PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Implementing Land, Water and Ecosystem Management in The Bahamas		
Country(ies):	The Bahamas	**GEF Project ID:**	5757
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	
Other Executing Partner(s):	BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	**Submission Date:** **Resubmission Date:** **Resubmission Date:** **Resubmission Date:**	7 March 2014 12 May 2014 09 June 2014 12 June 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas (Biodiversity and Land Degradation)	**Project Duration(Months)**	36
Name of parent programme (if applicable):	N/A	**Agency Fee (US$):**	82,008

A. **INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:**

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
BD-2	GEFTF	406,621	641,000
LD-3	GEFTF	365,298	286,000
LD-4	GEFTF	91,323	70,000
Total project costs		**863,242**	**997,000**

B. **INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK**

Project Objective: To develop a model of integrated land, water and ecosystem management for The Bahamas and other Small Island Developing States.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
Component 1. **Development and implementation of integrated, innovative technical solutions for the maintenance of ecosystem health**	TA	1.1 Improved ecosystem health through development and use of management tools developed for East Grand	1.1.1 Documentation of biodiversity inventory inclusive of completed field surveys and methodologies used to develop the inventory of species and habitats within the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem (e.g. species identification, photos and GIS data). 1.1.2 Watershed management plan	GEFTF	510,080	446,000

		Bahama Ecosystem 1.2 Improved ecosystem health of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem as a result of project restoration intervention 1.3 Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use mainstreamed into ecotourism production sector of East Grand Bahama and sustainable livelihoods generated.	developed for the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem. 1.2.1 Restoration methodology designed and implemented based on international integrated water resources management principles. 1.2.2 Restoration of East Grand Bahama Ecosystem. 1.3.1 Sustainable livelihoods in ecotourism production sector developed and supported by residents of East Grand Bahama with improvement in their income from this sector.			
Component 2. **Strengthening of national environmental monitoring and evaluation systems**	TA	2.1 Strengthened national and regional ecosystem monitoring systems through development of an evaluation methodology based on watershed unit	2.1.1 Ecosystem monitoring and evaluation methodology based on Aichi Passport indicators. 2.1.2 Ecotourism production sector developed according to Rainforest Alliance Verification Standards for Tourism Services. 2.1.3 Fisheries production sector activities aligned with process to achieve Marine Stewardship Council certification for the spiny lobster fishery.	GEFTF	120,000	162,000
Component 3. **Strengthening of the enabling environment in support of policy, legislative and institutional reforms and increase of capacity for sustainable natural resource management**	TA	3.1 Strengthened national planning processes through mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	3.1.1 Watershed management planning incorporated into land use and protected area management plans in other sites of the country. 3.1.2 Revision of building codes and regulations to ensure ecosystem health is not impacted by the construction sector and infrastructure development. 3.1.3 Watershed management plan and restoration methodology incorporate adaptive management tools for sustainable land management and integrated natural resource management and serves as a model for the country and other SIDS.	GEFTF	90,000	162,000

		3.2 Increased national and regional capacity to monitor and manage the complex interactions involved in maintaining the health of a watershed and its ecosystem functions.	3.2.1 Increased capacity amongst natural resource managers and scientists to develop biodiversity inventories in other areas of the country and other SIDS. 3.2.2 Increased capacity amongst Bahamian college students, natural resource managers and scientists for ecosystem monitoring and evaluation through knowledge exchange and transfer with scientific experts from the Caribbean, United States, Canada and Australia. 3.2.3 Capacity built within agencies involved to successfully execute ecosystem restoration projects through a consultative process involving multiple stakeholders. 3.2.4 Training program developed to increase capacity of residents to pursue employment opportunities in the ecotourism production sector.			
Component 4. **Enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement in natural resource management**	TA	4.1 Improved engagement and information access for stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing initiatives	4.1.1 Biodiversity inventory produced as a report inclusive of photos and maps to be shared nationally and regionally and to be available through IWECO Clearing House Mechanism and project partners' websites. 4.1.2 Knowledge shared among stakeholders, including decision-makers, and the neighbouring communities through project partners' websites about: i. Rich biodiversity of the area. ii. Ecosystem services provided by the area. iii. Different techniques and technologies that can be implemented to preserve ecosystems services. iv. Employment opportunities available through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. 4.1.3 Consultative process developed with stakeholders, inclusive of natural resource managers, experts and local communities, that can be used as a model for future restoration projects. 4.1.4 Citizen science program	GEFTF	100,000	180,000

			developed for East Grand Bahama communities will serve as a model for other islands in The Bahamas as well as other SIDS.			
				Sub-Total	820,080	950,000
Project management cost (5%)				GEF TF	43,162	47,000
Total project costs					**863,242**	**997,000**

C. **INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, ($)**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Government	Ministry of Housing and Environment	Cash	24,750
Government	BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	In kind	93,750
Government	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Housing	In kind	22,500
Government	Water and Sewerage Corporation	In kind	61,000
Government	Water and Sewerage Corporation	Cash	50,000
Non-Government Or-ganization	Bahamas National Trust (BNT)	In kind	90,000
Non-Government Organization	The Nature Conservancy Northern Caribbean Office	In kind	90,000
Non-Government Organization	Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF)	In kind	45,000
Non-Government Organization	National Coastal Awareness Committee	In kind	45,000
Multilateral	UNEP – DEPI & CAR/RCU	In kind	475,000
Total Co-financing			**997,000**

D. **INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES ($) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount ($) (a)	Agency Fee ($) (b)	Total ($) (a + b)
UNEP	GEFTF	BD	The Bahamas	406,621	38,629	445,250
UNEP	GEFTF	LD	The Bahamas	456,621	43,379	500,000
Total Grant Resources				**863,242**	**82,008**	**945,250**

E. **PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in $)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEFTF	BD	The Bahamas	25,000	2,375	27,375
UNEP	GEFTF	LD	The Bahamas	25,000	2,375	27,375
Total PPG Amount				**50,000**	**4,750**	**54,750**

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1.Project Description

1) Global Environmental Problems, root causes and barriers.

The following is an account of the challenges faced by The Bahamas in respect of water, land and biodiversity resources management that are of relevance to the project.

Water, land, and biodiversity barriers

The islands of The Bahamas are confronted with dangerous hazards from hurricanes and the associated consequences, such as storm surges and flooding. These consequences cause the salinization of soils, which destroys crops and delays the planting season. They may also negatively impact freshwater resources. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, in addition to destroying properties valued over US$200 million, severely compromised the freshwater reserves in Andros as well as in Grand Bahama. The aquifers were inundated with salt water from the storm surges associated with these hurricanes. This resulted in water shortages in Nassau, as over 50% of the New Providence potable water were supplied by the freshwater wellfields on Andros.

