the locally identified “coalition of change” to manage this space and find different approaches to broach highly contentious issues through less sensitive areas of engagement. Vanuatu has a highly collective culture and the establishment and management of conservation areas is a collective ambition (with various ministries and institutions with responsibilities under relevant international agreements, national development planning processes, strategic frameworks, plans, policies, laws and regulations) and therefore implementation must be progressed collectively.

ECARE will use this approach to find a balance between traditional “kastom” and the need for greater prioritization of protected area efforts if we are to ensure long-term benefits to the people of Vanuatu through ecosystem services. This will require coupling best-available technical information and methods with local knowledge and negotiating an acceptable balance. Innovative strategies will capitalize on the local interest, ownership and commitment generated over the recent past with interventions to increase knowledge and awareness of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services to deliver outcomes. For example, existing data about the marine environment will be collated and analyzed to describe, in a value-neutral way, the entire oceanic territory to enable identification of “ecologically representative” areas in an otherwise data-poor environment (hence scaling up from the present scenario).

Component two’s focus on financial sustainability is also critical to the overall sustainability of ECARE. The desired outcomes of improvements in financial sustainability expected from this component will provide the critical foundation for the long term continuity of all ECARE outcomes. Lasting sustainability requires adequate finance which in turn requires a clear understanding of actual costs. Generating those ongoing funds on a sustainable basis will need to approaches and partnerships, particularly for the wider EEZ. ECARE’s focus on exploring options for ensuring the financial sustainability of maritime compliance systems will be essential for sustainable ongoing management of Vanuatu’s marine protected areas. ECARE’s will also have a strong focus on scaling-up successful financial models through targeted dissemination strategies, such as toolkits and related training programs.

Further to the program design features of ECARE above, the project will also ensure sustainability by:

- Ensuring ownership of all interventions through alignment with relevant policies, priorities and targets of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030, NEPIP 2016-2030 and NBSAP 2016-2030.

- Local, provincial and national stakeholders are closely involved in project design and implementation to ensure ECARE builds on Vanuatu's own innovative approach to protected area management, which is focused on local management. The rights, needs, interests and knowledge of landowners and local resource using communities (men, women, young and older people) in particular will be respected and ECARE will ensure they are able to participate strongly in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Existing government forums (for example the Ocean Policy Implementation Committee, the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction) will be vehicles for ensuring in-country ownership of project supported processes.
- All interventions will be designed in ways that are appropriate to education and socio-cultural factors.
- A "learning-by-doing" approach (with carefully designed feedback loops) will be applied to both build capacity and ownership. Particular focus will be given to outputs that develop Government of Vanuatu capacities for 'adaptive management'.
- Strong focus on local management of ECARE and enhanced capacity for program management and design will also ensure that the sustainability of ECARE is regularly assessed by local stakeholders.

The interventions under ECARE are designed to complement and leverage greater benefits from the baseline activity, particularly the GEF-5 project Ridge to Reef which will run concurrently. Wherever possible, partnership will be established and joint program management mechanisms agreed to ensure greater ownership, reduced fragmentation and corresponding sustainability.

Replication and scale up and out will be a primary focus for ECARE. In particular, the replication and scaling- up of successful protected area management strategies and financing models through the development of best practice guidelines, toolkits and peer-to-peer learning activities. The collation of data in an open access form will allow them to be used easily to develop strategies for effective protected areas and make management decisions based on evidence from across Vanuatu. Having a strategy for the development of comprehensive networks of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas will also ensure that efforts for potential scale-up and expansion are guided by empirical evidence and targeted as much as possible. Finally, by shifting the protected area focus to look also at the broader EEZ, ECARE will provide significant expansion of MPAs outside the near shore coastal areas which will have significant environmental and economic benefits.

