Annex 14: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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This Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Summary of Consultations has been prepared for Micronesia Conservation Trust, by E Co. and Palikir Consulting to inform the project design of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Funding Proposal titled: "Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)". The proposed Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) program will channel funds towards EbA measures into priority areas in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It will scale-up existing regional initiatives aiming to effectively manage marine and terrestrial resources, while reducing the vulnerability of the natural ecosystems upon which local communities rely. It is being submitted for the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) modality.

Last edited: 27 December 2022

● Contents

Glossary

Affected Communities - Refers to groups of people living in close proximity to a project that could potentially be impacted by a project ("Stakeholders," in contrast, refers to the broader group of people and organizations with both interest and influence on the project).

Consultation - The process of gathering information or advice from stakeholders and taking these views into account when making project decisions and/or setting targets and defining strategies.

Engagement - A process in which a company builds and maintains constructive and sustainable relationships with stakeholders impacted over the life of a project. This is part of a broader "stakeholder engagement" strategy, which also encompasses governments, civil society, employees, suppliers, and others with an interest in the Project.

Environmental and Social Management Plan - An assessment comprising various social and environmental studies which aim to identify project impacts and design appropriate mitigation measures to manage negative impacts, and to enhance positive ones. This is Annex 12 in the Simplified Approval Process package.

Grievance Redress Mechanism - A process for receiving, evaluating, and addressing project-related complaints from citizens, stakeholders and other affected communities.

Non-governmental Organizations - Private organizations, often not-for-profit, that facilitate community development, local capacity building, advocacy, and environmental protection.

Partnership - In the context of engagement, partnerships are defined as collaboration between people and organizations to achieve a common goal and often share resources and competencies, risks and benefits.

Stakeholders - Persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively (IFC's Handbook on Stakeholder Engagement (2007)); workers, local communities directly affected by the project and other stakeholders not directly affected by the project but that have an interest in it, e.g. local authorities, neighbouring projects, and/or nongovernmental organizations, etc.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan - A plan which assists investors with effectively engaging with stakeholders throughout the life of the project and specifying activities that will be implemented to manage or enhance engagement.

1. Introduction to the Annex 7

This report consists of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Summary of Consultations and has been developed to support a Green Climate Fund (GCF) full Funding Proposal (FP) package for the project titled: Ecosystem-Based Adaptations for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS) in Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, for which E Co. is providing Project Preparation Framework (PPF) services to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). The Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) programme will aim to deliver on:

GCF Result Area	IRMF Core Indicators
ARA1 Most vulnerable people and communities	**Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached**
ARA4: Ecosystems and ecosystem services	**Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low emission and/or climate resilient management practices**
	Supplementary 4.1: Hectares of terrestrial forest, terrestrial non-forest, freshwater and coastal marine areas brought under restoration and/or improved ecosystems

The proposed project has 3 outcomes, with the following program deliverables and activities:

Component 1: Local entities are empowered to design, develop, prioritize and deliver EbA solutions to address climate impacts

Component	Activities
1.1: Capacity building and technical trainings for identifies entities to design and develop viable EbA sub-projects	1.1.1: Develop a selective methodology to establish SGF rosters
	1.1.2: Develop and administer capacity assessment framework
	1.1.3: Develop ToT curriculum based on capacity assessments
1.2: Awareness and implementation training for identified entities and communities to deliver and prioritize EbA solutions	1.2.1: Organise writeshops to deliver ToT modules
	1.2.2: Organise community advocacy and training modules

| | 1.2.3: Design and deliver peer-to-peer learning for communities and rostered entitites |

Component 2: The SGFs are operationalized to implement and support locally-led EbA sub-projects

Component	Activities
2.1: The SGFs are established with a robust oversight, implementation and redress mechanism to fund locally-led EbA sub-projects, by country	2.1.1: Establish and formalise regional oversight, governance, protocols an guidelines and redress mechanism for the SGFs to be implemented by each country
2.2. Prioritized sub-projects deliver EbA results and demonstrate viability of interventions, aligned to GCF invest criteria	2.2.1: Call for expression of interest for SGF-funded sub-projects
	2.2.2: Award grants to sub-projects, aligned with the theory of change and logframe of the EDA approved proposals
	2.2.3: Develop a sustainable resource mobilization strategy for the SGFs, by country

Component 3: Improved knowledge management, applied learning (KMAL) and regional cooperation on locally-led EbA measures

Component	Activities
3.1.: Enhanced KM and data sharing protocols for dissemination of lessons learned and best practices on EbA adaptation measures.	3.1.1: Review available data collected by MCT on ongoing and recently closed sub-projects and establish a KMAL strategy.
	3.1.2 Integrate data collected through SGF sub-projects and existing MCT sub-projects into regional and national KM platforms
	3.1.3: Design and implement digital technology for tracking SGFs (a regionally-accessible app).

2. Methodology of the Annex 7

Given that the program was co-developed with the national-level stakeholders and will focus on delivering ecosystem-based adaptation activities at the community level, stakeholder engagement has been prioritized in the preparation stage. This report captures the stakeholder consultations undertaken by national experts and the engagement process undertaken as part of the project preparation phase.

To this end, stakeholder consultations were undertaken with municipal and national representatives of municipal and national institutions, and with in-country NGOs and CSOs representatives involved in protected areas and coastal and marine resources management.

The data and information collected as part of this exercise has allowed for assessment of the current extent of community-based adaptation projects and initiatives implemented by the involved stakeholders within the protected areas of each target country as well as collected information on capacity and technical support needed by the involved NGOs and CSOs to properly implement the localized grants through the projects under the EDA program.

Additionally, stakeholder consultations at the national, provincial and community level were conducted to define priorities, understand key barriers, refine proposed interventions, engage key partners, and improve the project's design and strategy. These consultations included a specific focus on gendered aspects of vulnerability to climate change as well as entry points and opportunities for ensuring equitable participation in and benefit from project activities.

The aims of the consultations included:
- To gather relevant data and information on existing community-based projects and initiatives implemented in the protected areas;
- To collect information on capacity and technical support needs to enable a successful implementation of the grants from the project's EDA program;
- To discuss the main barriers, challenges and opportunities in the methodology and prioritization process to ensure efficiency and climate change resilience;
- To identify entry points and opportunities enhancing equitable participation in and benefit from program activities;
- To collect other information required to complement the technical studies and Annexes to the.

This program will have strong stakeholder engagement throughout the lifespan to ensure that stakeholders (and importantly, affected communities, as distributed above) are being informed and consulted both prior and during project implementation and are given the opportunity to influence and when possible, participate in project activities (which will be defined when grants are released through the EDA mechanism).

This SEP has been prepared according to MCT's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy[1], as well as the revised Environmental and Social Policy of the GCF.[2]

The objectives of this report are:

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[1] http://www.ourmicronesia.org/uploads/1/2/6/9/126956881/6.1_es_policy.pdf

[2] https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/revised-environmental-and-social-policy.pdf

- To detail the findings gathered at the Inception Workshop (the outset of the consultation processes);

- To identify all stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the program and assess the nature and extent of their interests and influence, based on the consultations at the provincial- and national-level;

- To identify relationships for effective information sharing and communication between stakeholders as well as ways to consult them in a meaningful manner throughout the implementation of the program;

- To specify procedures and methodologies for stakeholder consultations and feedback in the implementation stage – this will form the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); and,

- To establish an accessible, transparent, and responsive grievance mechanism for the project.

There were two types of consultations for each target country. The first one was aimed at high-level policy makers and stakeholders, while the second one focused on project beneficiaries (local governments, NGOs, CSOs, etc.). Due to COVID restrictions, the latter was conducted through NGOs and targeted community members were invited to join, and COVID-19 restrictions were strictly followed.

During the stakeholder consultation, the participants in each jurisdiction broke into groups to answer four sets of questions. Working Group 1 determined important stakeholders for the project. Working Group 2 focused on existing Gaps and Institutional arrangements that need to be uncovered and addressed. Working Group 3 focused on identifying possibly co-financing options for the project. Working Group 4 focused on questions regarding gender, risk identification and sustainability mechanisms. The four questionnaires can be found in Appendix A.

3. Approach to the stakeholder consultations

All the relevant stakeholders were identified prior to any attempt to engage. A preliminary list of stakeholders was developed and enhanced through the consultation process using a snowball approach[3]. Snowball sampling entails obtaining referrals from initial stakeholders/subjects, to generate additional stakeholders. Snowball approaches create chains of referrals from stakeholders that can be quickly identified to those more difficult to contact and find.

A preliminary brainstorming stakeholder identification meeting was undertaken with national and state (FSM) focal points selected to facilitate this process at the national and state levels. They answered the following questions:

- Who has the best knowledge to enforce the outputs of the project interventions?
- Who has the power to enable project interventions to achieve the aimed impacts, and who has the power to block them?
- Who might be disadvantaged or lose out as a result of this project?

This list included everyone who has an interest in project and who may have an interest in the project in the future. This list identified individuals – not just organizations.

The following considerations were used to identify the preliminary list of stakeholders:

- Learn from past and current engagements: Which stakeholders communicate regularly with your organization?
- Consider the future: assess potential stakeholders from new groups
- Ensure diversity: make sure to include a rich diversity of stakeholders embodying a spectrum of expertise, attitudes and geographies. Include individuals from each of the Stakeholder categories: key players, context setters, subjects, crowd.
- Use technology tools: analyse your social media, it provides opportunities to understand who is interested from various organizations.
- Consider the impact: it should be carefully considered who is most impacted by the decisions and operations within this program.

This preliminary list of stakeholders was enhanced through beneficiary identification during the initial stakeholder consultation process.

The project team ensured that the consultation process followed the best practices and basic principles that guide public consultation and stakeholder engagement in similar projects for well recognized international institutions. The aim was to promote a constructive relation among the different stakeholders involved, including beneficiaries, government agencies and other relevant parties.

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[3] For more information, see p.21
https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/295541468780869754/pdf/283220SDP135.pdf

The principles include:

- People have a right to be consulted

Following Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), everyone has the right to know about the project, its outcomes, and impacts, as well as the right to express their opinion and be heard. People, including beneficiaries and relevant parties to the project, should be able to receive accurate, comprehensible information about the objectives, scope, timing, potential impacts, and risks associated with the project. Stakeholder consultations are an opportunity to offer a forum to explain the project and benefit from local knowledge that can be an important addition to the project design.

- Consultation is a two-way process

Consultations should not be a simple formal meeting. Rather, it is a process of informing and listening that can determine the success or failure of the future project. Consultations require a proactive approach and effective engagement with people, using appropriate media and language to present the information, at times and in places where people can participate. They are a critical step during project design and an important opportunity to include local knowledge to avoid and mitigate potential impacts and maximize project's outcomes.

- All people affected/benefiting from the project should be heard

The starting point of the consultation process is identifying the different groups, organizations and other actors that may be affected or are related to the project. In essence, a good consultation process will hear the concerns and opinions of all the people that may be affected or can benefit from the project. These stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project include different types of groups, with different needs, cultural understandings and would require different methods to reach them. Marginalized groups, for example, might be more difficult to reach and require an additional effort to be engaged. However, it is important that the consultation process ensures that all stakeholders are treated fairly, with every reasonable effort being made to hear their opinion and include them into the project design.

In practice, it is often difficult to reach all the people that may be affected or may potentially benefit from the project. Therefore, in these cases, selection methods should be used to identify representatives of the people and sectors involved in the project. It is essential to ensure that a broad range of people from different sectors and socio-economic or ethnic groups are involved, especially women, young people or the elderly, and people who may be particularly vulnerable.

- Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing process

Consultation and stakeholder engagement should not be understood as just a step in the process of project approval, they are an ongoing process and an important factor in the project's success. Consultation with stakeholders should take place at all levels of project design and implementation, until its completion and evaluation. A strong stakeholder engagement plan is an important tool to demonstrate commitment, define responsibilities, and ensure that stakeholders are engaged throughout the project cycle.

