



# GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT  
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management in Tongoa Island		
Country(ies):	Vanuatu	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity & Ministry of Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology, GEO-hazards, Environment and Energy	Submission Date:	19 March 2018
		Re-submission Date:	13 April 2018
		Re-submission Date:	21 May 2018
GEF Focal Area(s):	LD	Project Duration (Months)	36
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:	NA	Agency Fee (\$)	82,420

## A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES<sup>2</sup>

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD-1 Program 2	GEFTF	367,032	600,000
LD-2 Program 3	GEFTF	500,548	738,100
Total Project Cost		867,580	1,338,100

## B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To effectively restore degraded landscapes and implement climate-resilient sustainable land management practices in Tongoa Island						
Project Component	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
1. Strengthening local enabling environment for ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management	TA	1.1 Enhanced local level capacities for ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management  <i>Indicator: a) Capacity development score (the baseline to be set during the project preparation phase); b) Variety of nursery plants enhanced (number of plant species increased in the existing nurseries)</i>	1.1.1 Preparation of sustainable land management and restoration plan  1.1.2 Training programme on climate smart agriculture practices/techniques, agroforestry practices, forest restoration techniques, sustainable NTFP extraction, field level land use change monitoring, etc. targeting 140 community members, island level government staff (extension officers and support staff) and civil society representatives (e.g. VANGO) through an institutional mechanism	GEFTF	180,000	200,000

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

<sup>2</sup> When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on *GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*.

<sup>3</sup> Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

2. Community-based ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management	TA	2.1 At least 900 ha brought under sustainable land management (including 300 ha restored)  Indicator: a) <i>At least 900 ha under SLM;</i> b) <i>Number of households with income increased by x% (number of households and the percentage of income increase to be set during the PPG phase)</i>	2.1.1 Existing nurseries in the island strengthened to include indigenous tree species and diverse fruits/vegetables that are climate resilient and suited to the local conditions  2.1.2 Sustainable land management and restoration plan implemented - Climate smart agriculture implemented across at least 400 ha - 25 agroforestry plots established (covering 200 ha) - Improved vegetation cover over 300 ha of degraded areas - At least two local products targeted for improved value-addition and strengthening of the market linkages	GEFTF	500,000	800,000
3. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination	TA	3.1 Adaptive management ensured and key lessons shared	3.1.1 Project progress continually monitored, mid-term and final evaluation conducted  3.1.2 Project achievement and results recorded and disseminated  3.1.3 A guidance document prepared for the replication of the project activities/approach in other smaller sized islands in Vanuatu (including a roadmap)	GEFTF	108,709	200,000
Subtotal					788,709	
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>				GEFTF	78,871	138,100
<b>Total Project Cost</b>					<b>867,580</b>	<b>1,338,100</b>

**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	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity	Cash	34,500
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity	In-kind	500,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology, GEO-hazards, Environment and Energy	In-kind	300,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	300,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash	200,000
Others	Vanuatu Foresters Association	In-kind	3,600
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>1,338,100</b>

**D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), COUNTRY (IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS<sup>A)</sup>**

	Country/	Focal Area	Programming	(in \$)
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<sup>4</sup> 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.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Regional/ Global		of Funds	GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>b)</sup>	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	Vanuatu	LD	-	867,580	82,420	950,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					867,580	82,420	950,000

a) No need to fill this table if it is a single agency, single trust fund, single focal area and single country project

b) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies.