Other negative impacts from severe storms include leaching of chemical fertilizers from flooded soils and salt intrusion of agricultural lands. Pine forests are also affected by salt intrusion. Salt intrusion exasperates conditions of forest floors during the dry season. The forests essentially become dry, and sometimes scorched. This, in turn, raises the risk of forest fires. During the first quarter of 2005, uncontrolled fires in several islands burned on a daily basis, causing damage to much of the pine and coppice vegetation.

Historically, agricultural practices involved slash-and-burn, inadequate crop rotation and intensive tillage of the soil. Some present-day practices are still of environmental concern. Those impacting adversely on agricultural lands include the mixing of chemicals close to wells, open trench wells for irrigation, open application of fertilizers to the ground and the indiscriminate application of fertilizers.

There are also several environmental considerations associated with commercial farming. Commercial farming involves large-scale water consumption. As a result of the mismanagement of various factors, such as frequency of rainfall versus irrigation scheduling and water extraction versus recharge rate, has contributed to land degradation, and as a consequence, loss of agricultural productivity.

One of the competing factors for efficient land management has been increasing physical development, particularly touristic and commercial in nature. The land development has often led to exacerbated erosion, loss of agricultural productivity, deforestation, and deteriorating water quality, for both the marine environment and freshwater resources.

The Bahamas faces the following key challenges related to biodiversity, particularly as they relate to meeting its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity:

- The depletion of Bahamian ecosystems and species: The Convention stresses conservation of the total portfolio of biological diversity to maintain the structure and function of ecosystems. Many Bahamian ecosystems and species are already depleted and under threat of further degradation and /or endangerment for example coral reefs, pinelands, and iguanas.
- The depletion of Bahamian natural resources: the Convention stresses sustainability of resource use. Many Bahamian resources are already depleted, for example, several species of commercial fish, and valuable coppice forest species, and are under threat of further degradation.
- The damage or fragmentation of natural habitats: Wildlife and fish habitats such as those provided by pine forests and coral reefs, respectively, are damaged or fragmented by economic development occurring on land and in or near water.
- The introduction of invasive alien species to The Bahamas, accidentally or intentionally, threatens the survival of native species.

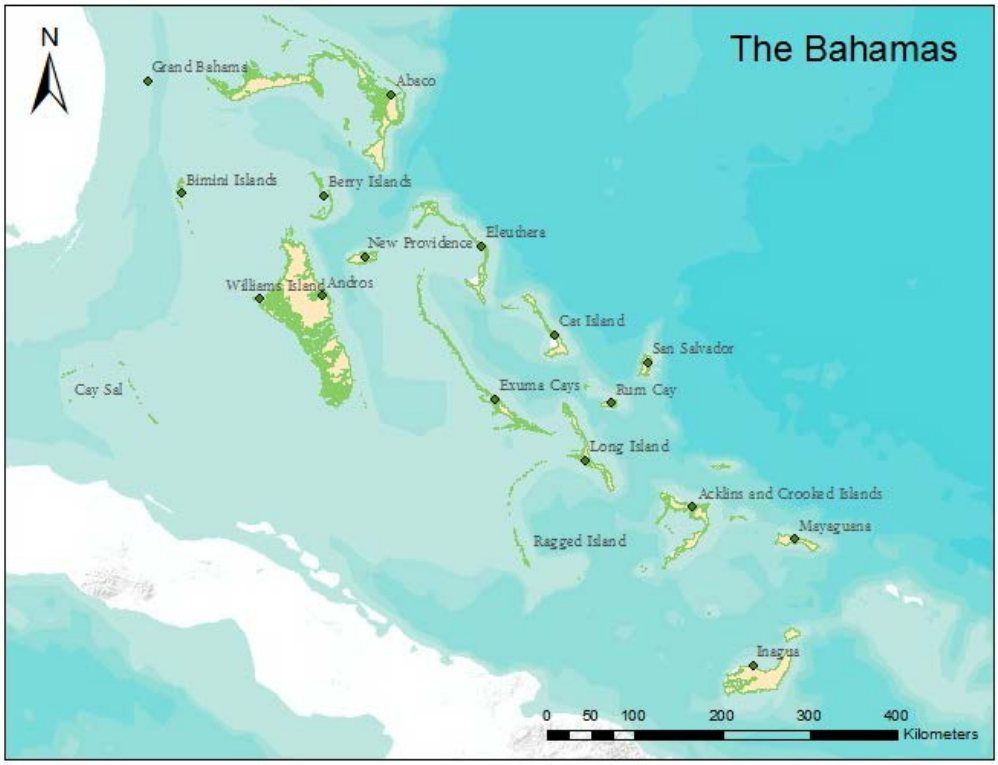
Capacity and mainstreaming barriers

Efforts to reduce the negative environmental impacts, protect watersheds, and conserve endangered biodiversity while supporting traditional livelihoods have been frustrated by generally weak policy, regulatory and institutional environments. The 2005 National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and several national reviews have identified capacity development needs at the systemic, institutional and individual levels throughout the country. These include the need for legislative reform, development of environmental regulations, adequate staffing for Government agencies tasked with environmental management, training of staff within Government agencies, appropriate budgetary allocations for agencies to accomplish their tasks and national training programs to increase the labour force available to address the myriad of environmental challenges facing the country.

Pursuant to the UNCCD and CBD conventions, The Bahamas has developed a National Action Programme (NAP) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that lay out strategic actions in the management of land (in the context of land degradation) and biodiversity resources respectively. Strategic plans for water resources remain poorly defined however, although under the GEF-IWCAM Project, governments were assisted in undertaking the initial steps in formulation of Integrated Water Resources Management policies and plans. In general, The Bahamas has not mainstreamed action plans as obligated under the UN conventions within its national development framework, and the present legislative instruments have not been appropriately aligned to give effect to implementation of the national action plans.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The Bahamas can be found between the southeastern shores of the United States and the northern shores of Cuba. The Bahamian archipelago extends 2,000 km, from Grand Bahama in the north to Inagua in the south, covering 100,000 square miles (259,000 square kilometers) (see Map1). Included in this area are more than 700 islands and 2,500 cays.