4. Overview of stakeholder consultations and key findings

There were three separate days of consultations across the three countries, with seven distinct meeting sites. The tables below provide a quick glimpse of the composition of the stakeholders involved including disaggregated data on gender and organizational participation.
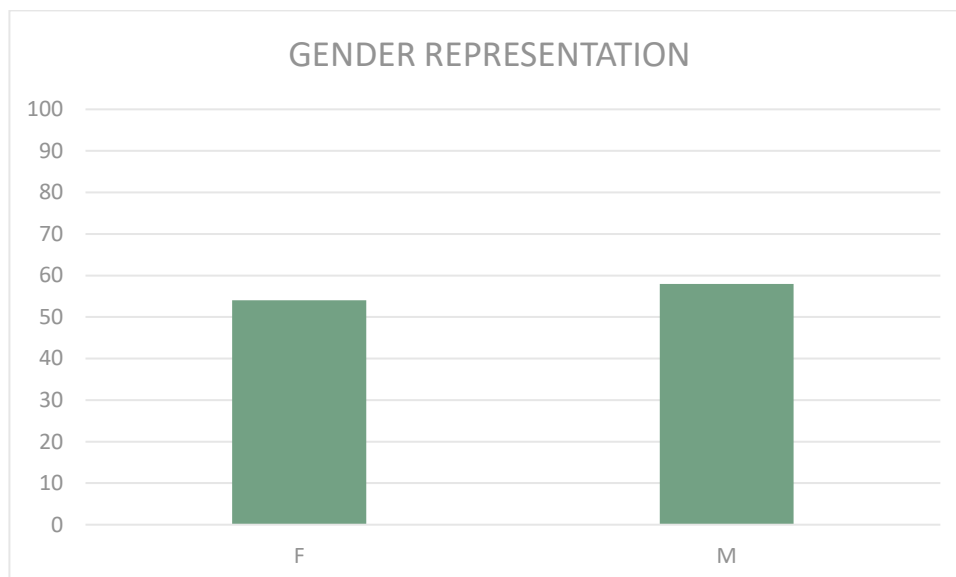
Out of a total of 112 participants over the seven jurisdictions, 54 were female and 58 were male. The gender balance of the total participants was 48% female and 52% male.
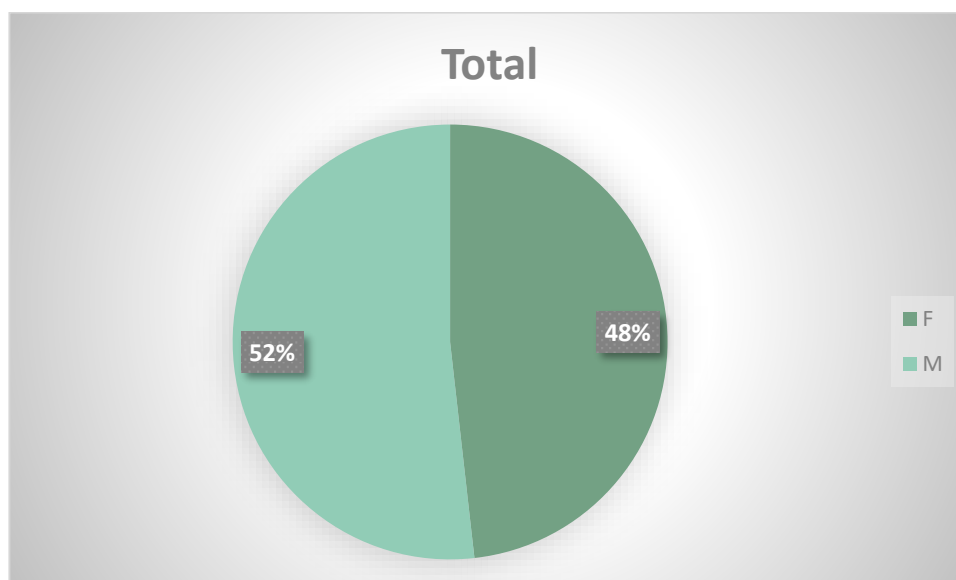
There were 64 total government participants that included national level governments, state level, and municipal level participation across the three countries. This accounted for 57% of the participants. There were 48 non-government participants ranging from conservation NGOs to community-based organizations and international NGOs. NGOs represented 43% of participants.

GOVERMENT VS. NGO REPRESENTATION

Total
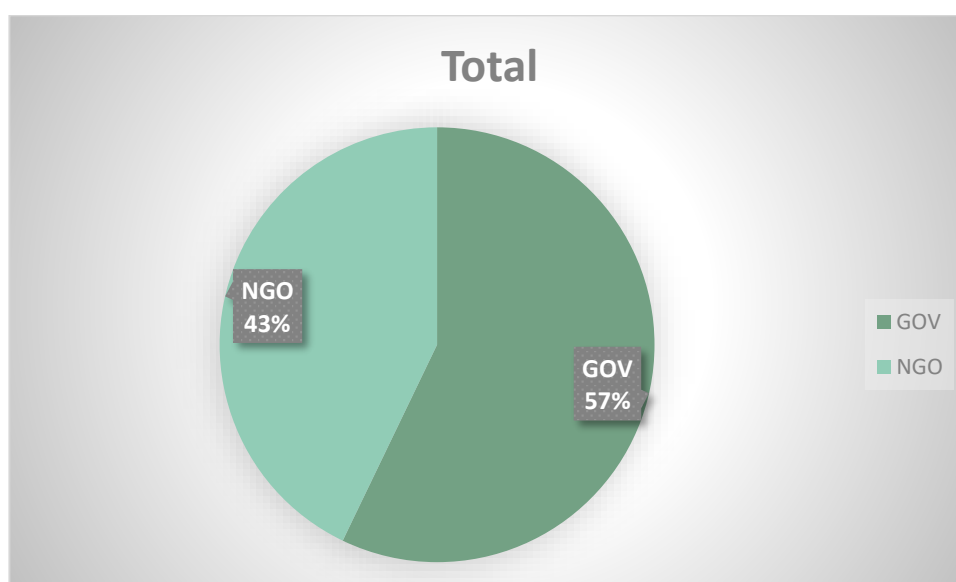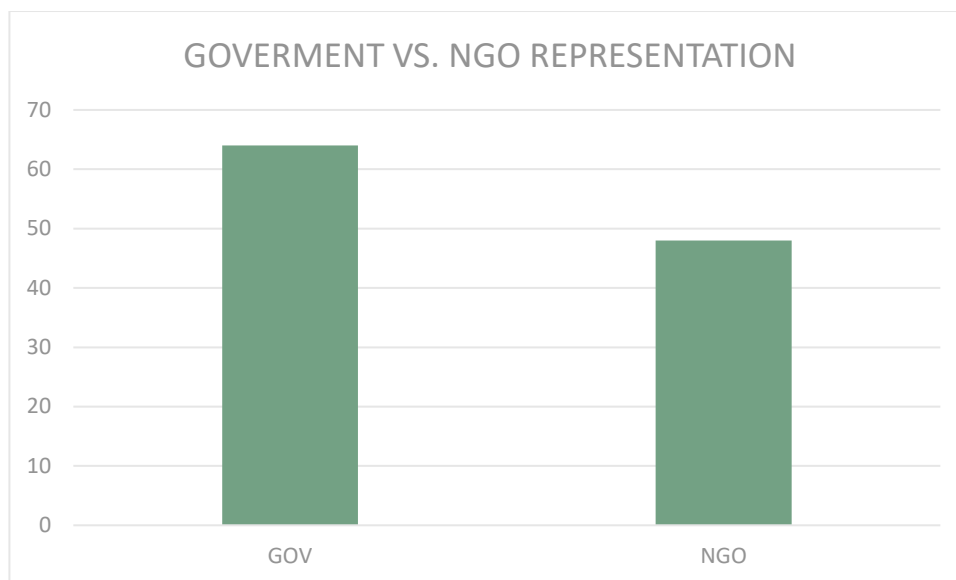
4.1. Summary of findings

In reviewing the inputs from all the participants across the three countries and seven jurisdictions, there are some key take aways that are similar across the board. When it comes to land and sea jurisdiction, all three countries show that it is important to include all levels of government, traditional leaders, and landowners/community members when discussing potential projects that will impact the communities. Collective understanding of the problems, solutions and actions will only work using an inclusive approach of all of these stakeholders. Leaving one out of the discussions can cause roadblocks for the project.

In Worksheet #2, participants were asked to identify the key gaps and institutional arrangements that would need to be addressed for the project to be successful. Many plans and policies in each country exist that identify and support Protected Area governance, but they are not mainstreamed into local plans/actions and they need better coordination between all of the various plans & policies. Most of the plans/policies do not have funding support to be implemented, which is a common gap identified, as well as a lack of monitoring framework or action plan set for these policies and plans to be implemented. Proper communication of these plans/policies is also a large gap as well as

capacity building/technical assistance availability and trainings for implementers of these plans/policies, especially on data collection and its use.

The best solutions identified for institutional arrangements that work best to facilitate EbA measures are co-management strategies, building capacity of those responsible for implementation (at all levels), comprehensive education/awareness (at all levels) to grow support, and to have clear roles and responsibilities identified for all involved. These same items will also help to provide flexibility and effectiveness to the project.

When looking at co-financing options, each country presented several options that are worthy of investigation, but the most likely one, that was recurrent, was to have MCT facilitate the co-financing needs based on their roles and responsibilities throughout the project. Other suggestions listed a plethora of small grants programs including the GEF and the Micronesia Challenge (PAN Network funds) were identified as being able to support financial needs of communities for EbA projects.

Finally, when discussing risks to the project and how to build sustainability by mitigating these risks, a consistent theme of lack of political leadership and changes in administrations/government priorities were the identified as risks to the project. In addition, low capacity of implementers, lack of human resources available to implement project and lack of funding to sustain the work were listed consistently across the countries as risks. In terms of sustainability options, having collaboration at all levels of government and community will help to mitigate any change in government administrations. When everyone agrees with something, it is hard for a new government leader to come in and change it, so it is important to get this collaboration set and cemented before leadership changes occur. Also, it is important to ensure that livelihood improvement measures are in place to provide a financial incentive to communities to keep their measures implemented even when project funding ends, and to ensure that sustainable training programs/materials are developed and available so that new people who join the efforts later on can still get the training they need to sustain the implementation of the EbA measures.

5. Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in Palau: 8 June 2022

5.1. Agenda

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONWORKSHOP: MCT GCF Funding Proposal: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS).

Wednesday, June 8, 2022
VENUE: Palasia Hotel – Ming's Hall - Koror
Event organiser: Micronesian Conservation Trust/E Co. Consultants

Time	Agenda	Description
08h30–08h55	Registration	
09h00–09h10	Opening remarks	Country NDAs
09h10–09h25	Introductions	Introduction of participating jurisdictions and focal points Group photo
09h25–09h45	Project briefing	Project briefing by Willy Kostka -MCT Q&A
09h45–10h25	Project presentation and introduction to stakeholder consultation	• Project presentation, funding proposal process and introduction to stakeholder presentation Helene Robert – E Co. Q&A
10h25–10h35	Closing remarks	GCF official **Dr Chris Dickinson** Ecosystems Management Senior Specialist Division of Mitigation and Adaptation
10h35–12h15	Working group	Group exercise on potential synergies with other programs and organisations and co-financing, stakeholder mapping and stakeholder engagement plan, facilitated by E Co. and focal points – Patrick Blank
12h30	LUNCH for all Working Lunch for the Community Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) stakeholder engagement consultations	
12h30-14h30	CVA stakeholder engagement consultations – led by local focal points	

5.2. Key takeaways from the consultations

The Palau Stakeholder Consultation was held on June 8th and was well represented by representatives from the government, both national and state levels, non-government organizations, and international organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and RARE, who are currently working in Palau. (See list of participants and organizations they represent in section 4.3 below). In total 27 participants were present for the consultation with 7 men and 20 women present. Ms. Joyce Beouch, Acting Chief from the Division of Protected Areas & Species under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and The Environment for the Government of Palau, was the facilitator for the consultation.

Facilitator: Ms. Joyce Beouch

Small group discussions during consultation

5.2.1. Working Group 1 (Stakeholder Mapping)

In Palau, there are various groups of stakeholders that were identified as important stakeholders that need to be consulted, education and listed as beneficiaries to this project.