#### E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>5</sup>

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: \$45,662					PPG Agency Fee: \$4,338		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee <sup>6</sup> (b)	Total c = a + b
FAO	GEFTF	Vanuatu	LD	-	45,662	4,338	50,000
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					45,662	4,338	50,000

#### F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS<sup>7</sup>

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	NA
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	900 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;	NA
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	NA
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO <sub>2e</sub> mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	NA
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)	NA
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	NA
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	NA

<sup>5</sup> PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$1 mil; \$100k for PF up to \$3 mil; \$150k for PF up to \$6 mil; \$200k for PF up to \$10 mil; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

<sup>6</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

<sup>7</sup> 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 and/or SCCF.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
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	NA
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	NA

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **Project Overview**

#### **1. Project Description**

#### ***The global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed***

##### General context and background:

Vanuatu consists of about 82 islands of volcanic origin. Of these, only fifteen have surface areas of more than 100 square kilometers. There are numerous smaller islands with relatively limited surface area. These smaller islands have natural ecosystems that hold great importance to the well-being and livelihoods of the local communities, but these ecosystems are more fragile and vulnerable to threats than those of the bigger islands. It is also important to note that these smaller islands, compared to the bigger ones, receive less development and natural resource management related external support and aid. This project will target one of these smaller islands that is facing the ever growing threat of land degradation.

The project will target the Tongoa Island, which is part of the Shepherd group of Islands and the Shefa province of Vanuatu (refer to the map under Annex 1 for the location of Tongoa). The island has a population of 5,200 and a land area of 4,955 hectares. The island has no NGOs on the ground and do not have any donor funded project other than a small post-cyclone recovery project funded by IsraAid. The island has approximately 500 ha and 600 ha identified as agricultural land and forests respectively. In reality, the agroforestry systems dominate the landscape (vegetable farming interspersed with trees and livestock- mostly poultry and pigs, either fenced or tethered), with major tree species being fruit trees such as *Mangifera minoy*, *Barringtonia edulus*, *Syzygium* and *Inocapus* to name a few. Most of the land in Tongoa is communally owned and managed, with a few private pieces of land. The land is managed using customary systems (overseen by local chiefs), and can be used by an individual as part of a family or a clan. Decisions on land use are made by the chiefs through community consultations. The natural ecosystem in the island plays an important role in the subsistence of local population through provision of timber (construction materials), fuelwood and NTFPs (food, traditional cures/medicines, etc.). The main economic activities in the island are fishing and small-scale agriculture, mostly subsistence and partly semi-commercial, targeting Port Vila markets. The semi-commercial agriculture activities are more focused on cava production. These main activities are supplemented by handicraft making targeting the tourists in Port Vila (especially handicrafts made from pandanus). ***The importance of this small island's ecosystem and its health cannot be overstated in the context of local communities' livelihoods and well-being.***

##### Global environmental problems:

Land degradation is the most critical environmental problem faced by Tongoa Island<sup>8</sup>. The degradation refers to reduction in vegetation cover in agroecosystems and soil erosion in elevated inland areas and coastal areas. This has directly affected the productivity of the lands, impacting local livelihoods significantly. Poor land use practices (refer below) have contributed to land degradation and the vicious cycle of resource depletion and land degradation. But these effects have been severely exacerbated by cyclones, these events have resulted in increased soil erosion (through winds and storm surges). The soil erosion leaves the area exposed and makes the areas even more vulnerable to wind

<sup>8</sup> Though we don't have concrete figures (verified on the ground) on the degraded areas, it is estimated to be nearly 80% of the forests are fragmented. During the PPG phase, Collect Earth will be utilized to ascertain the land degradation and set the baseline (including for the LD TT).

erosion. Soil and sand blown into other areas can also damage the vegetation there. Severe weather events have also contributed extensive damage to trees and shrubbery, leading to increased loss of vegetation cover interlinked with continuous inappropriate agricultural practices.