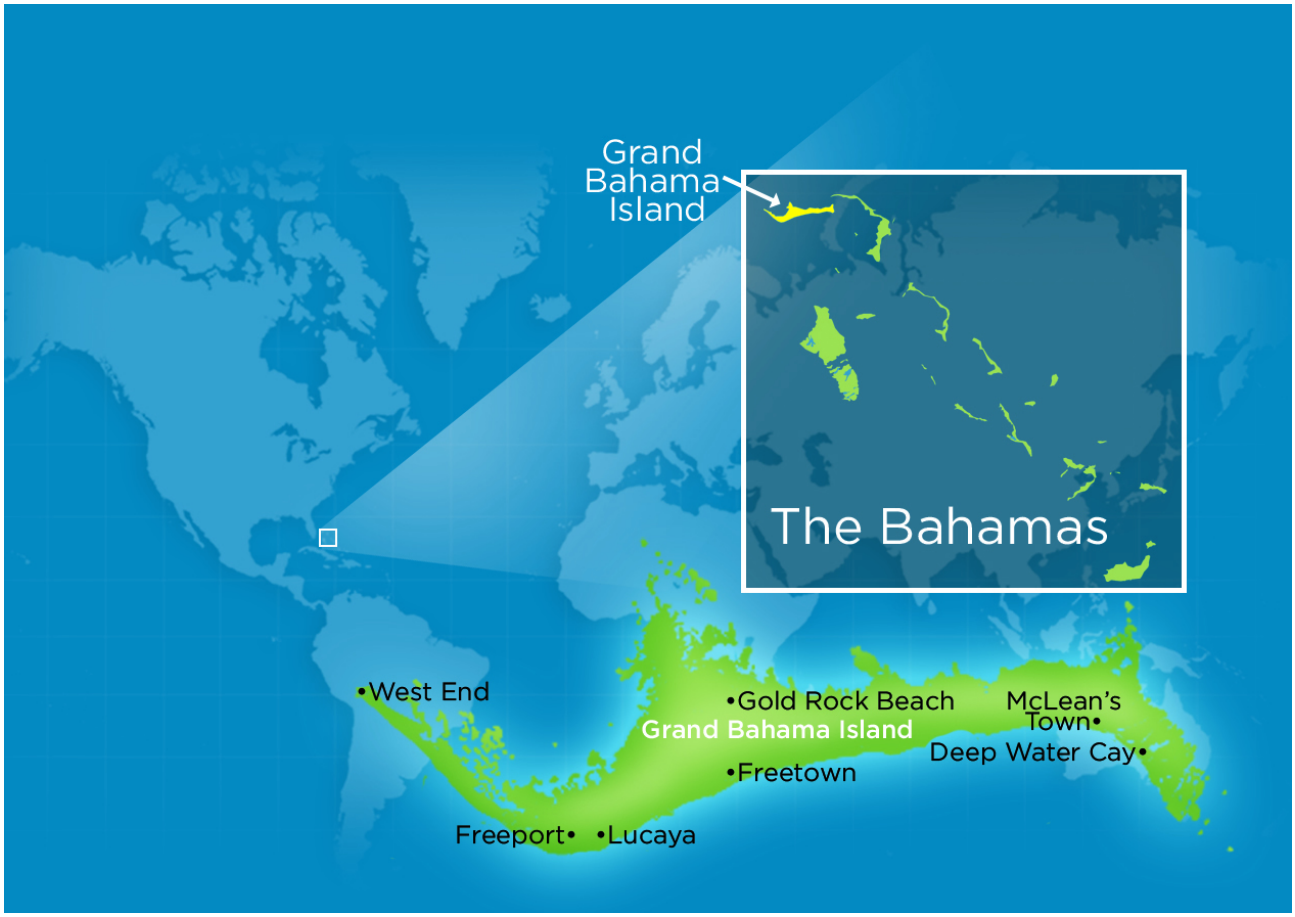
Map 1: The Islands of The Bahamas

The distinct environment of The Bahamas gives rise to numerous irreplaceable habitats and species, including vast expanses of Caribbean pine forest, tidal flats with thriving bonefish populations, extensive barrier reefs, the highest concentration of blue holes in the Western Hemisphere, and critical fish nursery habitat believed to contribute significantly to fisheries stocks throughout the Caribbean region. The insularity and extensive carbonate shelf with productive coral reefs and other habitats, plus a large area of coastal wetlands, especially mangrove forests, contribute to the abundance and diversity of fish. Rare, critically endangered, and endemic species can also be found in The Bahamas including the Bahama parrot, several species of Rock iguana, Kirtland's warbler, West Indian flamingo, Hutia, Smalltooth sawfish, Queen conch, and Loggerhead, Hawksbill, and Green turtles.

Approximately 30 of the over 700 islands are inhabited. The population of The Bahamas was estimated to be approximately 295,000 in 2000, growing at a rate of just over 1%. By 2010, The Department of Statistics recorded that the population growth increased to approximately 351,471 persons in The Bahamas. The population change figure increased by approximately 50,000 since the 2000 census.

The population of Grand Bahama is 51,756 with a population density of 97 persons per square mile (Bahamas Census 2010). The majority of the population resides in the city, of Freeport. On Grand Bahama, the population, combined with other pressures on land development such as investment, chemical industries, tourism and agriculture, creates tremendous pressure on limited land resources.

Project innovative solutions related to land and watershed restoration as well as ecosystem resilience will be focused on the eastern end of the island of Grand Bahama (see Map 2).



Map 2: Grand Bahama Island in The Bahamian Archipelago

The following provides a brief account of the status of water, land, and biodiversity resources of The Bahamas.

Fresh and coastal water resources: All freshwater in The Bahamas, comes from rainfall that is in dynamic transit to the ocean. It has been estimated that freshwater underlies only some 5% of the total land area of The Bahamas. The physical geology or hydrogeology of The Bahamas, and its water resources, are directly linked, as the country has no true rivers. The Bahamas, along with many of the Caribbean islands, ranks among the most water scarce Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the world. Annual average rainfall on Grand Bahama is 56.2 inches.

Surface water on Grand Bahama includes creeks, wetlands, marsh areas, and blue holes. Creek water levels are coincident with the water table. They are usually full during the summer and may dry out completely during the dry season. The freshwater lens on the island reaches thickness of up to 40 feet and is at its thickest between the Grand Lucayan Waterway and August Cay (Camp Dresser & McKee, 2008).