Type of Stakeholder	Specific Examples
Stakeholders that influence land and sea use management	- traditional leaders - community leaders - government leaders - government offices including Land Authority, Zoning and Planning Office, and the PAN State Board.
Stakeholders that are positively changing land/sea use to better promote the delivery of climate adaptation	- the Palau Conservation Society - Women's groups - the PAN Fund, - PAN Office, - State Planning Commissions and Teams - as well as the private sector, including groups like The Environment Inc., Palau SBDC, and Belau Offshore Fisheries Inc.
Stakeholders that are doing climate adaptation work	Palau Power Utilities Corporation,

	● Palau Energy Office, ● Palau National Communication Corporation, and ● Palau International Coral Reef Center
Stakeholders that pose a threat to the project (based on their current/future activities or attitudes towards Protected Areas):	● commercial fishers and farmers, ● Palau Housing Authority ● developers, and tourism operators ● the US Military who is currently looking to build a base in Palau. These groups should be consulted and informed of this project to avoid any clashes between partners due to responsibilities on both sides.
Vulnerable stakeholders that would benefit from EbA measures	● People who live in coastal housing areas, especially those on low lying areas and outer islands where water resources are limited and are being affected by rising sea levels. ● Fishermen and farmers are also vulnerable as their livelihoods depend on growing crops and catching fish, but with rising temperatures, those activities are at risk. ● The rising temperatures also includes the elderly as vulnerable stakeholders. ● Urban households are vulnerable as they have no access to farming for food to improve their food security ● Everyone is at risk for health as there are more rats that come closer to human settlements after typhoons and storms hit their islands.
Stakeholders that are working with vulnerable communities to assist them cope with climate change	● State Governments ● Red Cross ● NEMO

These vulnerable groups have been affected by climate change already. Examples of current coping methods include:

- migration away from storm affected areas until rebuilding efforts are completed.
- relocation of homes to higher ground away from sea level rise.

- some houses are built higher to adapt to sea level rise or retaining walls are built around their homes.
- people have installed AC units in their homes due to temperature rise.

5.2.2. Working Group 2 (Gap Analysis & Institutional Arrangements)

Participants discussed the key gaps and institutional arrangements that need to be addressed to enhance EbA projects and ensure that they are successfully implemented. They listed the PAN Strategy, PAN Act, NBSAP, Pan Site Management Plans, the Palau Climate Change Policy, Sustainable Forest Management Policy, Sustainable Land Management Policy, and the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness tool as existing strategies that support governance and management of protected areas, and listed them all as robust, but with gaps.

Key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance/improve EbA and PA management:

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	- Climate change policy since it does not address PAN sites - No current mechanism to measure the progress or effect of the PAN sites to the communities - The cycle of adaptive management is not connected - Some policies have long terms before they are reviewed, and they focus on different priorities so there is no alignment between some of them. - No state master plans for development - No land or marine spatial zoning plans	Guidance is to create more short-term policies that focus on specific actions so that they can be achieved and updated regularly.
Non-Government Organizations	- Limited people to take on the roles to do this work - Low-capacity levels, especially in data collection processes - Low knowledge of national policies - Hiring people for these positions as they are usually short terms (project- based)	Guidance is to build capacity with the NGO staff and offer opportunities for NGOs and communities to report or contribute to national policies, so they have better knowledge and links to those policies.
Community and Household Level	- No link and coordination - Capacity building challenges	Same as above for NGOs

		● No mechanism to capture or collect data from the work that communities do/no data analysis	

The participants listed leadership; lack of information to make a decision regarding eco system-based management; and no developed protocol to conduct the work for mangroves and coastal areas as the capacity and training gaps that need to be addressed to enhance EbA and PA management (at all levels). There was no suggestion on measures that could be taken to address these gaps.

In looking at institutional arrangements that impact on the delivery of the existing work/programs/projects, the participants listed the following gaps:

- Few employees/ Limited human resources
- communication between government and NGOs or communities on projects.
- Need to strengthen facilitation on programs and projects and communities.
- Regular meetings with partners are non-existent.
- Internal coordination between departments within the government.
- Lack of national policy on easement.
- Governments are working independently without consulting or support from the traditional leaders of each state.
- Administrative processes as well as Funding restriction and inefficient within the procurement processes.
- High turnover rate on state staff. Change of government administration short term.

Palau participants highlighted the following ways that institutional arrangements can work best to facilitate EbA/PA/climate related project implementation:

- Co-Management of Sites,
- Joint collaborations between states to manage resources.

Some of the lessons learned that were shared relevant to this project were:

- Need to have a consistent facilitator (PAN) to continue the project/work/programs of site/ state joint management of resources.
- Lack of the HR Policy within the state.
- Need to build capacity within the state to be able to manage and continue programs.
- Funding constraints makes it limited to only few states.
- Institutional memory is lacking at the state level.
- Commitments to continue projects to implementation after developing plans

When participants discussed how the project can best be managed to ensure it is effective and flexible, participants listed: Collaboration between stakeholders and coordination of partnerships. Identify the lead person dedicated to coordinate/managing the project/program. Identify implementing entity on the GEF5,6,7, as solutions. No challenges were listed on how to accomplish this.

5.2.3. Working Group 3 (Co-financing)

Participants were asked to identify what existing or planned activities or projects could be included to demonstrate co-financing for the proposed GCF project. The table below captures co-financing options for both non-climate change variables and climate related challenges.

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	- Overfishing, - Over harvesting, pollution, - Capacity for the state and the protected areas management - Limited capacity building programs, - Comprehensive legislation and implementing regulations, - Sustainable financing, - HR - Development & Tourism activities	GEF, SGP, IUCN/SPREP, SEACOLOGY, PAN Fund, NCD, Bilateral Grants, UN,
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	- Sedimentation acidification, - sea level rise, - temperature increase, - high tide/king tide, - increase natural disasters, - drought, - heavy rain, - flooding, - dry season, - forest fires, - landslides, - coral bleaching	Ministry Of State, PAN Fund Competitive grants, The KIWA Initiative, OIA, USAID, PAN Fund Special Projects, The Nature Conservancy, Palau International Coral Reef Center/JICA Mangrove, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, PDF-MAFE, Bureau of Cultural & Historical Preservation, Push for MCT to Co-Finance.

5.2.4. Working Group 4 (Project Risks & Sustainability)

During the stakeholder consultation, the Palau participants reflected on the risks that the project will face, including COVID-19 outbreaks in the country, how to ensure the project has little to no environmental and social impacts, and on how to create sustainability in the project, including a clear exit strategy from GCF funding.

RISKS:

- Political risks due to upcoming elections and changing administrations with different priorities
- Nepotism: provide responsibility to who they know and not someone who is capable
- project timeline extension due to different state priorities
- limited manpower,
- community events that conflict with project activities
- Natural disasters e.g., typhoons
- Covid like incidents,
- lack of leadership to sustainably maintain the programs through implementation

COVID-19 strategies include following Covid19 safety protocols/ Preventive measures, ensure project participants get vaccinated, conduct gatherings outdoors, and minimize interactions with people.

To ensure that the implementation of the grants will not cause any environmental or social impacts, Palau participants recommended following the GEF 6 process that has been proven to work to reduce these risks.

SUSTAINABILITY:

The Palau participants noted that for the project to be sustainable, it should integrate the program to state and national governments, develop a project specific sustainability mechanism, and institutionalize the work into an agency and make sure this agency is financed properly to continue the work.

5.3. List of participants

#	Name SURNAME	Organization
1.	Steven VICTOR	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & the Environment
2.	Anu GUPTA	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & the Environment
3.	Ms. Kiblas SOALADAOB	Ministry of Human Resources, Culture & Tourism- Bureau of Culture
4.	Mr. Jerome TEMENGIL	Palau Protected Areas Network- Ngaraard State
5.	Ms. Jennifer NGIRAIWET	Palau Protected Areas Network- NgardmauState

6.	Ms. Lossi SAMSEL	Palau Protected Areas Network- Aimeliik State
7.	Ms. Umai BASILIUS	Palau Conservation Society
8.	Ms. Dilsils KANAI	Environmental Quality Protected Board
9.	Zina RINGANG	Palau Conservation Society
10	Carol EMAUROIS	Ngaraard State
11.	Ina MATIAS	Sonsorol State
12.	Geraldine RENGIIL	Palau International Coral Reef Center
13.	Brengyei KATOSANG	Protected Areas Network Fund
14.	Leonard BASILIUS	Palau Community Action Agency
15.	Regis EMESIOCHEL	Palau Protected Areas Network Fund
16.	Everdil RACHEBEL	Palau Protected Areas Network Fund
17.	Maylo ASANUMA	Palau Protected Areas Network Fund
18.	Sylvia TMODRANG	Division of Emergency Health (DEH)
19.	Sholeh HANSER	Belau National Museum
20.	Dearlynn REBLUDD	Melekeok Conservation Network
21.	Yvonne UEDA	The Nature Conservancy
22.	Oreng NGEMAES	Ministry of Finance
24.	Micki ETPISON	Ministry of Finance
25.	Ritter UDUI	Ministry of Health and Human Services
26.	Katsumi ABIA	Ngeremlengui State
27.	Kevin MESEBELUU	RARE

6. Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in the Republic of Marshall Islands: 9 June 2022

6.1. Agenda

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP: MCT GCF Funding Proposal: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS).

Thursday, June 9, 2022
Tukol Room in the AI Bar– Marshall Islands Resort
Event organiser: Micronesian Conservation Trust/E Co. Consultants

Time	Agenda	Description
08h30–08h55	Registration	Local Focal Point (MICS)
09h00–09h10	Opening remarks	Country NDA
09h10–09h25	Introductions	Introduction of participating jurisdictions and focal points Group photo
09h25–09h45	Project briefing	Project briefing -MCT Executive Director -Mr. Willy Kostka Q&A
09h45–10h25	Project presentation and introduction to stakeholder consultation	• Project presentation, funding proposal process and introduction to stakeholder presentation - Helene Robert – E Co. Q&A
10h25–10h35	Closing remarks	GCF official **Dr Chris Dickinson** Ecosystems Management Senior Specialist Division of Mitigation and Adaptation
10h35–12h15	Working group	Group exercise on potential synergies with other programs and organisations and co-financing, stakeholder mapping and stakeholder engagement plan, facilitated by E Co. and focal points
12h30		LUNCH for all Working Lunch for the Community Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) stakeholder engagement consultations
12h30-14h30		CVA stakeholder engagement consultations – led by local focal points

6.2. Key takeaways from the consultations

The Republic of the Marshall Islands held their stakeholder consultations on June 9th, 2022, at the Marshall Islands Resort. While the attendance was low due to a change of government Cabinet members and last-minute meetings called by the new Ministers took away many of the government

stakeholders, the group of participants that were able to meet where ones that directly work with communities of Protected Areas and were knowledgeable enough to provide quality information for the working groups. The meeting was facilitated by the Director of the Marshall Islands Conservation Society and attendees included staff from the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the Climate Change Directorate, and the Office of the Chief Secretary. In total, nine people attended the meeting, including the main conservation NGOs, IOM and a representative from the University of the South Pacific Campus in Majuro.

6.2.1 Working Group 1 (Stakeholder Mapping)

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands there are various groups of stakeholders that were identified as important stakeholders that need to be consulted, education and listed as beneficiaries to this project.