#### Root causes:

The main drivers of land degradation in Tongoa are listed below;

- Inappropriate agricultural practices; this is the combination of clear cutting for shifting cultivation and very poor soil conservation and agricultural practices; e.g. intensive slope land agriculture. Different strategies proposed to address this driver includes sustainable farming practices/techniques to maximize production without degrading the land, diversifying crops, agroforestry, and overall better land-use planning. But these strategies have never been implemented adequately in the island with effective technical support.
- Unsustainable extraction of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs); as mentioned above, local communities depend on NTFPs for various different reasons. Excessive (e.g. pandanus) and poor NTFPs extraction practices (resulting in destruction of undergrowth, etc) is another significant driver of forest degradation in Tongoa. Improved extraction practices and sustainable production of high value multiple purpose species would be an ideal strategy to address this driver.
- Extreme weather events; though this not a driver that can be addressed through this project. It is important to ensure that the techniques, practices and crop varieties in the project are climate and extreme weather resilient. As explained above, extreme events like cyclones cause immediate and direct impact on ecosystems through loss of vegetation and erosion.

#### Barriers:

The baseline and cofinancing projects described below have been working, to an extent, on addressing the above mentioned drivers, there remain substantial barriers that have not been adequately addressed;

##### *Lack of capacities at community level*

The extension programmes undertaken by the departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, at the community level, has been limited. There are still a significant gap in capacities related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices and sustainable forest management measures (including sustainable harvesting of NTFPs). This is a significant barrier considering the fact that majority of land is communally owned and managed. During the project preparation phase, detailed capacity needs assessment at the community level will be conducted to identify the specific gaps and needs. Indicative areas of training are listed under the component description below.

##### *Lack of landuse planning at local level*

As highlighted above, majority of land is communally owned and managed, but there is very little land-use planning in the island. This has aggravated the ongoing unsustainable resource utilization practices and has prevented any coordinated efforts at the local level to change the utilization/management patterns.

##### *Lack of opportunities for market-oriented sustainable/alternative livelihoods*

One of the major barriers in ensuring sustainable resource management at community level is the lack of adequate livelihood opportunities for local populations living in and around the forests. Time and gain, it has been demonstrated around the world that with adequate economic incentives local communities would be willing to participate and engage in sustainable management of natural resources. The main resource based livelihoods in the project sites is related to agriculture (subsistence and semi-commercial) and NTFP extraction, but there are not enough value chain focused efforts to diversity and improve livelihoods, this severely limits the economic benefits that can be derived by the local communities. The value chains that exist require further strengthening, especially in the area of market access and value-addition (primary and secondary processing).

### ***Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects***

The activities carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity will form the main baseline for this project.

#### **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity**

MALFFB's investments in the island will form the critical baseline for the project (**USD 34,500**). They are briefly described below. MALFFB's in-kind contribution (including extension services through the Agriculture Officer in Tongoa) will amount to **USD 500,000** over the project period.

*Department of Forests:* The department's activities related to provision of seedling, nursery materials and associated trainings. This will form the baseline for activities related to agroforestry and forest restoration

*Department of Agriculture:* Supply of planting materials for kava and coconut, and associated trainings. This will form the additional baseline for agroforestry activities.

*Department of Livestock:* Distribution of small livestock and small livestock fencing materials. This will form the baseline for the activities related to agroforestry systems (inclusion of livestock in the tree-based practices around small-holder agriculture).

#### **Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management (GEF-5 Project)**

The main aspect of the project that will form the baseline for this proposed project is the enhancement of the enabling environment (for integrated sustainable land and coastal management). The activities include strengthening of policies, planning and decision-making processes at the national level, and development of national capacities relevant to SLM.

In addition, the following activities supported by other partners would form the part of cofinancing for this GEF project.

<b>Co-financing sources</b>	<b>Brief description of co-funded baseline project activities</b>	<b>Type co-financing</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
IsraAid	Establishment of water systems managed by the local communities	Cash	To be confirmed during PPG
FAO	FAO's in-kind support will be through staff time, provision of facilities and services.	In-kind	300,000
	FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (Improved market linkages and market access to strengthen smallholder value chains in Tongoa)	Grant	200,000
Ministry of Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology, GEO-hazards, Environment and Energy	In-kind support through staff time and coordination services at the national level.	In-kind	300,000
Vanuatu Foresters Association	Establishment of one community nursery	In-kind	3,600

### *The proposed alternative scenario and a brief description of expected outcomes and components*

The project will build on the baseline projects and the project objective will be delivered through the following components.