Wherever possibly existing Government mechanisms will be used and expanded to undertake replication and scale up such as Provincial Protected Area committees and those structures developed under other allied projects, such as PEBACC and RESSCUE. It is also envisaged that existing CSOs and their networks will be strong partners in the rolling out successful approaches with communities. Details of these and other effective mechanisms will be designed and negotiated with government and community during the PPG phase. Care will be taken to ensure the coverage required is adequate to achieve maximum outcomes for ECARE.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes ☒ /no ☐) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes ☒ /no ☐)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The Government of Vanuatu, in particular the environmental staff in the DEPC (Executing Agency) and provincial governments will be the main implementation partners responsible for day-to-day execution, management, and coordination and monitoring and central to the full project process with IUCN. They, along with other staff at national and provincial level, will also be key recipients of assistance and capacity development along with other project partners (such as CSO groups) providing implementation support to the project at community level. The project will work closely with leadership in other relevant government agencies such as forestry, fisheries and biosecurity. There will be a strong focus on political and bureaucratic leadership, both formal and informal, across Government.

As natural resources in Vanuatu are owned and used by communities the project will ensure consultations engage effectively with community in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This process has already been established by IUCN (Oceania Regional Office) during the PIF stage and will continue during the PPG phase and

project implementation. Customary landowners will remain key partners to the project and its activities. Their wishes and needs will be determined by establishing a national consultative group (membership and operation to be advised by the DEPC/Government of Vanuatu) which will be established during the PPG phase and will meet regularly to advise on the design of the Project Document and afterwards during the implementation of the project and for any adjustments which may be required. Throughout the above processes, IUCN in its Implementing Agency / supervisory role will ensure that expectations relating to consultation of community and CSO groups are met. The exact identity of community stakeholders in the project will be made during the PPG phase (again with advice from the DEPC).

ECARE will ensure it complements the traditional governance system with innovative elements of “networked governance,” bringing together governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and the public to design the country's first Marine Spatial Plan. In this sense, the wider public, including both civil society and the private sector are also key stakeholders. .

IUCN recognizes that ECARE will need to coordinate closely with other non-government and private sector organizations as well as other development partners and projects described below in section 5. These partners will be engaged closely in the design process to ensure maximum impact and realization of all opportunities for coordination and coherence of support.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no ☐). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. Gender inequality remains a major development challenge in Vanuatu and must be factored into all aspects of program design and implementation. Violence against women remains high and Vanuatu's traditional systems of family and community relationships often exclude women from leadership and decision-making roles. Hence there is a significant challenge to ensure women participate as they should in the project - especially at operational level. That said these challenges are not insurmountable and to date there has been very strong representation from women in DEPC in the formulation of the ECARE PIF with close senior engagement. This active engagement will continue into PPG phase and implementation.

Gender Equity principles will be implemented in all ECARE components, in particular those designing capacity development and stakeholder consultations. Articulation of these principles will be a critical part of the PPG design phase. It is anticipated that the inclusion of gender equity into capacity development activities will have flow on benefits for future environmental programmes - not just the current project. Thus gender-sensitive mechanisms will be established to ensure adequate participation and representation of marginalized stakeholders. This project will focus primarily on promoting initiatives where women, men, boys and girls have equal opportunities to access resources, information, rights and decision-making processes through equal participation and benefits from the development of protected areas.

In the PPG phase, the project will draw on IUCN expertise, use social assessment, including gender analysis, to assess the potential roles, benefits, impacts and risks for women, children, men and the otherwise marginalised people. The full design will integrate specific measures to minimize or mitigate adverse gender impacts and integrate gender sensitive activities throughout. A gender responsive results-based framework will be also be developed and used under ECARE, including project-level gender disaggregated indicators.