Type of Stakeholder	Specific Examples
Stakeholders that influence land and sea use management	- traditional leaders and landowners - local governments - Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority - RMI Environmental Protection Authority - Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce
Stakeholders that are positively changing land/sea use to better promote the delivery of climate adaptation	- Climate Change Directorate - RMI Environmental Protection Authority - Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce - Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, Historic Preservations Office - Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority - Marshall Islands Conservation Society

	● National Disaster Committees ● Local Resource Committees ● Ralik Ratak Radio Club
Stakeholders that are doing climate adaptation work	● Climate Change Directorate ● Office of the Chief Secretary ● Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority ● Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Agriculture Division ● Ministry of Education ● College of the Marshall Islands ● University of the South Pacific, Majuro Campus ● International Organization for Migration ● Marshall Islands Conservation Society ● JoJikum ● Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOS) ● UES USK-GA Environmental Standards (Kwajalein)
Stakeholders that pose a threat to the project (based on their current/future activities or attitudes towards Protected Areas):	● Certain members of Local Resource Committees (LRC) and Disaster Risk Committees (DisCom), ● traditional leaders and local councils, ● private sector, ● Ministry of Works Infrastructure & Utilities (MWIU), ● Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC), ● Marshalls Energy Company (MEC), ● Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources (KAJUR) ● Copra producers and farmers
Vulnerable stakeholders that would benefit from EbA measures	● Women - protect natural resources/raw materials for their handicrafts - generates revenue ● Men - protected areas: more fish and copra – generates revenue ● Youth – protected areas: food source and revenue for the future ● Overall community

Stakeholders that are working with vulnerable communities to assist them cope with climate change	● local governments ● Disaster committees ● International Organization for Migration ● Marshall Islands Conservation Society ● Jo Jikum

6.2.2. Working Group 2 (Gap Analysis & Institutional Arrangements)

Participants discussed the key gaps and institutional arrangements that need to be addressed to enhance EbA projects and ensure that they are successfully implemented. They listed the Reimaanlok, National Adaptation Policy, National Strategic Plan, National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), Protected Areas Network, Coastal Preservation Act, National Environmental Management Strategy, National Environmental Protection Act, USAG-KA Environmental Standards (Kwajalein), 2050 Strategy, Gender Policy, National Ocean Strategy, National Disaster Risk Management Arrangements, Agriculture Policy, as existing strategies that support governance and management of protected areas and listed them with gaps of mainstreaming and strengthening EbA into national (MIMRA) and local policies.

Key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance/improve EbA and PA management

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	● Financing and M&E. ● Intellectual Property Rights. ● Mainstreaming EbA - financing and coordination ● Genetic resources to be protected under Nagoya Protocol ● NAP 2023 ● Traditional knowledge	Guidance is to better transition protocol between political leaders and administrations so information is shared across administrations. Guidance is also to better integrate traditional and environmental knowledge into policy making and government structures.
Non-Government Organizations	● Capacity building, ● Training, ● Information sharing, ● Funding, ● Developing tools for M&E	Guidance is to utilize mechanisms in place through USP, CMI, TVET, NTC and other relevant institutions
Community and Household Level	● Good leadership. ● Consistent messaging	Guidance is to create a really good data portal for all recent data; production of datasets,

		collection of data and sharing, Management tools for monitoring, surveillance and reporting. Local resource officers for each atoll.
	• Delineation and signage.	

The participants listed: professional development: administration and management, public relations, boating and diving, collecting data and input, reporting as the capacity and training gaps that need to be addressed to enhance EbA and PA management (at all levels). Guidance is to utilize mechanisms in place through USP, CMI, TVET, NTC and other relevant training institutions to bridge these gaps.

In looking at institutional arrangements that impact on the delivery of the existing work/programs/projects, the participants listed the following gaps:

- Internet (poor service or lack of connectivity for certain communities)
- Communication
- Information sharing
- Update the Reimaanlok
- Tile Til Eo Committee
- Cross-cutting group

RMI participants highlighted the following ways that institutional arrangements can work best to facilitate EbA/PA/climate related project implementation:

- Using a National Environmental Council (NEC) - EPA mandate

Some of the lessons learned that were shared relevant to this project were:

- Keep in mind that there are limited staff members and/or organizations involved in conservation and climate adaptation work therefore prepare for NCEs
- The RMI is logistically challenged, ensure time is afforded to conduct the necessary activities in the outer atolls
- Transportation is not always consistent
- Goods and services are more expensive in the outer islands
- Ensure that all members of the communities, especially landowners, whether they reside in their home atolls or not, to be notified and involved.

6.2.3. Working Group 3 (Co-financing)

Participants were asked to identify what existing or planned activities or projects could be included to demonstrate co-financing for the proposed GCF project. The table below captures co-financing options for both non-climate change variables and climate related challenges.

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly	• Sharing of information (lessons learned) to raise	IOM & MIRCS Disaster Risk Management projects UNDP Small Grants Project

linked to climate change variabilities	awareness and enable behavior/lifestyle changes ● Provide training to community and household members to continue EbA work/activities especially after project's life cycle ● Regular review/update of community PA management plans ● Improve communication and information sharing from the municipal council of chiefs into communities and household level. ● Traditional authorities are properly practiced.	GIZ JICA Funding opportunities from bilateral and multilateral partners R2R, ACWA, PREPII, MCAP
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	● Coastal erosion ● Ocean warming acidification ● Change in rainfall patterns ● Extreme events	Bilaterals, GEF, Adaptation Fund Really hard for IOM - co-financing has to be done with joint proposal, but can offer partnership for sure

6.2.4. Working Group 4 (Project Risks and Sustainability)

During the stakeholder consultation, the RMI participants reflected on the risks that the project will face, including COVID-19 outbreaks in the country, how to ensure the project has little to no environmental and social impacts, and on how to create sustainability in the project, including a clear exit strategy from GCF funding.

RISKS:

5.   Social tension on finance management.
- Ordinances in place that may conflict with project activities
- Capacity building limitation

- Politics can negatively affect e.g., Change in Administration at the national and local level / shift in leadership
- not following traditional structures
- Land tenure system can be an issue for projects dealing with land
- Stand-alone projects can be problematic as they do not integrate with other agency/organization priorities

COVID-19 strategies: Consider all emergency outbreaks that would affect implementation such as dengue fever and create specific work through plans that include empowering individuals in the separate islands to run the project, allowing for project flexibility, using mostly local staff to avoid any repatriations during an outbreak, and empowering staff to make decisions when people (supervisors) are sick avoid bottlenecks.

To ensure that the implementation of the grants will not cause any environmental or social impacts, RMI participants recommended following existing program requirements like the SGF and Reimaanlok but strengthening the M&E components. Also, by supporting existing management plans and other programs like the Micronesia Challenge that ensure no impacts to the environment or social impacts are caused.

SUSTAINABILITY: The RMI participants noted that for the project to be sustainable, it should integrate into existing plans and needs, and not stand along to be successful.

6.3. List of participants

#	Name SURNAME	Organization (
1.	Warwick HARRIS	Climate Change Directorate
2.	Helene JACOT DES COMBES	Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Advisor, Climate Change Directorate and the Office of the Chief Secretary
3.	Aliti KOROI	University of South Pacific - Majuro Campus
4.	Galbert ROBERT and Rodwin BILLY	Marshall Islands Council of NGO's
5.	Brooke TAKALA	RMIEPA
6.	Lani MILNE	Climate Change Directorate
7.	Dolores DEBRUM-KATTIL	Marshall Islands Conservation Society
8.	Kristen Maddison	Climate Change Directorate

7. Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in the Federated States of Micronesia: 10 June 2021

7.1   Agenda

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONWORKSHOP: MCT GCF Funding Proposal: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS).

Friday, June 10, 2022
VENUE: DECEM Conference Room – Palikir-National Government
Governor's Large Conference Room – Pohnpei State
Governor's Training Room – Kosrae State
BS Café – Chuuk State
Yap Small Business Conference Center – Yap State
Event organiser: Micronesian Conservation Trust/E Co. Consultants

Time	Agenda	Description
09h30–09h55	Registration	
10h00–10h10	Opening remarks	• Hon. Secretary Eugene Amor – FSM NDA
10h10–10h25	Introductions	Introduction of participating jurisdictions and focal points Group photo
10h25–10h45	Project briefing	Project briefing: Executive Director, Willy Kostka - MCT Q&A
10h45–11h25	Project presentation and introduction to stakeholder consultation	Project presentation, funding proposal process and introduction to stakeholder presentation Ignacia Holmes – E Co. Q&A
11h25–11h35	Closing remarks	Ms. Samantha Rabine – GCF Regional Officer
11h35–13h15	Working group	Group exercise on potential synergies with other programs and organisations and co-financing, stakeholder mapping and stakeholder engagement plan, facilitated by E Co. and focal points
13h30	LUNCH for all *Working Lunch for the Community Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) stakeholder engagement consultations*	
13h30-15h30	*CVA stakeholder engagement consultations – led by local focal points*	

7.2 Key takeaways from the consultations

The FSM held four state level consultations as well as a national government consultation concurrently on July 10th, 2022. 81 participants joined in the meetings with high level government officials joined by NGOs, community members and representatives from international organizations working in the FSM. Each jurisdiction joined in for a formal presentation and then broke into groups to answer the stakeholder questions.

7.2.1   Working Group 1 (Stakeholder Mapping)

Type of Stakeholder	Specific Examples
Stakeholders that influence land and sea use management	Chuuk: Municipal Government – monitoring and enforcement of conservation policies
	Marine and Landowners – monitoring and reporting
Risks they face if change occurs	State Departments (DMR, EPA, DOA) – MPA monitoring and surveillance and enforcement

National Dept. of Justice – monitoring and surveillance (enforcement of conservation policies)

Traditional leaders – serve cultural stewardship role

Women/head of clans – own lineage resources

NGOs – Funding, technical capacity

Kosrae:

A: Department of Resources and Economic Affairs

B. Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority

C. Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization

D. Municipal Governments

E. Resource Management Counsels

F. Attorney General

G. Protected Area Network

H. Community Based Organizations

I. Dept. Transportation and Infrastructure

J. Private Sector

Risks such as limited capacity to respond to changes, low funding to address occurring changes, shortage of staff to meet word loads, and resource depletion will be felt in some way by actors. Severity of impact or Level of risk will vary among each.

Pohnpei: Fishermen and Farmers, Village Chiefs, CBOs (both formal and informal), Everyone in Pohnpei will be affected by Climate Change, most State Government Departments (EPC, R&D, Dept. of Land, OFA, etc.), Legislature, and landowners along the shoreline.

What are the risks they face? Loss of income, increased hardship, forced migration (emigration out to the US and elsewhere), food and water insecurity, loss of infrastructure, cultural loss, increased negative health outcomes, etc.

Fishermen and Farmers, Village Chiefs, CBOs (both formal and informal), Everyone in Pohnpei

	will be affected by Climate Change, most State Government Departments (EPC, R&D, Dept. of Land, OFA, etc.), Legislature, and landowners along the shoreline. Risks: Loss of income, increased hardship, forced migration (emigration out to the US and elsewhere), food and water insecurity, loss of infrastructure, cultural loss, increased negative health outcomes, etc.
	Yap: Community level: Chiefs, Resource Owners, Fisherman & Farmers, Other beneficiaries/ Consumers, Business Owners, Exporters, Women's Groups, Locally Managed Areas Network (LMAN), Local NGO's State level: Council of Pilung (COP)/Council of Tamol (COT), R&D Dept., EPA, YapCAP, Yap Fishing Authority, (YFA), Public Works & Transportation Dept., Yap Women's Association (YWA), Neighboring Islands Women's Association (NIWA), Public Safety, Yap State Legislature (YSL) National Level: NORMA, COM, FSM DECEM & R&D
	FSMNG: (focused only at the national level) DECEM, R&D, NORMA, TC&I, DOJ, FSM Health -Environmental Health, NDA, ODA, - Congress US Government (Coast Guard), donors/development partners, Foreign Affairs, SD Council,
Stakeholders that are positively changing land/sea use to better promote the delivery of climate adaptation	Chuuk: Dept. of Marine Resources (DMR), Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA), Dept. of Agriculture (DOA), Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) and Resource and Development (R&D), Resource owners, Municipal Gov't, Schools, NGOs, and Traditional leaders, Community based organizations (OECMA, Kuop Association), Municipal Gov't, Resource owners
	Kosrae: A: Department of Resources and Economic Affairs B. Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority C. Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization D. Resource Management Counsels E. Community Based Organizations

	F. Protected Area Network
	Pohnpei: IOM, all State Government and NGO involved in land and sea use are attempting to make positive changes to land and sea use (particularly those present at this meeting), MLMDA, KOHWA, Green Society, MCT, NRCS, TNC, Pohnpei Farmers Association, WKS, SPC, other community groups and active stakeholders
	Yap: Municipal Chiefs, Resource Owners, LMAN, Youth Groups, Women's Groups, Local NGO's, All State Actors, FSM R&D, DECEM, & COM
	FSMNG: DECEM = AF project, R2R, , R&D, TC&I, Environmental Health
Stakeholders that pose a threat to the project (based on their current/future activities or attitudes towards Protected Areas):	Chuuk: Private businesses doing illegal dumping, CPUC Projects related spoilages and the ecosystem. Businesses & Developers, Exporters, Fishermen/poachers
	Kosrae: A: Department of Transportation and Infrastructure B. Private Sector
	Pohnpei: Development activities, including construction and farming and fishing - ultimately everyone contributes to ecosystem degradation due to lack of awareness and socio-economic needs. It's really about changing lifestyles.
	Yap: Municipal Chiefs, Others beneficiaries/Consumers, Developers (private resource owners), Fishermen & Farmers, Private Business Owners(business types: laundromats, fish markets), Exporters, Public Works, Yap State Public Service Cooperation, & NORMA YSL is also noted for not passing Yap PAN Regulations.
	FSMNG: Congress, TC&I, NORMA, Chamber of Commerce, Historic Preservation, R&D.