#### **Component 1: Strengthening local enabling environment for ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management**

This component will focus on strengthening the island level enabling framework to manage the ecosystem in an integrated manner and restore the degraded areas. On one hand, the component will strengthen the planning processes through the development of a community driven restoration and SLM plan for various land use types in a landscape context. The project will ensure that the bottom up plan is aimed to also maximize multiple global environmental benefits and that communities also fully consider upstream and downstream impacts of such plans. On the other hand, training programmes will be conducted for community members, island level government staff and civil society representatives. The training will focus on climate smart practices/techniques, agroforestry practices, forest restoration techniques, sustainable NTFP extraction, field level land use change monitoring, etc. The training programmes will target at least 140 community members. The specific areas of training will be linked to key actions and priorities identified through the sustainable land management and restoration plan developed. The project will facilitate to establish an institutional mechanism for capacity development during the project together with the operation and maintenance of the strengthened nurseries (under Component 2) for upscaling.

#### **Component 2: Community-based integrated natural resource management**

Under this component, the existing nursery will be enhanced and strengthened especially in the context of the nursery's ability to provide seedlings of species that are climate resilient and suited to local conditions (including indigenous tree species and diverse fruits and vegetables). Some of the indicative species are Pandanus, Mango, Barringtonia edulis, Syzygium.

The component will aim to bring at least 900 ha under SLM through implementation of the plan. This will include the following:

- *Climate smart agriculture* (primarily related to agricultural crop production); practices to be implemented envisaged at this stage are improved soil management, crop nutrient management, and water management
- *Agroforestry*; site specific and suitable practices will be implemented based on assessments carried out during the project preparation phase. It is expected that Agroforestry and integrated farming systems (e.g. alley cropping) would be implemented
- *Sustainable timber and non-timber product extraction and management*; this will include sustainable extraction of timber (e.g. low impact logging, systematic and planned harvesting) and NTFPs. Sustainable extraction of NTFPs will be facilitated through ecological assessments (impacts of NTFPs harvest, dynamics under the impacts and management practices that can mitigate negative impacts and promote positive impacts) and market assessments (economic viability of products and potential for diversification).
- *Forest restoration*: restoration of degraded forests will be carried out through planting (site suitable indigenous species) and assisted natural regeneration. Restoration will be geared towards preserving indigenous agrobiodiversity and at the same time providing multiple benefits (e.g. NTFPs, timber for construction) to local communities.
- *Community-based enterprises*: At least two local products will be targeted for diversifying and improving local livelihoods, the products to be targeted will be chosen after a careful analyses (including economic viability) during the project preparation phase (at this point, indicative products include handicrafts, artifacts etc. using local materials). The activities will include specific trainings for primary and secondary processing of the products, accessing market information and ensuring adequate market access. The market linkages will be improved through the respective producer associations/councils (usually supported and subsidized by the govt.) in Port Vila.

Such plans will also include identifications resources required by communities to implement such plans and community action plans to generate such resources- including linkages to government and donor programmes to support such plans.

The project will ensure that effective monitoring of plan's implementation are undertaken, and the approach and financing for such monitoring mechanism at local village level through a combination of community and government involvement will be detailed during full project development process.

### **Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and lessons dissemination**

This component will ensure project's progress is tracked and periodic evaluations are conducted for adaptive management. Under this component, project results and achievements, along with the lessons learnt will be captured and disseminated for replicability and scaling up. A key part of this component will also be the guidance document prepared to replicate the project in similar smaller sized islands in Vanuatu.

### ***Alignment with GEF focal area strategies***

*LD-1 Program 2:* The project aims to turn the agricultural land management systems in Tongoa to be more resilient to climate shocks and diversify crop production systems (integration of tree-based practices into small holder systems through agroforestry)

*LD-2 Program 3:* The project through its restoration activities will aim to regenerate the landscape through locally adaptive species (mainly farmer-managed natural regeneration) and through the SFM and agroforestry activities will improve ecosystem services in agriculture.