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

Risk description	Rating (H, M, L)	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
Limited understanding and commitment to the value of an expanded and representative protected areas network	M	Awareness campaign designed and implemented	IA/EA/local government
Inadequate Government budgets to implement ongoing activities generated by the project	H	Programme management support (particularly training) activities during the project for Min Env Cons to ensure continuity after the project term	IA/EA
Lapsing project timeframes	H	Establishment of a project timelines chart and ensuring adequate resourcing of a committed core project overview team	IA/EA
Climate change impacts including extreme weather events	M	Build on risk management program underway post TC Pam, vulnerability assessment, planning to duplicate representativeness etc.	IA/EA/Local communities
Fragmented effort and limited coordination with other agencies	H	Comply with Government of Vanuatu's centralised policy to aid – cooperate with other agencies – actively negotiate collaboration	IA/EA/local government

5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

The project will be implemented by IUCN with technical, logistical and human resources support from National and Provincial Governments and local bodies and community-based organizations. The project Execution Agency will be the DEPC within the Ministry of Climate Change in partnership supported by other relevant departments and IUCN (with appropriate firewalls). As stated above, the project will work in close collaboration and coordination with a number of national, regional and international initiatives, in order to maximize opportunities for synergies, sustainability, scaling up and inclusive benefits.

While ECARE will enter into direct technical partnerships with MACBIO, BIOPAMA, RESCCUE, PEBACC and NZPPOA, the most critical program to coordinate with is the GEF5 (Ridges to Reef project). Given the close parallels in the objectives/outputs/activities between these current projects which will be running concurrently with each other and the significant opportunities for ECARE and Ridge to Reef to leverage off each other for greater incremental benefits, close coordination is required. Options for shared program management mechanisms will be explored during the PPG phase with particular focus on not overburdening Government capacity. The DEPC is heavily involved with all three and care will be taken to make sure there is no duplication and that the projects support each other. ECARE will be focused on areas not covered by the Ridges to Reef project such as off-shore / open ocean marine reserves and terrestrial areas which complete the biological representativeness of the national protected area network. Where possible, activities such as training / capacity development and outreach will be

partnered to obtain maximum inclusive benefits. The details of this will be planned and agreed with relevant colleagues/agencies during the PPG process.

There are various efforts underway to improve protected area work in Vanuatu but it is still inadequate to meet the Government's national targets. While this project will aim to fill gaps and scale up successes required to meet these targets, fragmentation of development and donor assistance to Vanuatu remains a risk. Strong coordination measures and partnership approaches with other stakeholders will need to be in place, including using existing government, CSO and allied project coordination mechanisms, to ensure Vanuatu receives complementary and coherent support for the various programs and that they leverage off each other to maximize impact. The required coordination should be possible in a small country but will require a concerted effort by the IA and EA with the former creating collaboration with other IA's with projects in Vanuatu at the beginning of the PPG phase and the latter maintaining cooperation with allied agencies throughout the project cycle.

6. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☐ /no ☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

Vanuatu has a very strong policy framework which places protected areas as a key mechanism for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will be fully consistent with this framework and use the Government 2020 targets. The NEPIP 2016-2030, the NSDP and National Ocean Policy all strongly encourage the creation and maintenance of conservation and protected area networks throughout the country and to ensure they are supported at the local, provincial and national levels. These national level strategies have set ambitious targets for 2030 which the project will support including at least 15% of natural forest and 10% of wetland areas are conserved through effective community and government management measures, 90% of community management committees are complying with their CCA reporting obligations to DEPC and by 2020 there will be 10 registered CCAs in Vanuatu. The conservation areas management strategy within the draft NBSAP proposes an expansion of a representative network of protected areas, improving protected area management effectiveness and developing sustainable financing mechanisms.

The project will directly contribute to Vanuatu's ability to meet its reporting obligations relating to their NBSAP using information that will be collected during the roll-out of the project. Similarly, lessons learnt - especially from the capacity building activities - should inform the NCSA process and further needs. Future NPFE's should also benefit from the knowledge acquired during the implementation of the project through the monitoring and evaluation process (including Tracking Tools).

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

ECARE has a strong focus on appropriate, context specific knowledge generation and management. Significant new knowledge and evidence will be generated through the project. Under this investment GEF will finance more comprehensive and accurate baseline information that can be used by Government to inform protected area planning and management. ECARE will not only collate priority information about terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity assets and protected areas but will also take a capacity development approach to this collation, building critical information management skills. It will support local government staff to identify necessary information sets that are required and to engage in sharing this information. ECARE will also support government to analyze new information to determine status, trends, issues and needs. The BIOPAMA project is able to provide specific skills and resources to assist in information platform development and data management. With improved data and evidence for decision making ECARE will also ensure that information is presented and disseminated in suitable formats to decision makers. All communications products and material will be developed using appropriate existing and, if necessary, new, communication strategies for Vanuatu.