Vulnerable stakeholders that would benefit from EbA measures	Chuuk: Low lying outer island atolls and small islands within the lagoon; Women's Groups; Youth/children; Disabled Persons, Unemployed People relying on the environment for livelihood; People in remote locations; People around major population centers
	Kosrae: A: Community groups
	Pohnpei: Outer island communities. Women and children. People with disabilities.
	Yap: Resource Owners, Fishermen & Fisheries, Other Beneficiaries/Consumers, LMAN
	FSMNG: (left blank for states to identify vulnerable stakeholders)
Stakeholders that are working with vulnerable communities to assist them cope with climate change	Chuuk: Marine Resource Conservation; Rely on relative and community for support; Depend primarily on remittance for livelihoods; Assistance from family abroad. Family and community members.
	Kosrae: A. To date they are not well adapted yet. CC effects keeps getting more drastic and surpassing capacity to adapt. All efforts fall short when intensity of impacts become stronger: i.e coastal protections efforts. B. Kosrae Civil Society Organization has formed to assist members in addressing issues of high concern such as climate change C. There is no consistent funding support from Government to Kosrae Civil Society Organization
	Pohnpei: Development of plans, migration to other places, working with national and international groups to address climate effects (e.g., water security). Accessing other grants (e.g. food security). Much of the migration out is more so due to economic reasons and not formally recognized as a climate-induced effect.

		An assessment on the main reasons for migration from areas affected by climate change should be undertaken.
		Yap: Government assistance and outside funding
		Q7B: Information sharing & community-based organization and activities
		Developed community and/or PA management plans
		In the process of revitalizing the Yap Environmental Stewardship Consortium (ESC) – members are inclusive of state gov't and community
		representatives
		Established LMAN
		FSMNG: R2R, GCF Food Security project, financial institutions (loans), OneReef, conservation NGOs- pushing management plans for PA, FSM GEF SGP, - provide financing, policies, laws, communication platforms, and TA/oversight to help them to cope.

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7.2.2 Working Group 2 (Gap Analysis & Institutional Arrangements)

Participants discussed the key gaps and institutional arrangements that need to be addressed to enhance EbA projects and ensure that they are successfully implemented.

The following tables highlight the key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance/improve EbA and PA management, per state:

Chuuk State

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	Group 1: ● Public Education and Awareness Programs ● Policy development and improvement	Guidance is to ensure that government is provided instructions on the importance of public awareness and having the private and NGO sectors involved in planning and

		implementing projects that affect communities.
	● Limited financial capacity Group 2: ● Adaptation Policy ● - Priorities ● - Different strategies Group 3: ● Policies that prioritize Eba measures ● Awareness and education	
Non-Government Organizations	Group 1: ● Capacity building – need technical trainings Group 2: ● Management plans to include Eba Measures ● - Revisit plans ● - Formalize policies Group 3: ● Revisit existing Management plans and update to include Eba measures ● Capacity building at all levels ● Funding opportunity	Guidance is ensure projects have funded components to provide for training of NGO staff to build capacity and to implement MPA management plans.
Community and Household Level	Group 1: ● Public awareness and education ● Capacity building – training to be able to enforce conservation and development policies	Guidance is to put higher priority on public education inside project funding and make it a requirement.

	● Timing of the implementation of the project **Group 2:** ● Ensure household need and priorities are addressed **Group 3:** ● Awareness and education ● Inclusion of communities and household priorities within project formulation and during workshop	

Kosrae State

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	● Communication between all levels of government as well as PA managers is a big gap. It could very well be seen as the biggest gap for all projects. ● Climate change mainstreaming lacks ● Capacity gaps within government structures need to be upgraded to effectively implement these projects ● Projects amounts get stripped smaller with every level it passes through.	Guidance is to ensure existing coordination and governance structures for climate finances from National Government down to actual project implementers and beneficiaries be improvement. There is always a gap somewhere, or miscommunication somewhere leading to implementation delays. Administration and implementation of funding should be given to States and local communities who will be doing the actual implementation.

Non-Government Organizations	• Limitation in Land use rights- State Government owns areas that PAs are located therefore has the main control • Resource sharing with NGOs lack • Regular dialogues and information sharing between Government and NGOs is highly needed • Providing well focused and effective opportunities and resources needed to address these 3 areas	Guidance is to build strong partnerships between government and CSOs.
Community and Household Level	• Protected Area managers should have a say in decisions regarding Pas • Government to allow certain responsibilities or authorities for PA managers to run their projects. (Kosrae State Government is custodian of Kosrae public • land and sea therefore has full control when it comes to decision making regarding the land and sea) • Improvement of Land Use plan and permitting processes • Protected Areas and managers need more funding and resource support from Government • We need more sustainability practices to keep our PA operations running after lifespan of project funds • Households do not really value PAs since they are a threat to their livelihoods	Ensure that stakeholders from all levels are part of the planning, decision making and implementation of projects that affect communities. Provide sufficient funding to facilitate this.

Pohnpei State

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	• Improve enforcement of existing policies and laws, and implementation of existing strategies. Need to increase financing and personnel levels. • Capacity building is needed.	Guidance is to ensure projects have sufficient funding to build capacity of everyone involved and make sure implementation funding is sufficient for policy implementation activities.
Non-Government Organizations	• Funding and technical support. Training and capacity building. Enhance institutional capacity (grant development, reporting, monitoring and • evaluation of project implementation).	Guidance is to ensure capacity building for NGOs as project partners, is included in project funds.
Community and Household Level	• Funding and technical support. Training and capacity building. Enhance institutional capacity (grant development, reporting, monitoring and • evaluation of project implementation).	Guidance is to ensure capacity building for community participation is included in project funds.

Yap State

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	• 1. Sustainable financing • 2. Pass laws (EbA) and provide sufficient and sustainable funding to implement activities • 3. Capacity building	Guidance is to get PAN network set before this type of project starts and that they have full support from government. Government will need to build capacity and include tradition knowledge as well as

	● 4. To avail scientific & traditional knowledge to legislative bodies/parties ● 5. YSL support for PAN ● 6. Champion to push PAN efforts	scientific knowledge in project solutions.
Non-Government Organizations	● Make science available to community/PA groups ● Build capacity in project management including fund disbursement ● Sustainable funding ● Revitalize the ESC	Guidance is provide sustainable funding for NGOs to be contributing partners in project implementation. Revitalize the Environmental Steering Committee and incentivize community participants / promote community participation in community environmental efforts
Community and Household Level	● Sharing of information (lessons learned) to raise awareness and enable behavior/lifestyle changes ● Regular review/update of community PA management plans	Guidance is to provide training to community and household members to continue EbA work/activities especially after project's life cycle. Improve communication and information sharing from the municipal council of chiefs into communities and household level. Traditional authorities are properly practiced.

FSM National Government

Level	Findings	Implementation Measures to address the gaps
Within Government Structures	• Coordination and implementation of these policies/plans/strategies. No monitoring frameworks or action plans. Lack of funding for implementation of the plans/policies. Gaps in communication regarding what is happening/being accomplished – from national to the states. Lack of human resources (capacity) to enforce/implement.	More teamwork between state and national governments on project implementation (holistic government participation) Keep successful projects going – sustainability plans.
Non-Government Organizations	• Government should view NGOs as partners, not competitors (may require policies to drive cooperation). Governments need to process payments faster so that CSOs/NGOs can implement projects in real time. Better pay. Most CSOs are overwhelmed by full time work as they are not full time organizations.	Guidance is outsource to NGOs – implementation of these policies/plans.
Community and Household Level	• Gaps: capacity, ability to work full time, education .	NEED: Consistency in EbA implementation, better education on conservation and leadership. Ownership at the community level. Projects must have alternate income generation mechanisms to keep communities interested in working on the projects.

The participants listed: capacity, ability to work full time, education (understanding the scope or mission), Lack of technical expertise, technical training, access to funding, providing a network of

potential donors, Availability of grant writers, Eba activities, PA management and monitoring protocols, Project management skills, monitoring, evaluation skills, reporting skills, Field experts or technical advisors, Certification programs for PA management, Awareness and familiarization of PA laws, Information transferal (Awareness, outreach), Public Relations Training – ways to properly address different focus groups as the capacity and training gaps that need to be addressed to enhance EbA and PA management (at all levels). Guidance is to make sure the project has these components built into the project to build capacity and providing the needed training to enhance EbA and PA management.

In looking at institutional arrangements that impact on the delivery of the existing work/programs/projects, the participants listed the following gaps:

- Coordination and implementation of these policies/plans/strategies.
- No monitoring frameworks or action plans.
- Lack of funding for implementation of the plans/policies.
- Gaps in communication regarding what is happening/being accomplished – from national to the states.
- Lack of human resources (capacity) to enforce/implement.
- There's no clear streamlining strategy in project planning & implementation from the Government to communities and vice versa Communication
- There are different viewpoints and different priorities at different levels and groups. There needs to be better cohesion.
- Funding is channeled through so many layers and when it gets to Protected Areas, only a little is left for direct and tangible investment on PAs
- Distribution formula for funding assistance from outside FSM is controlled by National Government blocking effective mobilization of CC funds towards State CC initiatives-including PA management
- Requirements needed for projects are often too strenuous on the country and would require reduction of requirements or tailoring of requirements to said countries or state capabilities

FSM participants highlighted the following ways that institutional arrangements can work best to facilitate EbA/PA/climate related project implementation:

- Supporting community priorities (or meet them ½ way) – Not pushing government priorities over community priorities.
- Community members paid as implementers.
- Climate change should be integrated in Education system
- Clear roles & responsibilities

Some of the lessons learned that were shared relevant to this project were:

- Provide resources to the communities to do the work.
- Good community outreach/education/straightforward – easy to understand and see the benefits.
- Public-private partnerships work well (e.g., State R&D, EPA working with NGOs to implement projects).
- Inclusion of resource managers at initial project set up
- Transparency throughout the project lifetime

7.2.3 Working Group 3 (Co-financing)

Participants were asked to identify what existing or planned activities or projects could be included to demonstrate co-financing for the proposed GCF project. The table below captures co-financing options for both non-climate change variables and climate related challenges.