### ***Incremental reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF and cofinancing***

#### ***Component 1:***

GEF incremental actions on strengthening planning process on the island builds on the improved national level policy environment in the context of SLM and ecosystem restoration. Training programmes delivered, at the community level, through the GEF incremental resources will build on the national level capacity building activities (incl. training of the extension officer) on SLM. Without GEF resources, the nurseries would not have ability to supply the required seedlings and planting materials to ensure the local production systems have crops and trees that are locally adapted and are climate resilient. In addition, the local level capacities to implement SLM will be severely limited.

#### ***Component 2:***

Activities under this component will utilize the MALFFB's investments with regards to provision of seedlings, planting materials, nursery materials, livestock, fencing materials, etc. and the new nursery to be built by the Vanuatu Foresters Association. GEF incremental resources will strengthen both the old and new nurseries to ensure regular supply of seedlings and planting materials of indigenous tree species and diverse fruits/vegetables that are climate resilient and suited to the local conditions. GEF incremental resources spent on implementing the SLM and restoration plan will build on the extension activities being carried out by the Agricultural Officer, the water management systems installed by IsraAid, and the nurseries on the island. Co-financing through the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme on improving market linkages and access to credit will directly feed into the local products' strengthening activities carried out under Output 2.1.2. Without GEF incremental resources, 110 ha on the island of Tongoa will remain under the threat of continuous degradation, resulting in loss of vital ecosystem services and goods, severely affecting the livelihoods and well-being of the local community.

### ***Global Environment Benefits (GEBs)***

Overall, through the project, about 900 ha will be brought under SLM resulting in significant reduction in land degradation, ensuring the sustained flow of key ecosystem services. The GEBs are as follows.

#### **Land Degradation:**



- Climate smart agriculture will be implemented over 400 ha
- Agro forestry will be implemented over 200 ha
- Forest cover increased over degraded area covering 300 ha.

Implementation of these practices in an integrated manner would result in reduced loss and degradation of key vegetation, and continued provision of key goods and services, especially in the context of local livelihoods.

### ***Innovativeness***

The resource management and utilization techniques/practices to be implemented in the project have been tried successfully elsewhere and are not innovative in itself. The practices introduced will be new to the island.

### ***Sustainability***

The sustainability of the project will be ensured through a) capacities developed in an institutional set up (both institutional- through Cofinancing- and community levels) ( b) participatory governance structure at local levels and their ownership of the project results and sustenance beyond the project period and c) livelihood benefits (through market oriented value chains) generated through the project.

### ***Scaling up and Replicability***

There are a number of similar sized islands in Vanuatu, with very limited external support, and resource management and land degradation issues identical to Tongoa. The project activities and the lessons learnt can be scaled up and replicated in these smaller islands. As mentioned under the project components description above, one of the key aspects under Component 3 will be the guidance provided based on this project experience to replicate the activities and approach in other smaller islands in Vanuatu. This guidance will also include detailed consultations with the government and a clear road map (including the resource mobilization aspects) to replicate the activities.

2. *Stakeholders.* Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no ☐ ) and indigenous people? (yes ☒ /no ☐ )

The below table provides an overview of relevant stakeholders (including CSOs and indigenous people).

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity	Main project executing partner. Will play the central role in coordinating with the local communities in the project preparation process.
Ministry of Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology, GEO-hazards, Environment and Energy	Ministry of the GEF operational focal point. Will play the key coordination role at the national level.
Provincial government	Will play a critical role in ensuring coordination at the island level and support the design of the institutional mechanism for capacity development
Local communities (communities are primarily indigenous people)	Local communities will be involved in extensive consultations to understand their perspectives in the context of land degradation and potential involvement in the project implementation, ensuring ownership of the project design.
IsraAid	Cofinancing partner. Would provide inputs into developing project components
CSOs (specifically Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organizations)	VANGO's role will be critical in terms of engaging women in Tongoa island, as there are a few women members in the island linked to women's group in Port Vila.
Producer associations/councils	Will play a critical role in the design of the activities/outputs related to the improvement of market linkages of the chosen value chains.