During the hurricane season of 2004, Grand Bahama was hit by two hurricanes - Frances and Jeanne - that caused significant storm surge that impacted the island's freshwater resources. Chlorides in the freshwater lens increased from 140 ppm to 360 ppm.

Because of The Bahamas' geographic configuration, the protection of the ocean is of considerable importance as more than 90% of the archipelago is ocean – either coastal or marine environment. Most of the country's biodiversity is found in coastal waters, inclusive of migratory fish and marine mammals. Key economic sectors – tourism and fisheries – are reliant on the health of coastal ecosystems, inclusive of beaches, mangroves, seagrass beds and sand flats.

Land and biodiversity (terrestrial and marine) resources:
Grand Bahama is part of the northern group of islands in The Bahamas along with Andros, Abaco, and New Providence. The highest point on the island is 68 feet above mean sea level, and is dominated by a self-sustaining forest of Caribbean pine. Orchids, especially bromeliads, are found in isolated areas.

Important, and easily-recognized, Bahamian ecosystems found on Grand Bahama include — but are not limited to — the following[1]:

- Pine woodland (forest) – northern islands
- Coppice – central and southern islands
- Wetlands – may be allocated amongst five categories: mangrove swamps and marshes, beach vegetation, swashes, pine forests/barrens, broad-leaf coppice. Mangroves are dominated by one or more species of mangrove (*Avicennia, Laguncularia* and *Rhizophora,)*.
- Seagrass beds – dominated by turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*)
- Coral Reefs – of great significance in terms of Bahamian biodiversity
- Other shallow water marine habitats – rock and unvegetated sediments
- Caves, sinkholes and blue holes

Soils on Grand Bahama occur as a thin covering. Bahamas Black Loam is found in the pinelands and may be a few inches thick. Whiteland soils are poorly developed humus and are generally located along the southern edge of the island. Bahamas Red Loam also occurs in small amounts (Kincaid et al, 2003).

The eastern end of Grand Bahama Island, eastward of McCleans Town, is an elongated, intermittent peninsula that is comprised of a mixture of islands, tidal creeks and bays, tidal channels that flow permanently between northeast and southwest sides of the peninsula, intertidal and subtidal flats of mangroves, sand, seagrass, and limestone. The shorelines are almost entirely red mangroves. Adjacent to sand flats are reefs, deeper seagrass beds, and channels. Marine organisms found in the area include bivalves, polychaete, callianassid shrimp, alphaied shrimp, callinectid crabs, stomatopods, gobiids, blenniids, gerreids (Adams, 2013).

Insularity and an extensive shelf with productive coral reefs and other habitats, plus a large area of coastal wetlands, especially mangrove forests, contribute to the abundance and diversity of fish. In this regard, The Bahamas has greater biodiversity abundance and diversity than the entire insular Caribbean. Correll and Correll (1982) report that nearly nine percent (121 taxa) of plant species

[1] Bahamas Biodiversity Country Study

found in The Bahamas are endemic. Over 1,350 species of flowering plants and ferns have been described, representing approximately 660 genera and 144 families.

The following are policy and institutional responses and priority interventions by the lead national agencies in biodiversity, water, and land management that have been deemed of priority in The Bahamas.

Biodiversity: The lead agencies are the Ministry of Environment and Housing through the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission, the Department of Marine Resources, and the Bahamas National Trust (BNT).

The Ministry of Environment and Housing's areas of responsibilities with respect to biodiversity include protection, conservation and management of the environment generally, reefs and blue holes, and forestry management. The agencies under the portfolio of the Ministry include the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission, the Department of Environmental Health Services, Forestry Unit, Bahamas National Geographic and Information Systems (BNGIS), and the Department of Housing. There is no enabling legislation that creates the Ministry as a statutory authority. Its legislative mandate is provided through statutes inclusive of the Environmental Health Services Act, Forestry Act, Wild Animals Protection Act and Wild Birds Protection Act.

The BEST Commission, formed by a directive from the Chief of State in 1994, has in effect been the country's environmental agency since 1995. BEST is the lead agency in ensuring that the GOB implements its requirements under the various international Conventions on environmental matters such as biodiversity, climate change, wetlands, land degradation, etc. In this role, BEST establishes committees, drawing on appropriate staff from different government agencies, for promoting actions to implement the specific requirements of the various conventions. To date, committees have been established on wetlands, climate change and biodiversity.

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is responsible for the management and development of fishery resources as well as the promotion of the growth of fisheries under the principles of sustainable use and integrated management. The Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction & Conservation) Act 1977 establishes the Exclusive Fishery Zone (EFZ). It reflects concern with respect to conservation and management of the marine environment and its resources. It also recognizes traditional fishing rights and provides for the declaration of protected marine areas and regulation of the fishing industry. The Department issues a number of permits and licences in its role as manager of fisheries resources. These permits and licences are for commercial fishing, sportfishing, use of compressors and scientific research. DMR is also tasked with enforcement of Fisheries Regulations, Marine Mammal Regulations and the Seafood Processing and Inspection Regulations.

Financial support for these Government programmes is from a mix of national and externally-financed sources.

The BNT was established by an Act of Parliament in 1959, which makes it unique in the NGO community. It represents a unique collaboration of governmental, private sector and scientific interests dedicated to the conservation of the natural and historic resources of The Bahamas for the enjoyment and benefit of the Bahamian people. The major mandate of the Trust is management of

the National Parks System of The Bahamas. The Bahamas National Trust Act of 1959 gives the Trust the power to create by-laws to be in effect in the protected areas it establishes. These areas are of environmental, historical and/or cultural importance. The Act was amended in 2010. The Trust has a mix of sources including an endowment fund, user fee system, membership fees, international grants and a small subvention from the Government.

Water: The lead agency is the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC). The 1976 Water and Sewerage Corporation Act establishes the WSC as both a service provider and a regulator. As a service provider, WSC is tasked to provide adequate supplies of suitable water for domestic and private uses as well as adequate facilities for safe disposal of sewage and industrial effluents. As a regulator, WSC's responsibilities include ensuring the 'optimum development and use of the water resources' of The Bahamas and ensuring appropriate standards and techniques are utilized for control, protection, management and administration of water. Financial support for WSC's programmes is from a mix of national and externally-financed sources. National sources include tariffs charged on water provided to private and public users by the Corporation.

Land: The lead agencies include the Ministry of Environment and Housing through the BEST Commission and Department of Housing, the Department of Physical Planning, and the Department of Lands and Surveys.