Chuuk State

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	Group 1: ● Lack of funding and technical capacity ● Resources already available don't trickle down to where they are needed ● Climate adaptation/mitigation not happening fast enough to keep up with climate threats Group 2: ● Funding for management and monitoring ● Limited workforce ● Unattractive salary Group 3: ● Lack of funding ● Technical support ● Lack of Abled bodied/personnel ● Lack of education	Group 1: A: Compact funds B: National Gov't C: Congress D: State revenue E: Foreign Embassies F: Other grants Group 2: A: 20% Chuuk share B: Congress funds Group 3: A: Congress B: Other grants
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or	Group 1:	Group 1: Same as answers to number 2

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
impacted upon by climate change	• Resource degradation • Bleaching • Ocean acidification • Habitat loss **Group 2:** • Coral bleaching • Intense wind/frequent droughts **Group 3:** • Sea level rise • Storm Surge • Drought	**Group 2:** Staff support **Group 3:** Community initiatives Staff time

Kosrae State

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	• Illegal harvesting • Development projects in neighboring areas • Poor monitoring and surveillance	Kosrae State General Fund, Congress of FSM, US Sector Grants, Municipal Offices
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	• Low capacity and finance to address emerging climate threats • Sedimentation into MPAs Destruction caused by tidal waves	• Global Environment Fund GEF6 Protected Area components • Blue Prosperity Micronesia Awareness programs and data analysis activities • Municipal Offices

		● Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization ● Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority Education Program

Pohnpei State

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	● Increased financing and staffing is needed. Institutional collaboration. Awareness and ● education should be improved, particularly at community and HH level. Enforcement.	MCT, MSGP, Foreign governments, EU, USAID, ADB, IOM, UNDP, private funds and grants, etc.
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	● Coral bleaching. Extreme rainfall. Drought.	A: Pohnpei State Fish & Wildlife and Division of Natural Resources annual operating costs for enforcement. CSP annual operational budget. Local NGOs that are doing conservation work around PAs in Pohnpei (see MCT partners list and MSGP list of

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
		grantees). SMK annual operating budget.

Yap State

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	● Lack of funding capability to hire permanent staff and provide training ● - Lack of government support to PAN; No state mechanism in place to initiate a sustainable ● funding source to community PA sites ● Limited enforcement capacity (staff and surveillance equipment) ● PA boundary demarcation ● Diminishing commitment from community resulting in reduced participation	GEF/UNDP, FSM National Government
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	- Ocean acidification (sea surface temperature rise) - Increased rainfall that causes	NOAA Coral Reef Monitoring, US Forestry, GEF-6 Project, UNDP, Congressional Appropriation,

	sedimentation runoff - Severe droughts - Sea level rise	SGP, Seacology, R&D: MRMD & DAF, & YCAP

FSM National Government

Type of Challenge	Challenges	Co-financing options
Current challenges to PA management that are not directly linked to climate change variabilities	● This is a state issue to answer.	NA
Challenges facing PAs that are directly caused or impacted upon by climate change	● Government should outsource to NGOs – implementation of these policies/plans. View NGOs as partners, not competitors (may require policies to drive cooperation). Governments need to process payments faster so that CSOs/NGOs can implement projects in real time. Better pay. Most CSOs are overwhelmed by full time work as they are not full-time organizations.	Co-financing for community level EbA activities could come from the FSM GEF Small Grants Program, the GGF grant program, UNDP grants, AF grants, or Congressional funding through FSM departments. Most likely it will come through as in-kind donations from the conservation NGOs in the nation that are working with the community groups to implement the EbA activities and MCT.

7.2.4   Working Group 4 (Project Risks and Sustainability)

During the stakeholder consultation, the FSM participants reflected on the risks that the project will face, including COVID-19 outbreaks in the country, how to ensure the project has little to no environmental and social impacts, and on how to create sustainability in the project, including a clear exit strategy from GCF funding.

RISKS:

- Limitations on funding or funding that may not be able to account for unforeseen circumstances

- Staff turnover (change in administration = change in priorities),
- Increased climate impacts that negate the programs sustainability,
- Inability to improve livelihoods of the community members -to generate sustainable participation.
- Lack of political support/will
- Lack of community/resource managers support and buy in/ Conflicting priorities
- Stakeholder support might change overtime due to redirection of priorities
- Lack of inclusivity. If incentives for income generation are not part of the project, it will likely not be sustainable.
- Lack of connectivity of similar projects in different communities, in order to share lessons learned and best practices and worst practices.
- Lack of commitment to sustain the project by communities.
- Limited monitoring & maintenance plan after project closure
- No clear roles & responsibilities and handover of project assets at the end of project cycle,
- PAs might reduce access to resources-to address these, develop strategies that would pour out resources into areas that are not protected.
- Loss of project effectiveness due to operational and political elements interfering in the
- utilization of funds.

COVID-19 strategies: Each FSM state will open its borders on August 1st. FSM will eventually get COVID-19 and each state will implement guidelines on public health. Those guidelines will need to be followed during implementation of the project. One way to mitigate this is hiring a local consultant and hiring local staff on the ground to monitor and ensure implementation is done. Finally, an alternate plan for every activity should be created for any unforeseen circumstances.

To ensure that the implementation of the grants will not cause any environmental or social impacts, FSM participants recommended requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment be done for each project in the program. Project workers should have a social safeguards form to follow and there should be project oversight to ensure that the environment and social impacts are not affected. Also, if project implementers follow MCT's due diligence process already in place and adhere to existing management plans, we should avoid any negative impacts environmentally or socially. We can learn from existing reports and previous projects on where they had negative impacts and avoid those through better project management.   Finally, the project could hire an independent evaluator to assess environmental and social impacts of project activities and ensure throughout the project that these are minimized by project activities.

SUSTAINABILITY: The FSM participants noted that for the project to be sustainable, it could incorporate the following elements:

- Capacity and Technical support is provided
- Ensure priorities are set and supported by all levels of stakeholders
- Endorsed MOUs with the state and state agencies for long term support with NGOs/CBOs.
- Collaboration amongst partners at state and NGO level is important
- Create sustainable harvesting practices
- Political and operational risks might arise but can be mitigated through a manner similar through collective bargaining
- Engage leaders and identify project champions.
- Ensure adequate information sharing about the project rationale is vital for sustainability.
- Business and financial management training is included as part of the program

- Ensuring that alternative livelihood measures are in place
- Utilize project funds to develop ecotourism activities to run the project beyond project funds
- Create training programs through this project to create and sustain needed skills
- The creation of sustainable jobs, and the
- Full implementation of the PAN in FSM (including legislation)
- Identify sustainable mechanisms 6 months ahead of project end date and allocate all
- resources & funding to areas/offices/NGOs that will ensure continuation of project efforts when the project ends. (e.g., The MCT Endowment Fund or FSM GEF SGP)

7.3 List of participants

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8. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

This proposed Stakeholder Engagement Plan synthesizes the findings from the stakeholder consultations and proposes a plan that will feed the program stakeholder consultations, if funded. Although it aims tocover the period from programmatic inception right to program closure, the plan may be updated by the Accredited Entity and Executing Entities (please see the Implementation Arrangements for details) based on the responses to the call offs for the grants, as well as the chosen entities for sub-projects.

The SEP recognizes and aligns with existing institutional arrangements at national, state and community levels to ensure that all key and potential stakeholders are engaged throughout the life of the program. The purpose of the SEP is to provide a framework for appropriate stakeholder consultation and information disclosure in the context of the three nations (FSM, RMI and Palau) and meets the requirements the Protected Area Networks and executing entities. Particularly, the SEP will facilitate project participatory decision-making by involving project-affected parties, citizens in the project locations, and other stakeholders in a timely manner so that these groups are provided enough opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns to shape both the design and implementation of the project to incorporate those concerns. It provides a rationale as well as a blueprint of doing this at the grant-level to ensure that all the projects funded by the EDA-SAP engage stakeholders and targeted beneficiaries.

The overall objectives of SEP are to:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and ensure their meaningful participation in all stages of the program cycle;
- Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder and citizen engagements that will help to identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties, when the program starts releasing grants;
- Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project cycle on issues that could potentially affect them; and,
- Ensure sustainability and project ownership of sub-projects (through the grants) beyond and after the conclusion of the programme .

To do so, the SEP presents:

- In-depth stakeholder mapping and analysis;
- Planning of stakeholders' engagement in the implementation stage;
- The right to information and regular information disclosure;
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM); and,
- Steps towards monitoring and reporting on the SEP, during program implementation.

8.1.   Current architecture of oversight

There are a number of important institutional, coordinating or implementation mechanisms that provide a strategic platform for consultation purposes at the national and state levels. In most cases, all the stakeholders critical to climate change adaptation and conservation management are represented in these different platforms or mechanisms. These include government agencies,

development partners, NGOs, CSOs and a cademia. Strategically, for consultation and stakeholder engagement purposes, the process should ensure going through these mechanisms to benefit from their input as well as their linkages "top-down" and "bottom-up". This has been clearly emphasized in the result of the national and state consultation stakeholder mapping exercises.

Institutional arrangements and or coordinating mechanisms that already exist and are critical for consultation and engagement purposes are expounded below:

This program will be managed by MCT (Micronesia Conservation Trust) as a regional Direct Access Entity with the following fiduciary functions: micro-size, project management, category C (E&S) and awarding grants. MCT will be responsible for the overall program management. MCT is also the financing mechanism for the Micronesia Challenge (MC) and is a member of the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC).

The EDA Implementation Arrangements, validated through the stakeholder consultations, is to use existing structures that are in place and develop the capacity and transparency of these structures through an inception and capacity building phase (Component 1 of the project).

It is envisaged that the committees and organizations already established and operating within each of the three countries will be leveraged to form the EDA Program governance structure. The program will have two levels of Functions: **Oversight Function**, related to the overall program oversight, and **Decision-Making Function**, related to the sub-grant funding decisions. These functions are separated to ensure that there is no conflict of interest among those who are entrusted with the oversight function and those who make the sub-grant funding decisions. The program will also have a Management Function through a Small Grants Facility Coordination Mechanism.

Their make-up is detailed below:

Oversight Function: The Program Board

The EDA will establish a Program Board (PB) to serve as the main oversight body for the program. The PB will be chaired by the NDAs of the three participating countries (Palau, FSM and RMI) and will provide strategic direction to MCT, as the AE that will be managing the overall implementation of the program, to ensure the program achieves the desired results. The PB will meet once a year, convened by the AE, and if required will hold ad hoc virtual meetings. In case consensus on relevant decisions cannot be reached within the Board, the MCT representative will mediate to find consensus or propose a final decision to ensure that the project implementation is not delayed.

Decision-making Function: Grants Committee

The EDA Program will have a **Regional Grants Committee,** which will serve as the **decision-making body** and will be the ultimate responsible party for assessing and selecting the subprojects. The Grants Committee will leverage members of the current MC Steering Committee (MCSC), including the focal points from: the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA), the Resources and Development (R&D)-Micronesia and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment- Palau. It will also include a regional representative from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and a representative of the GEF- Small Grants Program per each of the participating countries. It will also include the Regional Grants officer from the Program Coordination Unit, who will act as the Submitting Officer presenting the selected subprojects and providing any clarifications on the pre-country selection.

The Grants Committee will meet every three months in order to review Expressions of Interests, the roster of entities and to conduct a final selection of the sub-projects.

The Management Mechanism

The SGF will be managed by a **Regional Program Coordination Unit (RPCU),** which will be hosted at MCT's headquarters in Pohnpei FSM, with the following staff:

- one Program Coordinator,
- one Program Administrative and Financial Assistant,
- one Regional Grants Officer.
- one Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer

The RPCU will run the day-to-day operations of the EDA program, including: designing and implementing the annual work-plan and budget; define, prioritise and implement the program activities, including the capacity building and knowledge management ones (Component 1 and Component 3), putting out the call for proposals and supporting conducting the initial screening, to determine project eligibility of the Expressions of Interest (EOI) and prepare presenting the eligible projects to the Grants Committee for final approval.

Furthermore, the **Executing Entities** will be the Micronesia Conservation trust in FSM, the PAN Fund-Palau in Palau, and the MIMRA-PAN Office in RMI.

8.2. Stakeholder mapping for EbA community measures

The primary stakeholders for the program are the national GCF NDAs, MCT, and the national PAN offices in RMI and ROP. Additional stakeholders that may play a role in the program are different CSOs, NGOs or operators, and beneficiaries from affected communities, which are indicated in the table below.

Table 1 – Stakeholder mapping and proposed role in the EbA project

TYPE	MAIN AGENCIES	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED ROLE IN THE PROGRAM
Regional Direct Access Entity (DAE)	Micronesia Conservation Trust	Accredited Entity of the GCF	This program will be managed by MCT (Micronesia Conservation Trust) as a regional Direct Access Entity with the following fiduciary functions: micro-size, project management, category C (E&S) and awarding grants. It is an entity based in the Federated States of Micronesia, operating in that country and serving the jurisdictions of the Micronesia Challenge, including RMI and Palau.
National coordination mechanisms	Project executing entities: Protected Areas Network r PAN-FUND for	Country-level institutions that will run the Small Grant	Executing entities for the program.