Stakeholders	Mode of engagement in project preparation
Microfinance organizations	Consultations will be held with microfinance organizations (e.g. South Pacific Business Development Microfinance Ltd.) to enable designing the project activities related to improving and managing access to credit.
Other private sector parties	Relevant private sector parties identified during the PPG will be consulted with to enable effective designing of project activities/outputs related to value chain improvement.

3. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Are issues on gender equality and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no ☐ ).

It is clearly understood that women play a critical and central role in farm practices, natural resource extraction and use at local level. Often, their perspectives and priorities are not considered when determining management practices and approaches. The main way that gender issues will be incorporated into project preparation process is through the adoption and use of participatory approaches in all important decisions and activities in preparing the document. The project design will also ensure that effective representation of both genders is achieved in all project activities (especially considering the fact that women are key change agents in terms of adopting new practices). It should be noted here that

The project design will follow the guidelines provided under FAO Policy on Gender Equality and directions under Regional Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2019 for Asia and the Pacific. Reporting on project activities, outputs and outcomes will also be disaggregated by gender (where applicable), so that performance in this respect can be monitored.

#### 4. *Risks.*

The following potential risks and mitigation measures have been identified, at this stage. These will be reviewed and updated during the project preparation phase.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Mitigation Measure</i>
Lack of close and collaborative cooperation between the key institutional stakeholders	Low	Close and collaborative cooperation between many institutional stakeholders will be essential for the project to achieve its stated goal and objectives. This will be achieved through involvement of all stakeholders from the beginning of the project preparation process and through establishment of a working group for the project implementation under the project steering committee. A communication strategy will also be developed and regular meetings and presentation of project results in different phases of the project implementation will be organized.
Unclear responsibilities of project stakeholders at national and specifically at island level	Medium	Clearly defined and prescribed responsibilities of different institutions as well as involvement of all of responsible institutions will be clarified during the project preparation.
Reluctance of local population to involve and take ownership of the project activities	Low to Medium	Local communities and their representatives will be effectively engaged from the onset of the project preparation process. Their perspectives and concerns will be taken into account in the project design, and sensitization activities carried out during the project preparation phase would communicate the socio-economic benefits to be delivered through the project.
Natural changes in ecosystems and associated species due to	Unknown	The crop and tree species used for restoration and agroforestry will be selected based on the local site suitability and their resilience to the

<i><b>Risk</b></i>	<i><b>Rating</b></i>	<i><b>Mitigation Measure</b></i>
gradual changes in climate and extreme weather events.		most likely impacts of climate change (e.g. outbreak of pests and diseases, changes in rainfall, etc.)

## 5. Coordination.

Given that there are very limited donor funded activities going on in the island. The coordination of this project with other relevant projects will take place mainly at national level.

**Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project:** The GEF-LDCF funded project is working to build resilience through improved infrastructure, sustained livelihoods, and increased food production. The proposed project will work closely with this project to ensure key lessons are learnt, especially from Component 1 (Integrated community approaches to climate change adaptation) and the work on rehabilitation of threatened coastal ecosystems and resources and stabilization of coastal areas through re-vegetation.

**PHAMA:** The Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access program focuses on providing assistance to Pacific island countries to manage regulatory aspects associated with exporting primary and value added products. This includes gaining access for products into new markets. The proposed project will coordinate with PHAMA to leverage the program's experience and successes in improving market access to primary and value added products.

**Enhancing return from high-value agroforestry species in Vanuatu:** The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded project aims to improve the Vanuatu planted forestry sector by making new and existing technologies more available and accessible to smallholders to adopt valuable tree species and establish a smallholder led forest product industry based on timber and non-timber products. Given this proposed project's focus on restoration and agroforestry based products, coordination with the ACIAR funded project will help identify and access technologies for the smallholders in Tonga.