ECARE will focus on critical knowledge gaps and mobilizing data and information about biodiversity and protected areas into an open source database, so that its application. This will ensure data and information about protected areas at the field or agency level is available for evidence based decision making. Strong monitoring and evaluation systems will ensure that knowledge is managed effectively and fed back into ongoing management of the project.

Dedicated sessions that provide a space for learning, challenging and refining programming approaches can help, but greater efforts are needed to make space for critical reflection. Putting in place mechanisms to encourage staff to reflect and consider whether a change of course is needed is critical to a program remaining relevant and responsive.

IUCN has experience using reflection and refocus sessions and action research from its work with the Pacific Leaderships Program and Green Growth Coalition. Using such formalized reflection and learning mechanisms within ECARE will help capture emerging learning. Through these sessions ECARE will be able to monitor and communicate effective ways the project is working and build the appetite for flexible and politically smart ways of working as well as effectively communicate and demonstrate results. This is crucial to ECARE operates as an innovative project based on relationships and unpredictable political change processes.

ECARE will utilize effective knowledge management strategies as well as existing (Government, CSO and allied project) mechanisms to scale up good practice through developing appropriate and effective communications to disseminate best practices and lessons-learned in PA management and income generation. It will also target political stakeholders, supplying them with greater information on trends in ecosystem conditions to guide decision-making on resource allocation. A key outcome for ECARE will be an increase in the appreciation of the political decision-makers of the value of ecosystems, biodiversity and protected areas to the people of Vanuatu and how they offer many solutions to development challenges across the country.

As per Vanuatu's NEPIP 2016-2030, traditional knowledge and practices related to biodiversity conservation will be used and promoted as high priority.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT⁹ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).


NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Dr Jesse Benjamin	Director General	MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS	04/08/2016

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁰ and procedures and meets the GEF

⁹ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Jean-Yves Pirot		12/06/2017	Solstice Middleby		solstice.middleby@iucn.org

¹⁰ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

Date: 12 June 2017

To: The GEF Secretariat
Washington, DC 20433

Subject: GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information

Per Council requirement for GEF Project Agencies, I am pleased to inform you that:

- (a) the value of the largest project implemented (or executed) by IUCN to date is USD 27.4 million¹¹; and
- (b) the total value of all projects under implementation by IUCN as of the end of FY 2016 was USD 330 million.¹²

I certify that the GEF financing currently being requested by IUCN for the project, “Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness (ECARE) in Vanuatu”, in the amount of 2,450,459 USD, is lower than the largest project that IUCN has implemented (or executed) to date.

I further certify that the total amount of GEF financing currently under implementation by IUCN plus the requested GEF financing for the above mentioned project does not exceed 20 percent of the total amount of all projects that IUCN had under implementation as of the end of FY 2016.

Sincerely,

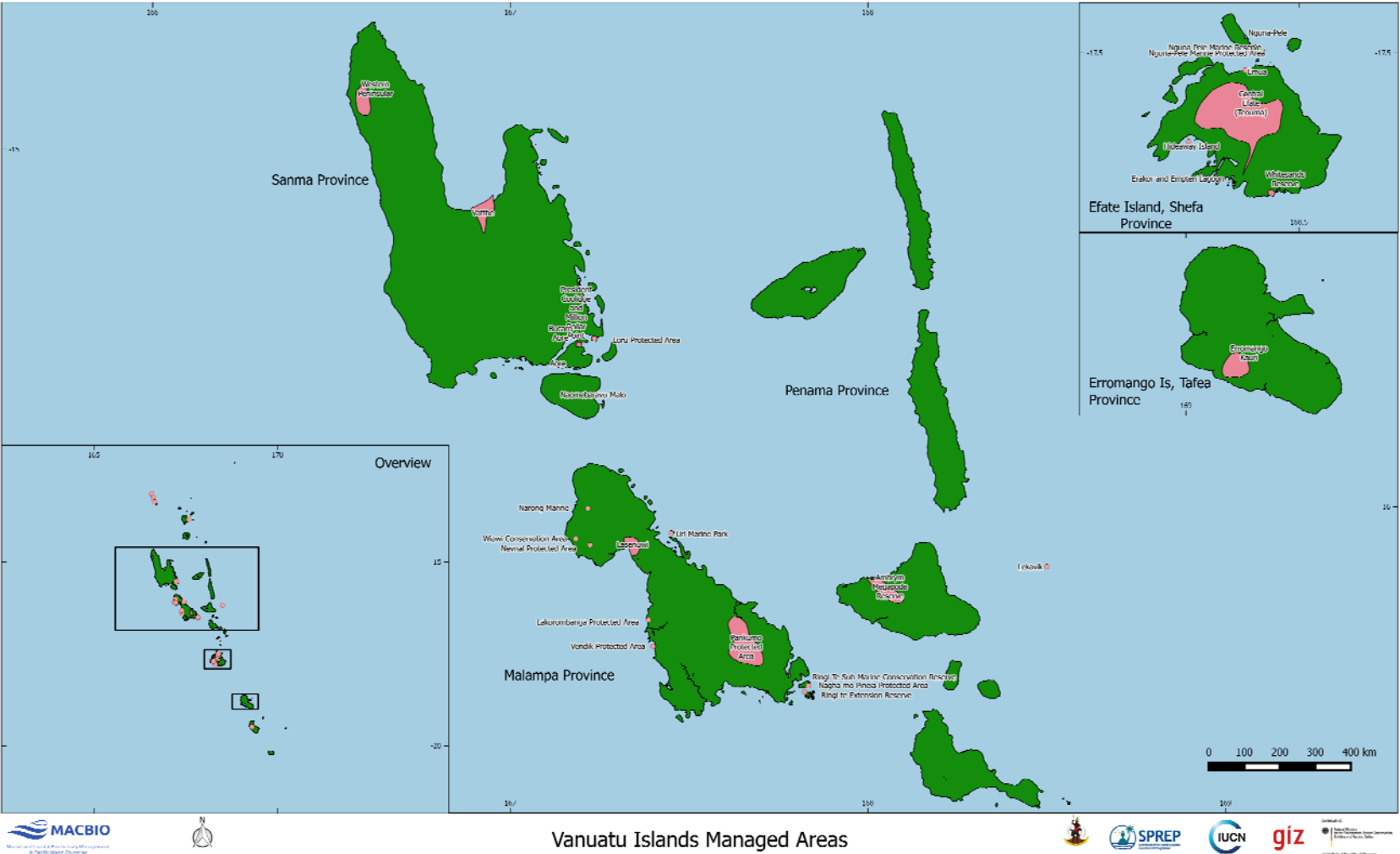


Jean-Yves Pirot
GEF Coordinator
IUCN

¹¹ This amount excludes co-financing.

¹² In support of these statements, a copy of (a) the signed loan/grant agreement for the largest project implemented (or executed), and (b) a list of all projects (together with their amounts in US dollars) need to be sent via email, under a separate cover, to the GEF Secretariat at Project_Agency@theGEF.org. These supporting documents will be treated as confidential and will not be shared with any parties external to the Secretariat. The PIF will not be approved in the absence of these supporting documents.

Annex – Vanuatu Islands Managed Areas



- Terrestrial and marine managed areas
- Exclusive Economic Zone
- Vanuatu Coastline

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the most comprehensive global spatial dataset on marine and terrestrial protected areas available. Since 1981 UNEP-WCMC, through its Protected Areas Programme, has been compiling this information and making it available to the global community. The WDPA is a joint project of UNEP and IUCN, produced by UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas working with governments and collaborating NGOs.

Data Sources:
Vanuatu Coastlines: Department of Lands Vanuatu
Protected Areas: UNEP-WCMC online (World database on protected areas).