	Palau, MIMRA-PAN-Office for RMI and MCT for FSM	Facility for each country	
Relevant National Designated Authorities and government institutions	Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM – FSM) Department of Finance and Administration (FSM) **(NDA)** Ministry of Resources and Development (MRD – RMI) Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA – RMI) Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination / Climate Change Directorate (OEPPC – RMI) **(NDA)** Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (Palau) Ministry of Finance (Palau) **(NDA)**	National agencies and policymakers responsible for designing national policy and programs, including those related to climate change adaptation.	NDAs play key role as a conduit between GCF officials and national-level counterparts. The other ministries/departments mentioned in each of the country contribe to policy and practices related to climate resilience building.
State-level Coordination Mechanisms	Governor's and their Cabinets (FSM) Chief Executive Councils (GSM and RMI) Natural Resource Councils (RMI, Palau & FSM) State GCF Focal Points (FSM) PAN Offices (In FSM, RMI and Palau) Departments for R&D (FSM)	State-level policy coordination and decision-making bodies on matters relating to government services, partnerships, programs and projects	These institutions play a key role to strengthen and build upon mechanisms to ensure alignment, ownership and sustainability of results
State Government Institutions	Departments of Resources and Development (FSM) Governors and Cabinets (Palau) KIRMA (Kosrae – FSM) Bureau of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (Palau, within the Ministry) Chief Executive Councils (Mayors/Municipal governments) (RMI and FSM) PAN Offices (RMI and Palau) Traditional Leadership Councils (FSM) / Traditional Governance (Palau) / Paramount Chiefs (RMI)	Responsible for delivering government services, state level policies, regulations and activities. Responsible for community-level administration and management.	It is important to coordinate with these institutions to ensure participation in, beneficiary of training and coordination activities. Support and facilitation of project implementation may be dependent on their mandates and traditional power distribution and decision making.
CSOs & NGOs (women's	Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization	Non-profit organizations	They are significant players in coordinating, implementing and

groups, environmental groups, youth groups, etc.)	Yap C ommunity Action Program (YapCAP) Palau Conservation Society Pohnpei Conservation Society Chuuk Conservation Society Marshall Islands Conservation Society Other CSOs and NGOs, as relevant	supporting communities through climate change adaptation projects, resource management projects, awareness programs and capacity building	providing technical assistance for EbA measures– and could provide a supporting role in ensuring that these sections are represented during the community awareness interventions. They can be, depending on available capacities as well as interest in training provided by the program, grant recipients.

Communities	Municipal Government Officers & Coordination Mechanisms
	
	  ▪ Natural Resource Managers
	
	  ▪ Resource Management Committees
	
	Community Leaders & Landowners
	
	  ▪ Chiefs and traditional leaders
	
	  ▪ Landowners
	
	Gender Representatives
	
	  ▪ Youth leaders
	
	  ▪ Women representatives
	
	  ▪ Disability representatives
	
	  ▪ LGBTQIA+ representatives
	
	  ▪
	
	Other mechanisms
	
	  ▪ Cooperatives
	
	  ▪ Rural Training Centre representatives
	
	  ▪ Resource management committees
	
	  ▪ User groups
		Main project beneficiaries who play implementation and coordination support roles at the community level	Main project beneficiaries who play implementation and coordination support roles at the community level. Participation in EbA interventions, assisting with the coordination mechanisms, MEL and Knowledge Management activities, as well as Consultations

8.3 Component-wise and phase-wise mapping for the project

An overview of the component-wise and phase-wise mapping of the program is presented below. The program will also ensure gender equity and representative sampling (to the extent possible) in stakeholder engagements during implementation. A gender and ESS expert will be contracted to be at this stage to guide these processes.

The RPCU will ensure that the project partners collaborate with State-level gender groups, which have a strong track record across each nation (FSM, RMI and Palau). Additionally, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning officer will be hired to provide support through project implementation and

ensure, in cooperation with the rest of the RPCU, that the Gender Action Plan and Environmental and Social Action Plan are correctly implemented. Moreover, budget has been allocated to hire an Environmental and Social Safeguard & Gender specialist to support the project development process if required. Lastly, on a project level, the Regional Program Board will ensure the proper implementation of the GAAP and ESAP provisions are done by MCT.

Specific measures that will ensure women, people with disability and LGBTQ+ equity are presented in Annex 4 – GAAP.

Table 2 – Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Plan					
Programme Outputs	**Activities**	**Timing**	**Stakeholder**	**Stakeholder Role**	**Means of Participation**
1.1: Increased capacity of identified institutions/partners (eligible for grants) to design and implement EbA sub-projects	1.1.1: Establish SGF rosters in coordination with EEs and NDAs per country	Year 1-2	RPCU Community groups	RPCU will work to develop the methodology to establish the SGF rosters. Community groups will be involved in checking the design	Stakeholder consultations Focus group outreach
	1.1.2: Develop and administer capacity assessment framework	Year 1 (within 6 months)	RPCU MCT Community groups	The RPCU and MCT will develop the capacity assessment. The RPCU will administer this to community groups	Wide outreach to target all community groups with the assessment.
	1.1.3: Develop ToT curriculum based on capacity assessments	Year 1-2	RPCU External Technical Advisory Body	The RPCU will develop the Training of Trainers curriculum in support of by the External Technical	Meetings

				Advisory Body	
	1.1.4 Organize writeshops to deliver ToT modules	Year 1-2, Q2 Year 3, Q2 Year 4	RPCU Community groups NGOs Women's groups	The PUC will advertise to the CBOs and NGOs to attend the writeshops.	Writeshops
1.2: Increased awareness and participation of communtieis in sub-project design	1.2.1: Organize community advocacy and training modules	End of Year 1 - 2	RPCU CBOs NGOs	RPCU will create awareness and training materials and target NGOs and CBOs to deliver training on EbA measures	Workshops Public Awareness materials Public Awareness Campaign
	1.2.2: Design and deliver peer-to-peer learning modules on EbA	Year 2-3, Q2 in Year 4, Year 6	RPCU CBOs NGOs	RPCU will design and organize peer-to-peer learning sessions for NGOs and CBOs.	Meetings & workshops
2.1: Established SGFs, per country, are operationalized to fund locally-led EbA sub-projects	2.1.1: Establish and formalize regional oversight, governance, protocols an guidelines and redress mechanism for the SGFs to be implemented by each country	Year 1-2	RPCU Executing Entities Grants Committee The Program Board	MCT will lead this work in conjunction with the establishme nt of the Grants Committee, the Palau PAN Fund, MIMRA-PAN Office in RMI, and the Program Board.	Meetings & workshops

2.2. Priority EbA adaptation measures are funded	2.2.1: Call for expression of interest for SGF-funded sub-projects	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4	RPCU Community groups NGOs	The RPCU will hold an annual call for expressions of interest for the SGF-funded sub-projects	PUC will use local media sources to target public awareness on applying for EOI. Community groups will apply for EOIs based on information in the announcements.
	2.2.2: Screen and select sub-projects based on a EbA prioritization framework	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4	Grants Committee	Following calls for EOI, the Grants Committee will screen and select sub-projects based on the EbA prioritization framework	Meetings
	2.2.3:Award grants to sub-projects, aligned with the theory of change and logframe of the EDA approved proposals	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4	Grants Committee RPCU	The Grants Committee will award grants to sub-projects and the RPCU will engage CBOs and NGOs who are selected	Email communications, Telephone calls, and Zoom calls will be organized to engage the selected groups.
	2.2.4: Develop a sustainable resource mobilization strategy for the SGFs, by country	Year 4, 5, 6	RPCU External Technical Advisory Body	By country, the RPCU and the External Technical Advisory Body will develop a sustainable resource mobilization strategy for the SGFs.	Meetings
3.1.: Enhanced KM and data sharing	3.1.1: Review available data collected by	Year 1-3	MCT RPCU	The RPCU will review available data	Desktop research Online research

protocols for dissemination of lessons learned and best practices on EbA adaptation measures.	MCT on ongoing and recently closed sub-projects and establish a KMAL strategy.			collected by MCT on ongoing and recently closed sub-projects and establish a KMAL strategy.	Meetings
	3.1.2 Integrate data collected through SGF sub-projects and existing MCT sub-projects into regional and national KM platforms	Year 2-6	MCT RPCU	The RPCU will Integrate data collected through SGF sub-projects and existing MCT sub-projects into regional and national KM platforms.	Online platform
	3.1.3: Design and implement digital technology for tracking SGFs (a regionally-accessible app).	Year 2-6	RPCU CBOs NGOs Governments	The RPCU will design and implement digital technology for tracking SGFs. CBOs, NGOs, and government entities will have online access to the system to use and upload information.	Online platform

8.4. Monitoring and Evaluation of the SEP

Monitoring and evaluation of the SEP will be completed during the mid-term and terminal evaluation of the project. To aid the M&E of the SEP, the institutional arrangements for the delivery of the SEP will be finalized through the Program Coordination Unit (RPCU), with regular coordination or progress meetings (at least annually) planned throughout the implementation timeframe to allow for the effective monitoring, evaluation, learning and adjustments of the SEP.

An initial evaluation, led by the RPCU, should be conducted at the national and community levels prior to any major activities to take stock of the existing key stakeholders and the relevant coordinating mechanisms at the preparation stage.

During implementation, a mid-term evaluation should be undertaken to consider the quality and adequacy of the inputs of the stakeholders and the effectiveness of the institutional or coordinating mechanisms for stakeholder engagement.

A terminal evaluation should be conducted prior to project closure to evaluate achievements/outcomes and identify areas for improvement as well as long term sustainability and replicability.

Independent international specialized consultants will conduct the mid-term and terminal evaluation.

M&E Timing	M&E Focus	M&E Key Questions
Preparatory phase Baseline phase Pre-delivery of the project components	- Pre-determined vs existing stakeholders and coordination/engagement mechanisms at the national level - Pre-determined vs existing stakeholders and coordination/engagement mechanisms at the State level - Pre-determined vs existing stakeholders and coordination/engagement mechanisms at the community level	- Who are the stakeholders at the national, State and community levels and what is the level of their influence? - What are the coordination/engagement mechanisms at the national level, State and community levels and what is the level of their influence?
Mid Term	- Input of key stakeholders - Effectiveness of engagement mechanisms	- What is the quality and adequacy of the input from key stakeholders? - What is the effectiveness of the engagement mechanisms? - What are the lessons learnt? - Is there a need to alter/improve the engagement methods utilized?

		▪ What are the lessons learnt and how can improvements be brought about?
Terminal	▪ Overall effectiveness of stakeholder inputs ▪ Overall effectiveness of engagement mechanisms	▪ Have the stakeholders achieved the outcomes of the plan and project? ▪ Which stakeholder needs evolved and how were they addressed? ▪ Are the achieved outcomes attributable to the project? What needs changing? ▪ How can improvements be brought about?

For the assessment of the effectiveness of the engagement mechanisms, the project will utilise the following indicators of success:

Indicator	Target		Means of verification
	Mid-term evaluation	Final Evaluation	
Number of participants in workshops and trainings on a national and state level	Baseline (0)	150	Workshop and training minutes/participants' lists
Number of workshops/trainings taking place on a community level[4]	Baseline (0) 10	50	Workshop/training report
Number of participants in awareness raising trainings on a community level	Baseline (0) 300	1200	Workshop/training report
Number of communication spots/productions aired under the awareness raising campaign	Baseline (0) 5	10	Recording of the spot/production
Increased level of climate-sensitive awareness in the communities of outer islands	Baseline (0) N/A	50% increase of awareness in the survey sample	Surveys one month before and 3 months after the completion of the awareness raising campaign

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[4] Includes WASH O&M training and community awareness raising events

9. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A grievance is a concern or complaint raised by beneficiaries of affected communities and stakeholders related to the perceived or actual impacts of the project activities. The objectives of setting up an appropriate grievance redress mechanism (GRM) are to:

- provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances
- allow stakeholders the opportunity to raise comments/concerns anonymously
- structure and manage the handling of comments, responses, and grievances in a timely manner
- ensure that comments, responses, and grievances are handled in a fair and transparent manner and in line with local and national policies

The GRM can serve as an effective tool for early identification, assessment and resolution of grievances and therefore for strengthening accountability to beneficiaries. The GRM is an important feedback mechanism that can improve project impact and respond to concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner. With restrictions on movement, it is important that, where possible, staff managing grievances can access systems and work remotely to enable processes to work effectively. The SEP will keep the local communities and other stakeholders informed about the project's activities, to specifically address gender-based violence and other cross-cutting issues.