During the project preparation phase, more detailed analyses would be conducted to ensure effective coordination with all relevant initiatives. This will be further clarified during the request for CEO endorsement.

**6. Consistency with National Priorities.** Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no ☐ ).

**Vanuatu's 2030 The People's Plan (National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030):** The project is strongly aligned to objectives Env 1.1 (Increase agricultural and fisheries production using sustainable practices), Env 3.5 (Strengthen community resilience), and Env 4.6 (Reduce deforestation and ensure rehabilitation and reforestation is commonplace).

**Vanuatu Forest Policy (2013-2023):** The project is aligned to the following policy directives a) Sustainable manage forests using internationally accepted mechanisms and tools and incorporating traditional and cultural practices; b) Protect, develop and manage non-wood forest products and medicinal plants sustainably; c) Develop and implement land use plans including forestry activities; d) Actively participate and engage with communities on forestry initiatives; e) Design and implement programs and projects for integrated and sustainable forest management jointly with community stakeholders; and f) Integrate climate change adaptation issues into forestry sector planning and activities.

**Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy (2015-2030):** The project is aligned to the following policy directives a) Develop and implement land use policies and plans; b) Mainstream environmental considerations into agriculture practices; c) Incorporate sustainable farming practices such as agro-forestry and soil improvement technologies in all agricultural practices; d) Increase production of agricultural produce and products through engagement of all stakeholders; e) Mainstream climate variability, climate change and disaster risk reduction using adaptation and mitigation strategies

in all agriculture initiatives and developments; and f) Mainstream gender and support women, youths and vulnerable groups in all agriculture initiatives.

Vanuatu's National Action Plan (NAP): The project is aligned to the Program Objective 2- To have measures in place to prevent and minimize land degradation and Program Objective 3- Demonstrate ways communities can adapt to negative effects of drought and climate variability. The project will directly contribute to the following actions committed to by Vanuatu under the afore mentioned objectives and corresponding indicators; 1) Demonstration activities in each province demonstrating good land use practices (indicators: number of pilot projects by sectors on SLM practices; important lessons learnt from pilot projects; and wider application of the demonstration projects to other islands/region); 2) Education and awareness (indicator: communities more aware of causes of land degradation and how to minimize it through better land use practices); and 3) Demonstration projects on food security projects (including crop diversification).

### *7. Knowledge Management*

The approach to Knowledge Management will be from two angles. 1) The project will work with stakeholders at different levels to ensure all key information and transfer of lessons learnt (from relevant projects and initiatives) are fed into the project preparation process and subsequent implementation. This includes taking into account relevant initiatives in the sub-region and beyond. Including the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLR Mechanism), through the mechanism, FAO is aiming to contribute significantly to scaling-up, monitoring and reporting on restoration activities by coordinating and facilitating the implementation of projects/programmes all around the globe. It will be ensured that the key lessons learnt will be transferred to this project. 2) In terms of capturing knowledge generated through the project, a strategy will be developed during the project preparation phase and will be implemented under Output 3.1.2., especially given the project's potential to be replicated in other smaller islands of Vanuatu.

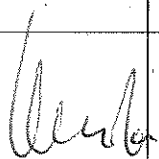
**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT<sup>9</sup> 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)
Jesse Benjamin	Director General and GEF Focal Point	MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, METEOROLOGY, GEO-HAZARDS, ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY & NDMO, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU	02/27/2018

**B. GEF AGENCY (IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies<sup>10</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Alexander Jones, Director Climate and Environment Division		21 May 2018	Aru Mathias	+675 3212877	Aru.Mathias@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin, Senior Coordinator, GEF Coordination Unit			Madankumar Janakiraman; Kentaro Aoki	+685 22127	Madankumar.Janakiraman@fao.org ; Kentaro.Aoki@fao.org

**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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

# Annex I- Map (Location of Tongoa)