In the development process, particularly for large development projects, the BEST Commission is called on to review Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) on behalf of the Bahamas Government in order to advise the Government on the best ways to mitigate for any negative environmental impacts from development. The Commission is sometimes called on to provide environmental monitoring of such development projects.

The Department of Housing was established to promote the construction of dwelling houses for persons of moderate means. To achieve this, the Department can build on Government land, carry out housing developments, as well as grant loans and financing for the construction and development of dwelling houses for low and middle income families.

The Department of Physical Planning, along with the Town Planning Committee, is responsible for reviewing all development and building applications in the country to determine their approval. Once approved, the Department will issue permits for development. The Department is charged through the 2010 Planning and Subdivision Act with the development of island-specific land use plans and zoning plans.

The Department of Lands and Surveys is responsible for the disposition of Crown Land in The Bahamas. Crown Land is usually offered through lease agreements for development. These lease agreements are issued and managed by the Department of Lands and Surveys which is currently under the portfolio of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Section 3 of the 2010 Forestry Act establishes a Forestry Department and Director of Forestry who is responsible for activities including management, conservation, control and development of forests and promotion and regulation of forest industries. The Forestry Department is under the Ministry of Environment and Housing.

Financial support for these programmes is from a mix of national and externally-financed sources.

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

Component 1. Development and implementation of integrated, innovative technical solutions for the maintenance of ecosystem help

a) Ecosystem health will be improved through the development and use of management tools developed for the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem including a biodiversity inventory and watershed management plan. Completion of the biodiversity inventory will involve documentation of completed field surveys and methodologies used to inventory species and habitats within the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem, which will provide valuable tools for subsequent inventories at other sites in The Bahamas. These tools can also be shared with other SIDS. The inventory will include species identification (scientific and common names), photos of key biodiversity features as well as data necessary for development of GIS maps of the site. The watershed management plan will involve integrated natural resource management of landscapes and seascapes.

b) Restoration of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will include design of an appropriate and innovative restoration methodology during the PPG phase which will be implemented based on international watershed management principles. A possible methodology could include removal of old logging roads to improve flow of water through wetlands. Alternatively, culverts may be installed under these roads if that is deemed feasible during the PPG phase. The ecosystem health of the watershed is expected to improve as a result of this restoration intervention.

c) Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will be mainstreamed into the ecotourism production sector of East Grand Bahama. Sustainable livelihoods will be developed for residents of the area.

Component 2. Strengthening of national environmental monitoring and evaluation systems.

a) National and regional ecosystem monitoring systems will be strengthened through the development of an evaluation methodology based on a watershed unit and the 2013 Aichi Passport indicators. The ecotourism production sector will be developed for East Grand Bahama according to the Rainforest Alliance Verification Standards for Tourism Services. Fisheries production sector activities will be aligned with the current process to achieve Marine Stewardship Council certification for the Spiny lobster fishery.

Component 3. Strengthening of the enabling environment in support of policy, legislative and institutional reforms and increase of capacity for sustainable natural resource management.

a) National planning processes will be strengthened through the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Watershed management planning will be incorporated into land use and protected area management plans in other sites of the country. The watershed management plan as well as the restoration methodology will incorporate adaptive management tools for sustainable land management and integrated natural resource management and serve as a model for the rest of the country and other SIDS. The revision of

the Building Code and associated regulations will ensure ecosystem health is not negatively impacted by the construction sector and infrastructure development. Infrastructure development is a potential threat to sustainable land management if it is not planned or executed properly. The project seeks to incorporate sustainable land management into infrastructure development through involvement of the Ministry of Works in project activities.

b) National and regional capacity will be increased to monitor and manage the complex interactions involved in maintaining the health of a watershed and its ecosystem functions. Capacity will be increased amongst natural resource managers and scientists to develop biodiversity inventories in other areas of the country and for other SIDS. Capacity will be increased amongst Bahamian college students, natural resource managers and scientists for ecosystem monitoring and evaluation through knowledge exchange and transfer with scientific experts from the Caribbean, United States, Canada and Australia. Capacity will be built within agencies involved in the project to successfully execute other ecosystem restoration projects based on a consultative process involving multiple stakeholders. A training program will be developed for the residents of East Grand Bahama to increase their capacity to pursue employment opportunities in the ecotourism production sector. The local community will benefit from the additional income and their involvement in the ecotourism sector will rely on use of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem; their success will depend on the health of this system and will be threatened if it is degraded.

Component 4. Enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement in natural resource management.

a) There will be improved engagement and information access for stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing initiatives. The biodiversity inventory will be produced as a report which will be shared locally and regionally through project partners' websites and the Regional IWECO Clearing House Mechanism. Knowledge shared amongst project partners will be made available to other stakeholders, including decision makers and neighboring communities, through partner websites. Knowledge shared will highlight the rich biodiversity of the area, ecosystem services it provides and employment opportunities available through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The consultative process developed with stakeholders will be a model for future restoration projects. The citizen science program developed for the East Grand Bahama communities will serve as a model for other Bahamian islands as well as other SIDS.

4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, GEFTF and co-financing

Without any incremental intervention and assistance, the baseline as described above can be expected to remain stagnant or worsen. The proposed project will assist The Bahamas to fulfill obligations under the CBD, including Aichi targets, as well as objectives of its NBSAP. It will result in improvement of a globally significant and critical ecosystem in the country, development of a model of integrated natural resource management that can be replicated across the country as well as to other SIDS, increased capacity for its citizens, particularly resource managers, and improvement in the livelihoods of Bahamians in local communities in East Grand Bahama. It is anticipated that the project will empower non-Governmental organization, like the Bahamas National Trust, and local communities, to develop and execute similar projects in the country.

The Bahamas is requesting PPG funding. This will enable design of the restoration methodology, rapid ecological assessment of watershed area to characterize baseline conditions, conduct of consultative meetings with residents and private sector community of East Grand Bahama, confirmation of indicators and international standards to be utilized for monitoring, and preparation of the project document for the GEF MSP.

5) Global environmental benefits (GEBs)

The project is fully consistent and designed to deliver GEBs under the following GEF Focal Areas:

a) **Biodiversity:** Mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into infrastructure development and ecotourism sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes that Bahamians rely on for food and income; and

b) **Land Degradation:** Reduced pressures on natural resources from competing land uses associated with infrastructure development. Increased capacity in the country to apply adaptive management tools in sustainable land management (SLM) and integrated natural resources management (INRM).