9.1. Program Grievance Redress Mechanism

The EDA Facility will have a grievance and redress mechanism that will be managed by MCT as an AE and it is in line with MCT's Whistle-blower Protection Policy and Procedure.

Affected stakeholders will be able to communicate their concerns and grievances without fear of reprisals or victimization for doing so. This redress mechanism is intended to cover protections for an individual if concerns regarding subprojects or the operation of the facility are raised. This includes concerns regarding incorrect financial reporting and unlawful activity.

The grievance redress mechanism will:

1. Provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comments and raising grievances.
2. Allow stakeholders the opportunity to raise comments/concerns anonymously.
3. Structure and manage the handling of comments, responses, and grievances in a timely manner.
4. Ensure that comments, responses, and grievances are handled in a fair and transparent manner and in line with local and national policies.

The grievance mechanism will address complaints from affected stakeholders about the social and/or environmental performance of the project, and to take measures to redress the situation, if necessary.

Procedure for raising concerns:

- Stakeholders can lodge a complaint via MCT's website (www.our**micronesia**.org). Formal complaints can also be forwarded to the Executive Director (director@ourmicronesia.org) who shall handle as appropriate.
- Appropriate authority levels as specified in MCT's governance structure will handle all complaints, in a professional and timely way.

How the Report of Concern will be handled

Appropriate authority levels as specified in MCT's governance structure will handle all complaints, in a professional and timely way. MCT will acknowledge the grievance within two business days to the person who submitted it and explain that the grievance will be logged with the MCT Grievance Redress Mechanism. An initial response will be provided to the complainant within a two-month period, with an outline of the appropriate process to address the grievance. This duration should be sufficient to screen the complaint, outline how the grievance will be processed, screen for eligibility as well as assign organizational responsibility for proposing a response. This initial response will propose a methodology to reach an agreement and address the complainant's concerns, including potentially engaging with other project stakeholders to resolve the issue. The complainant will be informed that he/she has the right to pursue other options to resolve the complaint if unsatisfied after the process, noting that the grievance redress mechanism may issue responses to questions from the complainant but will not act as an advisor or attorney for the complainant. All grievances will be recorded, and these records will be kept at a secure place for up to three years after the life of the EDA program.[5]

9.2. Community level mechanism

At the community level in the FSM & RMI concerns or grievances can be addressed through the municipal government offices managed by the mayors of individual islands and municipalities and then forwarded to the state GCF focal points. In Palau, grievances will be addressed through the Governor's offices.

Matters raised with these representatives have the option to raise the issues for redress as follow:

- table the grievance for redress at the municipal/state level through the state GCF focal point and;
- raise the grievance directly with the relevant state government representative responsible for oversight of the issue at hand.

- Once a grievance is received by the respective authority it will be informed to MCT and handled as noted in the section above.

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[5]http://www.ourmicronesia.org/uploads/1/2/6/9/126956881/whistleblower_protection_policy_procedure.pdf

10. Whistle-blower Protection Policy and Procedure

This proposed program is committed to maintaining high standards of ethical, moral and legal business conduct. In line with MCT's Whistleblower Protection Policy and Procedure[6], the program will establish the following sets of procedures:

Procedure: 1. Process for Raising a Concern

- **Reporting-** The whistle blowing procedure is intended to be used for serious and sensitive issues. Such concerns, including those relating to financial reporting, unethical or illegal conduct, may be reported directly to the Executive Director at director@ourmicronesia.org or to P.O. Box 2177 Kolonia, FM 96941 or to 691-320-5670. Should the allegation involve the Executive Director, such concerns may be sent directly to the Chairman of the MCT Board of Trustees at TrusteeChair@ourmicronesia.org.

- **Timing -** The earlier a concern is expressed, the easier it is to take action.

- **Evidence** - Although the complainant is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation, s/he should be able to demonstrate to the person contacted that the report is being made in good faith.

Procedure 2: How the Report of Concern Will be Handled

The action taken by MCT in response to a report of concern under this policy will depend on the nature of the concern. If it is directed at an employee or volunteer, the Executive Director shall receive information on each report of concern and take action as required in MCT Policies regarding the disciplinary process and respecting the employees' rights to the grievance process as well. In cases where the complaint is directed to the Executive Director, the MCT Board Executive Committee shall receive information on each report of concern and follow up information on actions taken. When the complaint is directed against a member of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director will assist with the formation of an ad hoc committee of the Board comprised of members of the Board not implicated in the allegation to take action on the complaint.

- **Initial Inquiries** - Initial inquiries will be made to determine whether an investigation is appropriate, and what form it should take. Some concerns may be resolved without the need for investigation.

- **Further Information** -The amount of contact between the complainant and the person or persons investigating the concern will depend on the nature of the issue and the clarity of information provided. Further information may be sought from or provided to the person reporting the concern. Activities that are not in line with MCT policy, including the Code of Business Conduct; or Other activities, which otherwise amount to serious improper conduct.

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[6] For more details, please review:
http://www.ourmicronesia.org/uploads/1/2/6/9/126956881/whistleblower_protection_policy_procedure.pdf

Appendix A: Templates of Working Group worksheets

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: MCT PPF EDA PROJECT

Ecosystem-Based Adaptations for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS)

Working Group 1 – Stakeholder mapping and engagement

Main question: What CSOs, Private Sector and Government stakeholders should be engaged, why and what role might they play in the project/activities?

Step 1: Identifying stakeholders

Q1: Who are the actors who have an influence on land and sea use management and what risks do they face if change occurs (both at the community to the national levels)?
A:
Q2: Which stakeholders – from community to national level – are positively changing land/sea use to better promote the delivery of climate adaptation (i.e. improving the environment through sustainable land use and/or marine/terrestrial ecosystem restoration)?
A:
Q3: Which stakeholders – from community to national level – are creating elements of ecosystem degradation and, as a result, undermining the delivery of adaptation efforts to climate change.
A:
Q4: Which aspects of the existing social and institutional frameworks need strengthening (enhanced responsibilities etc) to better support Ecosystem based adaptation measures (or simply adaptation) implementation?
A:

Q5: Who might perceive the project as a potential threat to their current role and interests?
A:
Q6: Which (groups of) vulnerable stakeholders would benefit from EbA measures: e.g. those exposed to drought, storms, landslides and floods; those with livelihood security risks, or those who depend on threatened ecosystems for their living; etc.?
A:
Q7: How are these vulnerable groups currently coping with climate variability? How are they organized and politically positioned to adapt? How do institutions, policies and funding streams assist them to cope?

Ecosystem-Based Adaptations for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS)

Working Group 2 – Gap Analysis & Institutional Arrangements

<u>Main question</u>: **What are key gaps and institutional arrangements that need to be addressed to enhance EbA project and ensure that it is successful?**

<u>Step 1</u>: Identifying gaps and key institutional arrangements for implementation

Q1: What policies/plans/implementation strategies already exist that identify and/or support Protected Areas governance and management matters? Are these strategies sufficiently robust to make a difference? If not, what is needed?
A:
Q2: What are key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance/improve EbA and PA management within government structures (i.e.: at the policy and legislative levels)? What implementation measures could be put in place to address these gaps?
A:
Q3: What are key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance /improve EbA and PA management at the non-governmental level (i.e.: CSOs/NGOs/private sector) What implementation measures could be put in place to address these gaps?
A:
Q4: What are key gaps that need to be addressed to enhance/improve EbA and PA management at the community and household level? What implementation measures could be put in place to address these gaps?

A:
Q5: What capacity and training gaps need to be addressed to enhance EbA and PA management (at all levels)? What implementation measures could be put in place to address these gaps?
A:
Q6: Are there gaps in the current institutional arrangements that impact on the delivery of the existing work/programmes/projects?
A:
Q7: Based on your institutions experience from current work/programmes/projects, what institutional arrangements work best to facilitate EbA / PA/climate change related project implementation? Are there any lessons learnt, good or bad, that you can share that would be relevant for this project?
A:
Q8: How can the project be best managed to ensure it is effective and flexible? What are the challenges towards making these changes?
A:

Community-Based Interventions for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS)

Working Group 3 –Co-financing

<u>Main question</u>: What existing or planned activities or projects could be included as co-financing in the proposed GCF project?

Q: Protected areas (PAs), and improved management of the natural assets and ecosystems within them, can provide buffers for local and regional climate variability, depending on scale. What are the current challenges to PA management that not linked to climate change and variability?
A:
Q: Those challenges you listed in questions #1 are not eligible for GCF financing, can you identify any other sources of finance to address these challenges?
A:
Q: What are challenges to the protected areas that are directly caused or impacted by climate change (these are eligible for GCF financing and should be the ones we address through this project).
A:

Q: Who are the main actors in the environment/climate change sector? Who is currently implementing conservation/climate change adaption projects locally or internationally funded, in the country? What kind of co-finance could they provide?
A:
Q: What type of co-financing could provide long-term sustainability of the project? (<u>i.e.</u> finance project activities after the end of the project lifespan)
A:

Community-Based Interventions for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in Northern Pacific Small Island Vulnerable States (SIDS)

Working Group 4 ├Gender, Sustainability & Risks

<u>Main issue to determine</u>: What are the gender and social inclusion issues, risks and activities associated with this project?

Q1: The proposed programme aims to 'increase NGO and local authority's technical capabilities to address relevant climate change threats'. Are there specific women's groups who should be part of the implementation that need to be consulted further during the programme preparation phase? (<u>if</u> possible, please provide contact names and email)
A:
Q2: Are there differences between women and men regarding access to and control over natural resources or land tenure and ownership structures etc? If yes, in what ways?
A:
Q3: In terms of fisheries, agriculture, agroforestry, animal husbandry, aquaculture, and tourism, what are the roles that men and women typically play? What are the challenges and opportunities their designated roles bring?
A:

Q4: What measures /activities need to be introduced into each SGF project to ensure that women and men equally benefit from the project? For example, increased fish stock, improved water quality, improved coastal management? <u>Please explain your answer.</u>
A:
Q5: Are there any barriers and opportunities based on gender, age, disabilities in relation to mobility as well as in access to services (for example: ability to travel, ability to access resources such as water or partake in farming/fishing)?
A:

Q6: What is the nature and extent of women run businesses, cooperatives and women's groups? Are there examples of any of these groups, cooperatives, businesses working within and around protected areas? Or: within the targeted sectors, (i.e. agriculture, fisheries, agroforestry)? Or: benefiting/utilizing natural resources as a source of livelihood?

A:

Q7: What factors are likely to negatively affect the programme's sustainability (the likelihood that the benefits from the programme interventions will extend beyond the project implementation lifetime)? Are there any key constraints to the sustainability of interventions? Are there any previous experiences of this type that have been sustainable over time that would be relevant for this project?

A:

Q8: What would be your suggestions for a clear exit strategy for when the GCF funding ends? What could be an adequate strategy to phase out assistance provided by the programme in a sustainable way?

A:

Q9: Do you identify any risks (political, operational, social or environmental) that might arise from the implementation of this project and how can these be mitigated?

A:

Q10: How can the project ensure that the implementation of the grants will not cause any environmental or social impacts? Do you have any example of due diligence/screening process that could be tailored into this project?

A:

Q11: How can the project design (and subsequently, during implementation) be affected by COVID-19? How can COVID-19 impact be mitigated on the project, in your opinion?

A:

Q12: Are there any other comments you would like to make?

A: