

Annex 2c Fiji CRR Project Eligibility Criteria

This Annex outlines the proposed eligibility criteria for activities involving site selection and grant allocation under the Fiji CRR Project. Specifically, it sets out eligibility considerations under the following components:

- **Component 1: EbA and green infrastructure solutions to reduce threats to the GSR and enhance community resilience**
 - *Outcome 1: The resilience of reef-reliant communities in Fiji's GSR is enhanced through EbA and NbS solutions*
- **Component 3: Strengthening access to finance for reef-positive enterprises**
 - *Outcome 3: Businesses that reduce threats to the GSR have improved access to commercial capital*

Table 1. Eligibility Criteria for Mangrove, Riparian Restoration, and Living Shorelines

Table 1 outlines the eligibility criteria for activities under Component 1 on EbA/NbS and living shoreline interventions that require site selection. The criteria are derived from the Project Feasibility Study (Annex 2a) and apply to the following activities:

- Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture.
- Activity 1.1.2: Restore GSR watershed riparian buffers to increase sediment capture.
- Activity 1.2.1: Design and construct living shorelines to reduce coastal flooding.
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Criteria for Mangrove restoration
• Suitable land uses – Cropland/agriculture, grasslands, mangroves, water – outside bare soil/rock, urban/impervious, shrubland, trees • Potential mangrove extent • Land tenure - iTaukei Land outside freehold land and state land • Distance to populated areas • Distance to coast • Historic loss of mangroves • Community agreement and consent • Land use conflicts - Avoid areas with high competition/conflict with industrial use, tourism infrastructure, mining, etc. • Coastal protection value – maximizing sites that when restored provide the greatest coastal protection value for people and coastal villages
Criteria for Riparian restoration
• Sediment export • Slope • Distance to rivers • Suitable land uses – Cropland/agriculture, grasslands – outside water, mangrove, bare soil/rock, urban/impervious, shrubland, trees • Land tenure - iTaukei Land outside freehold land and state land • Distance to populated areas • Distance to coast • Community agreement and consent • Land use conflicts - Avoid areas with high competition/conflict with industrial use, tourism infrastructure, mining, etc.
Criteria for Living shorelines

Site and land criteria

- Slope suitable for a living shoreline
- Suitable land uses, including cropland and agriculture, grasslands, mangroves outside water, bare soil or rock, urban or impervious land, shrubland, and trees
- Land tenure, iTaukei land outside freehold and state land
- Distance to populated areas
- Distance to coast
- Land use conflicts, avoiding areas with high competition or conflict with industrial use, tourism infrastructure, mining, and similar

Risk and protection criteria

- Flooding reduction extent, based on the flood modelling in the feasibility study
- Coastal protection value, prioritizing sites that once restored provide the greatest coastal protection for people and coastal villages
- Vulnerability based prioritization, favoring the most exposed and vulnerable communities, consistent with the climate risk and vulnerability assessment

Physical and design criteria

- Design sizing, structures sized to the modelled flood height at each site under the SSP2 to 4.5 sea level rise and storm surge scenario
- Wave exposure, sites suited to the local wave energy so the structure can hold
- Substrate suitability, seabed and soil conditions able to support the intervention
- Tidal flow, siting that maintains natural tidal exchange rather than blocking it

Ecological criteria

- Native vegetation planting and rewilding
- Species suitability, using only locally appropriate and non invasive species matched to the site
- Habitat connectivity, siting that links with adjacent mangroves, seagrass, and reef
- Sensitive habitat protection, avoiding disturbance to protected or sensitive habitats during construction

Social and safeguards criteria

- Community agreement and consent
- Free, prior and informed consent from the iTaukei landowning units
- Gender and inclusion, ensuring women, youth, and other groups take part in siting and benefit decisions

Operation and durability criteria

- Maintenance and monitoring, an arrangement in place to maintain and monitor the structure over time
- Climate resilience, a design that stays functional under projected future conditions, not only present ones

Excluded techniques

- Hard armouring, such as bulkheads
- Dredge and fill operations

- Breakwaters
- Barriers that sever the land to water connection
- Beach scraping or mechanical sand removal

Criteria for design and engineering firms: please refer to the template ToRs in the FP

- Must follow internationally and nationally recognised coastal development and engineering standards
- Accept contractual liability for design and construction errors, with a defined defect liability period for rectification at no additional cost
- Provide indemnification to WWF and partners against claims arising from negligence or non compliance
- Agree to standard force majeure clauses in contracts, with contingency measures built into the design process

Table 2. Eligibility Criteria for LLAF Intervention Areas

Table 2 presents the eligibility criteria for activities under the LLAF intervention areas, which involve grant selection, and applies to the following activities under Component 1:

- Activity 1.3.1: Operationalize the LLAF.
- Activity 1.3.2: Source and select LLAF projects.

Criteria	Evaluation Criteria
Number of projects and funding limits	A minimum of 12 projects under the LLAF, each capped at USD 125,000, against the total budget of USD 1,550,000.
Barriers	Each of the 12 LLAF projects will need to address at least one of the following barriers: • Barrier 1: Limited evidence of EbA and green infrastructure as viable solutions to address climate change risks on vulnerable landscapes and seascapes in Fiji. • Barrier 2: Lack of available finance for communities in Fiji to implement locally led adaptation approaches
Project Types	<u>Eligible thematic areas:</u> Restoration, Ecosystem based adaptation solutions (e.g. living shorelines) water management, community ecosystem management and planning, coral reef & fisheries management, and sediment reduction/management Regarding a fixed concentration limit by project type, the local context will determine the type of intervention selected, enabling each community to build resilience to the hazard most pressing to them. Preserving this flexibility is central to the locally led design of the fund and keeps interventions responsive to community needs. <u>Primary project examples:</u>

	• Living shorelines using native plant species • Mangrove reforestation to protect coastal areas • Coral reef management to enhance resilience • Construction of rainwater harvesting and storm water management systems to manage excess water during high precipitation events. • Aquaculture or similar projects which aim to reduce pressure on the reefs and aim to create reef positive enterprises. Secondary / supporting* project examples: • Training programs for local communities on sustainable fishing and monitoring practices • Gender workshops on coral reef management and reduction of threats to the reefs • Education campaigns on the importance of coral reefs and climate change adaptation strategies which reduce the climate vulnerabilities of the communities and reefs • Contribution to the sustainable FMPs involving local fishers • Creation of community-based water conservation or waste management programs. And projects which show potential of becoming sustainable businesses will be encouraged. *These projects can be added as supporting activities to the examples listed under primary project examples but cannot be proposed as stand-alone activities. Their goal should be to enhance the capacities, knowledge, and skills of communities to complement the implementation of locally led EbA and restoration projects.
Target areas	All community projects must be located in the project areas in Ba, Ra, Bua, Macuata Provinces as identified in Annex 2. The vulnerable populations and the area exposed to the identified climate hazards vary considerably across the four provinces. The number of interventions will therefore be proportional to the risk rating (chp. 6 of FS) of each province, as set out in the climate risk and vulnerability assessment, so that support reaches the greatest possible number of vulnerable people within the project areas. In practice this means that Ba and Macuata, as the highest risk provinces, will receive the greatest share of interventions, followed by Ra and then Bua. Indicatively, Ba would receive ~38 percent, Macuata ~29 percent, Ra ~21 percent, and Bua ~12 percent, with the exact allocation determined during implementation and subject to some change based on local conditions.
Project Eligibility	• Must be community-led, meaning the projects need to be conceptualized, designed, and implemented by CBOs, or NGOS directly working with communities in the project areas. Women-led local organizations will be given a priority. • Must primarily address climate hazards identified in the feasibility study such as flooding, cyclones, drought.

	Secondary and complementary non-climate stresses exacerbating climate hazards such as soil erosion, lack of capacity, and unsustainable livelihoods can be included in the proposals. • Must be within the identified project areas per the feasibility study • Projects led by women and marginalized communities will be prioritized • Projects addressing key climate threats such as increased precipitation, temperatures, and SLR will be prioritized
Eligible recipients (those who would design implement, monitor, and maintain projects)	Local NGOs, CBOs, Provincial or Local Government from Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata provinces lying within the project areas identified. Specifically, we aim to prioritize organizations which are/have: 1. Women-led and women-run organizations, with women in key leadership and decision-making roles. 2. Organizations working on projects that address climate-related vulnerabilities such as flooding, sea level rise, drought, and erosion, as well as non-climate stressors like low income, lack of access to water, and unsustainable livelihoods. 3. Based in at least one of the four target provinces. 4. Basic understanding of nature-based solutions (NbS) and community-led adaptation approaches. 5. Demonstrated skills and experience in working with and guiding communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of NbS projects. <u>Preferable:</u> 6. Existing working relationships with communities in the identified project areas or provinces. 7. Existing collaboration with local government authorities or a clear intent to build such partnerships. 8. Plans to incorporate a business or enterprise model that can sustain the intervention beyond the GCF project lifecycle.
Baseline Financial Eligibility Criteria	• Must be a registered legal entity within the relevant community • Must have a dedicated bank account • Preferable to have experience within the last 3 years of managing and/or administering grant funds • Must provide 20% co-financing for project budgets (in-kind or other)
Alignment with National Programs	<u>Community projects must be aligned with:</u> • Fiji's National Adaptation Plan (NAP); • Environmental Management Act (EMA) • Climate Change Act (2021) • Fisheries Act (1991) • National Ocean Policy (2020) • National Development Plan (NDP) and District Development Plans

	GSR Management plan and any local province level adaptation plans
Climate and Non-Climate Threats (non-exhaustive)	<u>Threats to be reduced by community projects:</u> - Decreasing water quality and sedimentation - Flooding due to sea-level rise or inland flooding - Increasing waste in rivers and other water bodies - Illegal fishing - Low knowledge and technical capacity constraints/gaps - Increased monthly/annual precipitation - Increased temperatures
Exclusion list for LLAF	- Projects which do not address the identified barriers in eligibility criteria - Projects that do not address one or more climate hazards as per the eligibility criteria and the feasibility study. - Projects that cause land degradation, amplify unsustainable land management and land use practices and negatively affect areas of critical natural habitats or breeding ground of known rare/ endangered species. - Projects that represent a significant increase in GHG emissions. - Projects resulting in loss of biodiversity, alteration of the functioning of ecosystems, and introduction of new invasive alien species. - Projects which do not include women in the design, implementation, and monitoring phases of the project. - And all items listed in the exclusion list of Annex 7 ESMF

Table 3. Eligibility Criteria for Business Providers

Table 3 outlines the eligibility criteria for activities under Component 3 on strengthening access to finance for reef-positive enterprises, which involves both BDS providers. The criteria are derived from the Project Feasibility Study (Annex 2b) and apply to the following activities:

- Activity 3.1.1: Improve capacity of BDS providers in Fiji to support reef-positive businesses

Criteria for BDS Providers
Experience with SME/enterprise support: Demonstrated track record (minimum 3–5 years) in incubating, accelerating, or providing technical assistance to micro and small enterprises, preferably in natural resource-based or coastal sectors. Climate and ecosystem focus: Proven ability or clear commitment to integrate climate adaptation, ecosystem resilience, or reef conservation considerations into business support services. Local presence and networks: Established operations and relationships in target provinces/communities, with capacity to engage local entrepreneurs, indigenous groups, and women-led enterprises.

- **Technical capacity:** Qualified staff and expertise in business development, financial management, and mentoring tailored to early-stage or community-based enterprises.
- **Monitoring and evaluation systems:** Ability to apply and report against shared M&E frameworks to track environmental and climate impacts of supported businesses.
- **Governance and fiduciary standards:** Sound financial management, transparent governance structures, and demonstrated ability to manage and account for grant funds.
- **Targeting underfunded BDS providers:** Demonstrated need for catalytic funding, including limited access to long-term core or institutional funding for incubation and acceleration activities.
- **Pipeline development and coordination:** Willingness and capacity to coordinate with other BDS providers, financial institutions, and government agencies, including through the Output 3.2 coordination mechanism.
- **Innovation and scalability:** Willingness to pilot new approaches, develop tailored incubation programs, and foster models that can scale or replicate beyond the project.
- **Cost-effectiveness and leverage:** Competitive budget proposals and ability to leverage additional resources (financial or in-kind) to extend impact.
- **Inclusivity:** Commitment to gender equity and social inclusion in enterprise selection and support