The project seeks to place under a management regime at least 20,000 hectares of ecologically important biological corridors (comprising of mangrove wetlands and pine forests) and contribute to reduced pollutant loadings, particularly of sediments and nutrients to avoid excessive eutrophication of nearshore waters and smothering of coral reef systems. This regime will also benefit rare and/or endemic wildlife species, such as the endangered Bahama Swallow (*Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*) (Birdlife, 2014) and economically importantly species, particularly sedentary species such as Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), that are particularly impacted by heavy sediment and nutrient loads.

The same agencies that will be involved in the project are responsible for management of natural resources and protected areas across the archipelago, namely the Ministry of the Environment and its entities, the Department of Marine Resources and the Bahamas National Trust. The capacity gained by these agencies through the project can be utilized for integrated natural resource management on other Bahamian islands where these agencies are active. There will also be a number of regional opportunities to share lessons learned from this project, including the IWECO Regional Project.

The management regime will be specified through the course of the project once the biodiversity inventory and other awareness raising and knowledge-based interventions have been completed and the stakeholders are able to reach an informed agreement on the type of regime. It will fall under one of the IUCN categories.

On a global scale, the coral reefs of The Bahamas comprise about 5% of the world's total coral reef systems. The Little Bahama Bank, which is one of critical habitats for project activities, is virtually surrounded by either fringing, patch or barrier reefs.

While the Bahama Banks were dry land, they were exposed to the atmosphere where the limestone was subjected to chemical weathering that created the karst topography that the islands are famous for today (BNT, 2014). The now largely submerged limestone banks that comprise the Bahamian archipelago are riddled with karst features, such as sinks, blue holes, fracture caves and solution caves known to be among the most extensive in the world. These karst features hold hydrological,

archaeological, paleontological and biological treasures found nowhere else in the world, including stromatolites - rare prehistoric calcareous layers of lime-secreting bacteria that are trapped with sand and sediment and produce high amounts of oxygen.

The shallow Bank waters, mangrove wetlands, and tidal creeks provide critical spawning and nursery habitat for numerous ecologically and economically important marine species including Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*), snapper (Family Lutjanidae), tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*), bonefish (*Albula vulpes*), turtles (Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata)*, Green (*Chelonia mydas)*, and Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) , several species of shark, including Great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*), Bull (*Carcharhinus leucas*) and Nurse (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) , Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) and a variety of other marine invertebrates. A resident population of approximately 1,000 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) that have not been observed in the surrounding pelagic waters, appearing to be restricted to this shallow bank ecosystem (Fearnbach et al 2011).

The Little Bahama Bank is also well recognized for its seabird populations. The chain of cays extending west from Abaco Island forming the northern extent of the Bank is proposed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) for its breeding populations of Bridled Terns (*Sterna anaethetus*), Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) and Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*) (Birdlife International, 2013). In addition, Sale Cay and Little Sale Cay in the north-central Bank area is recognized as a high priority for conservation and protection in the Master Plan for the National Protected Areas System, for its high value for breeding seabirds (Moultrie, 2012). The Bank is also an important staging area for migrating populations of a variety of seabirds, including species of herons, egrets, ibis and spoonbills.

Global environmental benefits will be quantified and monitored using the 2013 Aichi Passport indicators. These are described in more detail in Section B.2.

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The project presents an opportunity for innovation in design and execution of the restoration methodology as well as the development of the watershed management plan and the ecosystem monitoring and evaluation methodology. The PPG phase will provide the opportunity to develop an appropriate and innovative restoration intervention through consultation with relevant experts.

All of these innovations would be designed to overcome the unique challenges faced by The Bahamas as a Small Island Developing State. The intent is that the models developed through this project can be scaled up to other islands in The Bahamas as well as other SIDS. Chief amongst the challenges facing SIDS is sustainability of projects such as this one. Project components that have been incorporated to ensure sustainability of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem long after the conclusion of the project include development of the watershed management plan with integration of adaptive management tools, development of the citizen science program and involvement of local communities and NGOs in the environmental monitoring and evaluation methodology, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods linked to the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem.

Coordinating arrangements for the project will ensure that opportunities for scaling up all facets of the project outcomes are taken up through mechanisms, such as the National Implementation Support Partnership for implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the

National Coastal Awareness Committee.

The project is being developed concurrently with a regional effort entitled "Implementing Integrated Land, Water and Wastewater Management the Caribbean Region" (IWECO Regional Project) which will explore regional knowledge sharing mechanisms in close coordination. The regional project provides a platform for inter-regional exchange of experiences, tools and best practices.

A.2. Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Role	Project Activities
BEST Commission, Ministry of Housing and Environment	**Lead overall Executing Agency**	Involvement in project steering committee. Liaison agency with UNEP and GEF as Operational Focal Point.
Bahamas National Trust (BNT)	Partner executing agency	Involvement in project steering committee. Overall project management on a day-to-day basis, guiding all project interventions. Lead agency on liaison with residents of East Grand Bahama.
Ministry of Environment and Housing	Consultative partner and co-financier	Involvement in project steering committee. Financial oversight. Liaison with high levels of Government (such as Cabinet).
Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Housing	Consultative partner and co-financier	Involvement in project steering committee. Expert advice on forestry matters. Participation in forestry-related project interventions (such as biodiversity inventory).
Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC)	Consultative partner and co-financier	Involvement in project steering committee. Expert advice on water matters. Participation in water-related project interventions.
The Nature Conservancy Bahamas Office	Consultative partner and co-financier	Expert advice on conservation matters. Participation in conservation-related project interventions.
Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF)	Consultative partner and co-financier	Expert advice on marine and education matters. Participation in marine- and education-related project interventions.
National Coastal Awareness Committee, Ministry of Tourism	Consultative partner and co-financier	Involvement in project steering committee. Expert advice on coastal and tourism matters.

		Participation in coastal- and tourism-related project interventions.
Residents of East Grand Bahama	Stakeholders	One representative on project steering committee. Involvement in all project interventions in East Grand Bahama, including restoration, sustainable livelihoods development and citizen science program.
Ministry of Works	Stakeholder	Participation in restoration intervention and revision of Building Code and associated regulations.

A.3. Risks

RISK		Risk Mitigation Strategy
Watershed management plan is not accepted by the Government of The Bahamas	L	Transparent and all-inclusive consultation process. Strong leadership by national agencies and inclusion of a high-level "champion" (such as a Minister or Prime Minister). Seek to empower non-Governmental organizations and the private sector by their demonstrating and endorsing benefits of investment in IWECO. The project will strengthen the political commitment by raising awareness of the decision makers, institutions, and communities on benefits of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as significance of ecosystem services to human well-being.
Political elections result in reversal of agreed watershed management plan and other methodologies.	L/M	Involve multiple agencies and sectors in the plan and methdology formulation, so that they are non-partisan and widely accepted.
Climate change variability: major natural disaster (such as hurricane) strikes The Bahamas	M	Project interventions seek to improve climate change resiliency. Project will also highlight ways to promote adaptation to climate change and lessen the impact of some natural disasters.
Economic factors and potential social destabilization	M	Seek to target appropriate and financially sustainable solutions that are effective with low level captial investment. Build stakeholder buy-in and investment toward upliftment of livelihoods at the local community level

A.4. Coordination

This project will be carried out in close coordination with the ongoing GEF funded projects in the Bahamas portfolio which include "Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network – The Bahamas"; and "Pine Islands - Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration". The BEST Commission will serve as the National Executing Agency and the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) as a partner executing agency. The BEST Commission and BNT will serve as the Coordinating Body of the project under the PPG phase and will meet on a monthly basis. Additional key partners such as Department of Forestry, Water and Sewerage Corporation, The Nature Conservancy (Bahamas Office), BREEF and National Coastal Awareness Committee are envisioned to be involved in planning and execution of specific project components. The residents of East Grand Bahama will be involved in all project interventions at the project site as well in coordination of activities through a representative on the project steering committee. Additional project partners from the private sector, local government and civil society organizations of Grand Bahama Island for project information sharing and review purposes can be enjoined on an as needed basis.

The Bahamian GEF funded biodiversity and land degradation portfolio is managed by UNEP, an additional safeguard to avoid duplication of effort and maximize coordination efficiencies and best use of existing tools, resources and products.

The project will benefit from cross-pollination and coordination with the forthcoming GEF funded UNEP implemented project entitled "Implementing Integrated Land, Water and Wastewater Management in the Caribbean" which will be running concurrently. The Bahamas can benefit from regionally planned activities and tools to be developed under this project.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1.National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc: (1)

The Bahamas completed its National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Land Degradation in 2006. The overall strategic goal of the NAP is to mitigate, and wherever possible, reverse the effects of land degradation by adopting measures to effectively preserve and manage the limited land resources of The Bahamas through the participation and partnership of the various stakeholders. This goal is to be achieved through a tiered approach involving planning, development and implementation, and evaluation. The NAP notes that economic development, particularly in the tourism sector, has led to an increase in the demand for land. Large tracts of land have been cleared for tourism and urban development projects. Moreover, the requirement to provide the infrastructure, such as potable water supply and sewage management, transportation and communication systems, to service these new developments adds to the pressure on the relatively scarce land resources. Other economic sectors, such as agriculture and construction have also increased the pressures on land, resulting in abuse and degradation that is often compounded by natural disasters, such as hurricanes. The country profile is available on the UNCCD website at
http://www.unccd.int/en/regional-access/Pages/countries.aspx?place=25.

The Bahamas signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the 12th of June, 1992, and ratified it on the 2nd of September, 1993. The Bahamas developed its National Biodiversity Strategies and

Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999. The NBSAP identified the following activities as priorities for action to achieve implementation of the CBD:

- National Consultative Process was to determine the specifics of which species, ecosystems and locations are targeted for conservation activities and to create an awareness among citizens and residents of The Bahamas of the value of biodiversity to the economy and to societal well-being, and of their individual and collective responsibilities under the CBD;
- Preparation of bioregional guidelines, position papers and policy statements with respect to bio-regions, major ecosystems, and critical species in The Bahamas and the role of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in conservation biodiversity;
- Planning for a system of national parks and protected areas;
- Development of monitoring and evaluation methodologies; and
- Protection or rehabilitation of threatened or degraded ecosystems and of threatened species.

Over the past 12 years, action has been taken on all of these, but efforts will need to continue as the tasks are significant. Additionally, progress has been made on biodiversity issues not addressed in the NBSAP, inclusive of invasive alien species (IAS) management and sustainable financing for protected areas. Full details of the country profile and the NBSAP are available at the convention website at http://www.cbd.int/countries/default.shtml?country=bs.

The project is aligned with Bahamas Ministry of Tourism's Sustainable Tourism Policy. Sustainable tourism goals for Family Islands, like Grand Bahama are environmental, social and economic. Goals include protection of Bahamian environmental resources and global biodiversity for future generations, provision of equitable opportunities for residents to participate in the tourism industry, and diversification of the existing traditional tourism industry to soft adventure and ecotourism sectors with increased opportunities for birdwatching, wildlife observation, and cultural events. In 2007, expenditures by tourists visiting Grand Bahama were more than B$250 Million. This decreased to B$168 Million in 2011. This reduction in expenditure meant significant unemployment on Grand Bahama and migration of many residents to other employment markets including New Providence and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The project is also aligned with the National Fisheries Strategic Plan. The Plan speaks to the lack of biological data on fisheries stocks. The completion of the biodiversity inventory for the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will contribute to reducing this deficiency. The Plan also speaks to the need for public education and outreach with respect to marine resources. The project addresses this through components 3 and 4. The project activities align with the overall vision of the fisheries sector - *a vibrant fishing sector based on a health ecosystem developed for the benefit of current and future generations of Bahamians through ecologically sustainable practices, adequate data collection, research, management and enforcement*. In 2011, the fisheries production sector resulted in more than B$27 Million in revenue from exports by the private sector.

The project is also consistent with The Bahamas National Environmental Policy, National Wetlands Policy and Bahamas 2020 Declaration (a commitment under the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas).

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

Biodiversity (BD) Strategy: The project proposed is consistent with the GEF priority of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors. The project will result in the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem of some 20,000 hectares being a sustainably used and managed landscape and seascape that integrates biodiversity conservation. Wetlands restored

under the project will be professionally assessed using the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) prior to and following restoration. The Biodiversity Barometer, Ocean Health Index and Ecological Footprint will also provide internationally recognized assessments of the project site, pre- and post-interventions.

Revision of the building code and associated regulations for infrastructure development will have a positive impact on ecotourism and fisheries production sectors. The ecotourism production sector developed for East Grand Bahama will adhere to the Rainforest Alliance Verification Standard for Tourism Services. The Bahamas is currently pursuing Marine Stewardship Council certification for the spiny lobster fishery throughout The Bahamas, including Grand Bahama. Project activities will be complementary to this certification process.

Production of the watershed management plan will incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.

The Bahamas developed its National Invasive Species Strategy in 2003. That strategy was revised in 2013 and an implementation schedule developed for the next 10 years. The 2013 Strategy will be followed during the project for any invasive species identified within the project site with invasive alien species management being included in the watershed management plan for the site.

The project aligns with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 19 as outlined below:

- By the end of the project, residents of East Grand Bahama will be aware of the values of biodiversity in the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem and the steps they can take to conserve and sustainably use it (Target 1);
- By the end of the project, Local and Central Government agencies, businesses and stakeholders in Grand Bahama will have taken steps to achieve sustainable production through ecotourism and consumption through sustainable fishing to keep the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits (Target 4);
- By the end of the project, the rate of loss of all natural habitats in the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem, including forests, will be at least halved and degradation and fragmentation significantly reduced (Target 5);
- By 2020, all fish, invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants in the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will be managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems, and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits (Target 6). The project will develop a watershed management plan that outlines activities to enable attainment of this 2020 target;
- By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems within the project site that are impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning (Target 10);
- By 2020, at least 20% of the terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems as a part of the Bahamas National Protected Area System and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes (Target 11);
- By the end of the project, at least 10% of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem that provides essential services, including services related to water and that contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, local communities, and the

poor and vulnerable in Grand Bahama (Target 14). By 2020, all the areas of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem that provides essential services will be restored and safeguarded;
- By the end of the project, knowledge, the science base and technologies related to biodiversity of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem, its values, functioning, status, trends and consequences of its loss will be improved, widely shared and transferred (within The Bahamas and the Caribbean Region) and applied (Target 19).

Each target will be monitored using the relevant indicators in the 2013 Aichi Passport to track progress as follows:
- Target 1 - Biodiversity Barometer will be used to survey awareness of the residents of East Grand Bahama pre- and post-project;
- Target 4 - the Ecological Footprint of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will be assessed pre- and post-project;
- Target 5 - the extent of forest and forest types indicator will be used to assess the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem pre- and post-project;
- Target 6 - Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits for the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will be assessed during the project;
- Target 10 - Ocean Health Index will be assessed for the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem pre- and post-project;
- Target 11 - a GIS layer of the biodiversity of East Grand Bahama Ecosystem will be developed by the end of the project so that in future it can be compared to a protected area overlay to determine the percentage protection achieved for the project site;
- Target 14 - Red List Index for amphibians, birds and fish used for food and medicine and Accessibility Index to track changes in affordability of wild-sourced products will be assessed for East Grand Bahama Ecosystem during the project;
- Target 19 - survey questions will be added to the Biodiversity Barometer to enable an assessment of progress towards this target pre- and post-project.

These indicators will be refined through the PPG phase using the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership National Indicators Development Toolkit.

Land Degradation (LD) Strategy: The project is consistent with GEF priorities of reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape and increasing capacity to apply adaptive management tools in sustainable land management and integrated natural resource management by GEF and UNCCD Parties. The project will create an enabling environment in East Grand Bahama for integrated landscape management across ecotourism, fisheries, construction and conservation sectors. The integrated landscape management practices will be adopted by residents of East Grand Bahama as well as Government agencies and NGOs that work in the area as well as other islands in The Bahamas. The project is intended to produce a successful model of integrated landscape and seascape management that the Government of The Bahamas will replicate on other islands. The model can also be shared with other Small Island Developing States regionally and globally.

Core outputs of the project will include the watershed management plan, biodiversity inventory, restoration methodology and increased sustainable livelihoods to diversify the financial resource base in local communities in East Grand Bahama. Outputs will be disseminated locally and globally through project partners' websites.

Through the PPG phase, the restoration methodology will be designed. The research assumption is that the methodology employed will improve the health and functionality of the East Grand Bahama Ecosystem. Through the assessments and monitoring completed during the project, the research assumption will be confirmed or refuted. As the project progresses, opportunities to adapt the methodology will be employed, hence adaptive management. All project interventions will be thoroughly documented so any lessons learned can be shared locally and globally. Project interventions are also aligned with The Bahamas' NAP under the UNCCD.

B.3. The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

The Project will be implemented by UNEP and recognizes its comparative advantage. The project activities are consistent with the delivery of UNEP's work programme across two of its sub-programmes – ecosystems management and resource efficiency. At the technical level, complementary activities include the promotion of an ecosystem management approach through its marine and freshwater programme, ridge to reef activities embodied in the GPA programme for which it serves as the Secretariat, dedicated programme on SIDS addressing Climate Change adaptation and promoting the IWRM approach with special attention on waste management. At the regional level, The Bahamas is a Contracting Party to the **Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)** of the Cartagena Convention which is tailored to address biodiversity issues in the Wider Caribbean and as such it is also a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader global Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), RAMSAR and CITES. CAR/RCU as the Secretariat for this UNEP administered Regional Seas Convention, will enable the promotion and linkages with the Global MEAs while facilitating the establishment, proper management and strengthening of national Protected Areas (PAs) and PA networks drawing on its regional expertise. UNEP will further support replication and upscaling through the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management (CaMPAM) network which was established by Car/RCU to strengthen management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region and to improve their effectiveness. The framework provided by the UNEP Administered Global Multilateral Environmental Conventions on Biodiversity and Land Degradation, network of UNEP national and technical focal points and specialized Regional Activity Centres (RACs) will further enable the project to take advantage of the opportunities for synergies and complementarity with the regional GEF IWECO project and other related regional projects and activities.

Further, the proposed project is consistent with the expected UNEP work programme accomplishment to support increased carbon sequestration through improved land use, reduced deforestation and reduced land degradation and to support country, policymakers and negotiators, civil society and the private sector in their access to relevant climate change science and information for decision-making. This project specifically addresses UNEP's expected work programme accomplishment"Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased".

In addition, UNEP personnel will support this project through technical and administrative staff in Panama City, Panama; Nairobi, Kenya; and Washington DC.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BEST	Bahamas Environment, Science & Technology Commission
BNT	Bahamas National Trust
BREEF	Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
GOB	Government of The Bahamas
INRM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
NAP	National Action Programme
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NISP	National Implementation Support Partnership
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification and Drought
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Camille Johnson	Permanent Secretary GEF Political Focal Point	Ministry of Housing and the Environment	12/12/2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Van Dyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP			Isabelle Van der Beck, Task Manager	202-974-1314	Isabelle.vanderbeck@unep.org