Funding Proposal

FP316: Fiji Coral Reef Resilience Project

Fiji | World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF) | Decision B.46/04

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Note to Accredited Entities on the use of the funding proposal template

- Accredited Entities should provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to annexes such as feasibility studies, gender action plan, term sheet, etc.
- Accredited Entities should ensure that annexes provided are consistent with the details provided in the funding proposal. Updates to the funding proposal and/or annexes must be reflected in all relevant documents.
- The total number of pages for the funding proposal (excluding annexes) **should not exceed 60**. Proposals exceeding the prescribed length will not be assessed within the usual service standard time.
- The recommended font is Arial, size 11.
- Under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Accredited Entities are asked to fill out information on disclosure in section G.4.

Please submit the completed proposal to:

fundingproposal@gcfund.org

Please use the following name convention for the file name:

"FP-[Accredited Entity Short Name]-[Country/Region]-[YYYY/MM/DD]"

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A.1. Project or programme	Project	**A.2. Public or private sector**	Public

A.3. Request for Proposals (RFP)

If the funding proposal is being submitted in response to a specific GCF Request for Proposals, indicate which RFP it is targeted for. Please note that there is a separate template for the Simplified Approval Process and REDD+.

Not applicable

A.4. Result area(s)

*Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the overall proposed project/programme targets below. For each checked result area(s), indicate the estimated percentage of **GCF and Co-financers' contribution** devoted to it. The total of the percentages when summed should be 100% for GCF and Co-financers' contribution respectively.*

This project is adaptation driven with associated mitigation co-benefits.	**GCF contribution**	**Co-financers' contribution[1]**
Mitigation total	%	%
☐ Energy generation and access	%	%
☐ Low-emission transport	%	%
☐ Buildings, cities, industries and appliances	%	%
☐ Forestry and land use	%	%
Adaptation total	%	%
☒ Most vulnerable people and communities	56%	26%
☐ Health and well-being, and food and water security	%	%
☒ Infrastructure and built environment	22%	37%
☒ Ecosystems and ecosystem services	22%	37%

A.5. Expected mitigation outcome *(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)*	Mitigation co-benefits: 393,468 tCO_2e (10 years) 1,180,426 tCO_2e (30 years)	**A.6. Expected adaptation outcome** *(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)*	359,589 people (183,390 men and 176,199 women) 38% of the total population of ~ 937,500	
			121,358 people (61,893 men and 59,465 women)	238,231 people (121,497 men and 116,734 women)
			13% of the total population of ~ 937,500	25% of the total population of ~ 937,500
A.7. Total financing (GCF + co-finance[2])	42,623,850 USD	**A.9. Project size**	Small (Upto USD 50 million)	
A.8. Total GCF funding requested	35,216,408 USD			

[1] Co-financer's contribution means the financial resources required, whether Public Finance or Private Finance, in addition to the GCF contribution (i.e. GCF financial resources requested by the Accredited Entity) to implement the project or programme described in the funding proposal.
[2] Refer to the Policy of Co-financing of the GCF.

A.10. Financial instrument(s) requested for the GCF funding	*Mark all that apply and provide total amounts. The sum of all total amounts should be consistent with A.8.*		
	☒ Grant USD 35,216,408 ☐ Loan Enter number ☐ Guarantee Enter number	☐ Equity Enter number ☐ Results-based payment Enter number	
A.11. Implementation period	10 years	**A.12. Total lifespan**	30 years
A.13. Expected date of AE internal approval	*AE evidence of internal approval will be provided by August 30th.	**A.14. ESS category**	*Refer to the AE's safeguard policy and GCF ESS Standards to assess your FP category.* B
A.15. Has this FP been submitted as a CN before?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.16. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?**	Yes ☒ No ☐
A.17. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.18. Is this FP included in the country programme?**	Yes ☒ No ☐
A.19. Complementarity and coherence	*Does the project/programme complement other climate finance funding (e.g. GEF, AF, CIF, etc.)? If yes, please elaborate in section B.1.* Yes ☒ No ☐		
A.20. Executing Entity information	WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature (Fiji) or "WWF-Fiji" will be the Executing Entity (EE) for the proposed project. Details of its respective roles and responsibilities during project execution are described in Section B.4 of this Funding Proposal.		

A.21. Executive summary (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

1. The Great Sea Reef of Fiji (GSR), locally known as the "Northern Wall", is the third largest barrier reef system in the world and contains 55% of known fish species and 74% of known coral species in Fiji.[3] Its reefs have been shown to decrease 97% of the storm-wave power and to reduce wave height by 84%.[4] Within its Exclusive Economic Zone, Fiji's economic development and the resilience of its people is directly tied to the health and proper functioning of it most valuable natural asset, the GSR which is responsible for 65% of foreign exchange earnings and 20% of the country's GDP.[5,6] The GSR is however currently experiencing major degradation from non-climate stresses diminishing their ability to provide these important benefits.

[3] WWF Case Study 2017 Fiji. The Great Sea Reef.
[4] Ferrario, F., Beck, M. W., Storlazzi, C. D., Micheli, F., Shepard, C. C., & Airoldi, L. (2014). The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation. *Nature Communications, 5*, 3794.
[5] WWF Focus on the Great Sea Reef 2014
[6] WWF GSR Report 2014. Economic Value of the Great Sea Reef.

2. In line with the GCF's Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 (USP-2), this Fiji Coral Reef Resilience (CRR) project will build on the GCF's growing portfolio of projects in the Pacific and in Fiji by supporting the Government of Fiji (GoF) in making the transition from ambition to implementation. The project will help the GoF translate provisions from its national policies and plans including its National Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plans into actionable arrangements, with the necessary enforcement systems, to create measurable climate change adaptation, mitigation, and economic development benefits in Fiji's most critical natural asset, the GSR. The Project will restore 3,359 hectares (ha) of mangrove and riparian forests, bring over 2.5 million ha of coral reefs and vulnerable coastal areas under sustainable management, support local communities with USD 1.5 million in direct funding for community-led adaptation solutions, support 50 reef-positive enterprises to become investment-ready, and leveraging a targeted USD 500,000 in commercial finance capital for reef-positive businesses (see Annex 2e for detailed project contributions to the GCF USP-2).[7] The Project will also complement other planned projects focusing on terrestrial ecosystems in Fiji including FAO's *Forest and Landscape Restoration for Climate change benefits and resilience in Fiji* and the Climate Investment Funds newly endorsed *Nature People, and Climate investment plan.*[8] The project is supported with co-finance from the Government of Fiji, and the WWF Network Offices with support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Climate Change Problem: Resilient Reefs for Climate Adaptation

3. The IPCC expert consensus (IPCC SR1.5) concludes that even if the average global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial period, 70-90% of today's corals will be lost by 2100. With global warming of 2°C or above, only 10% of coral reefs today are likely to survive.[9]

4. While many coral reefs are facing increasing stress from ocean warming, acidification, sea level rise, and intensifying storms, some reefs are less exposed and more resilient to climate change stress due to local oceanographic conditions such as currents and upwelling.[10] These resilient "super-reefs" are critical for the future of coral ecosystems globally, if they are sustainably managed, due to their ability to naturally restock neighboring regions.[11] Approximately 90% of these reefs are concentrated in only seven countries, including Fiji's GSR.[12]

5. Maintaining the GSR is vital for local climate adaptation and resilience as well as economic, social, and food security. It offers coastal adaptation and risk reduction benefits acting as natural barriers against sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, and storm surges that threaten homes, infrastructure, agriculture, and lives. Tropical cyclones and floods cause average annual asset losses exceeding USD 500 million, over 5% of Fiji's GDP. According to IPCC 6, storm exposure alone has affected nearly 23% of Fiji's population.[13] The GSR also serves as a vital economic lifeline supporting fisheries critical to livelihoods and food security of local communities. Inshore fisheries and coastal resources provide subsistence food valued at USD 38 million annually.[14]

6. Although the GSR is Fiji's most valuable natural climate asset for reducing the economic and social costs of climate change in Fiji, no management arrangements have been put in place to safeguards its ecosystems and it remains unprotected from threats of overfishing, unsustainable coastal development, and sedimentation from degraded watersheds which flows down to reefs. These threats are reducing the GSR's capacity to continue providing the valuable adaptation service of protecting

[7] GCF. Coral Reef Resiliency Program PPF
[8] GCF FAO Concept Note 2022
[9] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2018). *Special report on global warming of 1.5°C: Summary for policymakers.*
[10] Beyer, H. L., Kennedy, E. V., Beger, M., Chen, C. A., Cinner, J. E., Darling, E. S., Hoegh-Guldberg, O. (2018). *Risk-sensitive planning for conserving coral reefs under rapid climate change. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 33*(6), 395–406.
[11] Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Kennedy, E. V., Beyer, H. L., McClennen, C., & Possingham, H. P. (2018). Securing a long-term future for coral reefs. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 33*(12), 936-944.
[12] Beyer, H. L., Kennedy, E. V., Beger, M., Chen, C. A., Cinner, J. E., Darling, E. S., Hoegh-Guldberg, O. (2018). *Risk-sensitive planning for conserving coral reefs under rapid climate change. Trends in Ecology & Evolution, 33*(6), 395–406.
[13] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2022). *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report.
[14] WWF GSR Report 2014. Economic Value of the Great Sea Reef.

coastal communities. Sea level rise and flooding are already affecting coastal communities with important signs of such impacts described in more detail in Annex 2a. Without urgent measures to reduce these threats, a tipping point will be reached leaving the GSR no longer able to provide essential buffering and resilience benefits to coastal communities in Fiji.

Figure 1: Map of coral reef extent in Fiji and the GSR (*based on United Nations map*).[15]



Current Context

7. As Fiji's richest marine ecosystems critical to the economic social and environmental prosperity of close to 40% of Fiji's population, WWF has been working in the GSR for close to 20 years focusing on building the capacity and resilience of traditional fishing and food productions systems and expanding the network of locally managed marine areas. However, these efforts have been limited by: insufficient funding to work across the 450 km reef complex; a focus on marine ecosystems which did not sufficiently address threats from connected terrestrial ecosystems; and insufficient government engagement to sustain and scale-up climate adaptation efforts. Past donor investments have had a limited focus on preserving those reefs with lower exposure to climate change and high resiliency benefits for those communities. It is here that GCF investment would provide critical additionality by adopting a GSR-wide approach and delivering long-term funding to tackle the key drivers of the GSR's degradation

Proposed Approach

8. The project will catalyze transformational change in Fiji by investing in Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) interventions in the four provinces adjacent to the GSR. EbA interventions will include the restoration of 835 ha of degraded mangroves and 2,524 ha of degraded riparian forests along waterways connected to the GSR. An additional 12 km of living shorelines will also be implemented at specific locations to maximize coastal flood reduction benefits to vulnerable communities.

9. These interventions are anticipated to reduce total land area flooding by 11%, thereby directly reducing flooding exposure for over 74,330 people or 49% of the most vulnerable population living in the GSR under 10 meters of elevation, 21% of the population of the four provinces connected to the GSR (Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces), and 8% of Fiji's overall population. The restoration of mangroves and riparian forests will also reduce sedimentation of watersheds connected to the reefs of the GSR benefiting over 68,709 people or 19% of the population living in the GSR. The project will also achieve important co-benefits including restoring habitat for local fish species, increasing local populations of sharks and rays by an estimated 5%, sequestering 393,468 tCO_2e through the restoration activities, and supporting women-led reef-positive businesses.

10. The project will also develop and implement the first of its kind management plan for the GSR and Management Unit (MU) embedded within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC). WWF-Fiji (EE) will also build on its past work expanding Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) in 20 community fishing grounds (*qoliqolis*) in the GSR to help reduce pressure on local fisheries and coral reefs.

11. Furthermore, to ensure adaptation efforts are most responsive to vulnerable community adaptation needs, the project will provide direct funding to communities for the implementation of minimum 12 community driven/ locally led adaptation projects which reduce threats to the GSR's ecosystems.

12. The project will also support the long-term conservation of the GSR by providing technical assistance to Business Development Service (BDS) providers to expand their portfolios to support reef-positive businesses.

[15] Allen Coral Atlas

13. Together, project interventions will directly benefit a total of 121,358 people, including 61,893 men (14% of the total male population) and 59,465 women (13% of the total female population), and will indirectly benefit a total of 238,231 people, including 121,497 men (40% of total male population) and 116,734 women (38% of total female population) in Fiji's GSR. (See Annex 2d for the estimated direct and indirect beneficiaries.)

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

B.1. Climate context (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

Local context

14. Fiji is a 'small island, big ocean' nation in the Western Pacific Ocean with an estimated population of over 943,072 people living within 18,270 km^2 of habitable land.[16] Much of its geomorphology is characterized by its prominent Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) geography, traversing from the rugged mountain ranges to coral reefs and coastal mangroves. The mountainous regions of Fiji are primarily composed of volcanic rocks, while the coastal areas are dominated by calcium carbonate from coral reef deposits. Fiji's unique geography and location have resulted in a rich biodiversity with many endemic species. Its island geography has already undergone an extensive assessment of its vulnerability to climate change across the full spectrum of economic sectors, from coastal infrastructure to health.[17] These features highlight the exceptional value of its terrestrial and marine ecosystems as a centrally important resource base for maintaining climate resiliency in the fisheries, agriculture, forestry, and tourism sectors.

15. The ecosystems of Fiji, particularly coastal forests, coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves, constitute a significant resource base for livelihoods, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism, which are also relied upon for coastal protection. The ocean and coastal assets of the Melanesian region have an estimated annual economic value of at least USD 5.4 billion and a total ocean asset base estimated conservatively at USD 548 billion.[18] These critically important ecosystems support a diverse and extensive range of marine species and ecosystem services that provide numerous benefits to humans, including food, livelihoods, and protection against storm surges and sea level rise. Ecosystems such as coral reefs are also highly vulnerable to climate change and other human activities, causing rapid and unprecedented decreases in their extent, health, and abundance.

16. The GSR, a vital ecosystem and economic resource for Fiji, is also exposed to these threats. The GSR of Fiji is the third-longest barrier reef system in the world[19] and a critical resource for Fiji's people and economy. The GSR stretches over 200 km in length from the island of Vanua Levu to the Yasawa Islands.[20] It encompasses over 1,200 km² of reef systems, including the third-largest barrier reef system in the world.[21] The GSR is a diverse and complex ecosystem, featuring a high-value coral reef, two major deltas, mangrove systems, seagrass beds, and fish nursery grounds.[22] Four of Fiji's six major rivers drain into the reef, influencing the GSR's ecological processes and connectivity with the surrounding land and seascape.

Local climate

17. Fiji has a tropical marine climate characterized by minimal temperature variations between seasons and moderate average yearly temperatures which remain relatively constant throughout the year.[23] Fiji has distinct wet and dry seasons, with the wet season occurring from November to April and the dry season from May to October.[24] However, Fiji's climate is not uniform across the islands. Several factors influence its variability, including topography, ocean currents, land cover, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and other climate drivers.

18. The topography of the islands significantly influences Fiji's climate by creating distinct wet and dry zones. The windward (southeastern) sides of the mountains experience higher rainfall due to orographic

[16] Worldometers. *Fiji population.*
[17] *Ibid.*
[18] Jupiter, S. (2017). Melanesia's oceans are worth US$5.4 billion but are at environmental crossroads. *The Conversation.*
[19] World Wildlife Fund. *Status and trends of coral reefs and associated coastal habitats in Fiji's Great Sea Reef.*
[20] Landscape Finance Lab. (n.d.). *Great Sea Reef.*
[21] World Wildlife Fund. (n.d.). *Status and trends of coral reefs and associated coastal habitats in Fiji's Great Sea Reef.*
[22] Landscape Finance Lab. (n.d.). *Great Sea Reef.*
[23] Audley Travel. *Best time to visit Fiji | Climate guide.*
[24] World Bank. *Fiji: Climate data - historical*

precipitation, where moist air is forced to rise and cool, leading to condensation and rainfall. Conversely, the leeward (northwestern) sides of the mountains lie in the rain shadow and are therefore drier. This orographic effect results in pronounced variations in rainfall patterns across the islands.[25]

19. Ocean currents play a crucial role in shaping Fiji's climate. The South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ), a band of heavy rainfall caused by converging winds and rising air over warm waters, is the main rainfall-producing system for the region.[26] The SPCZ is closest to Fiji during the wet season, bringing increased rainfall and thunderstorm activity.[27] Changes in Pacific Ocean temperature gradients also influence rainfall patterns and the development of cyclones.[28] These gradients drive atmospheric responses that affect weather systems and contribute to Fiji's climate variability.

20. Land cover, particularly changes in vegetation, can also affect local climate conditions.[29] Deforestation, for example, can lead to changes in temperature and rainfall patterns. Forests play a vital role in regulating local climate by influencing evapotranspiration, soil moisture, and surface albedo. Changes in land cover can disrupt these processes and contribute to localized climate change.[30]

21. ENSO is a major driver of year-to-year climate variability in Fiji. ENSO has a strong influence on the position and strength of the SPCZ, which in turn affects rainfall patterns. During El Niño events, the SPCZ typically shifts northeastward, away from Fiji, resulting in reduced rainfall and potentially drier conditions.[31] Conversely, La Niña events tend to bring wetter conditions as the SPCZ moves closer to Fiji.[32] Fiji's climate is strongly influenced by the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which drives major year-to-year variability in rainfall, temperature, and extreme events. While ENSO is a natural phenomenon, emerging evidence indicates that climate change is amplifying its impacts, with strong El Niño events becoming more frequent and severe (e.g., 1982–83, 1997–98, 2015–16). These episodes have been directly linked to widespread drought, coral bleaching, mangrove stress, and heightened cyclone risk, while La Niña phases continue to trigger flooding, sedimentation, and coastal ecosystem degradation. Climate projections suggest that extreme ENSO events may double in frequency by 2100 under high-emission scenarios[33,34], meaning Fiji's ecosystems and communities will face more intense swings between droughts and floods, with limited recovery time between events. This compounding pressure is eroding the resilience of coral reefs, mangroves, and the coastal populations that depend on them for food security, livelihoods, and protection.

22. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is another climate driver that influences weather patterns in the Asia Pacific region, including Fiji.[35] The IOD interacts with ENSO to modulate rainfall and temperature variability. While positive IOD events generally lead to drier conditions in Australia and wetter conditions in East Africa, and negative IOD events have the opposite effect, it's important to note that negative IOD events tend to be weaker and have less severe impacts.[36]

[25] UCLA Fiji Dry Forest. *Physical geography - Fiji.*
[26] 350.org. *Current and future climate of the Fiji Islands.*
[27] Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP). (n.d.). *Current and future climate of the Fiji Islands.*
[28] Oceanographic Magazine. *Fiji: Ocean temperature record unlocked from coral.*
[29] Climate Change AI. *Detecting flooding in Fiji's croplands.*
[30] Kumar, S., Ram, K., Nand, S., Prasad, R., & Prakash, M. (2022). *Land use change and prediction for valuating carbon sequestration in Viti Levu Island, Fiji. Land, 11*(8), 1274.
[31] Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP). *Climate change in the Pacific | Volume 2: Country reports | Chapter 5: Fiji Islands.*
[32] Fiji Meteorological Service. *Fiji climate outlook.*
[33] Cai, W., Borlace, S., Lengaigne, M., Raftery, E. A., Collins, M., Vecchi, G., Timmermann, A., Grothe, P., Guillemin, A., Luo, J., & Wang, G. (2014). *Increasing frequency of extreme El Niño events due to greenhouse warming.* Nature Climate Change, 4(2), 111–116
[34] Cai, W., Santoso, A., Collins, M., et al. (2021) *'Changing El Niño–Southern Oscillation in a warming climate'*, Nature Reviews Earth & Environment, 2, pp. 628–644. doi:10.1038/s43017-021-00199-z.
[35] Aon. *Understanding climate phenomena in the Asia Pacific: El Niño-Southern Oscillation and the Indian Ocean Dipole.*
[36] Carbon Brief. *Why climate change will cause more 'strong' Indian Ocean Dipole events.*

23. Fiji is highly exposed to tropical cyclones, which usually occur during the November-April wet season. These cyclones can cause significant damage to infrastructure and communities, hindering economic growth and posing a risk to human life.[37] Understanding the factors that influence cyclone development and intensity is crucial for disaster preparedness and risk reduction in Fiji. In addition to ENSO and the IOD, other climate drivers contribute to Fiji's climate variability. These include the monsoonal trough, which brings increased rainfall during the wet season, and trade winds, which influence temperature and humidity.[38] These drivers interact with each other to create the complex and dynamic climate system of Fiji.

Project intervention area

24. The provinces Ra, Ba, Bua, and Macuata are four of Fiji's fourteen provinces, each with its unique characteristics. They were identified as the priority provinces for the project because of their proximity to, and inter-reliance on, the GSR. Each of these provinces contributes to the rich cultural and geographical diversity of Fiji. Fiji includes a significant number of river watersheds within its borders. The largest among them is the Rewa River watershed, covering an area of 3,092 km², which is about one-third of the total area of Viti Levu. Healthy watersheds are fundamental to human health and well-being.[39] In Fiji, rural communities largely depend on nearby water sources for consumption and other household activities. However, increasing development and poor land-management practices around watersheds can contribute to declines in water quality.[40] Poor land practices can contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases such as typhoid, leptospirosis, and dengue. These same poor land practices also negatively impact downstream freshwater and marine resources on which local people rely for food, livelihoods, and cultural practices.[41]

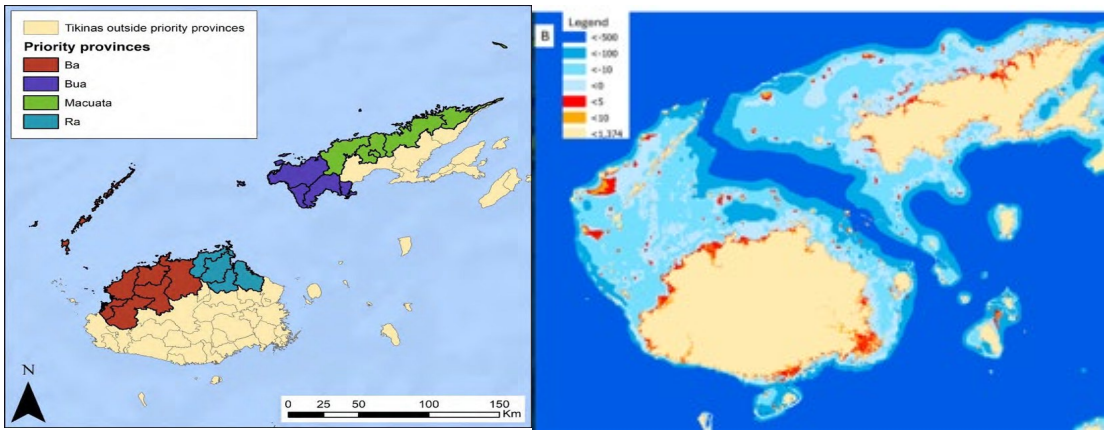


Figure 2. Priority Provinces and Tikinas of Fiji. Priority provinces in the current studies are shown as (1) Ba (Brown), (2) Ra (Green), Bua (Purple), and Macuata (light green), and are key elements of the Great Sea Reef. Tikinas outside of priority provinces are in cream color and were not part of the main study (*based on United Nations map*).

Figure 3: Stitched bathymetry and topography for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (see Methods for details). World Imagery Basemap from ArcGIS.

25. The GSR system in Fiji acts as a barrier reef to the northern coastlines of the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in Fiji. Like the rest of Fiji's coastlines, these are typical of tropical island coastlines. The offshore bathymetry in this region is characterized by a steep continental shelf with large extents of atoll, patch, barrier and fringing coral reefs in the nearshore including some inhabited reef islands. The mainland coastline is highly undulating with several hydrodynamically isolated bays separated by headland features. The coastal topography is characterized by a steep nearshore profile, climbing rapidly from 0 m above Mean Sea Level to higher than 10 meters.

Coastal Land-Use and Demographic Patterns

[37] World Bank. *Fiji - Vulnerability | Climate change knowledge portal.*
[38] *Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP). Climate, climate variability and change of Fiji Islands.*
[39] van der Meer, J., et al. (2021). Vulnerability of coastal ecosystems to climate change and rising sea levels. *Science, 374* (6570), 883-885.
[40] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2018). *Special report on global warming of 1.5°C.*
[41] WISH Fiji. (2021). *Watershed interventions for systems health in Fiji.*

26. The northern coastlines of Viti Levu are mostly comprised of small, sparsely populated communities near the coastline except for the city of Nadi in the east which is densely populated also contains Fiji's international airport. Most of the rest of the Viti Levu coastline consists of small coastal communities surrounded by grassland, agricultural fields and plantations (Figure 4). Mangrove forests are widely present on the coastline on both islands. The coastline of Vanua Levu is very sparsely populated relative to Viti Levu, with mangroves, grassland and cropland dominating the coastal floodplain. The dense networks of roads and most of the population in this region lie within the 10 m elevation contour, with about 40% of the population residing below the 5 m elevation contour.

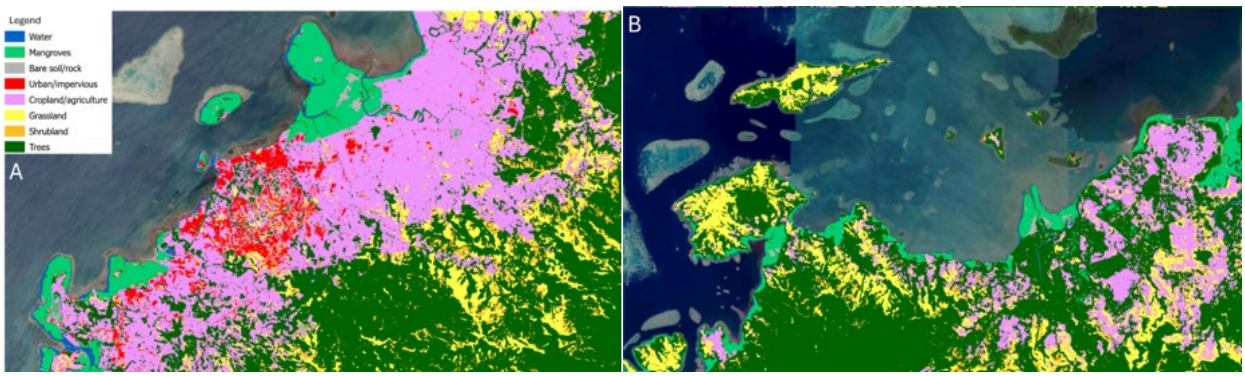


Figure 4: Land use patterns in Top (A): North-eastern Viti Levu, Fiji and Bottom (B): north-eastern Vanua Levu. World Imagery Basemap from ArcGIS.27 (*based on United Nations map*).

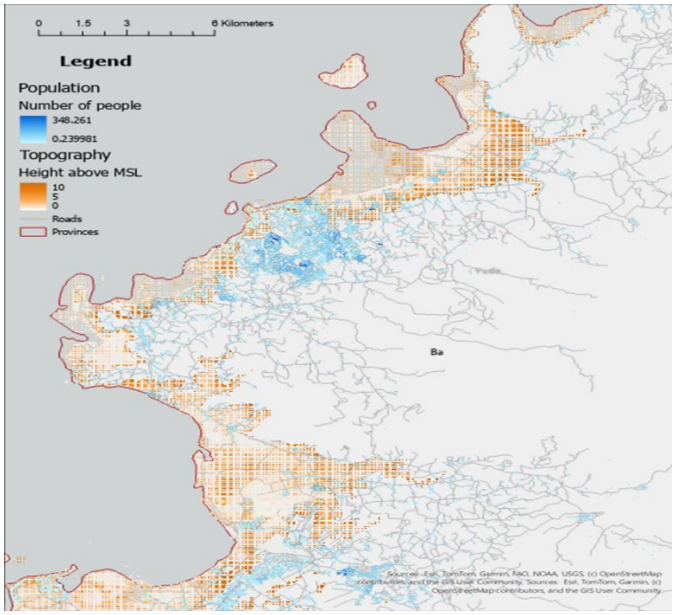


Figure 5: Distribution of bathymetry (orange shades), population (blue shades) and roads (grey lines) in Ba Province, Viti Levu. Light Gray Canvas Basemap from ArcGIS (*based on United Nations map*).

Climate change problem

27. Fiji has made significant strides in economic growth and development over recent years. However, the country continues to grapple with challenges brought on by climate change including sea level rise, flooding, and damage brought on tropical storms. The degradation of terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems in Fiji including the GSR is driven by various non-climatic factors including overfishing, unplanned and unstainable coastal development, and watershed sedimentation and pollution, leading to a decline in the health of coral reefs. These threats are compromising and reducing the efficiency of Fiji's GSR's in providing essential ecosystem services buffering local communities against increased instances of extreme events and intensifying climate change. Details on the impacts of these threats on Fiji's GSR are described in further detail in Annex 2a Section 2.2. These threats leave Fiji highly vulnerable to climate

change impacts, including sea-level rise, coastal flooding, increased cyclone intensity, and changing rainfall patterns.[42] These impacts pose significant risks to the country's economy, infrastructure, and livelihoods. More than 75% of Fiji's population lives in coastal areas, with total dependence on the coastline.[43] Fiji is one of the world's most vulnerable nations to climate change and climate-related disasters, with key vulnerabilities in its subsistence agriculture sector, coastal and marine resources (including coral reefs), freshwater resources, and land management.

28. The National Climate Vulnerability Assessment (NCVA[44]) pointed out that the average annual loss of assets due to tropical cyclones and floods alone is estimated to be more than USD 500 million annually, equivalent to more than 5% of Fiji's GDP. Additionally, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates that 3,614 Fiji inhabitants are being displaced annually due to storm surges.[45,46] Additionally, by 2050, Fiji's annual losses due to extreme weather events could reach 6.5% of GDP because of the impacts of climate change, with more than 32,000 people pushed into poverty every year.

29. The health of the GSR is inextricably linked to the well-being of coastal communities in Fiji. Direct quantitative measures in Fiji may be limited,[47] but global studies demonstrate a strong correlation between coral reef health and community well-being.[48] Healthy coral reefs provide food security, economic opportunities, coastal protection, and cultural identity. Reef degradation can lead to declines in fish stocks, impacting food security and nutrition; a decline in tourism revenue, impacting livelihoods and economic stability; increased coastal vulnerability to storms and erosion, leading to damage to infrastructure and loss of property; and the erosion of cultural connections and community well-being.

30. The relationship between the GSR and coastal communities extends beyond economic or ecological dependencies. The reef is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of Fijians, shaping their traditions, beliefs, and sense of place.[49] For generations, coastal communities have relied on the GSR for sustenance, income, and cultural practices.[50] This interconnectedness highlights the importance of considering the social and cultural dimensions of reef conservation, recognizing that the well-being of communities and the health of the reef are inseparable.

Observed climate change

31. Over the past 40 years, numerous coastal regions, including many in Fijian waters, have witnessed the loss of ecosystems such as corals, mangroves, seagrass and coral reef,[51] many of which are being overwhelmed by shorter and shorter return periods between extreme events such as intense marine heat waves, storm surge, and mortality events.[52,53] These mortality events directly result from human-driven climate change (i.e., ocean warming and acidification). They are exacerbated by other factors such as ocean acidification, overfishing, rapid sea level rise, and declining water quality.[54] The Global Climate Risk Index has ranked Fiji as 15th among countries facing high disaster risk due to its exposure to extreme events, such as storms, flooding and sea-level rise. In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'), numerous international organizations collaborate through the UNSG platform to formulate conventions, resolutions, frameworks,

[42] World Resources Institute. (n.d.). *Profiles of adaptation: Fiji.*
[43] Commonwealth. (n.d.). *How Fiji is turning to nature to cope with climate change.*
[44] YouTube (n.d.)
[45] Kumar, L., & Jayasinghe, S. (2020). Climate change impacts on Pacific Island fisheries and aquaculture: A review. *Frontiers in Climate, 2,* 579715.
[46] *Ibid.*
[47] Living Oceans Foundation. (n.d.). *New report on Fiji's reefs.*
[48] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (n.d.). *Coral reef ecosystems.*
[49] Coral Triangle Initiative. (n.d.). *The surprising connections between coral reefs and human health.*
[50] WWF. (n.d.). *Fiji's Great Sea Reef: The first marine biodiversity survey.*
[51] Souter, D., Planes, S., Wicquart, J., Logan, M., Obura, D., & Staub, F. (Eds.). (2021). Status of coral reefs of the world: 2020. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and International Coral Reef Initiative.
[52] Hoegh-Guldberg, O., et al. (2017). Coral reefs under rapid climate change and ocean acidification. *Nature, 546* (7656), 82–90.
[53] Hughes, T. P., et al. (2017). Coral reefs in the Anthropocene. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 42,* 1–29.
[54] *Ibid.*

proclamations, and acknowledgements. These efforts aim to observe and project changes in future baselines, impacts, and extreme events, that threaten its infrastructure, people, ecosystems, and livelihoods.[55,56] See Section D3 for more details on how the project aligns with the SDGs.

32. Fiji has seen an increase in the frequency of wet days, rising from an average of 233.3 days annually in 1980 to 2020 with a statistically significant growth of 16.43 days per decade. Wet days now range between 244.51 and 270.02 annually. Rainfall intensity shows a mixed trend. The average annual rainfall intensity was 10.23 mm/day, but this has seen a slight, statistically insignificant decline of -0.27 mm/day per decade, now ranging between 9.42 mm/day and 10.26 mm/day. Peak single-day rainfall events occur in elevated regions, with extreme daily totals reaching up to 150 mm, and the same regions also experience the highest 5-day rainfall accumulations. More details on current flooding and rainfall characteristics can be found in Annex 2a Section 5.2.1.

Table 1. Change in rainfall from 1980-2020

	Precipitation (mm)	**Wet days**	**Rainfall intensity (mm/day)**	**Vapour Pressure (hPa)**	**SPEI**	**Potential Evapo-transpiration (mm/day)**	**Water stress**
Mean 1980-2020	2 380.12	233.30	10.23	24.30	-0.08	3.90	0.27
95% confidence interval	2389.91 - 2707.58mm	244.51 - 270.02 days	9.42 - 10.26mm/day	24.41 - 24.7hPa	-0.06 - 0.51	3.89 - 3.93mm/day	0.28 - 0.31%
Statistical Trend	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Significant
Tend (change per decade)	4.52%	16.43 days	-0.27mm/day	0.21hPa	0.04	0.01mm/day	0.04%

[55] World Bank. *Fiji country profile.*
[56] DFAT. *Pacific risk profile: Fiji.*

33. Fiji is vulnerable to extreme weather events, including cyclones, floods, droughts, erosion, and landslides. These events are increasingly being attributed to human-driven climate change. In 2012, Fiji experienced severe flooding that caused widespread damage to infrastructure and agriculture. The flooding was caused by heavy rainfall and storm surges, which affected many low-lying areas.[57] Vunidogoloa, located on the shores of Vanua Levu, has the unfortunate distinction of being one of the first communities in the world to be relocated as part of a government-planned relocation due to climate change. The village is reportedly a 'ghost town', as former residents have been moved to a new village 2 km away (at a higher elevation). Vunidogoloa is one of six Fijian villages that have already been moved because of the impacts of climate change, and dozens more have been identified for future relocations despite the deep cultural ties of villages to their lands.

34. The coastlines of northern Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are impacted by tropical cyclones and flooding from storm surges during these cyclones on a regular basis. Between 1964 and 2021, 43 storms passed within 100 kilometers from the Fiji coastline. Tropical cyclone intensities are often expressed as a recurrence interval, or annual percent chance of occurrence, with the less frequent storms typically causing higher storm surges. In Fiji, tropical cyclone Winston in 2016 was the most severe of all historic cyclones to make landfall, with a minimum pressure of 884 hPa and a maximum sustained windspeed of 278 km/hr, corresponding to a ~1% annual storm by wind-speed. Two other storms also caused flooding on these coastlines. These were tropical cyclone Evan in 2012 corresponding to a ~2% storm, and more recently, tropical cyclone Yasa in 2020, corresponding to a ~6% storm (Table 2). Two other cyclones that were also severe in terms of wind speed, Sina in 1990 and Tomas in 2010, did not cause as much damage from storm surges on these coastlines due to their tracks remaining a considerable distance offshore of the two main islands.

Table 2: Top five ranked historical storms in Fiji between 1964 - 2021. *Storms selected for flood analysis

Storm	Max Wind speed (kt)	Min pressure (mb)	Category	Year	Rank	Return Period (yrs)	Annual % Chance	Landfall in Fiji
WINSTON *	155	907	H5	2016	1	85	1.2	Yes
EVAN*	125	929	H4	2012	2	43	2.4	Yes
YASA*	120	943	H5	2020	3	28	3.6	Yes
SINA	115	0	H4	1990	4	21	4.8	No
TOMAS	115	937	H4	2010	5	17	5.9	No

35. Tropical cyclones usually affect Fiji between November and April, and occasionally in October. In the 42 years between the 1969 and 2010 seasons, 117 tropical cyclones developed within or passed through Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone, an average of 28 per decade. The number of tropical cyclones varies widely yearly, with none in some seasons but up to six in others. Category 1 and tropical depressions are the most common from 1975 to the present. However, there has been a noted decrease over time in the depressions within 200km. There has also been a recent increase in the number of severe category 5 events with the only 2 since before 1975 occurring since 2010. There has also been an increase in the annual storm maximum windspeeds since 1970 to the recent years with speeds increasing from ~74km/h to above 90 km/h.

[57] IPCC. (2021). *Summary for policymakers.* In *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis.*

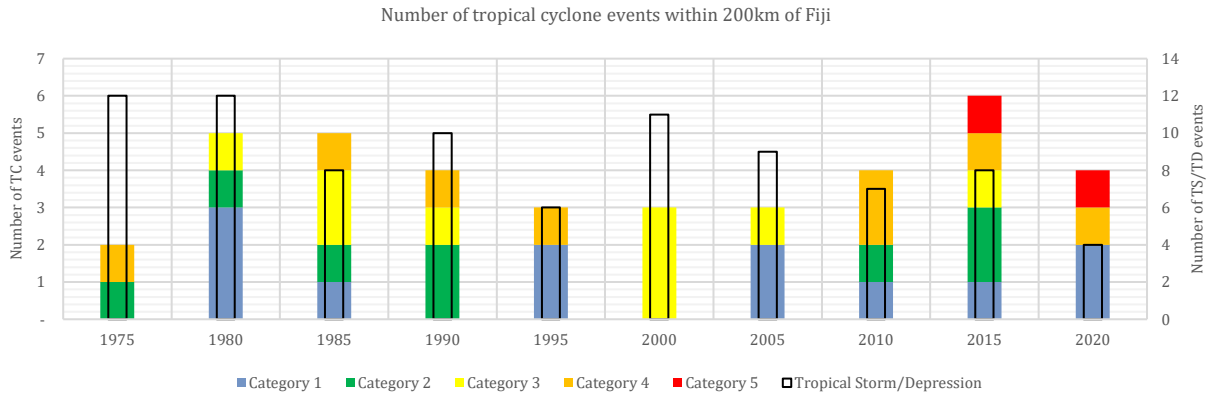


Figure 6. Change in tropical cyclone category occurrence

36. Fiji has experienced significant warming trends in recent decades, with all key temperature indicators showing clear upward trajectories. Between 1980 and 2020, the national minimum temperature averaged approximately 21.29°C, increasing at a statistically significant rate of 0.19°C per decade (Table 3). Similarly, the national mean temperature averaged 25.09°C, rising by 0.14°C per decade, while the maximum temperature, which averaged 28.91°C, increased at a slightly slower pace of 0.10°C per decade. Extreme temperatures in Fiji exhibit a similar spatial pattern to average maximum temperatures. The peak monthly temperatures reach between 28°C and 33°C. This region records below 10 days annually where temperatures exceed 35°C and has seen single-day temperature extremes surpassing 31°C. Warm spell durations last up to 12 consecutive days. More detail on changes in temperature can be found in Annex 2a Section 5.2.2.

Table 3. Change in temperatures from 1980-2020

	Minimum Temperature (°C)	**Mean Temperature (°C)**	**Maximum Temperature (°C)**	**Diurnal Temperature Range (°C)**
Mean 1980-2020	21.29	25.09	28.91	7.63
95% confidence interval	21.42 - 21.64°C	25.15 - 25.32°C	28.91 - 29.08°C	7.38 - 7.57 days
Statistical Trend	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
Trend (change per decade)	0.19°C	0.14°C	0.1°C	-0.09°C

37. Fiji, as a small island developing state, is highly susceptible to the impacts of rising sea surface temperatures, mean sea level rise, and storm surges.[58] These changes have significant implications for the island nation's environment, economy, and society. Recent research indicates that sea surface temperatures in Fiji are at their highest point in over 600 years, with 2022 being the warmest year since 1370.[59] This warming trend, largely attributed to anthropogenic activities, has far-reaching consequences, notably its influence on the ENSO, a key driver of global climate variability. Mean sea level rise is another critical concern, with satellite data indicating an increase of about 6 mm per year since 1993, a rate that surpasses the global average and highlights Fiji's vulnerability to this phenomenon.[60] This rise is primarily driven by the thermal expansion of ocean water and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. From 1993 to the present, sea level has risen by 29 cm.[61] Projections indicate a potential sea level rise of 0.5-1.2 meters by 2100, with more pessimistic scenarios suggesting even

[58] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). *Small islands.*
[59] ScienceDaily. (2024, September 18). *Sea surface temperature record in the southwestern Pacific: Coral.*
[60] 350.org. (2014, January). *Current and future climate of the Fiji Islands.*
[61] NASA. *Sea level summary for Suva, Fiji.*

higher levels.[62] Furthermore, official reports from the Fiji government indicate that sea level rise around the country, measured by satellite altimeters from 1992 to 2023, was between 4-5mm/yr.[63] A sea level monitoring station at the Lautoka Wharf recorded a relative sea level trend of 4.3mm/year between 1993 to 2023.[64] Storm surges, exacerbated by rising sea levels and potentially increasing cyclone intensity, also pose a significant threat to Fiji. While the frequency of tropical cyclones affecting Fiji may decrease in the future, their intensity, and consequently the risk of storm surges, may increase.[65] These changes have led to coastal erosion, flooding, and damage to infrastructure, with some communities already experiencing displacement and loss of livelihoods.[66] The long-term impacts of these climate-related changes are far-reaching, with potential consequences for freshwater resources, marine ecosystems, and the overall socio-economic well-being of Fiji.

38. Mean Annual Sea Surface temperatures go back to 1901, with the trend accelerating in recent decades. The warmest sea temperatures (1983-2023) increased at a slower rate (~1°C) compared to that of the coolest annual temperature records (1.2°C), confirming other studies where winter is warming at a faster rate than summer. Temperature is a strong driver of change and is critical for life. The complexity and structure of reefs provided by warm-water reef-building corals help explain the large number of species (biodiversity) associated with this coral reef.

39. Fiji's ocean temperatures have shown a clear and concerning trend of warming over recent decades. From 1980 to 2020, the observed average sea surface temperature was approximately 27.58°C. However, this period also exhibited a statistically significant warming trend of 0.36°C per decade, underlining the impact of global climate change on the region's marine environment. When examining monthly averages, the data reveals that the lowest and highest monthly temperatures have also increased over time. During the 1980-1990 period, the lowest average monthly temperature was 24.83°C, and the maximum was 29.19°C. By 2010-2020, these values had risen to 25.19°C and 29.85°C, respectively. This upward trend in sea surface temperatures has significant implications for Fiji, particularly for its marine ecosystems, weather patterns, and coastal communities. Warmer seas contribute to coral bleaching, which threatens vital reef systems, while also increasing the intensity of extreme weather events such as cyclones.

40. Sea level rise is transforming in terms of low-lying ecological systems and delta systems that are typical of Fiji. They are not only transformative in terms of what can live there but also in terms of exacting a massive impact on food production. With almost no exception, food production will have to be transferred up the mountain slopes (i.e., R2R) which will put pressure on other ecosystems and subsequently create a domino effect of change. From 1980 to 2020, Fiji experienced a steady increase in sea levels, with an observed rise of approximately 0.025 meters per decade. On average, this amounted to a sea-level increase of 0.016 meters over the entire historical period. The highest annual average sea level recorded during this time was 0.07 meters, underscoring a relatively modest but consistent upward trend.

[62] Earth.Org. *Sea level rise projection map – Fiji.*
[63] Fiji Meteorological Service. (2023, December 24). *Highlights.*
[64] The Fiji Times. *Sea level rise real.*
[65] World Bank. *Climate risk country profile.*
[66] ReliefWeb. *The grim reality of loss and damage in Fiji.*

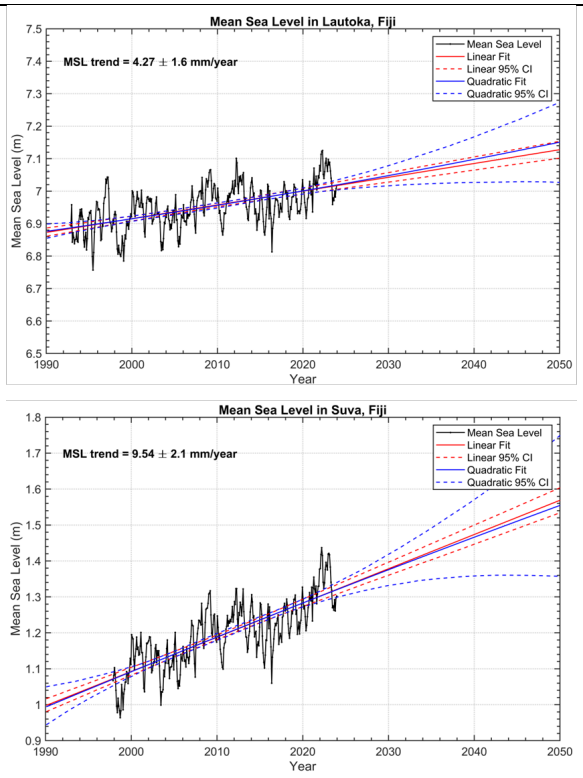


Figure 7: Top: Historic mean sea-level trend and forecast for Lautoka tide gage, Viti Levu.

Bottom: Historic mean sea-level trend and forecast for Suva tide gage, Viti Levu, Fiji.



Figure 8: Maximum flood extent from Hurricane Winston on a 2014 historic mean sea-level (*based on United Nations map*).

41. Fiji is particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification due to their high dependence on coral reefs and marine resources.[67,68] Coral reefs are vital for the livelihoods, food security, and coastal protection of Fijian people. In Fiji, data show that since the 18th century, the level of ocean acidification has been slowly increasing. The pH of the ocean surrounding Fiji has decreased by 0.06 pH units since the beginning of the industrial era, and the current rate of decrease is about 0.02 units per decade. By 2050, the pH of the tropical Pacific Ocean is projected to decrease by a further 0.15 units from the historical 1986–2005 period. This rapid increase in acidity is leaving marine life with little time to adapt.[69] Although our understanding of ocean acidification in Fiji is growing rapidly, it is estimated that it could take approximately 10,000 years for coral reefs to recover from the current levels of acidification.

42. See Annex 2a: Feasibility Study for further details on the site-specific historical climate impacts.

Projected climate baseline and extremes

43. Fiji is vulnerable to climate change. Rising sea levels, intensified storms, and disruptions to agriculture (from heat and flooding) are among the challenges faced by this South Pacific nation. Heat stress and disease increase as average global temperatures rise, while severe storms damage infrastructure. Additionally, the intrusion of saltwater as sea level increases harms existing farmland in coastal areas. On Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, these climate threats are projected to cause economic damages of up to USD 52 million per year, equivalent to roughly 4% of Fiji's gross domestic product.[70] Urgent action is essential to address these challenges and protect vulnerable communities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) in 2021.[71] The report includes global and regional climate projections and scenarios, which are based on the consensus of key future scenarios.[72,73]. For Fiji, specific climate projections are provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment

[67] Commonwealth Secretariat. (n.d.). *Case study: Building local and regional resilience through the Pacific partnership on ocean acidification, Pacific Islands.*
[68] United Nations. (n.d.). *United Nations in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.*
[69] SPREP. (n.d.). *Pacific islands ocean acidification vulnerability assessment.*
[70] UNFCCC. (2021). *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from Fiji.*
[71] SPC. (2020). *Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Project.*
[72] FAO. (2021). *Fisheries management and laws in Fiji.*
[73] World Bank. (2021). *Fiji country report.*

Program (SPREP). This report, titled 'NextGen' Projections for the Western Tropical Pacific: Current and Future Climate for Fiji', is used here to provide detailed climate projections for Fiji.[74]

44. The future climate changes suggest an increase in maximum temperatures of between 0.2-0.8°C under the SSP2 scenario from 2020-2040. There is however less certainty in the direction of changes in future rainfall anomalies with some models suggesting a decrease of up to 10% will others show an increase of +11%. There are more certainty of the peak single-day temperatures and the warm spell duration with both showing increases in the future.

45. The inconsistency in future rainfall is also translated to the rainfall characteristics. The peak single-day rainfall anomaly and the average single-day rainfall intensity models mostly show decreases in the future; there is however high variability among the models. Likewise, the number of wet days has models that show an increase of up to 18 days annually, but most of the models indicate decreased wet days with a median of ~1 day less annually. The SPEI range shows most models indicating a negative future value indicating future drought scenarios. There is however some small variability in these models.

46. Fiji's rainfall projections for 2020–2050 under SSP2-4.5 highlight a nuanced interplay between decreased annual totals, increased variability, and shifting rainfall extremes. While the overall drying trend is modest, the potential for longer dry spells, more severe droughts, and localized reductions in wet days could challenge water availability and ecosystem stability. Adaptive measures focusing on water conservation, climate-resilient agriculture, and improved disaster preparedness will be essential to mitigate these impacts.

47. Under the SSP2-4.5 climate scenario, Fiji's rainfall patterns from 2020 to 2050 are expected to exhibit both subtle decreases in overall precipitation and changes in the intensity and distribution of extreme rainfall events. These changes, while largely not statistically significant, highlight trends that could have important implications for water resources, agriculture, and disaster risk management.

48. Climate projections for Fiji suggest a complex picture of rainfall changes in the coming decades. While the overall trend for annual rainfall shows a slight decrease of 0.29% -0.51% per decade (equivalent to 7.54 mm less per decade), this decrease is not statistically significant. This means that while a slight reduction in average annual rainfall is projected, it's not yet certain. The average annual rainfall for the period 2015-2035 is estimated to be around 2,618 mm, with a 95% confidence range of 2,561.32 – 2,674.35 mm per year. Looking further ahead, the projected annual rainfall for 2020-2050 is estimated to be 2,600 mm.

49. The most significant change is projected in the peak monthly rainfall magnitude. This is expected to increase by 2.87 mm per decade, and this trend is statistically significant. This suggests that Fiji can expect to see more intense monthly rainfall totals in the future, with the average peak monthly rainfall for 2015-2035 estimated to be around 489mm and a 95% confidence range of 478.1 - 499 mm.

50. Climate projections for Fiji indicate a complex scenario for drought, dry spells, and humidity changes in the coming decades. The Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI), a key indicator of drought conditions, shows a statistically significant decrease of -0.01 SPEI per decade. This trend suggests that Fiji can expect more severe and frequent droughts in the future.

51. Despite the projected increase in drought severity, the number of consecutive dry days is not expected to change significantly. The average number of consecutive dry days is projected to remain around 11.29 days, with a 95% confidence range of 10.96 - 11.61 days. This suggests that while droughts may

[74] FELA. (2018). *Protecting Fiji's Great Sea Reef and seascape.*

become more severe, the length of individual dry periods might not change drastically. More detail on projected changes in rainfall can be found in Annex 2a Section 5.3.1.

Table 4. National level Projected change in rainfall from 2020-2050

	Precipitation	**1-Day max rainfall**	**5-Day max rainfall**	**1-Month max rainfall**	**Days above 20mm rainfall**	**Days above 50mm rainfall**	**Consecutive Wet Days**	**Consecutive Dry Days**	**Drought index**	**Relative humidity**
Mean 2020-2050	2212.68	85.97	206.14	432.51	24.70	4.07	48.21	12.42	0.08	80.96
95% confidence interval	2175.18 - 2250.18 mm	84.33 - 87.62mm	202.69 - 209.59 mm	426.09 - 438.93 mm	24.1 - 25.31 days	3.93 - 4.22 days	46.83 - 49.58 days	12.21 - 12.62 days	0 - 0.15	80.9 - 81.03%
Statistical Trend	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Trend (change per decade)	-0.51%	1.75mm	3.46mm	3.52mm	-0.005 days	0.0745 days	-0.38 days	0.16 days	-0.01	0.07%

52. Although the frequency of cyclones affecting Fiji is projected to decrease overall, there is considerable uncertainty in predicting future cyclone trends due to the complex interplay of various factors like ocean temperatures, wind patterns, and atmospheric conditions.[75] The IPCC highlights the following projected changes in the South Pacific:
    - Total hurricane activity is projected to decrease with a likely (67% confidence) 0% to -50% range with a median of ~25%. This is in line with the average for the southern hemisphere.
    - The changes to more intense Category 4 and 5 tropical cyclones are anticipated to be negligible.
    - There will be a slight disparity in the lifetime duration of the maximum intensity achieved in a tropical cyclone event with the ranges between +5 and -5% but a median showing no changes.
    - There is projected to be an increase in the precipitation rate associated with these hurricane events of up to 10%, suggesting an increase in average rainfall intensity. This trend of increasing intensity is consistent with global observations, where warmer ocean temperatures provide more energy for cyclone development.[76] Projections also suggest a possible shift in the distribution of cyclones due to the warming environment.[77]
    - There is only low confidence in the IPCC projections for future tropical cyclone activity in the area. While the overall frequency of tropical cyclones in the region is uncertain, the intensity of the rainfall and possibly the wind speeds associated with these cyclones are projected to rise, leading to stronger winds, heavier rainfall, and higher storm surges.[78]

[75] World Bank. (n.d.). *Climate risk country profile: Fiji.*
[76] World Bank. (n.d.). *Fiji - Tropical cyclones - Projections.*
[77] Kumar, L. (2013). *Impacts of tropical cyclones on Fiji and Samoa.* NASA ADS.
[78] Knutson, T. R., et al. (2020). Tropical cyclones and climate change assessment: Part II. Projected response to anthropogenic warming. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 101*(3), E303–E322.



Figure 9: Maximum potential future flood extent across 22 modelled storm tracks for an AD 2040 Mean Sea-Level under an SSP 2-4.5 climate scenario (*based on United Nations map*).

53. Fiji's future climate is likely to be characterized by more frequent and prolonged warm spells, hotter days and nights, and an overall increase in temperatures. Climate projections for Fiji indicate a clear warming trend in the coming decades. All temperature indicators, including maximum, mean, and minimum temperatures, show statistically significant increases. Maximum temperatures are projected to rise by 0.162°C per decade, with an average maximum temperature of 27°C for the period 2015-2035. This warming trend is expected to continue, with a projected maximum temperature of 27°C for the period 2020-2050. Similarly, mean temperatures are also projected to increase by 0.17°C per decade. The average mean temperature for 2015-2035 is 23.99°C, and this is expected to rise to 24.2°C for the period 2020-2050. Minimum temperatures are also showing a statistically significant increase of 0.16°C per decade. The average minimum temperature for 2015-2035 is 19.14°C, with a projected increase to 19.35°C for the period 2020-2050.

54. Fiji's future climate is projected to experience a significant increase in extreme temperatures, with several key indicators pointing towards hotter and more prolonged warm spells. One of the most notable changes is the projected increase in warm spell duration. The Warm Spell Duration Index is expected to rise by 31.55 days per decade, with a projected future value of 97.35 days for the period 2020-2050, up from an average of 58.1 days between 2015-2035. This statistically significant increase suggests that Fiji will experience longer periods of unusually high temperatures, potentially leading to heat stress and adverse effects on human health and ecosystems. Additionally, the peak single-day temperatures are expected to rise. The trend shows a statistically significant increase of 0.18°C per decade, with a projected future value of 29.51°C for 2020-2050, up from an average of 29.3°C for the period 2015-2035. More detail on projected changes in rainfall can be found in Annex 2a Section 5.3.2.

Table 5. National level projected change in temperatures from 2020-2050

	Minimum Temperature	**Mean Temperature**	**Maximum Temperature**	**Lowest Minimum Temperature**	**Highest maximum Temperature**	**Days above 25°C**	**Days above 30°C**	**Days above 40°C**	**Nights above 20°C**	**Warm Spell Duration Index**
Mean 2020-2050	23.06	25.33	27.59	18.22	30.10	337.52	20.67	0.51	325.41	97.19
95% confidence interval	23 - 23.12°C	25.26 - 25.39°C	27.52 - 27.65°C	18.13 - 18.32°C	30.03 - 30.17°C	335.5 - 339.54 days	18.02 - 23.32 days	0.42 - 0.61 days	323.99 - 326.84 days	84.09 - 110.29 days
Statistical Trend	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
Trend (change per decade)	0.18°C	0.18°C	0.19°C	0.22°C	0.21°C	5.47 days	7.99 days	0.28 days	4.16 days	39.99 days

55. Fiji's ocean temperatures are projected to continue warming throughout the 21st century, though at a slightly moderated pace compared to recent decades. From 2020 to 2050, the average sea surface temperature is expected to be around 28.59°C, with a statistically significant warming trend of 0.15°C per decade.

56. Sea Level Trends under the SSP2-4.5 emissions scenario see sea-level rise around Fiji is anticipated to accelerate significantly. Projections suggest an increase of approximately 0.061 meters per decade from 2020 to 2050, which is more than double the historical rate. The average sea-level rise over this future period is expected to average 0.156 meters between 2020-2050. Furthermore, the highest average annual sea level before 2050 is projected to rise sharply, reaching 0.26 meters.

57. Ocean acidification is projected to continue and will affect not only marine ecosystems but also the natural food chain.[79] The balance of marine life is disrupted as certain species struggle to survive in more acidic seawater, leading to shifts in species composition and potentially altering the entire.[80]

58. Coastal flooding in the projected future is likely to increase. Fiji's northern coastal regions will face increased flood risks due to sea-level rise (+0.15 m from 1992 levels) and intensified storm surges, with flood heights reaching up to 5 m. Modelling based on past severe cyclones (Winston, Evan, Yasa) shows widespread inundation, affecting ~1850 hectares of land, 800 buildings, and over 20% of roads. Without intervention, ~72,400 people will be directly impacted, with 128,700 indirectly affected.

59. The project has carried out a climate risk and vulnerability assessment of the four Great Sea Reef provinces, Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, to show how climate risk was measured and how it guided the choice of intervention locations. The assessment follows the risk framing of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, under which risk is the product of three factors working together: hazard, the physical climate threat such as flooding or storm surge; exposure, the people and assets that sit in the path of that threat; and vulnerability, how easily those people are harmed and how well they can recover, which reflects their dependence on climate affected livelihoods and their capacity to cope. A province is only at high risk when all three factors are high. Each factor was measured for the four provinces using indicators drawn from the storm surge model, the Feasibility Study, the community consultations held across the provinces in early 2024, the ESMF (Annex 6) and the most recent Fiji Bureau of Statistics census and household survey data. Every indicator was scored from 1 to 5 by ranking the provinces against each other, the rating for each factor is the average of its indicators, and the overall risk is the average of the three factor ratings. The three factors were given equal weight, because the IPCC framework treats them as equally important drivers of risk and because the site-specific data that would justify weighting one factor more heavily will be collected during implementation. The assessment works at the province level, which is the level the current data supports, while the precise siting of each intervention is confirmed during implementation through site validation activities. The results, summarized in the table below, show that Ba and Macuata carry the highest overall climate risk and accordingly receive the largest share of interventions, while Ra and Bua, though highly vulnerable, have fewer people exposed and receive investment scaled to that smaller exposed base. This province level ranking provides the evidence base for prioritizing interventions. The full assessment, including the hazard, exposure, and vulnerability tables and their supporting data, is presented in the Feasibility Study Annex 2a, Section 6.

[79] Koweek, D.A., Mucciarone, D.A., Giddings, S.N., Nickols, K.J., Takeshita, Y., Caldeira, K., & Dunbar, R.B. (2020). Physical and biogeochemical effects of a shoaling internal wave on a coastal reef system. *Frontiers in Marine Science, 7*, 543979.
[80] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (n.d.). Understanding ocean acidification. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*.

Table 6: Climate Risk Rating

Province	Hazard			Exposure	Vulnerability
Ba	largest flood extent, moderate river discharge, moderate flood prone land - **4.0**	largest exposed population, densest coast - **5.0**	least rural, farming and fishing dependent, moderate poverty - **3.0**	**High (4.0)**	Highest priority: 541 ha mangrove, 896 ha riparian, 3.29 km living shoreline (995 ha flood reduction; 24,014 direct).
Macuata	moderate flood extent, highest river discharge, low flood prone land - **3.3**	second largest exposed population, moderate density - **2.5**	moderate rural, farming and fishing dependent, high poverty - **3.5**	**High (3.1)**	Highest priority: 6.67 km living shoreline (446 ha flood reduction), 721 ha riparian, 102 ha mangrove (8,689 direct).
Ra	smallest flood extent, lowest river discharge, highest flood prone land - **2.3**	small exposed population, sparse density - **2.0**	heavily rural, farming and fishing dependent, moderate poverty - **4.0**	**Medium (2.9)**	192 ha mangrove, 424 ha riparian, 0.57 km living shoreline (1,913 direct).
Bua	small flood extent, low river discharge, high flood prone land - **2.7**	smallest exposed population, sparsest density - **1.0**	heavily rural, farming and fishing dependent, high poverty - **5.0**	**Medium (2.8)**	483 ha riparian, 1.46 km living shoreline (725 direct).

Most likely scenario without any climate action

60. Without climate action, Fiji will experience increasingly severe impacts from climate change, with widespread degradation of its coastal and marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass meadows. Rising sea levels, higher storm intensities, and extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, and droughts will cause irreversible damage to these ecosystems, undermining their ability to provide essential services like coastal protection, food security, and economic resources. Coral reefs, in particular, will face further bleaching, and coastal communities will experience heightened vulnerability to storm surges, flooding, and erosion, leading to the loss of land, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Water scarcity, saltwater intrusion, and pollution will exacerbate these challenges, making it difficult for communities to access clean water and sustain agriculture.

61. Social and economic impacts will be profound, with the most vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and coastal areas, facing increased poverty, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. Agriculture and fisheries, critical for Fiji's economy, will be severely impacted by changes in rainfall patterns and rising sea levels. Economic losses from cyclones and floods will escalate, pushing the country into deeper financial distress. Health risks, including the spread of waterborne diseases and heat-related illnesses, will rise due to extreme weather events. Without climate action, Fiji will face long-term environmental, economic, and social instability, and its development trajectory will be severely hindered.

Adaptation needs

62. The GSR has historically shown remarkable resilience to past climate variations, including cyclones and bleaching events.[81] This resilience may be attributed to a combination of factors, including the reef's location, oceanographic conditions, and the genetic diversity of its coral populations. Critically, the GSR's current resilience is also built upon traditional knowledge and past adaptation efforts, providing a strong foundation for further investment.[82] Traditional knowledge, passed down through generations, has enabled communities to adapt to environmental changes and develop sustainable practices.[83] This existing knowledge, combined with past adaptation efforts, has contributed to the GSR's current resilience.

63. The GSR's ability to withstand and recover from disturbances suggests that it could serve as a climate refuge for corals, offering hope for the survival of these vital ecosystems in the face of ongoing climate change. While the GSR has demonstrated resilience in the past, projected climate changes pose significant threats to its long-term health and the communities that depend on it. Climate change impacts are escalating, and even resilient communities can be overwhelmed if adaptation efforts stagnate.[84] Continued investment is crucial to maintain momentum and enhance existing resilience to withstand future climate shocks.

64. The proposed interventions — mangrove restoration, riparian buffer restoration, and living shorelines— are informed by global and local research demonstrating that improving water quality can significantly enhance the health and resilience of coral reefs.[85] For instance, mangroves and riparian buffers are natural filters that trap sediment and nutrients before they reach the reefs, while living shorelines help manage stormwater runoff and reduce the impact of flooding on coastal ecosystems and human populations, with secondary benefits for sediment trapping. These interventions target the root of coral reef degradation (a proactive approach) rather than the degradation itself – as opposed to interventions like coral gardening that are often expensive and ineffective if root causes are not addressed. This approach will ensure long-term benefits and increased climate adaptation from Fiji CRR from a R2R perspective. These strategies not only protect coral reefs by mitigating sedimentation and nutrient pollution but also provide co-benefits such as soil conservation, enhanced food security, and improved human health. By focusing on these nature-based solutions, we aim to create a sustainable and adaptive approach to coral reef conservation that supports both the environment and the local communities in Fiji. These interventions were also frequently mentioned during stakeholder consultations – particularly fishing pressure and flooding.

65. To directly respond to these threats to the GSR in Fiji and thus reduce the vulnerability of people to climate change impacts, a suite of adaptation interventions is required, including:
    - Ecosystem-based adaptation, including habitat restoration and protection
    - NbS interventions (living shorelines) construction

66. To achieve the above objectives, interventions within priority catchment areas of the four provinces of the GSR as well as within the GSR itself have been selected for the proposed project.

67. However, we note that there is an overlap between these categories, and certain interventions may address multiple aspects of these categories.

Table 7. An overview of nature-based solution interventions, focusing on ecosystem-based adaptation and living

[81] World Wildlife Fund (WWF). (n.d.). Depths unknown. *WWF Magazine*.
[82] *The Commonwealth. (n.d.). How Fiji is turning to nature to cope with climate change. The Commonwealth.*
[83] Balancing climate resilience and adaptation for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Building institutional capacity. (2024). *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*, 20(5), 1237-1249.
[84] Balancing climate resilience and adaptation for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Building institutional capacity. (2024). *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*, 20(5), 1237-1249.
[85] Naylor, R. L., et al. (2005). Marine policy and the environmental consequences of fisheries management. *Marine Pollution Bulletin, 50*(5), 1383–1396.

shorelines.

Threats	Adaptation intervention	Adaptation benefits
Climate change threats: • Flooding • sea level rise • storm surge • wave action	Mangrove restoration	• Erosion control • Wave attenuation • Flooding reduction • Habitats for wildlife (including fisheries)
	Riparian vegetation restoration	• Reduced peak stream flow • Reduced flood peaks during rainfall events • Reduced soil erosion • Reduced sediment deposition
	Living shorelines	• Erosion control • Wave attenuation • Flooding reduction
Threats to coral reefs reducing their ability to provide climate change adaptation: • Overfishing • Coastal development • Watershed sedimentation	Mangrove restoration	• Reduced sediment deposition on coral reefs • Preserving natural shorelines and buffer against climate change threats
	Riparian vegetation restoration	Reduced sediment deposition on coral reefs
	Community-based ecosystem management	Improving management and protection of ecosystems and preserve adaption benefits provide by healthy ecosystems
	FMPs	Reducing overfishing and damages to coral reefs

Related Projects and/or Interventions

68. Considerable investments are being made through public expenditure and donor-funded initiatives to enhance the resilience of Fiji's vulnerable communities and ecosystems against the impacts of climate change. Lessons learned and best practices from these investments have been incorporated into the design of the proposed project. This ensures the replication of successful techniques and complementarity with existing actions. The most relevant baseline projects that will be complemented by the proposed project are presented in Table 8 below. Additional projects and detailed information are provided in Annex 2a.

Table 8. Summary of the most relevant past and ongoing projects and investments that will be complemented by the proposed project. More details on relevant projects can be found in Annex 2a Section 6.1.

Project / initiative	Description
Forest and Landscape Restoration for Climate Benefits and Resilience in Fiji Implementer/Donor: FAO (Donor – GCF) Location: National project Timeline: Approved at GCF B.45	The project's objective is to enhance with a climate adaptive and holistic approach the resilience of Fiji's forest landscapes and communities through: (1) strengthened regulatory framework for climate responsive, integrated landscape management, (2) enhanced sustainable and resilient management of forests by stakeholders, and (3) strengthened financial mechanism for sustainability and scale-up. The project will include climate responsive land-use planning, technical assistance to produce climate adaptative seedlings, and community and farmer-led conservation. WWF has held multiples consultations with FAO and the GoF including the NDA-MECC and the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry (MoFF) to ensure alignment and complementarity between these two projects. The WWF Project will focus on coastal ecosystems including mangroves and in riparian areas in watersheds connected to the GSR and FAO will focus on upland forests and agricultural areas. Under the coordination of the

	NDA and MoFF, both projects will collaborate on their work in strengthening planning frameworks collectively covering Fiji's marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Both projects will ensure coordination and knowledge exchange through their PMUs. More details on specific areas of coordination have been included in Section B.4.
Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change Implementer/Donor: Conservation International (Donor – GCF) Location: Multi-country Timeline: Approved during B.41 February 2025	This project will strengthen resilience in tuna-dependent economies across 14 PICs by addressing food insecurity and economic risks from climate change. It will enhance access to tuna for coastal and urban communities, strengthen national fisheries systems, and improve forecasting to manage tuna redistribution. Activities include deploying Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), training fishers, improving post-harvest handling and market access, developing supportive policies, and applying science-based forecasts. Using a community-driven, inclusive approach, with active promotion of women's participation, the project ensures adaptation measures reflect local needs and traditional practices. This project will build resilience in tuna-dependent economies and communities by addressing food insecurity and economic risks caused by climate change. It will achieve this by enhancing access to tuna for coastal and urban communities, strengthening national fisheries systems, and improving forecasting to manage tuna redistribution effectively. Key activities will include technical support for Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) deployment, fisher training, post-harvest improvement; policy development, improved handling, and market opportunities; and using science-based forecasts and projections to reduce uncertainty in climate change-driven tuna redistribution. This project covers 14 PICs and uses a comprehensive programmatic approach to address food security and the economic stability of tuna fisheries. It prioritizes community-driven adaptation by deploying FADs, training fishers, and involving local stakeholders in decision-making. With women's participation actively promoted, this inclusive approach ensures adaptation measures will align with local needs and traditional practices.
Investing in Coral Reefs and the Blue Economy (GFCR) Implementer/Donor: Pegasus Capital (Donor – GCF) Location: Multi-country Timeline: Ongoing	The proposed project is highly complementary to the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), a flagship blended finance initiative for which GCF serves as an anchor investor with a USD 125 million contribution. In Fiji, the GFCR-funded Investing in Coral Reefs and the Blue Economy (ICRBE) program deploys concessional loans, performance-based grants, and technical assistance to reef-positive enterprises, including through the country's first Blue Lending Facility with the Fiji Development Bank. The two efforts address different segments of the same pipeline. ICRBE channels investment capital into enterprises that are already bankable or near-bankable. The proposed GCF project works upstream of that threshold, tackling the systemic barriers that keep early-stage enterprises from becoming investable in the first place - through support to business development service providers, capacity building for local financial institutions, and technical assistance to enterprises. The relationship is sequential rather than overlapping: the GCF project builds investment-ready enterprises and an ecosystem to serve them, while GFCR supplies the capital they ultimately need. Close coordination with GFCR partners will ensure alignment and maximize leverage across Fiji's reef-positive economy.

Fiji Coral Reef Resilience Programme – Hybrid Coastal Protection Project Preparation and Pilots Implementer/Donor: WWF-Fiji (Donor – DFAT) Location: Fiji Timeline: Ongoing	This DFAT-supported activity aims to strengthen the readiness and quality of climate-resilient coastal protection infrastructure — natural, built, and hybrid — for communities along Fiji's GSR. It has four components: (i) community-informed needs assessment and feasibility analysis of coastal risks, (ii) structured appraisal of grey, green, and hybrid options to strengthen decision-making, (iii) a small number of pilot interventions to test real-world performance and maintenance needs, and (iv) building a pipeline of investment-ready coastal protection projects aligned with national and provincial planning frameworks. The activity is explicitly positioned as an early-phase, preparatory complement to the ten-year Fiji CRR Project — DFAT funds the upstream feasibility and piloting work, while GCF Project delivers the longer-term ecosystem management and resilience outcomes. The stated intent is for DFAT financing to play a catalytic role: de-risking and validating interventions early so that subsequent GCF, Government of Fiji, and partner financing is directed toward solutions that are technically sound and economically viable, while also building community confidence through visible early pilots. USD 583,444 of the DFAT project budget will serve as direct co-finance for the GCF Project via WWF-Australia, with the remaining USD 560,000 budget counted as parallel/leveraged finance to the GCF project — funding the development of coastal protection pilots that will generate best-practice evidence to inform replication and scaling of similar interventions under the GCF project.	

B.2 (a). Theory of change narrative and diagram (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagram)

69. **IF:** NbS interventions are implemented in the GSR to reduce climate and non-climate threats to ecosystems and communities and updates in Fiji's planning documents support implementation and future public and donor finance in these solutions; management arrangements and plans are established and implemented for the GSR, and if access to finance for reef positive businesses can be enhanced; **THEN:** vulnerable communities in the GSR will benefit from interventions that reduce community vulnerability to sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding as well as land-based threats including sedimentation, coastal development, and overfishing threatening coral reefs; **BECAUSE:** the project will address the below mentioned barriers by demonstrating to key stakeholders the benefits and cost-effectiveness of NbS as public and private investments and foster an enabling environment for public sector reform to better withstand future instances of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding, and by strengthening government and community capacity to enhance resilience of key ecosystems and vulnerable communities to climate change impacts.

Target communities

70. The proposed project will target local communities connected to the GSR in Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata Provinces. The approximate 359,000 people living in these areas are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including sea level rise, coastal erosion, coastal and inland flooding, and damages from extreme events and are dependent on the proposer functioning of GSR to reduce threats to their physical and livelihood security.

Outcomes and co-benefits

71. The project will achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: The resilience of reef-reliant communities in Fiji's GSR is enhanced through EbA and NbS solutions.

72. This will be achieved through EbA interventions implemented to reduce sedimentation and protect communities from coastal flooding (Output 1.1) including: restoring 835 ha coastal mangroves (Activity 1.1.1) and 2,524 ha of riparian buffers (Activity 1.1.2) across the Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata provinces. Restoration of these areas will help reduce coastal flooding, stabilize embankments, and capture sediment entering river systems and reaching reefs. The interventions under Output 1.1 will enhance ecosystem functioning and the delivery of goods and services to vulnerable communities living in the GSR including protection from sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding and secure their livelihoods by restoring habitat for inshore fisheries. Outcome 1 will also be achieved through the development of living shorelines to reduce flooding and increase the resilience of Fiji's GSR (Output 1.2). The project will build 12 km of living shorelines (Activity 1.2.1) and benefit people along coastal areas of the GSR by providing cost effective structures to reduce damage from storms, wave action, and flooding to protect communities and the assets critical to their prosperity including homes, crops, and equipment.

73. Under this outcome, communities will also be supported to develop and implement EbA and NbS projects (Output 1.3) through: the establishment of a Locally Led Adaptation Fund (LLAF) Governance Structure and Operational Mechanism (Activity 1.3.1) for communities in the GSR with the goal of providing communities in Fiji with direct access to finance and more power in the decision-making in adaptation measures. The LLAF will disburse and manage financial grants to locally led and community designed adaptation projects (Activity 1.3.2) which aim to enhance coral reef and community resilience. By supporting local and community-led adaptation projects, the LLAF aims to increase adaptive capacities of people and reduce pressures on reefs from climate change and unsustainable human activities.

Outcome 2: An enabling environment and R2R ecosystem planning frameworks are conducive to the effective management and implementation of EbA, NbS, and living shorelines interventions within the GSR.

74. This will be achieved by establishing new management arrangements to reduce climate change vulnerability developed for the GSR (Output 2.1) by: developing operational procedures for creating and implementing a 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Use Management Plan for the GSR, which will include the establishment of a GSR Management Unit (MU) (Activity 2.1.1), preparation of a GSR Management Plan which will determine suitable land and seascapes uses to protect and restore the resilience benefits they provide (Activity 2.1.2), raising the capacity of national and provincial staff, as well as community leaders and representatives to implement the plan (Activity 2.1.3), and improve fisheries resource governance and use, with the aim of reducing pressure on local fisheries and coral reefs, through FMPs in 20 Qoloqolis (community fishing grounds) (Activity 2.1.4). Outcome 2 will also be achieved through the development of an evidence base to support the adoption of EbA and NbS interventions by GoF (Output 2.2). This output will be realized through developing an evidence-based case for the climate change adaptation benefits of EbA and living shorelines in Fiji (Activity 2.2.1), including an economic valuation of the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions. Once the evidence base has been generated, the project will develop and disseminate an evidence report to national and provincial government agencies for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in response to extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji (Activity 2.2.2). Finally, under Outcome 2, updated procedures for implementing EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem planning will be produced (Output 2.3), this will include updating the NAP, the NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in Fiji (Activity 2.3.1).

Outcome 3: Businesses that reduce threats to the GSR have improved access to commercial capital.

75. This will be achieved by: improving business development support for reef-positive businesses (Output 3.1), creating greater transparency in reef positive markets by creating coordination mechanisms and tools

for reef-positive enterprises, BDS providers, and lenders (Output 3.2). This will be achieved through improving institutional capacity of existing BDS providers in Fiji to support early-stage reef-positive businesses (Activity 3.1.1), the project will empower relevant national and provincial government institutions to encourage entrepreneurship and identify reef-positive enterprises (Activity 3.1.2), improve coordination among businesses, BDS providers, and financial institutions (Activity 3.2.1) and capacity development (Activity 3.2.2) to increase market transparency and resources to enhance business readiness to access finance, creating the governance structure.

76. These outcomes are designed to be mutually reinforcing and address interlinked ecological, social, institutional, and market barriers to resilience in the GSR. Outcome 1 establishes the biophysical foundation by restoring mangroves, riparian buffers, and living shorelines, which reduce sedimentation, flooding, and ecosystem degradation. These improved ecosystem conditions directly support Outcome 2, as healthier coastal and marine systems enhance the effectiveness of locally led adaptation efforts, while empowered communities to, in turn, contribute to the long-term maintenance and stewardship of ecosystems, reinforcing the sustainability of Outcome 1 interventions.

77. Outcome 2 also provides the governance and enabling environment that institutionalizes and scales these gains—strengthened management systems, spatial planning, and fisheries governance ensure that both ecosystem restoration and community-driven adaptation are coordinated, regulated, and sustained over time. At the same time, the evidence base generated under Outcome 2 informs policy and investment decisions, creating feedback loops that improve the design and targeting of EbA, NbS, and locally led adaptation interventions.

78. Outcome 3 complements these efforts by addressing economic drivers of ecosystem pressure, strengthening reef-positive businesses and improving access to finance. This creates market-based incentives that align livelihoods with conservation objectives, reducing unsustainable practices and generating alternative income streams. In turn, healthier ecosystems (Outcome 1) and improved governance (Outcome 2) create a more favorable environment for reef-positive enterprises, while increased community capacity (Outcome 2) enhances participation in and benefits from these economic opportunities.

79. Collectively, ecosystem restoration enables community resilience, community action sustains ecosystems, governance structures scale and institutionalize both, and market mechanisms provide the financial incentives necessary for long-term transformation. This integrated and mutually reinforcing design ensures a durable, system-level shift toward climate-resilient and sustainable management of the GSR.

80. The project will achieve the following co-benefits described in more detail in Section D.3 and Annex 2a Section 9.3:

- Co-benefit 1: Increased carbon capture from healthy well-functioning ecosystems. This co-benefit will be achieved by restoring 3,359 ha of degraded ecosystems (835 ha of coastal mangroves under Activity 1.1.1, and 2,524 ha of GSR watersheds under Activity 1.2.1). These mitigation co-benefits are described in further detail in Section D.1 of this Funding Proposal.
- Co-benefit 2: Improved biodiversity as a result of the project's EbA, living shorelines, and R2R management interventions in the GSR. This will include an estimated 5% increase in reef shark and ray populations in the GSR. These mitigation co-benefits are described in further detail in Annex 22.
- Co-benefit 3: Improved business development support results in increased percentage of women-led reef-positive business who have access to funding, leading to their empowerment. Under the project 30% of the businesses to be supported by the project will be women-led.

Barriers to the adaptation solutions

81. Barrier 1: Limited evidence of EbA and living shorelines as viable solutions to address climate change risks on vulnerable landscapes and seascapes in Fiji. In Fiji, there is limited consolidated, context-specific, and decision-useful evidence which demonstrates the benefits of NbS interventions as viable adaptation solutions to address climate change at a scale which impacts vulnerable landscapes and seascapes and, as a result, existing regulatory and planning frameworks do not sufficiently integrate these approaches in Fiji's strategic documents which direct public and donor climate efforts and finance. Fiji's reliance on its natural assets, and prominently the GSR, to sustain its fisheries and tourism industries require NbS solutions to climate change which reduce the vulnerability of people and communities and sustain the ecosystem services they provide.

82. Barrier 2: EbA, living shorelines, and R2R planning are not sufficiently integrated in Fiji's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP), and Provincial Adaptation Plans. Because there is limited evidence of EbA and living shorelines as viable adaptation solutions to climate change impacts on landscapes and seascapes in Fiji, they are not sufficiently included in the country's NAP, National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP), and Provincial Adaptation Plans. These plans therefore need to be updated to identify seascapes and landscapes with high vulnerability to climate change, determine a suite of viable adaptation solutions (with a priority for EbA and living shoreline which have high potential to provide sustained ecosystem goods and services to people and enhance biodiversity) and include EbA and living shorelines in R2R planning and management principals with a sufficient timescale and learning outcomes from past efforts to considerably reduce climate risks threatening communities and the GSR which is so critical for livelihood security in Fiji. A knock-on effect of this regulatory gap is that government staff in the MECC, MoAWSI, and Divisional Departments such as the Provincial Departments, as well as local communities, do not have sufficient and necessary technical and institutional capacity to implement, monitor, operate and maintain EbA and living shoreline interventions, nor do they have access to essential tools and technologies to conduct this work. Current restoration efforts are fragmented, are not implemented at a sufficient scale to achieve measurable ecosystem benefits which reduce community vulnerability and are not harmonized and coordinated under integrated plans for seascapes and landscapes. Past efforts have also failed to sufficiently consider future medium to long-term climate threats and scenarios. The GoF has also not had sufficient financial resources to implement EbA and living shorelines at the scale required to generate sufficient evidence of their potential to enhance climate resilience of people and nature and promote their adoption into future R2R planning. As a result, the country is unable to take full advantage of investing in EbA and living shorelines to enhance biodiversity, improve ecosystem services, and increase resilience of people and nature to climate change impacts.

83. Barrier 3: Lack of available finance for communities in Fiji to implement locally led adaptation approaches. There is currently insufficient finance available in Fiji for local communities in the four target provinces to access finance to implement locally led adaptation approaches (including EbA and living shorelines) to reduce the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods. This is largely because these communities (who are often involved in small-scale fisheries and subsistence farming to support their livelihoods and household income) do not have sufficient collateral to access finance from traditional banks and financial institutions (FIs). Communities also have limited capacity to prepare funding applications to access concessional finance from donors, philanthropies and other sources, which further limits pathways to finance. This problem is compounded by existing adaptation-focused programs being designed and implemented at the national level, resulting in missed opportunities for end beneficiaries to be involved in the decision-making, sustainable implementation, and monitoring of these programs, and leaving communities unable to access the necessary knowledge and technical assistance to adopt and implement adaptation approaches effectively. There is therefore an urgent need for concessional finance to be provided to these communities on the front lines of climate change impacts, not only to empower them to identify, design, implement and monitor adaptation solutions themselves, but also to connect community-driven adaptation strategies with national climate ambition to deliver on the targets set out in Fiji's NDC.

84. Barrier 4: Fiji's national policies have no accompanying plans and long-term operational procedures to execute EbA, living shorelines, and R2R plans in vulnerable landscapes and seascapes. To date, there are no sustained planning arrangements in the GSR for addressing increasingly frequent and severe SLR, coastal erosion and flooding brought on by climate change. There has also been no operationalization of the 2020 Climate Change Act's objectives in Fiji's vulnerable landscapes and seascapes, such as the GSR, with the necessary geographic scope, duration, and long-term operational procedures. As a result, the country remains locked into managing climate threats and disasters reactively without the necessary plans and managements arrangements involving government and communities. Despite strong policy commitments to reduce the vulnerability of its peoples to climate change hazards, Fiji's national policies currently lack the necessary plans and long-term operational procedures to effectively implement EbA, living shorelines, and R2R planning in vulnerable ecosystems. There is also a need for capacity building, regulatory and planning harmonization, and improved governance to provide a blueprint for how priority landscapes and seascapes, such as the GSR, can be properly managed to reduce communities' exposure to climate change threats while creating new economic opportunities. Past efforts have been made in the GSR to execute NbS and apply R2R management, but these efforts have been curtailed by the following factors: these efforts had short implementation periods which made it difficult to achieve sustained and measurable reductions in climate and non-climate threats in the target geographies. The scope of previous initiatives mostly focused on single watersheds rather than including necessary efforts across multiple provinces to fully address threats to the GSR's connected landscapes and seascapes. Finally, there was no clear exit strategy built into these past efforts for the GoF to assume key roles, responsibilities, and important country ownership over defining future operational arrangements once the projects were concluded.

85. Barrier 5: Limited access to capital for reef-positive businesses that reduce pressure on coral reefs and coastal ecosystems. Fiji has a growing pool of reef-positive businesses that positively address key drivers of reef degradation while enhancing benefits for local communities. These businesses, however, struggle to operate and scale due to limited access to capital. The financial institutions in Fiji, despite having high levels of liquidity, provide limited or no capital to such businesses, instead focusing on larger projects in tourism, coastal development and commercial agriculture. Small-scale reef-positive businesses are typically seen as not being investment-ready, lacking the formal structures, business plans, financial documentation, and market access that would make them attractive to lenders or investors.

86. While there is a growing network of business development support (BDS) providers in Fiji that work with businesses to improve their capacity and competitiveness, most existing BDS providers operate on short-term donor funding cycles and tend to prioritize businesses with proven track records and strong financial returns, making it difficult for the early-stage, often informal, small-scale reef-positive businesses to attract the business development support they need to formalize, grow and access commercial capital.

87. The Project addresses this barrier through a sequenced approach that considers different enterprise maturity segments and the expectations of financial institutions. Targeted BDS support is provided to early-stage reef-positive enterprises to address foundational gaps that prevent engagement with lenders and investors, including business formalization, development of basic business plans, financial record-keeping, governance structures, and market articulation. These enterprises typically do not meet minimum FI requirements to exist as formal legal entities or to demonstrate operational and financial discipline. The Project also actively strengthens linkages with MFIs, banks, and investors, while improving transparency and coordination among BDS providers, financial institutions, and public agencies, ensuring that enterprise readiness is translated into tangible access to commercial capital.

88. Over time, this approach is expected to unlock access to finance by creating a pipeline of reef-positive enterprises that are demonstrably bankable, thereby enabling financial institutions in Fiji to deploy existing liquidity toward nature-positive enterprises. The Project's exit strategy is therefore based on graduation to commercial finance.

89. More details on Project outputs, activities and sub-activities mapped against the barriers and risks they are designed to address can be found in Annex 2a Section 9.1.

Overcoming Barriers and Risks to Achieve Impact

90. The project will achieve these benefits through three interconnected components, described in detail in Annex 2a Section 9.1, which also articulates which project activities and sub-activities have been designed to address the described barriers and achieve the Theory of Change presented in Figure 10 below.

91. To address **Barrier 1**, the project will invest USD 24.9 million in implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions on the ground in four provinces connected with the GSR to reduce the impacts of increasingly severe sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding. This investment will accelerate climate innovation in Fiji by establishing proofs of concept for EbA and living shoreline interventions that provide evidence of their cost-effectiveness and efficiency, climate risk reduction benefits, and sustainability.

92. To address **Barrier 2**, the project will invest USD 6 million to develop long-term management arrangements for the GSR. This will include developing, operationalizing and implementing a GSR Management Plan managed by an MU. The MU will support communities, provincial governments, and national agencies in creating agreements which outline roles for each of these constituents including community and government functions for management of ecosystems. Barrier 2 will be further addressed through the development of accompanying FMPs in 20 community fishing grounds of the GSR.

93. The project will address **Barrier 3,** by establishing a National Working Group, to use the evidence report of the benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA and living shoreline interventions to formulate recommendations for amendments to Fiji's guiding strategy documents for climate change action and coral reefs in Fiji. The recommendations will include these solutions and enable the GoF to channel future public and donor finance to scale and replicate these approaches in other vulnerable areas, beyond the GSR.

94. The project will address **Barrier 4** by securing the uptake and application of EbA, living shorelines, and R2R reef planning in Fiji by national and provincial governments. This will be achieved by embedding PMU staff responsible for coordinating with and training project planners and technical staff within the MECC, other responsible agencies, and Divisional Departments on the requirements of the updated procedures and how to apply these procedures in the design and implementation of EbA and living shoreline interventions and R2R ecosystem planning and management in future country-driven projects.

95. **Barrier 5** will be addressed by investing USD 3.9 million to improve business development support for reef-positive businesses through improving the institutional capacity of existing BDS providers in Fiji. Additionally, the business environment for reef-positive enterprises will be strengthened through enabling effective coordination between relevant stakeholders and delivering capacity-building programs to support stakeholders to deliver effective support to businesses.

96. The project faces several risks that could affect implementation and outcomes. Further details on these risks and other operational risks to the project along with proposed mitigation measures are included in Section F.

Table 9. Risks to Project Implementation and Outcomes

Risks	Risk Mitigation Measures
(i) establishing new coordination mechanisms across national and provincial agencies may lead to delays or reduced effectiveness if mandates are not fulfilled, potentially	Government ownership and institutional alignment are ensured through the embedding of GSR Management Unit staff within the MECC and relevant coastal management

impacting successful O&M of NbS solutions, the development of the GSR Management Plan, and related regulatory harmonization.	agencies, consistent with past donor-funded projects in Fiji and advised by MECC itself. A National Working Group (NWG) — comprising representatives from key government ministries, provincial offices, communities, academia, and NGOs — will lead the integration of EbA and living shoreline approaches into Fiji's NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans. The Project Steering Committee and Divisional Oversight Committees will support NWG formation, secure buy-in, and drive decision-making at national and provincial levels. The National Project Director will oversee coordination to ensure timely establishment and operation of the NWG in line with the project implementation timetable.	
(ii) extreme climate events, such as cyclones, could disrupt implementation, limit site access for extended periods, and shift government priorities toward disaster response.	Government ownership and institutional alignment are ensured through the embedding of GSR Management Unit staff within the MECC and relevant coastal management agencies, consistent with past donor-funded projects in Fiji and advised by MECC itself. A National Working Group (NWG) — comprising representatives from key government ministries, provincial offices, communities, academia, and NGOs — will lead the integration of EbA and living shoreline approaches into Fiji's NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans. The Project Steering Committee and Divisional Oversight Committees will support NWG formation, secure buy-in, and drive decision-making at national and provincial levels. The National Project Director will oversee coordination to ensure timely establishment and operation of the NWG in line with the project implementation timetable.	
(iii) community engagement also presents a risk, as the high autonomy of local communities in Fiji means that tribal leadership may withdraw participation if sustained engagement is not maintained.	The project recognizes the importance of sustained and culturally appropriate community engagement, particularly given the high degree of autonomy held by tribal and local leadership in Fiji. To mitigate this risk, the project has embedded dedicated community engagement and gender functions within the GSR Management Unit, ensuring consistent, on-the-ground presence throughout implementation. Community engagement will be guided by a stakeholder engagement plan that accounts for local governance structures, traditions, and decision-making processes. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles will be applied throughout, with regular community consultations built into the project workplan to maintain trust and	

	transparency. The involvement of provincial government representatives and the NWG will further support ongoing dialogue between the project and community leadership, helping to ensure that activities continue to reflect community priorities and retain local buy-in over the project lifetime.
(iv) limited recognition by financial institutions of the investment value of reef-positive businesses- combined with a thin pipeline of investment-ready businesses- may constrain access to financing and hinder the scaling of these interventions.	This risk has two sides. On the enterprise side, the project works with very early-stage reef-positive businesses, so maturation is inherently uncertain - revenue models may stay weak and some enterprises may never reach the threshold at which finance becomes viable. The project mitigates this by building BDS programs tailored to early-stage businesses, sequencing support to build fundamentals first, and tracking readiness milestones so underperforming pipelines can be reprioritized early. On the institutional side, capacity building for local financial institutions will build familiarity with reef-positive business models and the tools to assess and underwrite them, reducing the perceived risk that constrains lending today. By developing investment-ready enterprises and an ecosystem to serve them, the project builds the pipeline that blended finance vehicles such as the GFCR-funded ICRBE program - including Fiji's Blue Lending Facility - can subsequently capitalize.

More details on Project outputs, activities and sub-activities mapped against the barriers and risks they are designed to address can be found in Annex 2a Section 9.1.

Assumptions

97. Key assumptions are listed below, with more detailed notes and assumptions presented as required in Section E: Logical Framework.
    - GoF maintains its commitment to climate change action and the execution of EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management
    - That the project is executed within the time frame in which low exposure reefs can be preserved before threats of overfishing, land clearing, and pollution degrade them beyond possible recovery.
    - Ocean current and temperature dynamics do not change, impacting the low exposure features of the identified reefs in the GSR.
    - Climate-vulnerable local communities supported with targeted resources and capacity building, will assume ownership of resilience-building ecosystem management activities and sustain them over time.
    - EbA and living shoreline interventions are successful in attenuating the impacts of coastal flooding and reducing sedimentation causing reef mortality.
    - Improved business development support for reef-positive enterprises will enhance their investment readiness and ability to access commercial capital, enabling them to scale their operations and demonstrate viable business models that catalyze growth across the broader reef-positive economy. Strengthened capacity within local financial institutions will, in turn, translate into greater willingness and ability to engage with, assess, and finance reef-positive enterprises, deepening the supply of capital available to a maturing pipeline of businesses.

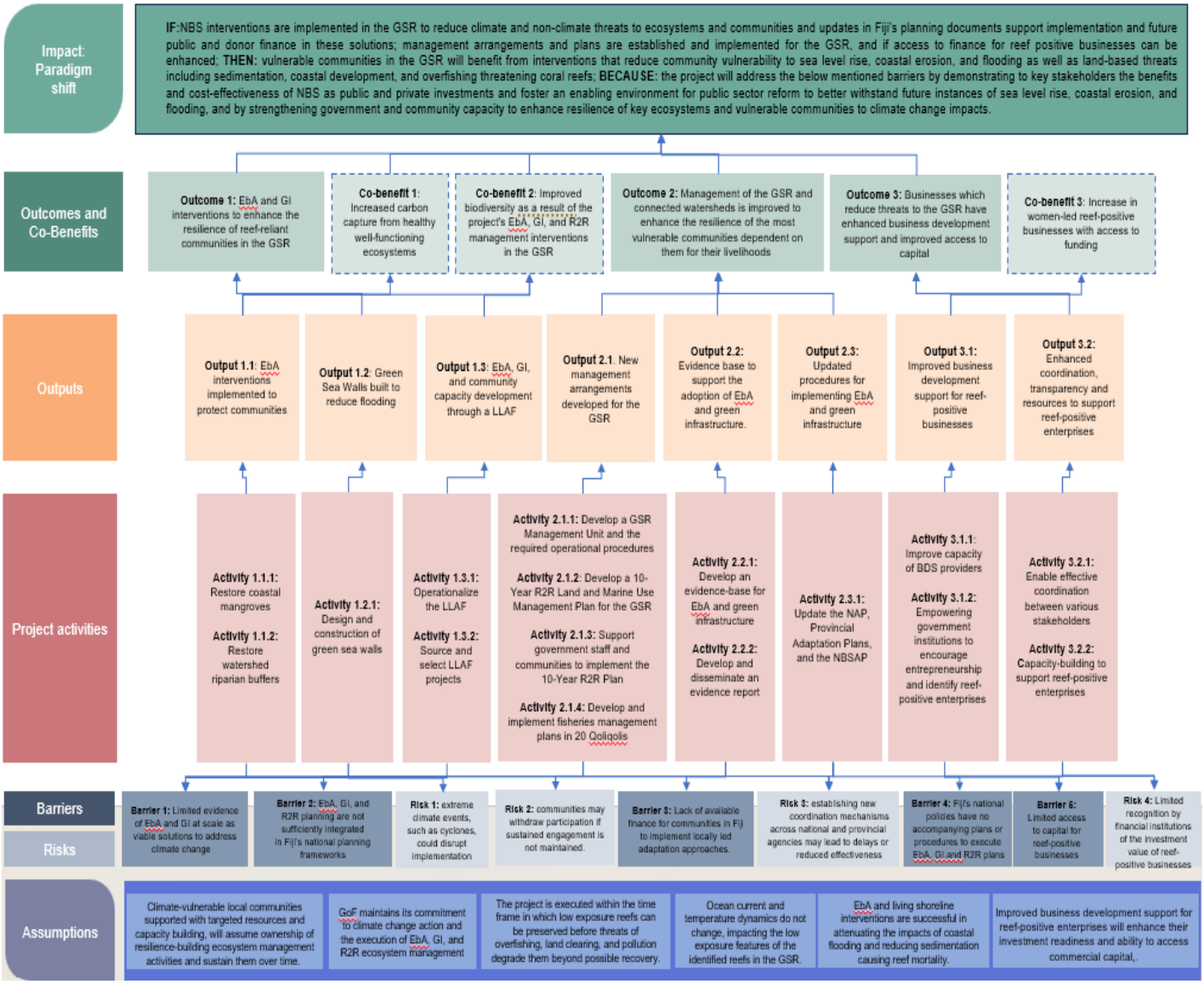


Figure 10. Fiji CRR Project Theory of Change

B.2 (b). Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefit categorization

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	**MRA 2** Low-emission transport	**MRA 3** Building, cities, industries, appliances	**MRA 4** Forestry and land use	**ARA 1** Most vulnerable people and communities	**ARA 2** Health, well-being, food and water security	**ARA 3** Infrastructure and built environment	**ARA 4** Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Outcome 1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒
Outcome 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	☒
Outcome 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

If any co-benefits have been identified in section B.2(a), fill in the Co-benefit table below to map each co-benefit to the corresponding category as defined in the FP guidance note.

	Co-benefit

Co-benefit number	Environmental	Social	Economic	Gender	Adaptation	Mitigation
Co-benefit 1	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Co-benefit 2	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Co-benefit 3	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐

B.3. Project/programme description (max. 2500 words, approximately 5 pages)

98. The objective of the proposed project is to transform Fiji's approach to marine and coastal ecosystem management to increase the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to the impacts of climate change. Fiji has historically relied on fragmented measures to help coastal communities better withstand the impacts of extreme events and coastal flooding brought on by climate change that do not fully account for the impacts of land-based threats on marine ecosystems and coral reefs. Fiji's GSR is home to unique reefs with higher adaptation capacity to climate change which provide critical coastal adaptation and risk reduction benefits for communities. These include providing habitat for coastal fisheries central to livelihoods and food security of communities and serving as natural buffers against coastal flooding brought on by extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal erosion which damage homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands. Although the GSR is an important natural climate asset and the last line of defense for reducing the economic and social costs of climate change in Fiji, the GSR remains unprotected from overfishing, coastal development, and sedimentation reducing these "super reefs'" ability to continue protecting coastal communities. These threats are already reducing these reefs and coastal ecosystem's natural flooding protection capacity. Past efforts to preserve marine ecosystems in Fiji have also insufficiently considered land-based threats on reefs such as watershed sedimentation and coastal development. Without urgent measures to reduce both marine and land-based threats to the GSR climate change impacts will surpass its capacity to provide essential buffering and resilience benefits to coastal communities in Fiji and become increasingly vulnerable to future climate change.

99. The project will achieve transformational change in Fiji's approach to marine and coastal ecosystem management by investing USD 24.9 million in implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions on the ground in four provinces adjacent to the GSR: Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces. Specific interventions and sites were selected through detailed feasibility assessments which considered R2R linkages between marine and terrestrial ecosystems, which included climate threat analysis and community needs assessments — conducted via stakeholder consultations and qualitative and quantitative analyses (see Annex 2a: Feasibility Studies). The assessments identified areas highly vulnerable to overfishing, sedimentation, and coastal development, as well as interventions with the highest demonstrable capacity to generate climate change adaptation benefits for at-risk communities.

100. The investment into these EbA and living shoreline interventions will accelerate climate innovation in Fiji by establishing proofs of concept for R2R NbS interventions that provide evidence of their cost-effectiveness and efficiency, climate change risk reduction benefits, and sustainability. This evidence will be used to create an enabling environment for climate action in Fiji that removes barriers to novel climate solutions through promoting integrated marine and terrestrial strategies, planning, and policymaking.

101. A National Working Group will be established under the project. This working group will contribute to the development and adoption of updated procedures for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions to address the threats of sea level rise, coastal flooding, and erosion and land loss in the GSR. These procedures will enable the GoF to channel future investments into EbA and living shoreline interventions to respond to increasingly severe extreme events and flooding caused by climate change.

102. To support the uptake of the EbA and living shoreline interventions among communities, ensure sufficient application of the updated procedures in the implementation, monitoring, operation, and maintenance of these interventions, and strengthen community resilience, the project will provide technical

assistance and capacity-building to technical staff in national and provincial government and representatives from communities. This capacity building will be led by WWF-Fiji, in close collaboration with MECC and relevant provincial government departments.

103. To help the GoF translate its policy and planning ambition into actionable results, the project will also develop operational procedures for the development and implementation of a GSR Management Plan. This Plan would define allowable marine and land-based uses and management practices to sustain the GSR's ecosystem to preserve their climate change adaptation benefits for increasingly vulnerable coastal communities. To ensure effective coordination with the GoF and alignment with existing regulations, the GSR MU will be embedded within the MECC and receive guidance from an Advisory Board comprised of representatives from national agencies, provincial governments and communities in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces. The GSR Management Plan will be accompanied by operating agreements between WWF-Fiji, communities, provincial governments, and national agencies to define roles and responsibilities related to management, enforcement, and monitoring of the GSR.

104. The reef-positive climate-resilient business market in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata is growing which offers market-based climate adaptation benefits by reducing threats to ecosystems which provide climate resilience benefits to vulnerable coastal communities. These include business in responsible ecotourism, community-based aquaculture, sustainable fisheries, and agriculture. Despite financial institutions having high levels of liquidity to invest in these businesses, they are often perceived as not being investment-ready with most investment finance being channeled to larger projects in tourism, coastal development and commercial agriculture. The Feasibility Studies of the project include a market analysis (Annex 2b) which identified several existing BDS providers and community organizations in Fiji which will be supported through the Project to build on and expand their areas of assistance for reef positive climate resilient business to help them achieve investment readiness and access finance. This will help scale reef-positive climate-resilient business and reduce market driven pressures on coral reefs.

105. These project interventions align directly with the GCF's paradigm shift objective of increased climate-resilient sustainable development and contribute to GCF Adaptation Result Area (ARA) 1.0 — Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities, and regions; ARA 3.1 — Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention; and ARA 4.0 — Improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

106. An overview of the design of the project's components is provided below. Specific details on the technical design of the interventions are presented in Annex 2a: Feasibility Study.

Component 1: EbA and living shoreline solutions to enhance community resilience and reduce threats to the GSR

More information on Project Activities and Sub-Activities can be found in Annex 2a Section 9.2.

Outcome 1: The resilience of reef-reliant communities in Fiji's GSR is enhanced through EbA and NbS solutions.

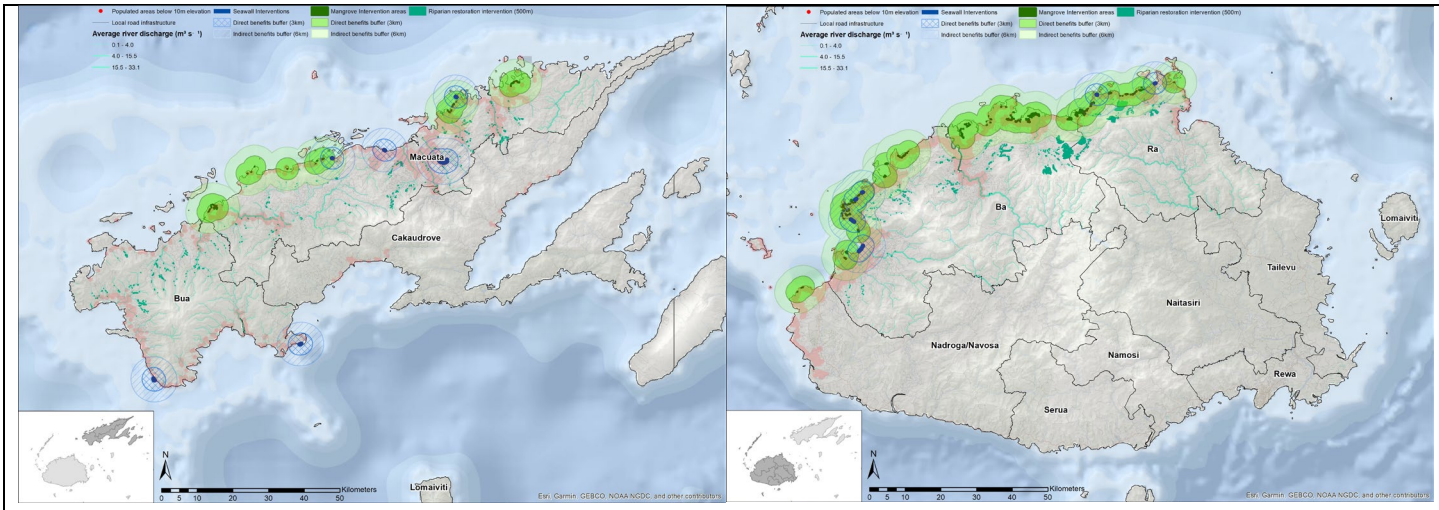


Figure 11: Maps of Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 activity sites (*based on United Nations map*).

Output 1.1: Reef-reliant communities and provincial governments engaged in the implementation of EbA interventions.

107. Under Output 1.1, a suite of EbA interventions will be implemented to protect coastal communities in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata and restore degraded coastal and riparian ecosystems, ensuring that communities dependent on the GSR continue to benefit from healthy reefs and secure fisheries. These interventions include conducting rapid validation assessments of the proposed sites and baseline setting to confirm the suitability of the proposed sites under Annex 2a. Following these site validation assessments, mangrove habitats will be restored to stabilize portions of coastlines, provide natural buffer zones during extreme events and storm surges to reduce coastal flooding and erosion, and provide vital marine habitats, and riparian buffer zones will be restored to trap sediments, improve water quality, and reduce flood risks during heavy precipitation events. These restoration activities will provide co-benefits such as supporting local biodiversity, additional GHG sequestration, and support for women-led reef-positive businesses. Under this output, the latest available science and technical references will be consulted in the design of the project's restoration activities – drawing on international and contextually appropriate best practices. Collectively 3,359 ha of land will be restored reducing coastal flooding, reducing sediment load entering river systems and reaching reefs, enhancing water security, and stabilizing embankments. These efforts will support the GoF's 30 million Trees Initiative, a national restoration target intended to help GoF enhance its resilience to climate change. The Project will conduct community surveys, focus groups, and trainings for IPLCs, CSOs, and local NGOs in the project areas to co-identify challenges, co-design solutions, and monitor project activities. These various engagements and their frequency are described in further details in Section 5 of Annex 7. The Project is expected to help the GoF achieve approximately 8% of its target. As a result, 77,497 people will directly benefit from these interventions with 128,958 indirect beneficiaries.

Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture

Table 10: Mangrove restoration distribution to be validated under Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1

Province	Area (ha)	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Ba	541	34,580	80,549
Ra	192	5,521	7,189
Macuata	102	2,056	5,879
Total	**835**	**42,156**	**93,617**

- *Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1: Validate proposed mangrove restoration sites and baseline conditions*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2: Restore mangroves in the Ba province.*

- *Sub-Activity 1.1.1.3: Restore mangroves in the Ra province.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.1.4: Restore mangroves in the Macuata province.*

Activity 1.1.2: Restore GSR watershed riparian buffers to increase sediment capture

Table 11: Riparian forest restoration distribution to be validated under Sub-Activity 1.1.2.1

Province	Area (ha)	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Ba	896	39,664	197,695
Ra	424	5,930	15,630
Bua	483	2,002	5,787
Macuata	721	21,113	54,117
Total	**2,524**	**68,709**	**273,289**

- *Sub-Activity 1.1.2.1: Validate proposed riparian buffer restoration sites and baseline conditions*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.2.2: Restore riparian forests in the Ba province.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.2.3: Restore riparian forests in the Ra province.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.2.4: Restore riparian forests in the Bua province.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.1.2.5: Restore riparian forests in the Bua province.*

Output 1.2: Living shorelines constructed and operational

108. To complement Output 1.1 EbA interventions, living shoreline interventions will be established to reduce the impacts of coastal floods and storm surge brought on by extreme events on people living in the GSR.

109. A living shoreline is a nature-based method for stabilizing a shoreline and protecting it from erosion. Unlike traditional "hard" shoreline stabilization techniques, such as concrete seawalls, living shorelines are made of natural materials such as plants, sand, and rock. These nature-based interventions were selected to safeguard public and community infrastructure that vulnerable communities rely on for their livelihoods and security. This includes climate-vulnerable households, local roads, small-scale farms, fishing infrastructure, and other public assets.

110. The Feasibility Studies (Annex 2a) investigated possible measures capable of providing the most cost-effective coastal flooding benefits for communities in Fiji which had a proven track record and were most appropriate for the context in Fiji. Both grey and green infrastructures have their parts to play when it comes to climate change adaptation. What is needed is a hybrid approach that promotes green solutions when appropriate. The analysis indicated that living shorelines would be a suitable measure to complement the restoration interventions under Output 1.1. These results were also validated during WWF's consultations with the GoF which is currently designing a 5-Year Seawall Financing Strategy supported by the World Bank, ADB, and the IFC through a recently approved Investment Plan to which the Project would contribute. The WB Investment Plan has a different geographic focus targeting interventions in Nadroga, Serua, Namosi, and Caukadrove Provinces which are not covered in the Fiji CRR Project. Communities currently have little to no protection from the damages of coastal flooding and storm surge brought on by extreme events. Living shorelines provide coastal protection capability by reducing water flows, reducing wave heights through wave attenuation, encourage wave breaking prior to coastlines, and cause sediment position.[86] The Project will conduct community surveys, focus groups, and trainings for IPLCs, CSOs, and local NGOs in the project areas to co-identify challenges, co-design solutions, and monitor project activities. These various engagements and their frequency is described in further details in Section 5 of Annex 7. Under this output, the latest available science and technical references will be consulted in the design of the project's living shoreline activities – drawing on international and contextually appropriate best practices. As a result, 1,544 ha of land will benefit from reduced coastal flooding

[86] Morris, R. L., Konlechner, T. M., Ghisalberti, M., & Swearer, S. E. (2018). From grey to green: Efficacy of eco-engineering solutions for nature-based coastal defence. *Global Change Biology, 24*(5), 1827–1842.

exposure, benefiting approximately 117,871 people (35,341 direct beneficiaries and 82,530 indirect beneficiaries).

Activity 1.2.1: Design and construction living shorelines to reduce coastal flooding

111. The table below shows the distribution of direct and indirect beneficiaries and benefits of the living shorelines in each province.

Table 12: Living shoreline details and distribution to be validated under Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1

Province	Length (km)	Flooding reduction (ha)	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Ba	3.29	995	24,014	51,048
Ra	0.57	39	1,913	6,913
Bua	1.46	65	725	1,634
Macuata	6.67	446	8,689	22,935
Total	**11.99**	**1,545**	**35,341**	**82,530**

- *Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1: Validate proposed living shoreline sites and baseline conditions*
- *Sub-Activity 1.2.1.2: Design and implement pre-construction measures*
- *Sub-Activity 1.2.1.3: Construction of living shorelines*

Output 1.3: Locally Led Adaptation initiatives are supported and implemented to enhance climate resilience of reef-reliant communities in the GSR.

112. Output 1.3 will build the adaptive capacity and social capital of communities in the GSR to climate change through the implementation of EbA, ecosystem restoration, small scale NbS interventions, and community capacity development. See Sub-Activity 1.3.2.3 for more details on projects eligible for LLAF financing. These on-the-ground practices and interventions will be funded by the LLAF aiming to provide communities with direct access to adaptation funding through their representative NGOs, Community-based Organizations (CBOs). With the implementation of adaptation measures, communities will gain valuable experience to strengthen their climate change adaptation efforts at a local and regional scale. LLAF presents an opportunity to deepen and expand the reach of Component 1 interventions by enabling communities to lead and implement their own adaptation solutions. While expert-led activities provide essential adaptation interventions, the LLAF ensures that communities within the project areas are actively engaged in designing, managing, and sustaining additional interventions that directly address their climate vulnerabilities. This localized approach strengthens the overall impact of the project and builds long-term resilience.

113. Community projects must be located in the identified project areas in Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata Provinces. LLAF projects will also be required to align with key national programs such as Fiji's national and any regional NAPs, the proposed GSR management plan under Outcome 2, Environmental Management Act (EMA), Climate Change Act (2021), Fisheries Act (1991), National Ocean Policy (2020), provincial fisheries management and development plans, and other relevant national and sub-national regulations connected to the GSR and its dependent communities. Adaptation solutions will be feasible, culturally relevant, and fully aligned with the governance, economic and environmental goals of communities and GCF's LLCA principles. In this context, the project will seek to integrate the results of each community's adaptation planning and proposed adaptation measures within their Community Plans, which represents a clear expression of their own development path based on their customs and shared vision.

114. Consultations were held with representatives from project areas identify in the feasibility studies in the four provinces (in 2024, see Annex 2a for details) to learn how their livelihoods – priority fisheries, crops and resources – are being affected by climate change, and to identify their specific needs for climate

adaptation solutions. The planning, implementation, and monitoring of climate-resilient community interventions will be locally led by the beneficiary communities and their representative local associations or organizations, with the support of WWF-Fiji. The NGOs and CBOs implementing LLAF-financed activities will receive tailored capacity support embedded within Activity 1.3.2, including awareness-raising and proposal-development assistance, training and capacity-building workshops on nature-based solutions and adaptation design, and ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and learning across the portfolio. WWF-Fiji will accompany these communities and their representative organizations throughout planning, implementation, and monitoring. The required budget for monitoring of individual grant projects by communities or CBOs will be included under each sub-grant.

115. At the end of 10 years, The LLAF will fund a minimum of 12 community projects across the four provinces, each capped at USD 125,000, with the number of projects per province proportional to its climate risk rating so that support reaches the greatest possible number of vulnerable people, indicatively ~38 % in Ba, ~29 percent in Macuata, ~21 %in Ra, and ~12 % in Bua, with the exact allocation determined during implementation and subject to some change at the discretion of the LLAF officer and PMU.

Activity 1.3.1: Operationalize the LLAF.

- *Sub-Activity 1.3.1.1: Develop the LLAF operational framework.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.1.2: Establish the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) responsible for project selection.*

Activity 1.3.2: Source and select LLAF projects.

- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.1: LLAF marketing and awareness raising.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.2: Training and capacity building workshops.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.3: Proposal review and selection.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.4: Fund Disbursement and Financial Management.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.5: Project M&E and Learning across the LLAF portfolio.*
- *Sub-Activity 1.3.2.6: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback.*

Systematic Assessment of Intervention Options and Implementation Modality

116. The selection of the project's interventions and implementation modality was guided by a systematic assessment against four explicit evaluation criteria: (i) technical feasibility in the biophysical, institutional, and logistical conditions of the four target provinces; (ii) cost-effectiveness relative to comparable alternatives and peer-reviewed cost benchmarks; (iii) local context fit, including consistency with iTaukei customary tenure, GoF national programs, and community preferences identified during 2024 consultations; and (iv) long-term sustainability, including the capacity of interventions to be maintained by communities and government beyond the project period and to self-adapt to future climate change, notably sea-level rise. A full options analysis applying these criteria is presented in Section 6.3 of Annex 2a, and the comparative tables and evidence base are provided in the Systematic Assessment supplementary document accompanying this proposal.

Selection of the integrated NbS and R2R modality over alternatives

117. Five strategic implementation modalities were assessed: (i) business-as-usual, (ii) grey/hard infrastructure only, (iii) regulatory and policy reform only, (iv) community-led initiatives only, and (v) the integrated NbS and R2R approach selected for this project. The assessment confirms that only the integrated approach simultaneously satisfies all four evaluation criteria and addresses the full suite of barriers to climate-resilient GSR management identified in Annex 2a Section 6.2. The individual modalities each carry critical deficiencies. Hard/grey infrastructure (Option ii) provides immediate but inflexible coastal protection at significantly higher unit cost — approximately three times more expensive per linear meter

than living shorelines[87,88] — without addressing land-based sedimentation drivers or providing ecological co-benefits. The GoF is already deploying hard infrastructure in non-GSR provinces (Nadroga, Serua, Namosi, Caukadrove) through a separate World Bank/ADB-supported 5-Year Seawall Financing Strategy; this project is deliberately designed to occupy the complementary NbS space in the GSR provinces. Regulatory reform only (Option iii) improves the enabling environment but cannot generate the ground-level evidence of EbA effectiveness that Annex 2a identifies as the primary barrier to mainstreaming NbS in Fiji's NAP and Provincial Adaptation Plans. Community-led initiatives only (Option iv) build local ownership but lack the catchment-scale coordination required to meaningfully reduce sedimentation reaching the GSR. The integrated approach is validated by comparable programs including the GEF/UNDP Fiji Ridge-to-Reef Project, the IUCN Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods (MESCAL) program across five Pacific nations including Fiji (2009–2013), and Conservation International's Lau Seascape Strategy 2018–2030.

Selection of specific EbA intervention types within the integrated NbS approach

118. Within the integrated NbS modality, the specific EbA intervention types under Component 1 — mangrove restoration, riparian buffer zone restoration, and living shorelines — were selected over credible alternatives based on the same four criteria. For coastal flooding protection, living shorelines were preferred over conventional concrete seawalls (approximately one-third the capital cost at USD 361 vs. USD 1,022 per linear foot);[89] beach renourishment (inappropriate for reef-adjacent environments where sediment input increases turbidity and coral mortality risk;[90] and artificial reef structures (which address wave attenuation but do not address sedimentation or provide equivalent ecological co-benefits in high-turbidity environments). For catchment-scale sedimentation reduction, riparian buffer zone restoration was preferred over engineered sediment traps and check dams (which are expensive, require specialist equipment unavailable locally, and fail during high-flow events), and over agricultural best-management practices alone (which address field-level erosion but cannot substitute for the continuous sediment-filtering function of vegetated riparian zones along stream banks). Meta-analyses confirm tropical riparian buffers achieve 45–75% sediment interception efficiency and can stop up to 90% of sediment from entering waterways[91,92]. For coastal habitat restoration, mangrove restoration was preferred over direct coral gardening or transplantation (which costs USD 6,000–143 million per hectare,[93] and is not viable at catchment scale; furthermore, coral restoration onto reefs still receiving high sediment loads from unmanaged watersheds results in high transplant mortality, meaning EbA interventions to reduce sedimentation are a necessary precondition). Mangroves on sheltered coastlines provide 2–5 times cheaper wave protection per unit than engineered breakwaters[94,95] and self-adapt to sea-level rise through sediment accretion — a critical long-term sustainability advantage. The full evidence base for each selection, including cost comparisons, Pacific-specific program outcomes, and modelling results, is presented in Annex 2a Section 6.3.

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[87] Environmental and Energy Study Institute. (2019). Nature as resilient infrastructure: An overview of nature-based solutions. Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Washington, DC.
[88] Opdyke, A., Tuit, M., See, J., Cuaton, G. P., & Peja, P. J. (2026). Do nature-based solutions deliver climate adaptation equally? Comparing mangroves and seawalls in the Global South. *Climatic Change, 179*, Article 63.
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[90] Hernández-Delgado, E. A. (2024). Coastal restoration challenges and strategies for small island developing states in the face of sea level rise and climate change. *Coasts, 4*(2), 235–286.
[91] Majumdar, A., & Avishek, K. (2025). Mitigating riparian buffer zone degradation through policy interventions and learnings from best practices. *Discover Environment, 3*, Article 84.
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Component 2: Enabling a paradigm shift toward integrated R2R coastal ecosystem management in Fiji's GSR

Outcome 2: An enabling environment and R2R ecosystem planning frameworks are conducive to the effective management and implementation of EbA, NbS, and living shorelines interventions within the GSR.

Output 2.1. New management arrangements to reduce climate change vulnerability developed for the GSR.

119. Fiji was the first country in the world to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and presided over the UNFCCC COP23 and COP24 in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Since 2012, the GoF has been developing and reforming overarching strategies, policies and plans to address natural hazards and unsustainable resource management. Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) sets overarching targets tied to the Paris Agreement for increasing climate resilience and reducing/avoiding GHG emissions across sectors (including landscapes and seascapes) for the period 2017–2030. At a national level, the Climate Change Act (2021) outlines a framework for a whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate emergency, including the importance of oceans and seascapes in achieving these climate objectives. Fiji's primary strategy for adapting to climate change is the 2018 NAP, aligned with the National Climate Change Act. The Environment Management Act – EMA (2005) is the guiding policy on the management of ecosystems and biodiversity and identifies coral reefs as critically threatened ecosystems which should be protected to enhance Fiji's resilience to future climate change.

120. These policies reflect the GoF's commitment to climate action and the importance of coastal ecosystems in those efforts but must be supported with additional planning harmonization and enforcement measures to ensure their operationalization. The Climate Change Act specifically calls for the need for implementation frameworks to execute its provisions in specific landscapes and seascapes to maintain these ecosystems' potential to provide climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits to the environment and society by reducing threats from overfishing, land degradation, and sedimentation.

121. This is because there are currently no clear mandates, plans, management arrangements for the GSR in Fiji which extend beyond unique watersheds and cover the necessary spatial extent to measurably reduce pressures on reefs and connected ecosystems, define allowable seascape and land uses for different land use areas, or responsibilities for government and non-government in ecosystem planning, management, and monitoring under future conditions of climate change. Past R2R planning efforts have been undertaken including under the GEF R2R Project and SPREP but these efforts were limited in size and scope. Both projects targeted single watersheds in Labasa (GEF), and Rakiraki (SPREP), these projects did not engage in transboundary efforts involving multiples provinces to achieve necessary threat reduction to measurably impact reefs and coastal ecosystems. These projects also did not create management arrangements for the watersheds that could be sustained beyond the donor funding period.

122. Without a functioning regulatory framework for the proper management of the GSR, it will become increasingly at risk from climate change threats such as sea level rise, extreme events, and coastal flooding, and non-climate threats impacting coral reef health including overfishing, watershed pollution and sedimentation, and coastal development.

123. Output 2.1 will help deliver on the GoF's ambition for implementing efficient and effective climate change responses by establishing the necessary plans, management arrangements, clear mandates, technical assistance and capacity development to help secure measurable climate change adaptation, mitigation, and economic development benefits from Fiji's most critical natural asset, the GSR. Specifically, a 10-Year Land and Marine Use Management Plan for the GSR along with first-of-its-kind operational procedures will be developed for the sustainable management of the GSR. A Management Unit for the GSR embedded within the MECC and other agencies responsible for the management of Fiji's coastal ecosystems, establishing an Advisory Board comprised of representatives from national agencies, provincial governments and communities in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces, and developing operating

agreements with communities, provincial governments, and national agencies to define roles and responsibilities related to management, enforcement, and monitoring of the GSR.

Activity 2.1.1: Develop a GSR Management Unit and the required operational procedures for implementing a 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Use Management Plan.

- *Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1: Establish the GSR Management Unit.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2: Establish community advisory boards to ensure local involvement in decision-making processes of the GSR MU.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop operating agreements with communities, provincial governments, and national agencies to define roles and responsibilities under the GSR Management Plan related to management, enforcement, and monitoring.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.1.4: Develop arrangements for long-term sustainability the GSR MU.*

Activity 2.1.2: Develop a 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Use Management Plan for the GSR.

- *Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1: Gather necessary data and information to set baselines for land and seascape uses.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.2.2: Develop the GSR Management Plan for the GSR which includes targets and indicators for climate change adaptation.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.2.3: Hold national and sub-national validation workshops with GSR communities, provincial governments, enterprises, the expert consultative group and scientific and technical advisory Taskforce of NAP to validate the management plans developed under Sub-activity 2.1.2.2.*
- *Sub-activity 2.1.2.4: Launch the GSR Management Plan.*

Activity 2.1.3: Support for national and divisional staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shorelines interventions.

- *Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1: Support for national and divisional staff to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shorelines interventions.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.3.2: Support for community leaders/representatives to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shorelines interventions.*

Activity 2.1.4: Develop and support to implement fisheries management plans in 20 Qoliqolis in the GSR.

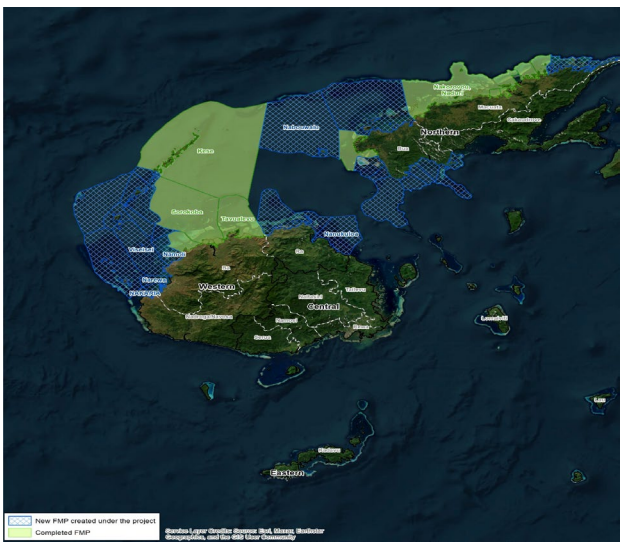


Figure 12: Area of the GSR under current and future FMPs (*based on United Nations map*).

- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.1 Review and establish the most applicable fisheries management plan template and guide to suit the Governance structures and information needs.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.2 Conduct a desktop review and consultations with communities and provincial governments to establish the status of FMPs in each of the provinces covered by the Project.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.3 Conduct a biological assessment of the 20 qoliqolis.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.4: Develop FMPs and implementation plans for the 20 qoliqolis.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.5: Provide TA and training for communities for FMP enforcement and monitoring.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.1.4.6: Launch communications and awareness campaigns targeting the Qoliqoli to ensure the provisions of the plans are well understood.*

Output 2.2: Evidence base to support the adoption of EbA and NbS interventions by the GoF.

124. To initiate public sector reform in Fiji's approach to coastal ecosystem management and ensure EbA and NbS interventions are implemented at scale, decision-makers must have strong evidence of the environmental and economic benefits of these interventions. Under Output 2.2, an evidence base will be established to demonstrate to policy makers and planners at the national and district levels the effectiveness of EbA and NbS interventions for coastal flooding and sedimentation reduction, as well as their economic, social and environmental benefits. This evidence will be generated through monitoring and evaluation of the activities under Component 1 of the Project. This output is critical for demonstrating the cost-effectiveness and climate resilience benefits of these approaches, which is essential for scaling and replication.

Activity 2.2.1: Develop an evidence-based case of the climate change adaptation benefits of EbA and living shorelines in Fiji.

- *Sub-Activity 2.2.1.1: Prepare baselines and indicators for the biophysical benefits of EbA on ecosystems and their flood attenuation and water resource-related services.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.2.1.2: Monitor the biophysical benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems and their flood attenuation and climate buffering services using the baselines and indicators prepared under Sub-activity 2.1.1.1.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.2.1.3: Conduct an economic valuation of the benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems and their coastal flood and extreme event impact attenuation services.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.2.1.4: Identify additional opportunities and sites at the national level across Fiji for scaling up and replicating the project's EbA and living shorelines interventions for coastal flood risk and marine and coastal ecosystem management.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.2.1.5: Collate and store the data and information generated under 2.2.1.1–2.2.1.4.*

Activity 2.2.2: Develop and disseminate an evidence report to national and provincial government agencies for implementing EbA and living shorelines interventions in response to extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji.

- *Sub-activity 2.2.2.1: Prepare an evidence report on the use and benefits of EbA and living shorelines interventions in response to extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji.*
- *Sub-activity 2.2.2.2: Disseminate the evidence report developed under Sub-activity 2.2.2.1 to national and provincial planners and regulators as well as academic and research institutions.*

Output 2.3: Updated procedures for implementing EbA and NbS in Fiji.

125. Output 2.3 takes this evidence and translates it into updated national and provincial procedures—including revisions to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and Provincial Adaptation Plans. These updates explicitly integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape, embedding the project's approaches into Fiji's long-term climate governance architecture. Together, these Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 ensure that the project's innovations—such as EbA, NbS, and ridge-to-reef (R2R) planning—are not isolated interventions, but rather institutionalized practices.

This is the essence of the project's exit strategy: to leave behind an institutional framework that enables continued investment, replication, and scaling of successful models. Fiji's NAP includes dedicated monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems to track climate resilience and adaptation efforts. The NAPs' M&E framework was developed in collaboration of the NAP Global Network and is designed to track both the processes of implementing the plan and the tangible results of adaptation actions across sectors. Tracking progress is coordinated by the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and reviewed by the NAP Steering Committee (NAPSC). Under this Project, results from the implementation of the EbA and NbS interventions under Component 1 as well as the improvement ecosystem and fisheries management activities under Component 2 will be provided to MECC so these can be accounted in Fiji's NAP target achievements.

Activity 2.3.1: Update the National Adaptation (NAP), Provincial Adaptation Plans in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for implementing EbA and living shorelines interventions in Fiji.

Table 13. Document amendments and timeline

Strategic document being updated	**Stage of integration of EbA and NbS into the document**	**Estimated timeline (i.e., what year of the Project period)**	**Responsible entity**
National Adaptation Plan and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	Draft amendments produced and presented to the National Working Group.	2031 (dependent on government planning cycles)	MECC
	Amendments reviewed by the National Working Group, including MECC.		
	Final amendments submitted by the National Working Group.		
Four Provincial Adaptation Plans for Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata	Draft amendments produced and presented to the National Working Group.	2031 (dependent on government planning cycles)	Commissioners' Office in the Western and Northern Divisions

- *Sub-Activity 2.3.1.1: Establish a National Working Group responsible for amendments to the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.3.1.2: Review the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans to identify entry points for improved management of the GSR.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.3.1.3: Draft recommendations for amendments to the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.3.1.4: Validate the updated documents.*
- *Sub-Activity 2.3.1.5: Strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of government staff, communities to implement the updated procedures.*

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.

Output 3.1: Business development support providers and relevant national and provincial institutions have enhanced capacity to support reef-positive businesses the GSR.

126. Fiji's entrepreneurial ecosystem is characterized by a limited pipeline of investment-ready reef-positive enterprises. While past efforts have helped support enterprise development, many initiatives have focused on businesses already close to investment readiness. As a result, many early-stage, often informal,

climate-resilient micro and small enterprises that contribute to the protection, restoration, and long-term resilience of coral reef ecosystems continue to lack the sustained business development support needed to grow and access finance. This constrains the development of reef-positive enterprises in the four target provinces of Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, limiting their potential to generate climate resilience benefits for local communities, address key drivers of Great Sea Reef degradation - including overfishing, watershed pollution, sedimentation, and unsustainable coastal development - and create alternative livelihood opportunities that reduce pressure on natural resources.

127. Fiji has a financial landscape, encompassing a mix of public and private financial institutions, including commercial banks, credit institutions, insurance companies, and government-owned entities. Major commercial banks, such as ANZ, Bank of the South Pacific (BSP), Westpac and HFC, dominate retail and corporate banking services. The South Pacific Development Bank (SPDB) is the largest microfinance institution in the country. The Fiji Development Bank (FDB) focuses on financing agriculture, small businesses, and development projects to stimulate economic growth. The Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) plays a crucial role in retirement savings, serving as the primary pension provider for Fijian workers. Fiji is also seeing a growth of new financial facilities and funds many of which are seeking to deploy capital in the country to support outcomes related to climate resilience and improved biodiversity. This includes the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, Asian Development Bank's Frontier Fund and Outrigger's Ocean Impact Fund among others.

128. Fiji also has a network of public institutions dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage, land rights, and socio-economic well-being of the iTaukei- the indigenous Fijian communities. Such iTaukei institutions include the iTaukei Land Trust Board and Fiji Holdings Limited which serve as mechanisms for mobilizing capital by managing indigenous land assets and investments. They facilitate the leasing of iTaukei land, generating income that can be reinvested into community development projects and initiatives. By pooling resources and deploying funds on behalf of their iTaukei shareholders, these institutions empower indigenous communities, enhancing economic participation and fostering sustainable growth.

129. Although the financial landscape in Fiji is growing, reef-positive enterprises in the country often struggle to access capital. The financial institutions in Fiji, despite having high levels of liquidity, provide limited or no capital to such enterprises focusing mostly instead on larger projects in tourism, coastal development and commercial agriculture. The small-scale enterprises are typically seen as not being investment-ready, lacking basic financial records, clearly defined business and revenue models, minimum governance and management structures, evidence of recurring revenues or market demand, and risk profiles that can be assessed by lenders or investors.

130. This lack of investment-readiness among reef-positive enterprises is a key barrier for them to access capital that already exists in the country. Business development support is thus crucial for such enterprises as it can help them strengthen their financial viability, making them more attractive to lenders and investors. Through incubation and acceleration programs, these enterprises can formalize their businesses, build, and improve their business models, strengthen capacity, and enhance their market strategies. This will not only reduce the perceived risk for financial institutions but also enable these enterprises to scale their ecological impact while accessing the capital they need for growth.

131. Fiji already has an established ecosystem of BDS providers working on enhancing the capacity and competitiveness of local businesses. A few government ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry provide business development support to communities and small businesses. Several non-governmental organizations including Business Assistance Fiji, Fiji Enterprise Engine, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Market Development Facility and PHAMA Plus also run entrepreneurship development programs providing training, mentorship and at times capital to businesses in the country. These institutions have different thematic areas of focus. Business Assistance Fiji focuses on general business support services, the Fiji Enterprise Engine offers business incubation and growth support, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasizes sustainable development and resilience,

the Market Development Facility works on fostering inclusive economic growth through market systems development, and PHAMA Plus is dedicated to developing market access and enhancing agricultural value chains.

132. These existing BDS providers, however, often tend to prioritize businesses with proven track records and strong financial returns, making it difficult for the early-stage, often informal, small-scale reef-positive enterprises to attract the business development support they need to formalize, grow and access commercial capital. This is partly structural: donors typically fund BDS initiatives in short, roughly three-year cycles. To show results within that window, providers are pushed toward more established enterprises that can deliver quick, measurable returns - leaving early-stage enterprises behind.

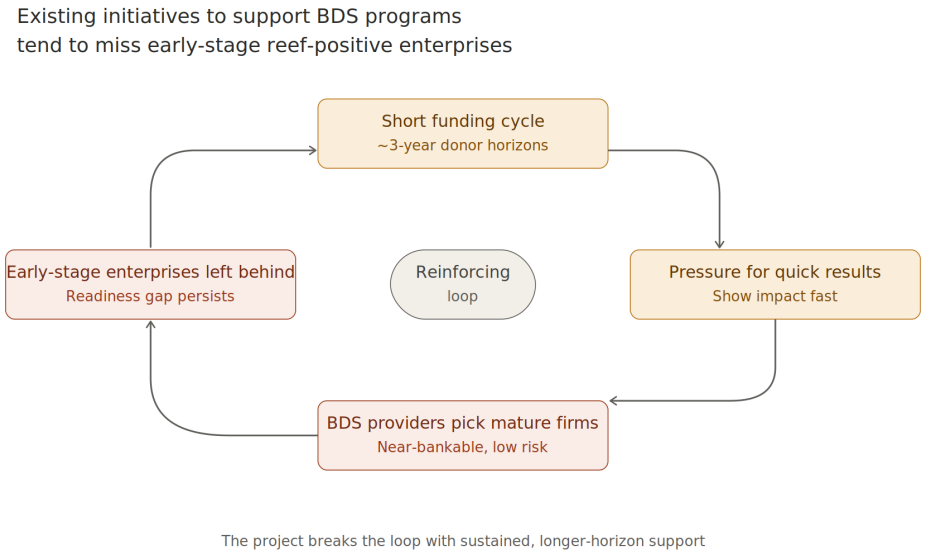


Figure 13. Existing donor-funded BDS Initiatives mostly fail to engage early-stage reef-positive enterprises

133. In addition, none of the existing BDS providers have a specific focus on reef-positive enterprises; their support is delivered more broadly across the development and impact enterprise space rather than being tailored to conservation-linked business models. Because the purpose of this support is ultimately to improve the health of the GSR, the interventions must maintain a clear line of sight between enterprise activity and reef outcomes. As a conservation organization, WWF is uniquely placed to provide this - embedding ecological criteria into enterprise selection, BDS program design, and impact measurement in ways that generalist providers are neither equipped nor incentivized to do.

134. The feasibility study (Annex 2b) highlights several reasons for why the existing BDS providers in Fiji are not able to support the reef-positive enterprises, including the reasons mentioned above and several others such as high transaction costs of sourcing and supporting such enterprises, a lack of capacity and resources among BDS providers to offer the holistic support needed for these very early-stage enterprises to achieve investment-readiness, and an absence of expertise to evaluate and integrate environmental impacts into their decision-making processes, making it difficult to prioritize businesses with environmental benefits.

135. There is thus a need to support and strengthen the existing BDS ecosystem in Fiji such that it can provide the entrepreneurial support that the existing and new reef-positive enterprises need to be investment ready. The project intends to closely engage and support the existing BDS providers in Fiji and augment their capacity to support these enterprises. The project will support the BDS providers to create incubation and acceleration programs customized for reef-positive enterprises. Critically, the project's 10-year tenor allows it to correct a key market failure described above: by providing sustained, longer-horizon support that short donor funding cycles cannot, the project enables BDS providers to work with early-stage reef-

positive enterprises through the patient, multi-year process needed to reach investment-readiness - rather than defaulting to more established firms to show quick results. Strengthening local BDS providers in Fiji through this Component 3 offers several key advantages. These institutions have deep knowledge of the local political, regulatory, and business landscapes, making them well-equipped to offer context-specific support to local businesses. Their proximity allows them to build stronger, long-term relationships with enterprises. Additionally, empowering local providers creates a sustainable ecosystem for ongoing business growth and development in Fiji, which will foster innovation and impact at the grassroots level even after the project ends.

136. Engaging and supporting key national and local government institutions in Fiji is also crucial for identifying and developing reef-positive enterprises because these institutions are mandated to support and promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and often operate dedicated initiatives designed to empower small enterprises and stimulate local economic development. But they often lack resources and expertise to effectively identify and engage with businesses and provide them with the relevant support needed. The Project will engage key provincial institutions in Fiji, such as Provincial Councils and Provincial Holding Companies and the office of the Divisional Commissioners, which support local entrepreneurship among indigenous communities. These institutions are crucial for identifying reef-positive enterprises but face challenges like limited capacity, expertise, and financial resources. The Project will also collaborate with the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development to include non-indigenous communities, as well as the Ministries of Commerce, Trade, Tourism, and Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry which provide business development support but need additional resources and capacity. Strengthening the BDS programs of these institutions will enhance their ability to support and nurture sustainable, reef-positive businesses. The Project will support capacity building for these institutions and facilitate the connection of enterprises they identify with the improved BDS ecosystem developed through the project.

137. The Project is structured to support reef-positive enterprises across different stages of the business lifecycle while strengthening linkages to existing sources of capital in Fiji's financial system. Output 3.1 focuses on early-stage enterprises in the ideation, validation, and pilot phases, strengthening foundational business capabilities through targeted business development support. This support addresses the specific barriers that keep early-stage and informal enterprises from becoming investable — including formalization, licensing and regulatory compliance, stage-appropriate financial management, and environmental and social (ESG) practice — as capabilities built developmentally rather than as thresholds that screen enterprises out. Output 3.2 underpins both outputs by improving coordination across enterprises, BDS providers, financial institutions, and government, including through common tools and information sharing. The enterprises graduating from Outputs 3.1 are expected to access follow-on financing from existing development, commercial, and impact-oriented financial institutions in Fiji, with indicative ticket sizes and tenors shown to demonstrate that appropriate capital is available once enterprises are investment-ready

138. In summary, the growing reef-positive climate-resilient market ecosystem in Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata require assistance to help bridge a wide gap between investment readiness and sustainable finance. Doing so can help achieve market-based climate adaptation benefits by reducing threats to ecosystems which provide climate resilience benefits to vulnerable coastal communities in these provinces. WWF-Fiji has identified several existing BDS providers and community organizations in Fiji which will be supported through the Project to build on and expand their areas of assistance to reef positive climate resilient business to broaden their reach to access early-stage business and provide more holistic assistance to micro and small enterprises. This will include improving the existing capacity of BDS providers to support reef-positive businesses (Activity 3.1.1), working with key national and provincial government institutions to encourage entrepreneurship within communities and originate reef-positive enterprises which can then be matched with the improved BDS ecosystem (Activity 3.1.2).

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

- *Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1: Shortlist BDS providers to support reef-positive enterprises.*

- *Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2: Support identified BDS providers to develop incubation and acceleration programs for reef-positive enterprises.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.1.1.3: Support BDS providers to develop a monitoring framework to assess the environmental, socio-economic impacts of the businesses.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.1.1.4: Provide ongoing support including technical assistance (TA) to the identified BDS providers.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.1.1.5: Facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning among BDS providers.*

Activity 3.1.2: Supporting national and provincial government institutions in fostering reef-positive enterprises.

- *Sub-Activity 3.1.2.1: Develop tailored capacity development plans for national and provincial government institutions.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.1.2.2: Establish necessary arrangements within the government to address capacity and other gaps.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.1.2.3: Provide ongoing training and capacity building to key government institutions.*

Output 3.2: Coordination between reef-positive enterprises, business development support providers, financial institutions and government is strengthened, improving enterprise visibility to capital providers.

139. The enabling environment for reef-positive enterprises in Fiji currently faces significant gaps in coordination, capacity, and resources. Reef-positive enterprises, often small and community-based, require support systems that can bridge environmental sustainability with business growth. The existing ecosystem does not fully address the unique needs of these enterprises, particularly at early stages where businesses may struggle to access capital, technical assistance, or networks to help them scale sustainably. Strengthening the enabling environment involves creating effective linkages between various stakeholders—such as government bodies, financial institutions, BDS providers, and community organizations—who can work together to provide the right kind of support for these enterprises. To enable this, the Project will focus on two key activities: improving coordination among stakeholders (Activity 3.2.1) and developing resources and capacity-building initiatives (Activity 3.2.2).

140. The development of reef-positive enterprises requires a concerted effort to address the lack of coordination among key stakeholders, including business development service providers, financial institutions, and government agencies. The coordination challenge in Fiji stems from a fragmented ecosystem of support for reef-positive businesses, despite the availability of resources and lack of centralized and coordinated institutional mechanisms that can match the available capital and business development services with suitable investment opportunities, thus leveraging the synergies of existing resources and ensuring the enterprises that need support are able to access it. A coordinated institutional mechanism that brings together relevant stakeholders including government, financial institutions, BDS providers and the reef-positive enterprises is thus essential to address the existing coordination challenges. It will also promote transparency and appropriately engage all the relevant stakeholders, including the financial institutions who will have a critical role in ensuring that the reef-positive enterprises in Fiji have sustained access to capital.

141. In addition to enhancing coordination, the Project will also work on developing common resources such as monitoring and evaluation frameworks, investment criteria, and standardized training materials that no single institution would have the capacity or incentive to develop on its own and delivering capacity-building programs that focus on upskilling stakeholders, including government agencies and BDS providers, to better identify, support, and invest in reef-positive enterprises. This dual approach ensures that the ecosystem not only has the tools but also the expertise required to foster long-term sustainability and impact.

Activity 3.2.1: Enable effective coordination between enterprises, community organizations, BDS providers, financial institutions and government.

- *Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1: Set up a multi-stakeholder working group to streamline support for reef-positive enterprises.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2: Facilitate periodic stakeholder engagement forums to engage the wider stakeholder network.*

Activity 3.2.2: Develop resources and deliver capacity-building programs in support of reef-positive enterprises.

- *Sub-Activity 3.2.2.1: Develop and implement a communication strategy to educate and engage stakeholders.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.2.2.2: Create a framework to identify and assess reef-positive enterprises.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.2.2.3: Provide training and capacity building for the relevant stakeholders.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.2.2.4: Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to assess impacts on the GSR ecosystem.*
- *Sub-Activity 3.2.2.5: Develop a sustainability strategy to ensure ongoing support to reef-positive enterprises beyond the duration of the Project.*

B.4. Implementation arrangements (max. 1500 words, approximately 3 pages plus diagrams)

Accredited Entity

142. **World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US)** will serve as the Accredited Entity (AE) for the Project and will provide GCF Proceeds to the Executing Entity (EE), in accordance with the FAA to be entered with the GCF. The AE will be responsible for the overall oversight of this Project, including technical, financial, and administrative monitoring and supervision (through reporting, audits, and annual site visits) and review and approval of the EE's annual workplans and budgets. WWF-US will also be responsible for channeling the GCF Proceeds, providing support, guidance and backstopping to the EE, monitoring the achievement of project results and outputs, reporting to the GCF and the referred co-financiers, and Project closure and evaluation. WWF-US will conduct these responsibilities, and disburse GCF Proceeds to the EE, in line with WWF-US' Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) and anticipated Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) with the GCF. WWF-US also serves as the AE for *FP050 Bhutan for Life*, launched in 2018, *FP 203 Heritage Colombia*, launched in 2024, and *FP207 Recharge Pakistan*, which was approved in July 2023.

Executing Entity (EE)

143. The Project will be executed by one Executing Entity (EE), WWF-**World Wide Fund for Nature (Fiji) (WWF-Fiji)**. The EE will be responsible for the implementation of all Project Activities, including the management of partner entities, subgrantees, recipients of goods or services, and procured parties, and their activities, and reporting to the AE.

144. WWF-Fiji a private independent organization under the international WWF Network and separate legal entity to WWF-US, will serve as the EE for the Project. WWF-Fiji has its Head Office in Suva, Fiji, as well as two regional offices in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. WWF-Fiji has significant experience working with Pacific Island governments in policy and regulatory design and reform, including the Environmental Protection Act, Pacific Regional Water Policy, and the Pacific Islands Wetlands Conservation Framework. WWF-Fiji also has a long track record implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) projects in Fiji's most climate-vulnerable communities including: 1) supporting the Fiji Government with climate change negotiations at COP29, 2) facilitating community participation in national dialogues related to climate change, 3) sustainable development, and biodiversity forums, 4) advising the GoF in the development of policies on climate change, coral reefs, and mangroves, 5) supporting community adaptation planning, 6) restoring and protecting mangrove ecosystems in the GSR, 7) establishing of community watershed management plans and FMPs, and 8) supporting small reef positive businesses in the fisheries and tourism sectors.

145. WWF-Fiji will be responsible for the execution of all Project Activities: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, and 3.2.2 as well as for managing all

involved parties and their activities, reporting to the Accredited Entity (AE), and ensuring optimal alignment of the Project with the GoF's policies and ministerial contributions to achieve the Project Outcomes and Fund-level impacts, as outlined in Section B3. WWF-Fiji will hold Green Climate Fund (GCF) Proceeds in a new and separate dollar (USD) denominated account. As an Executing Entity (EE), WWF-Fiji will enter into a subsidiary agreement with WWF-US (as the AE), in the form of a grant agreement, in respect of the GCF Proceeds. It will also enter into sub-grant agreements with each sub-grantee (recipient of funds), consulting or service agreements with private sector service providers, and cooperative agreements with each recipient of goods or services, such as technical assistance provision, without prejudice of retaining responsibility and oversight for any delegated authority over financial management and procurement. As part of the AE's due diligence, WWF-US has assessed WWF-Fiji's capacity to execute the Project (see Annex 9 to be available in subsequent submission). This assessment determined WWF-Fiji to be capable of applying WWF-US and GCF standards and policies in the execution of the Project.

146. WWF-Fiji (EE) will establish and host the **Project Management Unit (PMU)** within WWF-Fiji's office in Suva, Fiji. The PMU through the National Project Director (NPD) will report to the Accredited Entity (AE). The PMU will be led by the National Project Director and operate under the guidance of the **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** described below. The PMU will be responsible for overall Project management, planning, and supporting day-to-day activities. This includes coordinating with national government bodies and project partners, direct supervision of contracted activities, and ensuring Project implementation across all four provinces: Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata. The PMU will oversee the financial reporting, application of resources, results achieved, and submission of management reports including annual reports, along with proposals for adaptive management of the Project. The PMU will also promote coordination with national initiatives and disseminate Project results.

147. Key staff within the EE's PMU will include, but not be limited to, the following roles: i) National Project Director; ii) Project Finance Manager; iii) Administration and Procurement Coordinator iv) Environment and Social Safeguards (ESS) Lead; v) Gender Lead; vi) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Manager; vii) Project Accountant; and vii) Project Management Assistant. The NPD will be a full-time staff member recruited competitively and responsible for the daily management and implementation of the Project. This role includes ensuring Project targets in the Logical Framework are met on time and within budget. The NPD will: i) report to the AE on project management matters; ii) manage the Project according to the specified work plans and budget; iii) ensure adherence to WWF and donor rules, policies, and standards; iv) collaborate closely with national and local authorities to meet the needs of stakeholders and beneficiary groups; v) oversee knowledge transfer to Project partners; vi) lead the development of annual work plans and budgets; vii) communicate Project progress updates to the PSC at biannual meetings; and viii) develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for key Project staff and partners. The NPM will be required to fulfill the role until Project completion and the submission of the final evaluation report — as well as any other required documentation — to WWF-US (AE). The Project Finance Manager will report to WWF Fiji's Head of Admin Finance and Risk and be responsible for: i) providing financial support to the PMU; ii) compiling reports on disbursement procedures and funding requirements; and iii) managing financial transactions in line with WWF and donor guidelines, and iii) ensuring tasks are implemented according to the established work plan and national priorities. The Project Finance Manager, with support from the Project Accountant, will also oversee the financial transactions for the Project's activities, which will be implemented in accordance with the established Project workplan and national priorities.

148. The PMU's head office will be in Suva. To ensure close coordination with the GoF on the execution of Project activities a number of PMU staff will be embedded within government agencies. The GSR MU, established under Output 2.1, the GSR MU Lead and Coordinator, will be embedded in the MECC to ensure close coordination with the NDA who will Chair the GSR MU's Advisory Board and to ensure alignment with existing policies and plans in Fiji. To execute the same Output and facilitate coordination and enhance the capacity of other agencies with ecosystem management responsibilities, the PMU will also embed coordinators within the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry, Ministry of

Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Itaukei Affairs, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Commissioners Offices in the Western and Northern Divisions.

149. To facilitate coordination for the execution of Component 3 activities, a PMU coordinator will also be embedded within the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises. All PMU's members embedded within government agencies will be subject to a secondment agreement (cooperative agreement) between WWF-Fiji and the relevant government agency. The PMU staff who will manage the LLAF[96] (Output 1.3) will be based in the Project office supported by provincial officers in the offices in Labasa and Lautoka responsible for screening and implementing grants, under Component 1 and 3.

150. There will be two regional offices, set up by WWF-Fiji as **Divisional Implementation Units (DIUs),** in the Northern (Labasa) and Western (Lautoka) Divisions, where implementation leads will oversee activities in each of the four provinces. These DIUs will coordinate the implementation of Project activities under Components 1, 2 and 3 guided by the Divisional Oversight Committees (DOCs) described below. The DIUs will be headed by Regional Managers (one for each of the Divisions), that are full time WWF-Fiji staff working on the Project, each reporting to the NPM in Suva. The Regional Managers will be responsible for: i) on-the-ground implementation of Project activities and supervising the service providers hired for specific Project activities, ii) coordinating with provincial line agencies on the implementation of Project activities; iii) providing technical support and oversight to field teams including ensuring compliance with WWF, GCF and national policies and standards, in collaboration with the Divisional Oversight Committees (DOCs); iv) undertaking monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of Project activities and developing knowledge products to share lessons learned via the PMU and project partners; and v) development of ToRs for divisional and provincial staff and implementing partners in addition to defining scope of service level agreements and procurement plans.

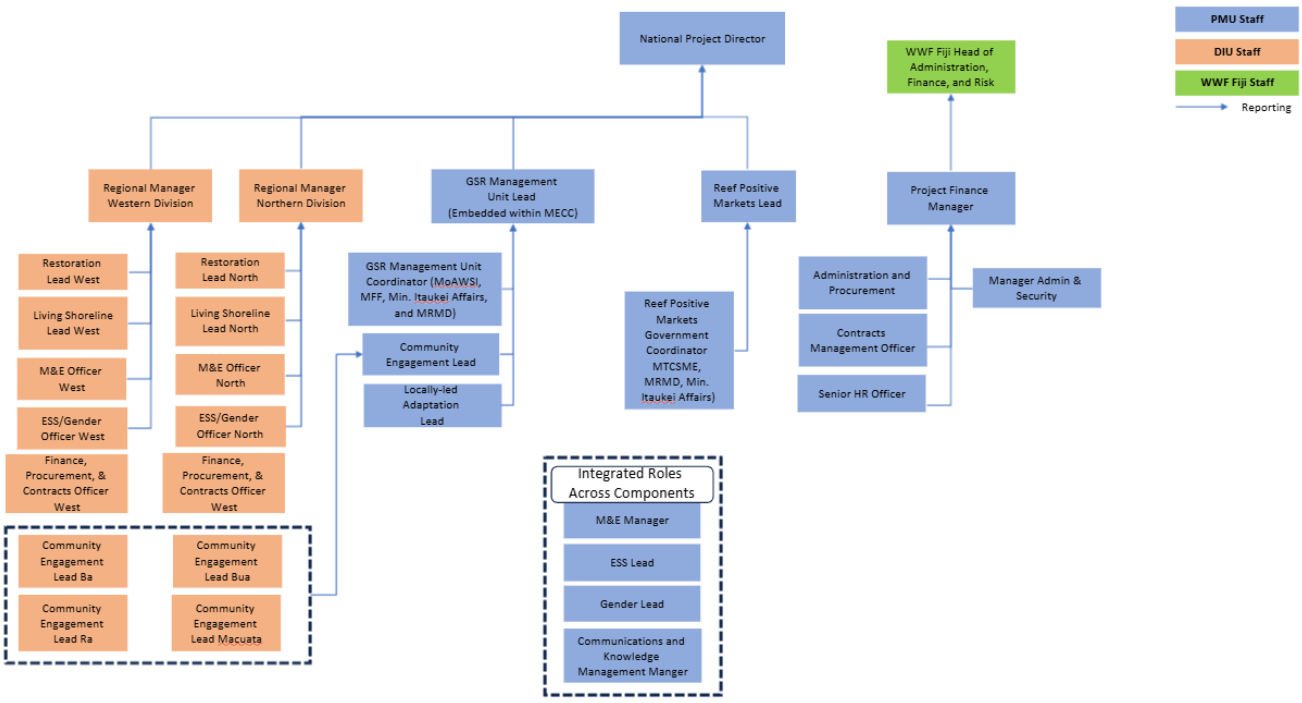


Figure 14. PMU Organigram

[96] For avoidance of doubt, the LLAF is not an incorporated entity or vehicle, but it is a grant mechanism to be managed by WWF-Fiji.

Governance Bodies

151. **The Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be the Project's governance body that will provide technical guidance and support to the EE's PMU and Divisional Implementation Units (in Labasa and Lautoka) and ensure alignment with Fiji's national climate objectives. Specifically, the PSC will: i) review and endorse annual work plans and budgets; ii) provide expert guidance on the Project strategy and endorse any changes during implementation; iii) support the PMU with identifying and managing project-related risks; iv) support communication and dissemination of Project outcomes to beneficiaries; v) provide strategic and policy guidance to ensure alignment of the Project with national climate change regulations and plans; and vi) ensure that EbA and NbS interventions are integrated in the main development agenda of the GoF at national and sub-national levels.

152. The PSC will support the PMU to implement the Project's exit strategy across all levels of government, disseminate key lessons from the Project, and maintain complementarity between the proposed Project and other key planned and ongoing initiatives in the GSR, such as the FAO Project - *Forest and Landscape Restoration for climate benefits and resilience in Fiji* and the Pegasus *Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Window.* During PSC meetings, all members will receive updates on the status of the Project and on the significant Project developments from the NPM. Members of the PSC will join the AE during annual site supervision visits to monitor Project activity progress and engagement with local communities and stakeholders. WWF Fiji, in their role as EE, will serve as secretariat to the PSC.

153. The PSC will include a representative from each of the following:
    a. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC)
    b. The Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry (MoAWSI)
    c. The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MoRMD)
    d. The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
    e. The Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry (MoFF)
    f. The Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport (MCTTT)
    g. Western Division Offices
    h. Northern Division Offices
    i. Community Representatives
    j. Academic Institutions
    k. NGOs

154. Serving below the PSC and to ensure ownership at the provincial level and by key government line departments, **Divisional Oversight Committees (DOCs)** will be established in each of the two divisions (western and northern), where provinces are located: Western (Ba, Ra) and Northern (Bua, Macuata). The DOCs will be chaired by representatives from the Commissioner Office who will also represent their Divisions in the PSC and include representation from appointed Provincial Focal Points from the Divisional Offices of (1) Fisheries, (2) Forest, (3) Wildlife, (4) Fisheries, (5) Environment, (6) Agriculture, and (7) WWF-Fiji.

155. The DOCs will: i) assist the PMU with the development of annual work plans and budgets for the project activities for endorsement by the PSC; ii) ensure coordination among all relevant federal and provincial government departments; iii) support the PMU with formalizing service based contracts with service providers who will implement Project activities; iv) seek complementarities among on-going government projects to maximize Project level impact; v) coordinate with Project M&E staff to track Project progress at provincial level against the approved work plans; and vii) provide guidance and support to the DIUs during implementation, as needed. The DOC will appoint a Chair who will be responsible for consulting with key experts as and when required for knowledge sharing and peer assistance. The DOCs shall meet bi-annually, with participation of the PMU, before the PSC meetings are convened. This will ensure that DOCs recommendations are duly considered and incorporated at the national level.

156. Under the DOCs, the Divisional Focal Points will serve as the points of contact at the provincial levels for the implementation of Project activities. One focal point will be identified from each department during Project start-up. The DOCs and the respective focal points will provide technical support and guidance to

the DIU teams for the implementation of Project activities, including promoting the adoption of the Project's adaptation interventions and mainstreaming EbA and NbS interventions into Fiji's provincial governments' planning for marine and coastal ecosystem management.

157. The EE will enter into relevant agreements with a number of entities and organizations that will be involved at different levels in the Project activities, which may be partner entities, sub-grantees and/ or procured parties (collectively, "Delivery Partners"). Delivery Partners will enter into relevant sub-grant agreements, MOUs and/or service contracts with the EE, depending on their type of support and involvement in the implementation of specific activities (per AMA definition of "*Involved Third Parties with EE Privity*"). Delivery Partners include private sector firms and providers, national government agencies, provincial governments, subgrant recipients and local beneficiary communities that are involved in marine and land use planning and climate change mitigation and adaptation for the Project. Table 14 identifies each Delivery Partner and specifies the type of agreement and selection criteria deployed. Grants will be awarded under WWF's accreditation scope of "grant award and/or funding allocation"; and service providers or other procured parties will be engaged by the EE in accordance with clause 14 of the AMA. The table below also indicates which Activities involve Delivery Partners and the type of engagement. The Delivery Partners engaged under Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.4, and 3.1.1 act under the direction of WWF-Fiji as the Executing Entity and have no discretion with respect to: (i) how they implement the relevant Activity or Sub-Activity, which they carry out in accordance with WWF-Fiji's implementation plans, technical specifications, and validated designs; (ii) the allocation of the channeled GCF proceeds, which is determined and controlled by WWF-Fiji; and (iii) the selection of target sites, communities, or final beneficiaries, which is undertaken and approved by WWF-Fiji in accordance with the Project's validation procedures and eligibility criteria.

Table 14. Delivery Partners and Flow of Funds

Funding Entity	Recipient	If grant award and/or funding allocation, which activities	Form of Agreement and source of funding	Entity pre-selected or will criteria be applied during execution	Will that entity sub-grant? i.e., will it be an intermediary for cash grants?	Delivery partner roles and rationale
WWF-US	WWF-Fiji	Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, PMC	Subsidiary agreement (GCF funding and co-finance)	Pre-selected	Yes	WWF-Fiji is the EE
MECC	Divisional Offices of Forestry	Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2	Grant agreement (Co-finance)	Pre-selected	No	Deliver mangrove and riparian restoration on validated sites, using government forestry staff and capacity, in accordance with WWF-Fiji's restoration plans and technical specifications. Mangrove and riparian restoration falls squarely within the statutory mandate of the Divisional Offices of Forestry, which are the government bodies responsible for forest management and restoration in these areas. As a governmental implementing actor discharging its own mandate and contributing its staff and in-kind resources - rather than a commercial supplier of services - the engagement takes the form of a sub-grant rather than a procurement.

MECC	Engineering Firm(s)	Activity 1.2.1	Consulting/Procurement agreement (Co-finance)	Criteria will be applied during execution	No	Provide validation, pre-design requirements, and the design and construction of living-shoreline measures to WWF-Fiji's specification. As a commercial supplier delivering a defined civil-works output for consideration, the firm is competitively procured under Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS).
WWF International	WWF-Fiji	Activity 1.1.1, 1.3.1 1.3.1, M&E, PMC	Grant agreement (Co-finance)	Pre-selected	Yes	WWF-Fiji is the EE
WWF Australia	WWF-Fiji	Activity 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 2.1.1, 3.1.1	Grant agreement (Co-finance)	Pre-selected	Yes	WWF-Fiji is the EE
WWF-Fiji	Divisional Offices of Forestry	Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Pre-selected	No	Same rational as above
WWF-Fiji	Community managed Nurseries	Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Criteria will be applied during execution	No	Supply and grow native seedling stock and support planting on validated restoration sites, mobilizing community labor and existing nursery facilities under WWF-Fiji's plans. These partners will be pre-selected for their proximity and community standing, consistent with the project's approach of using local partners wherever possible. As a community implementing actor operating on customary (iTaukei) land and contributing in-kind resources and community labour, a sub-grant is used; a procurement of services would not reflect this relationship.
WWF-Fiji	Engineering Firm(s)	Activity 1.2.1	Consulting/Procurement agreement (GCF funding)	Criteria will be applied during execution	No	Same as rationale above
WWF-Fiji	CBOs and Community Village Councils	Activity 1.3.2 Sub-Activity 2.1.1.3 2.1.3.2	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Criteria will be applied during execution	No	Participate in developing and implementing the GSR Management Plan and related monitoring, receiving technical assistance and funding to build their capacity, under WWF-Fiji's direction. As the customary resource owners and governance bodies for the communities in which the project operates, these partners cannot be substituted through a competitive tender - their standing derives from their community mandate, not from a service offering. A sub-grant is therefore used to strengthen their capacity to fulfil this role, rather than to procure a service.
WWF-Fiji	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Activity 2.1.4	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Pre-selected	No	Develop FMPs in pre-assigned qoliqolis using the FMP template and guide set by WWF-Fiji. WCS already holds established relationships with the communities in these specific qoliqolis,and is engaged on that basis rather than through a competitive tender, which could neither assess nor replicate that community standing. As not-for-profit conservation actors delivering through their own community relationships and institutional resources, the engagements take the form of sub-

						grants rather than commercial service purchases. Both act under WWF-Fiji's direction, with no discretion over the template, the selection of qoliqolis, or the allocation of proceeds.
WWF-Fiji	Conservation International (CI)	Activity 2.1.4	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Pre-selected	No	Develop FMPs in pre-assigned qoliqolis using the FMP template and guide set by WWF-Fiji. CI already holds established relationships with the communities in these specific qoliqolis, and is engaged on that basis rather than through a competitive tender, which could neither assess nor replicate that community standing. As not-for-profit conservation actors delivering through their own community relationships and institutional resources, the engagements take the form of sub-grants rather than commercial service purchases. Both act under WWF-Fiji's direction, with no discretion over the template, the selection of qoliqolis, or the allocation of proceeds.
WWF-Fiji	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	Activity 2.1.1 2.3.1	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	Min. Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry	Activity 2.1.1 2.3.1	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	Min. of Fisheries & Forestry	Activity 2.1.1 2.3.1	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	Min. of iTaukei Affairs	Activity 2.1.1 2.3.1	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources	Activity 2.1.1 2.3.1	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, and SMEs	Activity 3.1.2.2	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.

WWF-Fiji	Western and Northern Divisional Commissioners Offices	Activity 3.1.2.2	Cooperative agreement (no funding)	Pre-selected	No	Receive technical assistance and/or staff secondments to fulfil defined coordination and mainstreaming functions under WWF-Fiji's direction. These engagements take the form of cooperative agreements, with no funds channeled at partner discretion.
WWF-Fiji	BDS Providers	Activity 3.1.1	Grant agreement (GCF funding)	Criteria will be applied during execution	No	The EE funds BDS providers to build their own institutional capacity to design and deliver tailored incubation and acceleration programs for reef-positive enterprises. A sub-grant is the appropriate instrument, rather than a procurement of services, because the funds build a standing capability that resides with the provider and benefits third-party enterprises, supporting a BDS ecosystem that sustains itself after the project closes - an outcome a terminating service contract could not achieve. As not all BDS providers work in the sectors this project targets, providers are pre-selected against defined criteria (Annex 2c) to ensure relevance to reef-positive enterprises. Throughout, the BDS providers act under WWF-Fiji's direction - WWF-Fiji shortlists and selects the providers (Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1), directs the program scope, and controls the allocation of proceeds - and exercise no discretion over these matters.

Table 15. Initial Eligibility Criteria

Type	Criteria	When applied	Relevant sub-activities
Community managed Nurseries	Selection criteria will follow WWF-Fiji's (EE procurement policies and the Procurement & Consultancy Guidelines, which are consistent with the procurement rules, policies and procedures of the AE .	Criteria to be applied during execution of the Project, for the selection of available community managed nurseries operating in proximity to the proposed mangrove and riparian forests restoration sites.	1.1.1.2 1.1.1.3 1.1.1.4 1.1.2.2 1.1.2.3 1.1.2.4 1.1.2.5
Design and Engineering Firm(s)	The selection criteria for procurement of this entity (or multiple entities) will be based on Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) criteria and procurement will follow WWF-Fiji's (EE) and the Procurement & Consultancy Guidelines which are consistent with the procurement rules, policies and procedures of the AE. The QCBS selection criteria evaluates cost committed by the bidder and the technical qualification of the bidder.	Criteria to be applied during execution of the Project, for the selection of engineering firm to provide validation, pre-design requirements, and design and construction of the living shoreline measures.	1.2.1.1 1.2.1.2 1.2.1.3
CBOs and NGOs representing the communities to	Funding allocation for each beneficiary community will be based on the following initial criteria[97[1]]:	Criteria to be applied during execution of the LLAF, for the selection of i) eligible beneficiary communities; and ii)	1.3.2.3 1.3.2.4

[97[1]] Note that initial criteria have been defined for the distribution of LLIAF funds among the 30 native communities. During Y1, these criteria will be further developed, consulted and socialized by/with NIOs and RIOs.

access funding from the LLAF	• Impact: number of people living in the community (total beneficiary population) • Aim to address Barrier 1 or 2 or both • Aim to develop EbA projects which aim to reduce the identified climate hazards: flooding, droughts, storms. • Lie within the areas identified in the feasibility studies in the four provinces. These areas should have clear projected vulnerabilities due to storms, sea level rise and erosion determined in the Annex 2a. • Must comply with the table 2 eligibility criteria for LLA projects in Annex 2c. • Local NGOs, CBOs, Provincial or Local Government from Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata provinces lying within the project areas identified. • Basic understanding of nature-based solutions (NbS) and community-led adaptation approaches • Must be a registered legal entity within the relevant community	grant proposals for the implementation of climate resilient EBA and/or NbS interventions; including associated technical assistance support.		
BDS Providers	The Project Feasibility Studies (Annex 2b) have already shortlisted those BDS providers best suited for the project. During execution, the EE will shortlist final BDS providers through the following criteria: • demonstrated experience of business development support • strong understanding of the local ecological, political, and regulatory environments • ability to offer long-term support to impact-oriented small-scale enterprises • existing and potential networks with financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders	Criteria to be applied during execution of the Project.	3.1.1.1	

Key Government Agencies involved in the Project and their roles

158. **The MECC** is the **National Designated Authority (NDA)** for Fiji. It holds the national mandate for climate change, environmental protection, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The environmental division of the Ministry is led by the Director General (Env/CC), with responsibilities including: i) Climate Change & Environment; Environmental Legislation and trans-boundary (regional and international) issues; and ii) matters relating to sustainable development, water and sanitation, sustainable urbanization, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The MECC will be a delivery partner and a recipient of goods and services in the form of technical assistance and logistical support from WWF-Fiji under Activities 2.1.1 and 2.3.1. The Ministry will lead coordination and government participation in the development an implementation of the GSR MU and adopt updated procedures for Fiji's Implementation Framework, including policies and climate adaptation plans. MECC will also be responsible for providing the necessary staffing needs for the GSR MU starting in Year 9 of the project. The MECC will also be a beneficiary under the Project receiving training under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1. **The Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry** will support and provide technical assistance to the **Divisional Forest Offices,** delivery partners under the project, responsible for the mangrove and riparian forest restoration under Activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. The **Ministry of iTaukei Affairs** will be a beneficiary under the Project receiving training under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1. The **Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry** will be a beneficiary under the project receiving training under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1, the **Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources** will be a beneficiary under the Project receiving training under Sub-Activity

2.1.3.1. The **Ministry of Rural and Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of Trade,** the **Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry, and the Western and Northern Divisional Commissioners Offices** will be beneficiaries under the Project receiving training under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1 and entering into Cooperative Agreements under Sub-Activity 3.1.2.2 through which the Project will provide technical assistance through a staff secondment.

159. **Divisional Departments.** Fiji is divided administratively into four divisions Central, Northern, Eastern, and Western, each headed by a Divisional Commissioner and District Officer. Divisions are further subdivided into fourteen provinces. Divisional commissioners implement governmental services and activities mandated by the central government. Divisional Officers cover the following thematic areas relevant to the project: Forests, Fisheries, Environment, iTaukei (community) Affairs, and Agriculture. They are also responsible for ensuring provincial level interventions align with national policies and regulations. Under the Project, the Divisional Offices of Forestry will be delivery partners for Activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, and the Divisional Forests, Fisheries, Environment, iTaukei Affairs, and Agriculture will be beneficiaries receiving technical assistance in the form of a staff secondment under Component 3.

Table 16. AE and EE roles & responsibilities

WWF-US (AE)	**WWF-Fiji (EE)**
● Signs the FAA with the GCF detailing all the responsibilities of the AE for the execution of the Project. ● Signs a Subsidiary Agreement with the EEs to provide the GCF Proceeds and to hold them to the duties of an EE as described in the AMA and FAA. ● Signs relevant Co-financing Agreements with the GoF in respect to the relevant co-financing resources, including the relevant terms and conditions from such donors; and signs separate grant agreements with the EE for the channeling of such co-financing resources and flow down of any donor-specific requirements. ● Receives, reviews, and approves the Project financial and technical information, and disburses GCF Proceeds and co-financing resources to the EE. ● Reports to the GCF on the project technical and financial progress and requests disbursement of grant funding. ● Monitors the performance of the EEs and supports their capacity building. ● Communicates with the country NDA to facilitate the successful implementation of the Project.	● Signs a Subsidiary Agreement with the AE. ● Signs separate grant agreements with the AE in respect of the co-financing resources. ● Submits requests for disbursement to the AE for GCF Proceeds in accordance with the timing and conditions of the Subsidiary Agreement. ● Receives from WWF-US, the relevant annual installments of the GCF Proceeds and co-financing resources. ● Leads the execution of all Project Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, and 3.2.2. ● Acts as financial manager for the Project implementation. ● Procures all goods and services funded by GCF Proceeds in accordance with AE's fiduciary standards. ● Prepares and compiles annual work plans and budgets. ● Compiles and prepares technical and financial reports for submission to the AE.

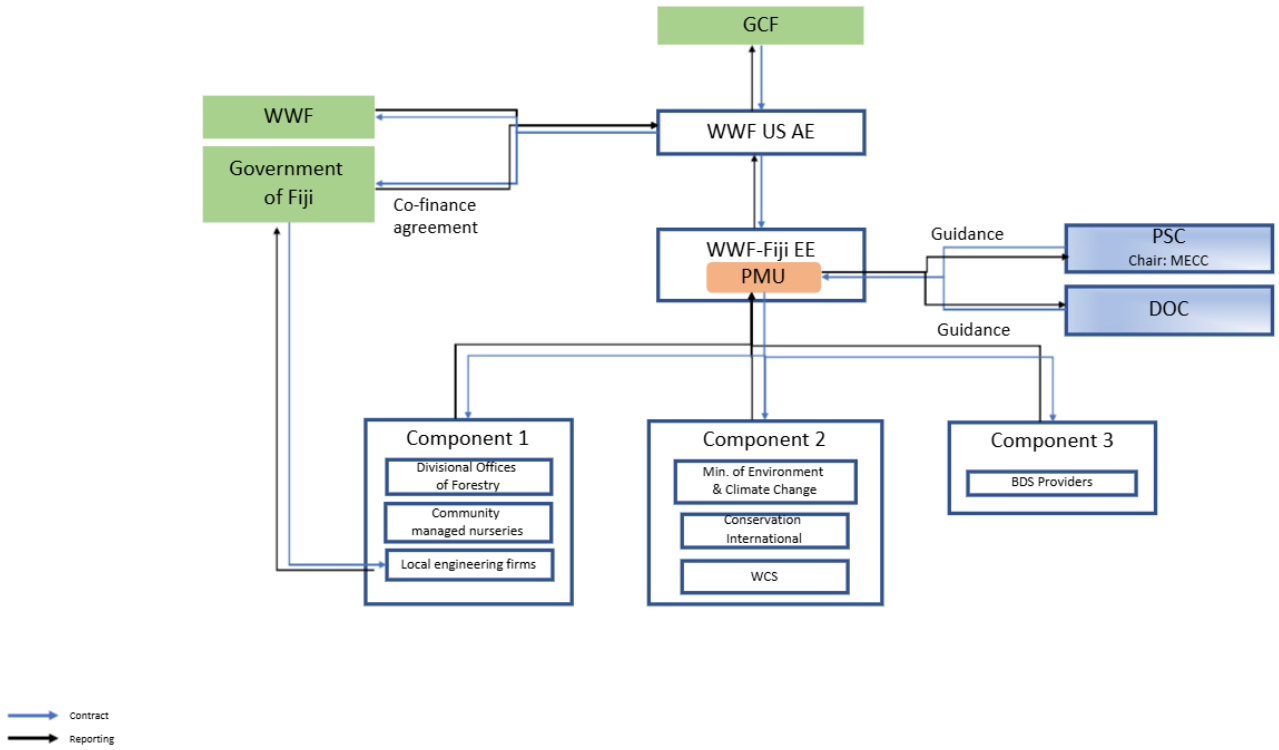


Figure 15. Implementation arrangements for the Project

160. A diagram showing the flow of funds is presented in Figure 16. WWF-Fiji will be an EE for the Project and receive GCF Proceeds and the co-financing resources channeled through the AE. For the implementation of Activity 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, WWF-Fiji will enter into Subgrant Agreements with the Divisional Offices of Forestry in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces and community managed nurseries, in those areas where they are present, who will carry out the restoration of mangroves and riparian forests. For the implementation of Activity 1.3.1, WWF-Fiji will competitively procure the services of one or more engineering firms to design and build the NbS measures identified for the project sites. and all approval and regulatory pre-construction requirements will be conducted by consultants recommended by the MoAWSI. Under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.2, WWF-Fiji will enter into Subgrant Agreements with participating CBOs and/or Village Councils in the development of implementation of the GSR management plan and will receive technical assistance and funding to enhance their capacity to implement the plan and conduct monitoring activities. For the implementation of Activity 2.1.4, WWF-Fiji will enter into Subgrant Agreements with CI and WCS to develop FMPs in the qoliqolis where they work. Under Sub-Activity 3.1.2.2, the **Ministry of Rural and Maritime Affairs the Ministry of Trade,** the **Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry, and the Western and Northern Divisional Commissioners Offices** will enter into Cooperative Agreements with WWF-Fiji receiving technical assistance through staff secondments. Under Sub-Activity 3.1.1.3, WWF-Fiji will enter into Subgrant Agreements with identified BDS providers providing technical assistance and funding to expand their support for reef positive businesses.

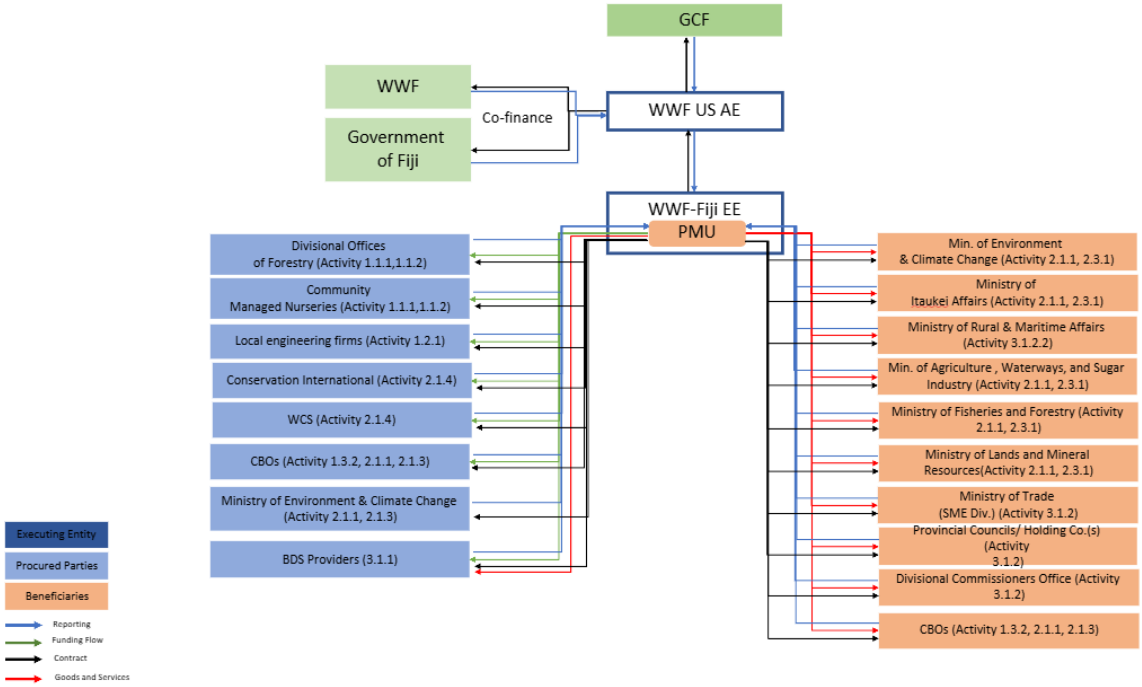


Figure 16. Flow of funds for the project.

Synergy and coordination with other GCF Projects

161. At this stage there is no geographic overlap and therefore no duplication of investment between the existing FAO and WWF Projects. FAO will be focusing on HVCF while WWF will focus on mangrove ecosystems and riparian areas along waterways connected to the GSR. Given that, broadly, both projects focus on NbS, under the coordination of the NDA-MECC and MoFF, during implementation projects will coordinate on both project activities to ensure complementarity and to maximize project impacts for the people of Fiji.

162. The table below (Table 17) specifies which activities will enable these contributions, and how alignment and coordination between the two projects will be ensured during implementation.

Table 17. Synergy and coordination between the proposed project and other GCF and GEF projects in Fiji

FAO Project Activity	WWF Project Activities	Coordination area
1.1.3: Establish community-supported ecological monitoring procedures across the target districts	Sub-Activity 2.1.3.2: Support for community leaders/representatives to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and NbS interventions. Sub-Activity 2.1.4.5: Provide TA and training for communities for FMP enforcement and monitoring.	WWF and FAO will coordinate through their respective PMUs to map those districts where TA will be provided under each project for ecosystem monitoring.
1.2.1 Update of key natural resources management policies for climate resilience & mitigation	Activity 2.3.1: Update the National Adaptation (NAP), Provincial Adaptation Plans in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for implementing EbA and NbS interventions in Fiji.	Both project PMUs will coordinate on the development of recommendations for key national and sub-national planning documents although they are likely to cover different thematic areas with FAO focusing on FLU and WWF on EbA and NbS for coastal ecosystems.
1.3.1: Desing participatory, climate risk informed and coordinated landscape investments and management plans for target landscapes	Activity 2.1.2: Develop the GSR Management Plan.	The GSR MU will coordinate with and include the FAO team as a stakeholder in the development of the GSR Management Plan to ensure complementarity and synergy with FAO's planning interventions in HVCF.

2.2.3: Facilitate the conversion and the SFM of degraded lands to natural forest regeneration following climate adaptive silviculture approaches in former plantation areas.	Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture Activity 1.1.2: Restore watershed riparian buffers to increase sediment capture	WWF and FAO will coordinate through their respective PMUs and under the guidance of the NDA-MECC and MoFF to map WWF restoration areas and FAO restoration sites to ensure complementarity.
3.2.1 Strengthen/de-constrain existing forestry loans of the FDB and other national financing institutions to support FLR and SFM	Output 3.2: Coordination between reef-positive enterprises, business development support providers, financial institutions and government is strengthened, improving enterprise visibility to capital providers.	WWF will coordinate with FAO on their engagement and assistance to financial institutions to increase lending in NbS focused enterprises. WWF and FAO will bring strong complementary experience in this work covering marine, coastal ecosystem, and FLU expertise in their TA to financial institutions in Fiji.
3.2.3 Support the capacity of public and private financial institutions to identify climate risk investments and to ensure Paris Alignment	Sub-Activity 3.2.2.2: Create a framework to identify and assess reef-positive enterprises.	WWF will coordinate with FAO on their engagement and assistance to financial institutions to increase lending in NbS focused enterprises. WWF and FAO will bring strong complementary experience in this work covering marine, coastal ecosystem, and FLU expertise in their TA to financial institutions in Fiji.
FP180: Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Window	**WWF Project Activities**	**Coordination area**
Activity E3: Identify and maintain a pipeline of potential investments	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2: Support identified BDS providers to develop incubation and acceleration programmes for reef-positive enterprises. Sub-Activity 3.1.2.2: Work with national and provincial government institutions to identify and originate reef-positive enterprises. Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1: Establish a multi-stakeholder working group to streamline support for reef-positive enterprises, including financial institutions.	As stated in FP180 the GFCR project approach was founded on WWF's Coral Reef Rescue initiative premise and the climate change evidence and rational used for this project. WWF's activities build the upstream pipeline that GFCR's investment activities draw from: WWF supports early-stage reef-positive enterprises to reach investment readiness, while GFCR maintains the pipeline of investable opportunities. WWF and GFCR will coordinate through their respective PMUs to align enterprise identification and referral, so that enterprises maturing through WWF's BDS support are channeled, to the extent possible, into GFCR's investment pipeline, and to avoid duplication in enterprise sourcing and support across the two projects.
Sub-Activity E4.1: Perform Due Diligence on proposed deals.	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2: Support identified BDS providers to develop incubation and acceleration programmes for reef-positive enterprises, including business planning, financial management, and formalisation. Sub-Activity 3.1.1.3: Support BDS providers to develop a monitoring framework to assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the businesses.	WWF does not perform investment due diligence; its activities strengthen the investment-readiness of reef-positive enterprises - including financial records, business plans, governance, and impact data - that underpin the due diligence GFCR performs on proposed deals. WWF and GFCR will coordinate through their respective PMUs to align the readiness outputs generated under WWF's BDS support with GFCR's due-diligence requirements, so that enterprises entering GFCR's pipeline arrive with the documentation and impact evidence needed to streamline deal assessment.
FP 259: The Adapting Tuna-Dependent Pacific Island Communities and Economies to Climate Change		
Coordination areas: The focuses specifically on pelagic offshore tuna fisheries and the management of fish aggregating devices (FADs). In particular, under Output 1 (Increased national capacity to access tuna and other pelagic fish for coastal communities), FP259 is a multi-country regional program with a strong emphasis on offshore tuna fisheries, value chains, post-harvest practices, technical assistance, early warning systems and data. In contrast, Fiji CRR focuses on the development of community-level FMPs for 20 qoliqolis in Fiji. These plans address all inshore and reef-associated fisheries, rather than tuna only, and are centered on locally led governance, and ecosystem-based		

management within Fiji's coastal and reef ecosystems. The Fiji CRR Project may leverage relevant data, lessons, and technical outputs generated under FP259, while applying them through a more targeted, country- and community-specific approach.

Readiness Proposal with the GGGI for the Republic of Fiji - 2023

Coordination areas: WWF has also consulted with the GGGI team implementing Fiji's most recent GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Program, approved in 2023. The project has been deliberately designed to build upon, operationalize, and extend the outcomes of the Readiness program. Several products generated under the GGGI Readiness project have directly informed the feasibility studies underpinning the Fiji CRR Project and will continue to guide implementation. Notably, the Readiness program has developed national and local-level guidelines for planning and implementing NbS for coastal protection. These guidelines—largely informed by international experience in comparable geographies—will be applied during validation and implementation of restoration and living shoreline interventions under Component 1 of the Fiji CRR Project. In line with agreements reached with GGGI, the Fiji CRR Project will further advance this work by generating Fiji specific NbS guidance based on the largescale, implementation experience gathered from the project. This approach ensures continuity while strengthening the national evidence base with locally derived lessons.

The GGGI Readiness program has also supported the preparation of 12 Village Development Plans, primarily in provinces outside the core focus of the Fiji CRR Project, with limited overlap in Ba Province. The Fiji CRR Project Management Unit will review and align with these plans where relevant, particularly in the development of the GSR Management Plan, thereby reinforcing coherence across local planning instruments without duplicating prior support.

Importantly, the Readiness program has identified key analytical gaps—particularly in flood modelling, sedimentation dynamics, and gender responsive risk analysis. These gaps are directly addressed through the Fiji CRR Project's feasibility studies and implementation phase assessments, demonstrating how the project responds to needs identified through Readiness support and translates them into applied analysis and investment ready solutions.

The two initiatives are also sequenced. The current Readiness program concludes in March 2026 and is supporting updates to Fiji's NAP scheduled for completion in 2026. The Fiji CRR Project will build on these efforts by generating Fiji specific environmental, social, and economic evidence from implementation across four provinces. This evidence will be well positioned to inform the subsequent NAP revision cycle in 2030–2031, aligned with the IPCC's next assessment report. Both GGGI and WWF agree that this staggered approach allows national guidance to progressively increase in specificity and technical depth over time, reinforcing the NAP as a living document informed by the latest science and implementation experience.

GEF-7 Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities Project.

Coordination areas: The **GEF Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities Project** is a global initiative focused on safeguarding climate-resilient ("refuge") coral reef ecosystems in six countries—Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Tanzania. Its scope centers on strengthening scientific, institutional, and community capacity to identify, manage, and protect these reefs, while promoting inclusive governance, national planning, and investment strategies that reduce local threats and support sustainable "blue economy" livelihoods. The project also emphasizes knowledge sharing, global-to-local collaboration, and mobilizing public and private finance to ensure the long-term conservation of biodiversity and the resilience of communities that depend on coral reef ecosystems.

The GEF CRRI project and the GCF CRR project under development are deliberately aligned to ensure strong complementarity, coherence, and long-term impact in Fiji's coral reef conservation efforts. WWF serves as the GEF Agency and co-developed the GEF initiative in close partnership with WWF's GCF Accredited Entity, ensuring strategic coordination and leverage between the two financing streams. The GEF project focuses on establishing the **National Action Plan for Coral Reef Conservation (NAPCRC)**—a coordinated, long-term framework led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (also the GCF NDA)—to guide national priorities for protecting, managing, and restoring coral reef ecosystems while supporting resilient communities. The GCF project directly contributes to achieving the objectives of the national coral reef plan by advancing sustainable management of inshore fisheries to support community wellbeing, restoring marine and coastal ecosystems to enhance coral reef resilience, strengthening community capacities for resource management and decision-making, and improving the quality and coordination of coral reef data and science for evidence-based planning. Furthermore, the GCF project supports increased knowledge, capacity, and long-term financing mechanisms, thereby ensuring sustained coral reef conservation and sustainable marine resource management, effectively complementing the foundational policy and planning work delivered through the GEF project.

The GEF CRRI Project is expected to end in 2027 and phase II of the project is currently being planned by WWF.

B.5. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 1000 words, approximately 2 pages)

163. Fiji, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), already experiences significant economic and human capital losses from climate change and evidence suggests it will only have increasing impacts if no action is taken. Fiji lies on the front line of adverse climate change impacts including sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, coastal erosion, and intense floods resulting in saltwater intrusion and loss of habitable land (Fiji NDC, 2021). In 2021, Fiji was ranked globally among the top 15 countries with the highest disaster risk (The Commonwealth, 2021). In 2016, Tropical Cyclone Winston caused widespread devastation across Fiji including an estimated USD 1.3 billion in economic losses, including

USD 700 million in direct damages (The Commonwealth, 2021).[98] Fiji experiences significant annual damage from storms, floods, and cyclones, with losses estimated at around USD 245 million annually, and this is projected to increase due to climate change.[99] Estimated average asset losses caused by tropical cyclones account for 1.6%of Fiji's GDP, and losses from the 100-year cyclones are estimated at around 11% of GDP. Adaptation costs for coastal protection are projected to account for up to 3 percent of Fiji's GDP in the worst-case scenario.[100] It is estimated that by 2050, Fiji's annual losses due to extreme weather events could reach 6.5% of GDP.[101]

164. Approximately 75% of the Fijian population lives within 5 km of the coast and 27% within 1 km and are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including damages to community assets including homes and farms and to the ecosystems on which they depend for their livelihoods, including local fisheries dependent on healthy mangroves. The coastal subsistence fisheries sector contributes the highest portion (42%) of total fisheries production in Fiji[102] and the most recent survey conducted by WWF in the GSR indicated an 80% decline in key fisheries biomass.[103]

165. Combating the impacts of climate change requires action on both adaptation (building resilience in natural and human systems) and mitigation (reduction of GHG emissions). A comparison of the global cost estimates with the current level of adaptation funding indicates that projected global adaptation needs are to be significantly greater than current investment levels, particularly in vulnerable SIDs like Fiji.

166. Fiji remains a resource-constrained economy, dependent on foreign financing in the shape of loans, foreign investment, and grant aid. The country relies predominantly on loans from multilateral banks for infrastructure projects and foreign aid to assist in post-disaster scenarios, including recovery from extreme events, cyclones, and floods. Despite Fiji's proactive efforts to address these challenges through national policies and initiatives, the scale of required adaptation to implement the adaptation priorities in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and NAP far exceeds available domestic resources. According to the GoF's analysis of its current climate finance USD 836 million in domestic and international public climate finance was allocated to Fiji annually between 2016 and 2019 falling short of the USD 1.4 billion in annual identified climate finance needs.[104]

167. While the GoF's financial commitment to flood and drought risk management is expected to continue increasing in the future, it will still fall far short of the abovementioned funding needs, particularly for initiatives such as EbA and NbS projects that inherently have high upfront costs. Fiji's debt level and trade imbalance imposes significant limitations on available finance from the GoF on climate adaptation. The country's public debt, including guaranteed debt, reached 80% of GDP in July 2023 although the Ministry of Finance has reported a strong post-pandemic recovery with a 20% growth rate in 2022 and 8% in 2023.[105]

168. Along with the country's high level of indebtedness, rural communities in the project areas are too economically vulnerable to make significant financial contributions to climate projects. Local financing institutions also have limited funds and don't have the risk appetite for EbA and NbS investments. In addition, private sector resources, either local or international, for climate change adaptation remain largely absent in rural areas of Fiji, as is the case in most low-income developing countries. The tourism industry

[98] Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance. (2022, December). *Fiji: A case study conducted by the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance.* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
[99] World Bank. *Fiji - Vulnerability.* Climate Knowledge Portal.
[100] Shiiba, N., Singh, P., Charan, D., Raj, K., Stuart, J., Pratap, A., & Maekawa, M. (2023). Climate change and coastal resiliency of Suva, Fiji: A holistic approach for measuring climate risk using the climate and ocean risk vulnerability index (CORVI). *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change, 28*(2), 9.
[101] World Bank. (2017, November 10). *New report projects US$4.5 billion cost to reduce Fiji's vulnerability to climate change.*
[102] Dey, M. M., Gosh, K., Valmonte Santos, R. A., & Rosegrant, M. W. (2016). Economic impact of climate change and climate change adaptation strategies for fisheries sector in Fiji. *Marine Policy, 67*, 6-13.
[103] World Wildlife Fund. (2022). *Status and trends of coral reefs and associated coastal habitats in Fiji's Great Sea Reef.*
[104] United Nations Office for Sustainable Development. (2024). *Executive Training Course for Policymakers on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Aligning the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement – Integrating SDG Implementation and Climate Action.*
[105] Government of Fiji. (2023). *2022-2023 annual debt report.* Ministry of Finance.

remains an exception contributing over 30% of GDP pre-pandemic.[106] Furthermore, Fiji's geographical isolation increases costs associated with technology imports and project implementation costs. This is compounded by the lack of evidence on the economic benefits of EbA and NbS interventions for reducing the impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding, which is a barrier to investment in EbA and NbS approaches particularly in rural areas.

169. Given the funding gap between Fiji's adaptation priorities and its public finance commitments, a shift is required in national coastal ecosystem planning. Without GCF resources to catalyze this shift, Fiji will continue to operate under the current paradigm relying on traditional and largely reactive models for flood risk and coastal ecosystem management that is neither climate resilient nor financially sustainable. As a result, Fiji's rural communities, such as those in the GSR, will become increasingly vulnerable to the escalating impacts of climate change.

170. The funding requested from the GCF is critical to bridging the significant financial, technical, and capacity gaps hindering Fiji's adaptation efforts. GCF resources will enable the implementation of transformative solutions that are beyond the capacity of available domestic finance.

Financial instrument make-up of the proposed project

171. Considering the needs and current adaptation funding constraints presented above, the GoF is requesting a GCF grant of USD 35.22 million to support the implementation of the proposed project's activities. WWF-Fiji has conducted sustained engagements during Concept Note and Funding Proposal development with national ministries including the MECC, MoWR, and MoFF, the Divisional Commissioner in the western and eastern provinces, as well as other local partners including CI and the WCS. This close collaboration has ensured that the Project align its interventions with government priorities and other initiatives in Fiji. These included the development of living shorelines and the creation of the 10-Year GCF Land and Marine Use Plan which enabled the GoF to commit USD 5 million in government cash co-finance to the project to complement the GCF grant for Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.2.1 and USD 162,000 in-kind co-finance to cover staff time for Government staff within MECC to incrementally cover the costs of the GSR MU starting in Year 9 of the project under Activity 2.1.1. Additional co-finance to the project includes: USD 300,000 cash co-finance from WWF US, USD 1,262,235 (CHF 1,000,000) cash co-finance from WWF International to WWF Fiji to support critical staff resourcing throughout the project's components, and USD 583,444 in cash co-finance via WWF-Australia provided by DFAT for Activities 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, and 2.1.1. An additional USD 560,000 from the WWF-Aus/DFAT project will be counted as parallel leveraged finance for the project.

172. The conditions in Fiji to support a rationale for maximum concessionally to be applied to investing in EbA, NbS, and R2R ecosystem management include:

- *Market failures*: markets tend to be skewed toward hard infrastructure as they often do not account for any negative impacts of hard infrastructure and the wider benefits of ecosystem-based approaches and associated ecosystem services are undervalued.
- *Barriers to entry for alternative technologies*: investors may not have the technical knowledge to understand and be able to compare traditional hard infrastructure approaches to EbA alternatives.
- *Transaction costs*: economically viable EbA and NbS interventions are often not considered as economically viable options due to their high transaction costs associated with community and stakeholder engagement and technical assistance needs among local governance.

173. The above market failures and barriers can be overcome by investing in an enabling environment with the potential to further reduce climate change risk but have high upfront costs and limited options for finance. Such activities have the potential to be scaled up once their potential or the ability of investment to generate returns is proven within the country, given expectations of intensified damages brought on by extreme events (resulting from climate change) and consequent increases in the demand for solutions.

174. GCF grant funding will be used to fund and demonstrate the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of EbA and

[106] World Bank (2021). *COVID-19 and Tourism in the Pacific.*

NbS interventions as approaches to climate change adaptation in Fiji (Component 1). The implementation of these adaptation interventions will be used as evidence to create an enabling environment for climate action in Fiji that removes barriers to novel climate solutions through promoting integrated strategies and planning. Specifically, this evidence will be used to develop and adopt updated procedures for Fiji's approaches to coastal ecosystem management and planning on the proper execution of EbA and NbS interventions to reduce the impacts of climate change (Component 2). Additionally, the project will support and provide financing to climate-resilient reef-positive enterprises providing benefits to the most vulnerable communities in Fiji (Component 3).

175. The PROSPER Project, implemented by the World Bank and ADB, consists of an approximately USD 27 million financing package, structured as a combination of grants and concessional loans to reflect Fiji's constrained fiscal environment and high public debt levels. The PROSPER and CRR projects were deliberately designed to be complementary and geographically coordinated to support the Government of Fiji in achieving its national coastal resilience and climate adaptation objectives. While the PROSPER Project is expected to include investments in nature-based coastal protection measures, including green or nature-based seawalls, detailed activity budgets are expected to be completed by the Fall of 2026.

176. By comparison, Output 1.2 of the Fiji CRR Project focuses specifically on the development of living shoreline interventions that provide cost-effective coastal protection for low-income and climate-vulnerable communities. These interventions are designed to protect homes, agricultural areas, community facilities, and other public assets rather than commercial infrastructure such as tourism resorts. Output 1.2 has a total investment value of approximately USD 4.98 million, of which roughly USD 3 million is financed by the GCF. This output has been identified as a priority by both the NDA and participating communities and is expected to play a critical role in achieving the project's flood reduction and climate resilience objectives, offering a high level of adaptation impact relative to investment cost.

177. The Fiji CRR Project is also complementary to the proposed Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Investment Plan. While the CIF Investment Plan is primarily focused on reducing climate risks to built infrastructure and larger-scale public investments, the Fiji CRR Project emphasizes community-level resilience through nature-based solutions that directly benefit vulnerable populations. Together, these initiatives support Fiji's broader strategy of combining grey and green infrastructure approaches to strengthen climate resilience across multiple sectors and geographic areas.

B.6. Exit strategy (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

178. The proposed Project has been designed in close collaboration with key government stakeholders and community representatives to ensure sustainable adaptation benefits for vulnerable communities in Fiji during and beyond its lifetime. This Exit Strategy focuses on institutional, financial, and local-level sustainability.

Strengthened institutional capacity, awareness and ownership

179. The Project will work closely with key government agencies—including the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs—to integrate interventions into national frameworks such as the Climate Change Act 2021, the NAP, and the Green Growth Framework. Government officials and their technical staff will receive training in the design, operation, and maintenance (O&M) of EbA, NbS, and Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) approaches. This training along with the experience gained through execution of the Project will provide government, as a key delivery partner under the project, the necessary expertise and lessons learned to scale up and replicate these adaptation solutions elsewhere in Fiji. To further institutionalize these efforts, the Project will establish the GSR MU within MECC. This unit will coordinate agency participation, lead planning, and embed technical expertise, ensuring that climate adaptation becomes a permanent part of Fiji's governance structure and be fully funded by MECC starting in Year 9 of the project.

Policy and regulatory support

180. The Project will generate evidence on the benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA and NbS interventions, providing policymakers with data to inform future adaptation strategies. Using this evidence, national and provincial plans—including the NAP, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Provincial Adaptation Plans—will be updated (Output 2.2). These updates to Fiji's key planning documents at the national and sub-national levels will help guide all future government, community, and local implementing partner climate change adaptation efforts in Fiji informed by the latest science and best practices in NbS to reduce climate change threats.

181. Additionally, the Project will develop a GSR Management Plan and FMPs to strengthen ecosystem governance and reduce community vulnerability to climate change (Output 2.1). These plans will serve as models for replication across Fiji and other SIDs. These plans will be complemented by technical assistance and the provision of equipment and resources to government agencies and local communities with the necessary capacity to manage natural resources sustainably. The Project will also generate knowledge products from the experience and lessons learned in developing the GSR Management Plan and the FMPs to serve as blueprints to help replicate and sustain these same approaches elsewhere in Fiji and in other SIDs (see deliverables table in Section E).

Leverage potential of the GCF investment

182. The NAP, NBSAP, Provincial adaptation are the primary documents which guide climate adaptation investments in Fiji and are meant to ensure alignment and coherence with Fiji's overall climate strategy. The integration of EbA, NbS, and R2R ecosystem management best practices within these documents will help channel future climate finance from the GoF and international donors toward these approaches in the future.

183. The Project will also help leverage future financing for locally led climate adaptation solutions. To help build the capacity of communities in Fiji to implement locally led adaptation solutions, the Project will set up a Locally-led Adaptation Fund (LLAF) which will channel USD 1.55 million in GCF grant resources for beneficiary communities to implement climate-resilient practices and interventions. To help sustain these efforts beyond the GCF project execution period, technical assistance and training will be provided to communities on how to develop project concepts and proposals, implement small donor projects, and basic M&E so communities could use these new skills to access future funding from the GoF and other donors for locally led adaptation projects.

184. GCF resources will also be used to close the gap between business investment readiness and sustainable finance in the growing reef-positive market in Fiji. This will be achieved by providing support to BDS providers in Fiji in providing incubation programs and providing ongoing technical assistance to reef positive enterprises. These interventions will help these businesses improve their readiness to access additional non-grant finance from financial institutions in the future.

Project sustainability at the local level

185. Community agreements will formalize long-term responsibilities for operating and maintaining EbA and NbS interventions. Training, equipment, and resources will be provided to Divisional Commissioners and local communities to strengthen ecosystem management capacity. The Project will continue engaging traditional leaders and incorporating indigenous knowledge to ensure community ownership and adoption of interventions. WWF-Fiji's experience demonstrates that conservation success depends on addressing livelihood needs, which will remain central throughout implementation.

186. The GoF's commitment to sustainable implementation of the Project's interventions during and beyond Project closure will be supported at the local level by establishing community agreements between the relevant Divisional Departments and CBOs. These agreements will outline long-term arrangements for active community participation in O&M of the project's EbA and NbS interventions, ecosystem protection and restoration, and impact monitoring under the GSR Management Plan and the FMPs.

187. The Project will also provide training, capacity development, equipment, and resources to the Western and Northern Divisional Commissioner's Offices, which manage provincial governance functions, and

communities in the project area on: i) how to operate and maintain the EbA and NbS interventions and, ii) how to implement community ecosystem management. These efforts will not only ensure that local governments and communities effectively take ownership of the project's interventions but also provide these constituencies with the expertise and resources to sustain these interventions beyond the GCF project execution period.

188. Additionally, WWF-Fiji has learned from its extensive experience working in the country that successful conservation objectives cannot be met unless local communities' livelihood needs are appropriately addressed. As a result, local communities that will benefit from the project's interventions have been extensively engaged throughout the project development process. These engagements include consultations with traditional leaders, who traditionally play an important role in leading their communities. WWF-Fiji understands the key dynamics of engaging these traditional leaders and took a proactive approach during project development to garner their support and incorporate their indigenous knowledge into the design of the project. These engagements will continue during the implementation phase to ensure sustainable delivery and adoption of the project's interventions by the target beneficiary communities in Fiji[107].

Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

189. The GoF will undertake O&M of the project's interventions for the project lifespan (30 years) through its existing resources and infrastructure to ensure the interventions function optimally and achieve the desired adaptation impact. For the EbA interventions, MECC and communities will be primarily responsible for O&M and ensuring the optimal functioning of the interventions for the project lifespan along with the necessary funding beyond the GCF project period. For the living shoreline interventions, MoAWSI and communities will be primarily responsible for O&M and ensuring the optimal functioning of the interventions for the project lifespan. The required O&M arrangements for the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions, including the type and frequency of O&M activities required as well as the relevant responsible entity(ies), are presented below. Additional details on the O&M arrangements of the restoration sites and living shorelines is included in Annex 2a Section 9.1 under Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1.

Table 18. Required O&M arrangements for the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions.

Intervention	Activity	O&M activity Required	Frequency & Importance	Responsible Entity
EbA	Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture	● Brush cutting ● Minor replanting/reseeding ● Inlet/outlet cleaning ● Barnacle removal ● Barrier building ● Animal nuisance control	Routine (Recommended)	Divisional Officer of Forestry in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Province and communities
		Major replanting/ reseeding	Periodic (Recommended)	
	Activity 1.1.2: Restore GSR watershed riparian buffers to increase sediment capture	● Mowing ● Brush cutting ● Minor replanting/reseeding ● Weed control ● Inlet/outlet cleaning ● Animal nuisance control	Routine (Recommended)	
		● Ditch stabilization ● Compacting embankments ● Ditch reshaping/regrading ● Major replanting/ reseeding	Periodic (Recommended)	
Living shoreline	Activity 1.2.1: Design and construction living shorelines to reduce coastal flooding	● Weed control ● Routine repairs ● Algae and debris removal	Routine (Recommended)	Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry
		● Fill erosion holes ● Stone pitching ● Mangrove and grass reseeding ● Annual inspections	Periodic (Recommended)	

[107] Further details on stakeholder engagement are provided in Annex 7.

190. During implementation, the Exit Strategy will be further developed by the PMU through: i) signing agreements with the relevant government stakeholders for O&M of the project's interventions; ii) strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national staff, as well as community leaders/representatives to implement, operate and maintain the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions for integrated coral reef and coastal ecosystem management; iii) developing detailed long-term O&M plans for the project's EbA and GI interventions (in Year 2 of the project); and iv) developing future management arrangements for the GSR MU and confirming with the GoF the financing arrangements for long-term O&M of the project's interventions and establishing an appropriate annual O&M budget in consultation with the relevant government stakeholders, including but not limited to MECC, MoFF, and MoAWSI.

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi + vii)	Total amount	Currency
	35,216,408	million USD ($)

GCF financial instrument	Amount	Tenor	Grace period	Pricing
(i) Senior loans	Enter amount	Enter years	Enter years	Enter %
(ii) Subordinated loans	Enter amount	Enter years	Enter years	Enter %
(iii) Equity	Enter amount			Enter % equity return
(iv) Guarantees	Enter amount	Enter years		
(v) Reimbursable grants	Enter amount			
(vi) Grants	35,216,408			
(vii) Results-based payments	Enter amount			

(b) Co-financing information	Total amount	Currency
	7,407,442	million USD ($)

Name of institution	Financial instrument	Amount	Currency	Tenor & grace	Pricing	Seniority
Fiji Government's Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry	Grant	5,099,763	million USD ($)	Enter years Enter years	Enter%	Options
	In-kind	162,000	million USD ($)			
WWF International	Grant	1,262,235	Optionsmillion USD ($)	Enter years Enter years	Enter%	Options
WWF US	Grant	300,000	million USD ($)	Enter years Enter years	Enter%	Options
WWF Australia (DFAT)	Grant	583,444	million USD ($)			

(c)Total financing (c) = (a)+(b)	Amount	Currency
	42,623,850	million USD ($)
(d) Other financing arrangements and contributions (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)	*Please explain if any of the financing parties including the AE would benefit from any type of guarantee (e.g. sovereign guarantee, MIGA guarantee).* *Please also explain other contributions such as in-kind contributions including tax exemptions and contributions of assets.* *Please also include parallel financing associated with this project or programme (refer to the co-financing policy).*	

C.2. Financing by component

Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and output as outlined in section B.3. above and disaggregate by source of financing. More than one co-financing institution can fund a single component or output. Provide the summarised cost estimates in the table below and the detailed budget plan as annex 4.

Component	Output	Indicative cost million USD ($)	GCF financing		Co-financing		
			Amount million USD ($)	Financial Instrument	Amount million USD ($)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1:EbA and living shoreline solutions to enhance the resilience of reef-reliant communities in the GSR	Output 1.1: Reef-reliant communities and provincial governments engaged in the implementation of EbA interventions.	20,284,076	16,149,262	Grants	3,799,169	Grants	Fiji Government's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
					119,590	Grants	WWF International
					65,605	Grants	WWF Australia
					150,450	Grants	WWF US
	Output 1.2: Living shorelines constructed and operational	5,565,193	3,933,610	Grants	1,300,594	Grants	Fiji Government's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
					330,988	Grants	WWF Australia
	Output 1.3: Locally Led Adaptation initiatives are supported and implemented to enhance climate resilience of reef-reliant communities in the GSR.	2,613,495	2,459,959	Grants	83,355	Grants	WWF International
					70,181	Grants	WWF Australia
Component 2: Enabling a paradigm shift toward integrated R2R coastal ecosystem	Output 2.1: New management arrangements to reduce climate change vulnerability	5,930,160	5,694,778	Grants	162,000	In-kind	Fiji Government's Ministry of Environment

management in Fiji's GSR.	developed for the GSR						and Climate Change
					73,382	Grants	WWF Australia
	Output 2.2: Evidence base to support the adoption of EbA and living shoreline interventions by the Government of Fiji	154,398	154,398	Grants			
	Output 2.3: Updated procedures for implementing EbA and NBS in Fiji	135,880	135,880	Grants			
Component 3: Strengthening access to finance for reef-positive enterprises	Output 3.1: Business development support providers and relevant national and provincial institutions have enhanced capacity to support reef-positive businesses the GSR.	3,955,769	3,751,243	Grants	161,238	Grants	WWF International
					43,288	Grants	WWF Australia
	Output 3.2: Coordination between reef-positive enterprises, business development support providers, financial institutions and government is strengthened, improving enterprise visibility to capital providers.	671,306	671,306	Grants			
Component 4: Monitoring & Evaluation		1,456,202	1,032,458	Grants	423,743	Grants	WWF International
Component 5: Project Management Costs		1,857,372	1,233,513	Grants	474,308	Grants	WWF International
					149,550	Grants	WWF US
Indicative total cost (USD)		**42,623,850**	**35,216,408**		**7,407,442**		

C.3 Capacity building and technology development/transfer (max. 250 words, approximately 0.5 page)	
C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance capacity building activities?	Yes ☒ No ☐
C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance technology development/transfer?	Yes ☒ No ☐

191. The project will make a significant investment in capacity building for local stakeholders in ecosystem-based adaptation and adaptive capacity, the establishment and operationalization of a Locally Led Adaptation Fund, the strengthening of capacities for national and provincial staff and community stakeholders via the development of FMPs, and through the project's investment in increased institutional capacity for BDS providers and reef-positive enterprises. The project will contribute to technology transfer via the development of an online database under Component 2 to collate, manage, and share the data collected on the biophysical and economic benefits of the project's EbA and living shoreline solutions, as well as via a comprehensive repository built under Component 3 that documents best practices, case studies, and lessons learned f. The table below lists activities that have either capacity building or technology transfer associated costs.

192. To ensure that the project is country led and that the activities and the benefits to be achieved under the project are sustained beyond the GCF funding period, capacity development interventions have been integrated across all aspects of the project. It is also important to note that capacity development interventions do not preclude the overall activity to achieve measurable climate change impact, in fact in most cases it enhances it especially in those cases when government and communities are being trained or provided to TA to help deliver specific interventions.

Table 19. Activities contributing to capacity building and technology transfer

Activities that include capacity building (CB)	**GCF funding for CB (in USD)**	**Climate Impact**
Component 1		
Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture.	96,000	77,497 direct beneficiaries
Activity 1.1.2: Restoration of GSR watersheds including the riparian buffers in the four provinces.	453,164	Restoration: 835 ha of mangroves 2,524 ha of riparian forests
Activity 1.2.1: Design and construction of living shorelines to reduce coastal flooding.	24,000	35,341 direct beneficiaries 12km of living shorelines constructed
Activity 1.3.2: Source and select LLAF projects.	1,869,959	6,000 direct beneficiaries 10-12 locally led adaptation projects
Component 2		
Activity 2.1.1: Develop a GSR Management Unit and the required operational procedures for implementing a GSR Management Plan.	308,402	2,581,003 ha of natural resources under improved climate-resilient management indirectly benefiting 359,580
Activity 2.1.2: Develop a GSR Management Plan	111,633	
Activity 2.1.3: Support for national and divisional staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shoreline interventions.	925,787	
Activity 2.1.4: Develop and support to implement FMPs in 20 Qoliqolis in the GSR	771,132	
Activity 2.3.1: Update the National Adaptation (NAP), Provincial Adaptation Plans in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in Fiji.	135,880	Important to the project's exit strategy- the integration of R2R planning, EBA, and living shorelines as viable solutions within the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation plan will help ensure that future public finance from the Government Fiji and future donor investments consider these approaches and help leverage additional funding from the GCF project
Component 3		

	Activity 3.1.1: Improve capacity of BDS providers in Fiji to support reef-positive businesses	946,961	Capitalizing reef positive business to help increase their readiness to access finance risks being on-off investments if the overall ecosystem for these markets is not supported.
	Activity 3.1.2: Supporting national and provincial government institutions in fostering reef-positive enterprises	224,868	
	Activity 3.2.1: Enable effective coordination between enterprises, community organizations, BDS providers, financial institutions and government	289,278	
	Activity 3.2.2: Develop resources and deliver capacity-building programs in support of reef-positive enterprises	401,388	
	Total GCF funding that will go to capacity building activities	**8,580,805**	
	Activities that include technology transfer (TT)	**GCF funding for TT (in USD)**	
	Activity 2.2.1: Develop an evidence-based case of climate change adaptation benefits of EbA and living shorelines in Fiji.	43,000	
	Total GCF funding that will go to technology transfer activities	**43,000**	

D. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

This section refers to the performance of the project/programme against the investment criteria as set out in the GCF's Initial Investment Framework.

D.1. Impact potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

193. The project aims to deliver impacts against three results areas in its target areas: ARA1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions, ARA3.1Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in the geographic area of the GCF intervention, and ARA4 Ecosystems and ecosystem services. Further details on the project Result Area and Core Indicator impacts are included in Section E.

Adaptation impact

194. Project interventions will directly benefit a total of 122,363 people (13% of the population), including 62,405 men and 59,958 women, as well as indirectly benefit a total of 359,589 people (39% of the population), including 183,390 men and 176,199 women across Fiji. The Project lifespan is 30 years as this is the period over which the adaptation benefits below, particularly the EbA interventions, are expected to mature and continue delivering adaptation benefits to the project beneficiaries. The table below defines and captures the project's direct and indirect beneficiaries per output. For more information on project direct and indirect beneficiaries see Annex 2d.

Gender co-benefits

195. Through Component 3, the project aims to strengthen access to finance for reef-positive enterprises. To ensure equitable access to financing opportunities offered by the project for selected reef-positive businesses, need-based practical capacity strengthening sessions will be provided to women-led businesses to better enable their access to financing opportunities. This will ultimately empower them and improve their chances of success. A target of at least 30% of all businesses selected should be women-led. The findings from a gender assessment and inclusive growth as part of the market assessment to identify reef-positive businesses, will inform the development of criteria to ensure women-led businesses have equitable access to financing opportunities.

Mitigation co-benefits

196. The total mitigation benefits of the project will total 393,468 tCO2 over the 10 year implementation period of the project and 1,180,429 tCO2 over the 30 year lifetime of the project. The table below summarizes the mitigation benefits of the project. More details on the project's mitigation benefit estimate methodology is included in Annex 22.

Table 20. Riparian Vegetation

Interventions	**Location**	***Area (ha)***	***Total annual removals (tCO2e/year)*** ***[area*removal factor]***	**Total lifetime removals (tCO2e)** **[Total annual removal* 10 years]**	***Total lifetime removals (tCO2e)*** ***[Total annual removal* 20 years]***	***Total lifetime removals (tCO2e)*** ***[Total annual removal* 25 years]***	***Total lifetime removals (tCO2e)*** ***[Total annual removal* 30 years]***
Riparian vegetation restoration and fencing (500	Ba	896	8,648	86,483	172,966	216,207	259,448
	Ra	424	4,092	40,925	81,850	102,312	122,775
	Bua	483	4,662	46,620	93,239	116,549	139,859

m buffer) – all areas	Macuata	721	6,959	69,592	139,183	173,979	208,775

Table 21. Mangrove Forest

Location	Area (ha)	Total Carbon Stocks (tC yr-)	Total Annual removals (tCO2e yr-)	Total lifetime removals (tCO2e) [Total annual removal* 10 years]	Total lifetime removals (tCO2e) [Total annual removal* 20 years]	Total lifetime removals (tCO2e) [Total annual removal* 25 years]	Total lifetime removals (tCO2e) [Total annual removal* 30 years]
Ba	541	2,581	9,465	94,648	189,295	236,619	283,943
Ra	192	983	3,606	36,055	72,111	90,138	108,166
Macuata	102	522	1,915	19,154	38,309	47,886	57,463

D.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

197. The core paradigm shift of the project is a transition from fragmented, site-based coastal and reef interventions to an integrated, ridge-to-reef, ecosystem-based adaptation system applied at the scale of the entire GSR. The project moves beyond isolated restoration by institutionalizing R2R planning through a 10-year Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan, strengthened fisheries management, and integration into national and provincial planning systems. It is envisaged that these initiatives will establish the GSR as a managed climate asset and creates a long-lasting investment framework, which can guide and facilitate future public and donor financing of integrated, ecosystem-based investments, ensuring resilience benefits extend well beyond the project period.

Accelerating Climate Innovation

198. The project creates a paradigm shift by establishing proofs of concept for EbA and living shoreline interventions in the GSR that validate the cost efficiency, benefits, and sustainability of these adaptation and resilience measures. As one of the largest investments in EbA and living shorelines in Fiji and one of the largest for the GCF in a SID, the project will invest USD 24.9 million on the ground to reduce the impacts of increasingly severe floods and sedimentation causing reef mortality and reducing their ability to provide essential adaptation services to vulnerable communities.

199. Under Activity 2.1.1, the project will also develop first of its kind operational procedures for the development and implementation of a 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan for the GSR across 4 provinces in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata. This plan would define allowable marine and land-based uses and management practices to sustain the GSR's ecosystem to preserve their climate change adaptation benefits for increasingly vulnerable coastal communities. The reduction of interdependent and linked threats from inland catchments and coastal reef systems through a unified approach is an important learning outcome from the challenges experienced during past efforts to conserve Australia's Great Barrier Reef (GBR). These are thought to have failed in the past to sufficiently attribute the degradation of the GBR to inland threats, including land-based pollution from agriculture, coastal development and inland deforestation, which caused sedimentation and other pollution that placed significant stresses on the GBR. The 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan for the GSR will be accompanied by the establishment of FMPs in 20 qoliqolis, covering the entire GSR, to support communities in improved management of fisheries and their habitats, including coral reefs (Activity 2.1.4).

200. The project will also provide funding and technical assistance to reef positive businesses through Activity 3.3.2 supporting business innovation which provides economic development benefits and reduces pressures on coral reefs and connected ecosystems.

Enabling environment for climate action

201. The integration of EbA, living shoreline interventions, and R2R planning across terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Fiji to protect the climate resilience of the GSR represents a significant innovation in the country's climate change response strategy. The paradigm shift delivered by the project toward an enabling environment for climate action includes the following thematic areas woven across the project components that address key barriers identified in Section B.2 (a):

202. **Evidence base for decision making**: The project will generate new evidence for the climate change adaptation benefits of these interventions, including setting baselines and indicators to measure the effectiveness of EbA and living shoreline interventions for coastal flooding and sedimentation reduction, as well as their economic, social and environmental benefits (Output 2.2). This evidence will be used for the development of updated procedures under Output 2.3 for Fiji's key regulations and plans — namely the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans of Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata — on the proper execution of EbA, living shoreline, and R2R planning interventions to reduce the impacts of future extreme events and coastal flooding in Fiji.

203. **Operationalizing GoF's climate change objectives through a management framework for the GSR**: Under Output 2.1, the project will help the GoF translate its national policies and ambition into actionable plans, with the necessary enforcement systems, to create measurable climate change adaptation, mitigation, and economic development benefits in Fiji's most critical natural asset, the GSR. To do this, the project will develop first-of-its-kind operational procedures for the development and implementation of a 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan for the GSR, which would include the establishment of a MU for the GSR embedded within the MECC (GCF NDA) and other agencies responsible for the management of Fiji's coastal ecosystems. The Plan will determine suitable land and seascape uses to protect and restore the resilience benefits they provide.

204. **National and provincial government capacity building**: Through Activity 2.1.3, the project will provide capacity development and training to national and divisional department staff in R2R coastal ecosystem planning, EbA and living shoreline development, implementation, and monitoring. To ensure the necessary coordination and capacity development across multiples agencies, the GSR MU will embed coordinators in government agencies to lead technical assistance and training efforts and facilitate engagement and participation of agency staff in the implementation of the 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan for the GSR to ensure their capacity to sustain this work over the long term beyond the GCF project execution period. Under Activity 3.1.2, the project will also embed staff members within the Ministry of Trade and the Commissioners Offices to promote knowledge transfer and enhance their internal capacity to support reef positive businesses and access to finance.

205. **Community capacity development**: Through Activity 2.1.3, the project will provide capacity development, including training and equipment, to community members and CBOs in R2R coastal ecosystem planning and EbA and living shorelines development, implementation, and monitoring. During these training which will include visits to Component 1 project sites, participants will be trained on how to implement, operate and maintain EbA and living shoreline

interventions which reduce threats to ecosystems and provide adaptation benefits to coastal communities.

Potential for Scaling Up and Replication

206. Enabling future scale up and replication of EbA, ecosystem management, and reef positive business solutions by the GoF and communities is central to the approach of the project. Pathways for scale up and replication of these approaches have been integrated across a number of project activities. Under Activity 2.1.2 the national agencies, divisional departments, and communities will identify future sites for additional EbA and living shoreline interventions beyond the project. The capacity development in ecosystem planning and execution of EbA and living shoreline interventions under Sub-Activities 2.1.3.1 and 2.1.3.2 targeting ecosystem planners and communities will enable government and communities to plan, implement, and maintain these approaches in other sites in the future. The GSR Management Plan (Activity 2.1.2), and the FMPs (Activity 2.1.4), will also serve as replicable blueprints on integrated ecosystem and fisheries management planning which can be scaled and replicated elsewhere in Fiji, the Pacific, and SIDs. Under Activity 2.2.1, the evidence report will serve as the key proof point in Fiji that EbA and living shoreline interventions are cost-effective and impactful adaptation options which should be considered by adaptation planners in additional sites. This will be supported by these interventions being integrated in the updated NAP, NBSAP, and provincial plans, under Activity 2.3.1. The project will also support BDS service providers, Activity 3.1.1, national and provincial governments, Activity 3.1.2, to screen and support reef positive businesses, building in these skills and competencies within their institutions so they can support future reef positive enterprises to access finance in the future, beyond the project.

207. The WWF network and staffing plan for the project will also serve as an important resource for enabling scale up and replication of these approaches in Fiji and the Pacific. WWF-Fiji's continued partnership with governments in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and PNG will allow knowledge transfer of replicable approaches from the Project to other vulnerable areas in the region. As described below, WWF-US staff will also support the project and be responsible for sharing replicable approaches from the Project through the WWF Network and its other projects with other donors, country governments, among the scientific community, and other conservation organizations.

208. The project's paradigm shift potential is further strengthened by a complementary DFAT-supported activity focused on early-phase feasibility, community-informed needs assessment, and piloting of grey, green, and hybrid coastal protection solutions along the GSR. This DFAT funding was secured directly as a result of the GCF project under development — it was previously unplanned by DFAT, which identified the opportunity to contribute to the broader GCF-supported project given its anticipated large-scale impacts. Of the DFAT project's budget, USD 583,444 directly supports this preparatory work, with the remaining USD 560,000 DFAT project budget counted as parallel finance to the GCF project. By testing intervention performance, suitability, and maintenance requirements in real-world conditions ahead of and alongside GCF-funded implementation, the DFAT activity generates transferable evidence and best practice that will directly inform the replication and scaling of similar coastal protection interventions under this project demonstrating the project's catalytic effect in mobilizing additional donor finance and de-risking the pathway to scale.

Potential for Knowledge Sharing and Lessons Learned

209. The project will generate an economic valuation on the benefits of EbA and living shorelines, providing new evidence and lessons learned on the value of these interventions in response to coastal flooding and sedimentation reduction (Output 2.2). Using this evidence, the project will create updated procedures and plans for the management of the GSR landscape and

seascape which integrate EbA and living shoreline measures (Output 2.3). The evidence and knowledge products generated from the project will be used in Fiji to improve the management of GSR terrestrial and marine ecosystems under the threat of intensifying climate-related hazards. They will also be shared through the WWF International Network with climate change practitioners to be replicated in other SIDS. The project will also enable knowledge shared within Fiji by providing training for national and sub-national staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to apply adaptation approaches across the GSR landscape and seascape (Activity 2.1.2). Lessons learned from the strengthening of BDS providers and reef-positive climate-resilient micro and small enterprises (Outputs 3.1 and 3.2) will also be disseminated across other relevant SIDS through WWF's Network. A WWF-US Oceans Science Specialist, Adaptation Specialist, and Blue Finance Specialist will be financed under the project to facilitate this evidence and knowledge sharing through within the scientific and conservation finance communities.

D.3. Sustainable development (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

210. The Project's interventions will contribute to the achievement of a number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities currently vulnerable to increased instances of extreme events causing coastal flooding, erosion, and land loss brought on by climate change (SDG 13 Climate Action), directly helping to enhance the resilience of 123,733 people, will also achieve co-benefits in the areas of GHG reduction, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, food insecurity attenuation, enhanced health and well-being, and gender equality promotion. Co-benefits are presented below and linked to relevant SDGs contributed to by the project. More detail on co-benefits related to EbA interventions is presented in Annex 2a Section 9.3.

- SDG 1 - No poverty. The project will help alleviate poverty for fishers vulnerable to income loss from habitat loss, restoring 835 ha on mangroves across Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata and overfishing by supporting communities in developing FMPs to ensure long-term viability of community fisheries. Restoration mangroves will provide additional habitat for local fisheries who in many areas have experienced declines in yields having to fish farther at greater cost, including fuel, to generate incomes. The FMPs along with the provision of equipment and materials will allow fishers to better adapt their fishing practices to future climate conditions. This will help avoid income losses for households from extreme events including flooding damaging local habitats and overfishing. Studies have indicated that fishers in Fiji spend more days per year fishing having to travel longer and farther to catch fish due to habitat loss and that increasing portion of their gross income is being spent on fuel costs[108].

- SDG 2 — Zero hunger. The GSR serves as a vital economic lifeline supporting fisheries critical to the livelihoods and food security of local communities. It contributes approximately USD 16.5 million annually to Fiji's economy, or about USD 440,000 per hectare. Inshore fisheries and coastal resources provide subsistence food valued at USD 38 million annually. This critical resource, and as a result, food security, is at increasing risk from extreme events, coastal flooding, sea level rise, and habitat loss. Through investing in the restoration and enhanced climate-resilient management of GSR-related ecosystems, their provisioning services will be enhanced, improving the resilience and productivity of not only fisheries but also terrestrial- and coastal-based food production systems for communities in Fiji.

- SDG 5 — Gender equality. The challenges of climate change impacts, building resilience and gender inequalities are inextricably linked. By exacerbating inequality, climate change slows progress toward gender equality and thus impedes efforts to achieve wider goals

[108] Purcell, S. W., Lalavanua, W., Cullis, B. R., & Cocks, N. (2018). Small-scale fishing income and fuel consumption: Fiji's artisanal sea cucumber fishery. *ICES Journal of Marine Science, 75*(5), 1758–1767.

like poverty reduction and sustainable development. Conversely, gender inequality can worsen the impacts of climate change and further propel the 'feminization' of violence, poverty, marginalization and exclusion. Therefore, taking steps to narrow the gender gap and empower women can help counter the impacts of climate change. Women in Fiji are considered more vulnerable to climate change as they have more limited access than men to resources for building resilience, including income, land, loans and access to alternative employment. Women also have fewer opportunities than men to obtain training and knowledge. Yet they are responsible for ensuring their households' energy, water and subsistence needs are met. The Project will implement a Gender Action Plan (Annex 8) tied to the activities of the Project designed to help bridge development and decision-making gaps for women by providing training to women in improved ecosystem management and climate-responsive and reef-positive enterprise development, providing financing and technical assistance to women-owned and/or operated reef-friendly enterprises, and empowering women in community decision making within CBOs. The Project will expand women's social and economic freedoms by focusing on their role as change agents, decision-makers and experts as well as increasing their access to resources required to meet their practical needs. It is expected that their participation in the Project will serve to empower them, change societal perceptions and lead to their greater participation in other spheres of public and professional life.

- SDG 8 — Decent work and economic growth. Reef-positive businesses supported under the Project will provide new employment opportunities and opportunities for economic growth in key sectors including but not limited to fisheries, forestry, tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy. The restoration of mangroves and riparian forests as well is the improved management of R2R ecosystems connected to the GSR are expected to provide overall economic development benefits in Fiji by increasing economic activity for key industries tied to Fiji's coastal ecosystems and avoiding damages from future extreme events including flooding brought on by climate change. Additional details on the economic benefits of the project are described in Annex 3.

- SDG 14 — Life below water and SDG 15 — Life on land. The Project will restore approximately 835 ha of degraded mangroves and 2,524 ha of degraded riparian forests along waterways connected to the GSR. Furthermore, the Project will strengthen the management of the GSR, including the promotion of climate resilience through EbA and living shoreline interventions. These interventions will provide additional suitable habitat and support GSR ecosystem health for many marine, coastal and terrestrial species. The restoration of targeted mangrove sites, expanding and rehabilitating riverine forest areas, and improving GSR management (categorized as environmental and social co-benefits) will also capture an estimated 393,468 tons of GHG over the 10-year Project execution period and 1,180,429 tons over 30 years. These benefits are categorized as mitigation co-benefits under the Project and the required information on the calculations and methodology is presented in Section D1 of this Funding Proposal.

211. Fijians will also achieve co-benefits in the areas of GHG reduction, biodiversity conservation, food insecurity attenuation, enhanced health and well-being, and gender equality promotion.

D.4. Needs of recipient (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Fiji's Vulnerability

212. Fiji, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), is on the front line of climate change recognized as a major threat to the country and its peoples. Increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, rising sea levels causing coastal erosion and flooding impacting marine ecosystems,

fisheries, infrastructure, and livelihoods has left Fiji ranked 22nd on the GermanWatch[109] Global Climate Risk Index (CRI)[110].

213. Approximately 60% of Fiji's population resides in low-lying coastal areas, making them particularly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, sea-level rise and flooding. Fiji's sea level is rising at an average rate of 6 mm per year, twice the global average, endangering over 800 coastal communities and critical infrastructure[111,112]. Rising sea levels and increasing coastal erosion have already forced the relocation of six villages, with more than 40 others identified for future relocation, posing significant cultural and social challenges[113].

214. The economic cost of climate-related disasters is significant; Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston in 2016 caused widespread damage and destruction and reportedly impacting over 540,000 people or 58% of the total population. The GoF estimated the value of disaster effects arising from TC Winston to total 900 million, equivalent to 20% of Fiji's GDP[114]. By 2050, Fiji's annual losses due to extreme weather events could reach 6.5% of GDP annually due to the impacts of climate change, with more than 32,000 people or 3% of Fiji's total population pushed into extreme poverty every year.

Economic and financial constraints for climate change adaptation in Fiji

215. Given Fiji's significant vulnerability to climate change, there is urgent need of adaptation finance to implement projects which can help reduce Fiji's vulnerability to extreme events. Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) estimates that USD 4.5 billion is needed by 2030 for climate-resilient development, with current resources covering only a fraction of this need[115]. Furthermore, there is a key gap in financing for SIDs and Ecosystem-based solutions (EbS) to climate change.

216. As described above, Fiji already suffers immense losses from climate change impacts and evidence suggests that such losses will continue to have a significant and increasing effect on the GDP if no adaptation action is taken. Fiji's economy is heavily dependent on the agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors which are highly sensitive to climate change. Climate shocks disrupt agricultural production, jeopardize food security, and reduce income opportunities for vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth, who often depend on subsistence farming and fisheries.

217. Fiji remains a resource-constrained economy, dependent on foreign financing in the form of loans, foreign investment, and grant aid during post disaster situations and to achieve its climate change objectives. National adaptation budgets are also constrained by the urgent need for investments in other development initiatives. A recent example of such a need is related to rising energy prices which is diminishing the real purchasing power of households, disproportionally affecting poor and vulnerable households that spend a larger share of their budget in these areas.

218. Although Fiji's economic growth is returning to historical trends following the COVID pandemic with projected growth of 3% in 2024, Fiji's fiscal position continues to be largely dependent on sectors directly tied with well-functioning ecosystem including tourism, fisheries, and

[109] World Bank. (2017, November 10). *New report projects US$4.5 billion cost to reduce Fiji's vulnerability to climate change.*
[110] https://www.germanwatch.org/en/19777
[111] Fiji Meteorological Service. (2021). *State of the climate in Fiji.*
[112] IPCC (2019). *IPCC special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate.*
[113] Government of Fiji. (2019). *Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund Strategy*.
[114] Government of Fiji. (2016). *Post-Disaster Needs Assessment: Tropical Cyclone Winston*.
[115] World Bank. (2017). *Fiji Climate Vulnerability Assessment*.

agriculture. Despite a strong revival in tourist inflows, particularly from Australia and New Zealand, public dept was above 80% at the end of 2023. Fiji remains at risk to global developments, including climate change, which could reduce tourism inflows on which the economy so heavily depends.[116]

219. Private sector participation in climate change adaptation is limited, partly due to perceived risks and the absence of incentives for investment in resilient infrastructure or sustainable practices.[117] Furthermore, Fiji's geographical isolation increases costs associated with technology imports and project implementation costs. The tourism sector still in recovery following the COVID pandemic, contributing over 30% of GDP pre-pandemic, experienced sharp declines, reducing government revenues critical for adaptation funding.[118] A lack of appropriate business development support, inadequate support from financial institutions to reef-positive enterprises, and a lack of coordination among relevant stakeholders prevents business owners in Fiji from taking advantage of the a dynamic financial landscape which is characterized by a mix of public and private institutions, with commercial banks, microfinance institutions, and development banks playing significant roles (see Section B1 for further details on these market failures). Additionally, insufficient technical expertise and access to finance to implement locally led adaptation interventions are primary obstacles to preventing communities in the four provinces from adopting and implementing these interventions effectively.

220. The proposed project's contribution to supporting equitable wealth distribution includes targeting rural fishers and agriculturalists as direct and indirect beneficiaries including indigenous communities, women, and other marginalized groups. Community livelihoods are reliant on ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves providing essential natural assets for tourism and habitat for local fisheries linking large portions of society to climate affected ecosystems.

Local-level (community and livelihood) vulnerability

221. The agriculture sector plays an integral role in the Fijian economy employing close to 28% of the population. The sugar industry is one of the largest contributors to export earnings and supports the livelihood of close to 200,000 Fijians. In 2012, sugar and molasses exports accounted for around 18% of total domestic exports. The non-sugar agricultural sector contributes around 7% of GDP. The commodities under non-sugar agriculture include root crops such as sweet potato and cassava, tropical fruits, vegetables, spices, coconut products, cocoa, poultry, dairy and livestock.[119] Impacts of climate change on Fiji's agriculture are significant as much of the land used for agriculture in the country lies in coastal areas that are severely affected by tidal surges, saltwater intrusion, and sea level rise, frequent cyclones, drought, and floods.[120]

222. The fisheries sector employs approximately 4% of the labor force in Fiji and contributes 10% of total export earnings. Most of Fiji's fisheries products are exported to key markets in Japan, the United States of America (the United States), China, Thailand and New Zealand.[121] Offshore fisheries consist almost exclusively of tuna longlining, from vessels that are both local and foreign based. Coastal fishing is carried predominantly for subsistence purposes and for sale in local markets. Fiji is ranked 12 on the Nature Conservancy's Fisheries at Risk Index, which looks at "climate-related risk to coastal fisheries" out of 143 countries.

[116] International Monetary Fund. (2024, March 11). *Fiji: IMF staff completes 2024 Article IV mission*. International Monetary Fund.
[117] UNDP (2019). *Private Sector Engagement for Climate Change Adaptation in Fiji.*
[118] World Bank (2021). *COVID-19 and Tourism in the Pacific.*
[119] Fiji Embassy. (n.d.). *Sectors overview*.
[120] UNFCCC. (n.d.). *Fiji case study: Climate risk financing and insurance*.
[121] Fiji Embassy. (n.d.). *Sectors overview*.

223. Some of the challenges experiences in the in-shore fisheries which are exacerbating climate change threats include: i) over-exploitation especially close to urban markets, ii) difficulty for small-scale fishers in accessing the offshore fishery resources, iii) difficulties associated with marketing products from the remote areas where abundance is greatest to the urban areas where the marketing opportunities are greatest, iv) competition by offshore vessels for access to limited infrastructure and services, v) fuel cost increases which have a disproportionate effect on the small-scale motorized fisheries, vi) lack of awareness on the part of coastal communities of the development limitations and the consequences of over-exploitation, and vii) fisheries stakeholders are extremely fragmented. There is no grouping that represents the interests of small-scale fishers in the country.

224. In 2017, the tourism industry contributed approximately 34% towards the GDP of Fiji, and attracted more than 842,000 visitors, who spent USD 1.9 billion. The travel and tourism industry provided 118,500 jobs in Fiji, which accounted for over 36% of total employment in the country. This is significantly higher than the global average of the tourism sector supporting 1 in every 10 jobs, highlighting Fiji's dependence on tourism for its overall economic development. In 2020, the combined impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and two cyclones, Yasa and Harold, resulted in an estimated 16% contraction to Fiji's GDP due to tourism declines. Critical coastal ecosystems including intertidal zones, coral reefs, and mangrove forests, are considerably affected by increasing climate-related disasters, changes in sea surface temperature, and high-levels of shoreline development. Combined, these impacts pose a grave threat to critical natural systems which protect coastlines and underpin the local economy.[122]

225. Despite Fiji's relatively high Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of 93rd out of 191 countries globally,[123] significant disparities exist, particularly in rural and outer island communities, where access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure is limited. Vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and indigenous communities, are disproportionately affected by economic challenges and climate impacts. Fiji's Gender Inequality Index (GII) score is 0.391, reflecting persistent inequalities in reproductive health, political empowerment, and economic participation.[124] Women in rural areas face additional challenges, including limited access to land ownership, financial resources, and decision-making opportunities. Approximately 29.9% of Fijians live below the national poverty line, with rural communities disproportionately affected by climate impacts.[125] Climate change exacerbates these vulnerabilities, with rural and coastal communities particularly at risk. 80% of Fiji's population lives within 5 km of the coast depending heavily on reefs as a primary source of protein and income and is vulnerable to tipping points in their economic stability triggered by climate induced hazards including cyclones, flooding, and sea level rise, which directly impact food security, water availability, and economic stability.

Need for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity

226. Fiji was the first country in the world to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and presided over the UNFCCC COP23 and COP24 in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The GoF has also created a number of policies directed toward climate action and conservation of ecosystems including Fiji's NDCs, the Climate Change Act (2021), the NAP, and the Environment Management Act – EMA (2005). The policies and plans are described in more details in Chapter 10 of Annex 2a and Section B.3.

[122] Stimson Center. (2023, December 14). *CORVI risk profile: Suva, Fiji.*
[123] UNDP (2022). *Human Development Report.*
[124] *Ibid.*
[125] Fiji Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Poverty and household income report.*

227. These policies reflect the GoF's commitment to climate action and the importance of coastal ecosystems but has lacked the resources and expertise to operationalize the intentions and objectives of these policies in Fiji's vulnerable seascapes and landscapes. Despite international funding sources such as GCF, GEF, AF and bilateral donors, Fiji continues to face challenges in securing sufficient, timely, and predictable funding.[126] Past R2R planning efforts have been undertaken but these efforts were limited in size and scope, focused on single watersheds, and did not engage in the necessary transboundary efforts across multiples provinces to achieve threat reduction to measurably impact reefs and coastal ecosystems. These projects also did not create management arrangements for the watersheds that could be sustained beyond the donor funding period. National agencies and Divisional Offices in Fiji are in need of donor assistance to enhance their capacity to design and implement NbS and R2R planning to address growing climate change threats. This includes capacity to commission climate modeling and localized vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning for seascapes and connected landscapes, tools and resources to enhance inter-agency coordination, and partnership building with communities and industry stakeholders. Rural and coastal communities, which are most vulnerable to climate impacts, also lack the resources and capacity to design and implement community approaches to climate change adaptation leaving those most impacted by climate shocks with little to no means to preserve their livelihoods and security.

D.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

228. Improving resilience to climate change hazards, particularly coastal flooding and sea level rise through ecosystem-based approaches to address natural hazards and unsustainable resource management. is among the top priorities in Fiji. The GoF has demonstrated significant ownership and leadership in addressing the impacts of climate change on the global stage, including through its presidency of COP23. The country has actively engaged in international partnerships, including with the GCF, the GEF, and regional organizations such as the Pacific Community (SPC) to design and implement climate initiatives.

229. The proposed project has been developed at the request of the GoF specifically to help operationalize and bring Fiji's policy ambition to its most valuable natural asset and ecosystem, the GSR. A participatory approach has been taken to design the project, including close consultations with stakeholders in Fiji responsible for managing natural resources and climate change adaptation in the country, particularly MECC, the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, and the Divisional Commissioners Offices in the West and North. The AE has worked closely with the NDA (MECC), who has contributed considerably to driving the project development process at a national level, including coordination across a number of national agencies and provincial governments, as well as providing timely inputs into the development of the proposal. The project is also presented in Fiji's GCF Country Program (2021), supporting the GoF in achieving its goals in blue economy development through the *rehabilitation and conservation of Fiji's oceans and coastal ecosystems including coral reefs and mangroves*. The project has been presented and approved at the highest levels of the GoF, including the Prime Minister in 2021 during a side event dedicated to Oceans during the COP26. In addition to the Letter of No Objection (Annex 1) from the GCF NDA demonstrating the country's support of the project, the GoF has committed USD 5 million in direct cash co-finance to the Project for the execution of Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.2.1 and USD 162,000 in-kind co-finance to cover staff time for Government staff within MECC to incrementally cover the costs of the GSR MU starting in Year 9 of the project under Activity 2.1.1.

230. This important contribution, despite continuing fiscal constraints, emphasizes the country's commitment and ownership of the project's interventions. The GoF sees the Fiji CRR Project is

[126] OECD (2018). Climate Finance in Small Island Developing States.

a crucial investment in its future that must be sustained over the long term to preserve the security and prosperity of vulnerable communities in the GSR.

Coherence with national climate change strategies and existing policies

231. The project is directly aligned with Fiji's Climate Change Act 2021, which mandates an integrated approach to climate action and outlines clear adaptation and mitigation pathways. It also supports the goals of Fiji's *NAP* which prioritizes reducing vulnerability across critical sectors including tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and improving adaptive capacity at the community level.[127] Additionally, the project contributes to Fiji's NDC under the Paris Agreement, particularly in areas of EbA, resilient living shorelines, and the development of sustainable livelihoods.[128] The integration of community-based adaptation approaches aligns with Fiji's Green Growth Framework *(2014)* and National Development Plan *(2025–2029),* which emphasize inclusive and sustainable development[129]. At the international level, the project will also contribute towards all four priorities under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030): i) understanding disaster risk; ii) strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; iii) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and iv) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

232. While remaining coherent with Fiji's climate change, natural resource and disaster risk reduction frameworks, the project will also contribute to novel R2R ecosystem planning and management advancements. This will be achieved by i) establishing a GSR MU responsible for developing and implementing a management plan for the GSR. The MU will establish an Advisory Board to ensure that national and provincial governments, community and civil society approve and contribute to planning and management decisions and ensure alignment with the GoF's climate policies and plans, ii) establishing a National Working Group to lead the development and adoption of updated procedures for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions to address the threats of sea level rise, coastal flooding, and erosion and land loss in the GSR, and ii) strengthening technical capacity and providing resources to national agencies, Divisional Offices, and communities to apply the updated provisions of the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation plans, in the GSR and to scale and replicate EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management elsewhere in Fiji. Coherence with relevant existing policies, plans and strategies is presented in Table 22 below.

Table 22. Coherence of the proposed project with existing policies, plans and strategies.

Policy, Plan or Strategy	Priorities contributed to by the proposed project
National Climate Change Policy (2018-2030). The NCCP is a central policy instrument to protect Fiji's development priorities from current, future and intergenerational climate change risks. The NCCP articulates national climate adaptation and mitigation objectives and strategies. The purpose of NCCP is to provide the high-level guidance, principles, institutional architecture and objectives required to establish and support a long-term climate-resilient development.	Relevant objectives: Objective 1.1: To institutionalise and enhance accountability for climate risk management through appropriate long-term governance arrangements, planning processes, and evidence-based decision-making – *Outputs 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3* Objective 1.4: To improve national capacity for strategic foresight - *Entire Project* Objective 2.4: To drive national and global action to reduce stressors on the marine environment – *Entire Project* Objective 3.1: To integrate the consideration of climate change projections, articulation of risk reduction responsibilities, and formulation of resilience-building objectives across all sector plans and strategies – *Outputs 2.2 and 2.3*

[127] Government of Fiji (2021). *Climate Change Act Implementation Plan.*
[128] UNFCCC (2021). *Nationally Determined Contributions - Fiji.*
[129] Government of Fiji (2017). *Green Growth Framework and National Development Plan.*

	Objective 3.2: To increase ecosystem protection, natural resource redundancy, and environmental resilience through nature-based solutions – *Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3* Objective 3.4: To implement climate change adaptation solutions which are inclusive, equitable, and locally-driven – *Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3* Objective 5.3: To invest strategically in human and technological capacity-building for climate-resilient development - *Entire Project* Objective 7.1: To enhance public and private sector engagement and alignment – *Output 3.2*
Fiji's NDC (2020). The NDC outlines its commitment to achieving a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, aligning with the Paris Agreement. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, with a conditional target of reducing emissions by 30% by 2030, contingent on external support. Additionally, Fiji emphasizes adaptation measures, such as strengthening climate resilience in vulnerable sectors and enhancing ecosystem protection, particularly for coastal and marine environments.	Relevant objectives: 1. Climate change is a shared responsibility, and Fiji will make efforts to mobilize domestic and new investments toward sustainable development pathways by following an evaluation and learning-based approach, with a focus on building synergies and bridging its internal capacity and resource gaps - *Entire Project.* 2. Fiji will promote sustainable and resilient development by enabling key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels and strengthening the role of its local government bodies to make informed decisions regarding the use of natural resource - *Outputs 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3* 3. Fiji will take measures to ensure that public infrastructure is resilient to cyclones and floods, prioritizing nature-based economically viable solutions, and developing future infrastructure and building projects while keeping in mind the effects of climate change – Outputs *1.1, 1.2, 1.3.* 4. Fiji will prioritize the conservation and protection of its marine biodiversity and critical ocean ecosystems. This would include measures for promoting sustainable fishing practices, coastal protection, preservation, and enhancement of its mangroves, and engaging with coastal communities to promote sustainable practices and livelihoods - Outputs *1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1.* 5. Fiji will take appropriate steps to protect its social infrastructure against climate change and prioritise gender, disability, and the needs of the children and elderly in disaster management and in climate action - *Entire Project.*
Fiji's NAP (2018). The NAP contains 160 adaptation measures to be prioritised over its five-year time frame, split across a total of 10 components. This entails five systems components which are required to instigate a paradigm shift and create an enabling environment for increase investment flows to adaptation and an additional five sectoral components which are actions for addressing the vulnerability of society and the economy to the impacts of climate change.	Relevant objectives: 1. Support stakeholders to anticipate environmental and climate events before they occur – *Output 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.* 2. Increased robustness of planning processes and help to prevent maladaptive outcomes – *Output 2.1.* 3. Reduced vulnerability by tackling environmental and climate risks where they are experienced - Outputs *1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1.* 4. Empower stakeholders to engage in decision-making and understand relevant potential adaptation measures - Outputs *1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1.* 5. Resilient infrastructure which can operate under future conditions and meet future needs – *Outputs 1.2 and 1.3* 6. Supports efforts to protect, maintain, and restore natural capital that underpins society and economic growth - Outputs *1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 2.1.*

Stakeholder Engagement and Inclusivity

233. The design of the project and preparation of the Funding Proposal were informed by considerable stakeholder engagement, including consultations with the GCF NDA - responsible for the overall management of the country's GCF portfolio, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector actors, and local communities. These stakeholders included representatives from:

- National and sub-national governments, such as the MoAWSI, the MoFF, MoIA, MoLMR, and the MoT
- Divisional Commissioner Offices for the Western and Northern Provinces and provincial line departments including Officers for Forests, Waterways, and Agriculture
- Donors including UNDP and ADB
- Other AEs and DAEs including FAO, Conservation International, and FDB
- Community-based Organizations (CBOs)
- Community and Tribal Leaders in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces
- Academic Institutions
- Private Sector Actors including the FDB, Provincial Holding Companies, BDS Providers, and Reef-positive businesses.

234. During project development, WWF-Fiji held numerous consultations with these national- and local-level stakeholders to: i) collect baseline information; ii) collect necessary climate data to establish the climate rationale of the project; iii) identify and validate potential project interventions — including appropriate EbA and living shoreline interventions — in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; iv) engage with local donors, financial institutions, BDS providers, and local businesses — to discuss how reef positive businesses could contribute to and benefit from the project; v) engage national and local governments to determine the most efficient and effective process for integrating Eba and living shorelines into Fiji's existing plans for climate adaptation; vi) discuss project financing — including co-financing; vii) determine roles and responsibilities of the relevant implementing entities for the project; and viii) define the implementation strategy. Details of these consultations along with stakeholder lists are presented in Annex 7.

235. These consultations included focus group discussions with women, youth, and marginalized groups to ensure equitable access to project benefits. Community consultations conducted during the project's development phase have informed the selection of targeted interventions and consideration of traditional knowledge in their design, fostering ownership at the grassroots level. To ensure the ongoing sensitization and consultation of stakeholders during project implementation, a project-specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 7) has been developed in accordance with GCF and WWF ESS and stakeholder consultation guidelines.

236. The ESMF & Gender consultants held consultations and focus group discussions with over 39 community reps from across the 4 provinces. During field visit, the consultants also engaged with the community representatives in all the sites. Stakeholders involved during these sessions included villagers, tribal elders, farmers, livestock farmers, fishers, CBOs, local focal personnel and women leaders. Additionally, various government officials were also contacted at the Divisional and Provincial levels, officers from different departments (Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Forest, Environment, Community Development). The overarching objective of these consultations was to i) inform communities about project objectives and activities; ii) discuss and assess possible adverse impacts and collect their views to avoid or mitigate them; and iii) discuss and assess potential project benefits and how these can be enhanced. The detailed outcome of these consultations is provided in Annex 6: ESMF and Annex 8: GAP.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness (max`. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

237. The GoF is requesting USD 35.77 million in grant finance from the GCF to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable people and ecosystems to the impacts of tropical cyclones, storms, floods and sea-level rise caused by climate change. The total project size is USD 42.56 million (including the GCF grant amount above, as well as co-financing of USD 6.79 million from the GoF and the WWF Network. Annex 3: Economic and financial appraisal has been prepared to reflect this project size.

238. The GoF has highlighted the proposed project's important role of contributing to national adaptation objectives by codifying the proposed project and its interventions as a priority initiative under the country's updated GCF National Workplan. Overall, the proposed project will serve as a key case study for Fiji and other SIDS, providing critical lessons and validation of EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management interventions as cost-effective and impactful adaptation options.

239. The requested GCF grant and co-finance will be used to overcome the barriers to adopting EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management across terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems as part of an integrated approach to safeguarding the resilience of the GSR under future climate conditions. The GCF's investment will enable the Project to deliver adaptation benefits that will contribute to achieving a paradigm shift in the country towards climate-resilient and low-emission sustainable development. This will include: i) implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions on the ground in four provinces connected with the GSR to reduce the impacts of increasingly severe sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding and bolster the capacity of the GSR to reduce these threats on vulnerable communities and ecosystems, ii) developing long-term management arrangements for the GSR. This will include developing, operationalizing and implementing a GSR Management Plan managed by an MU embedded within the MECC and accompanying Fisheries FMPs in 20 community fishing grounds (Qoliqolis) of the GSR, iii) establishing a National Working Group, chaired by the MECC, to use the evidence report of the benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA, and living shoreline interventions to formulate recommendations for amendments to Fiji's guiding strategy documents for climate change action and coral reefs in Fiji, iv) embedding PMU staff responsible for coordinating with and training project planners and technical staff within the MECC, other responsible agencies, and Divisional Departments on the requirements of the updated procedures and how to apply these procedures in the design and implementation of EbA and living shoreline interventions and R2R ecosystem planning and management in future country-driven projects, and v) strengthening of BDS providers and reef-positive climate-resilient micro and small enterprises. The cost-effectiveness of proposed project interventions and a summary of the best applicable international practices and lessons learned are presented below.

Cost-effectiveness of project interventions

240. Fiji's coastal communities are particularly at risk of the increasing impacts of tropical cyclones and floods caused by climate change. The intensity and frequency of these events are projected to increase under future climate scenarios. Decision-making on the type of climate change adaptation measures that the GoF should employ to respond to increased climatic risks and impacts, should be informed by an understanding of the cost of such measures (e.g., EbA and living shorelines), as well as the associated potential avoided costs. To inform decision-making on adaptation interventions, an economic and financial analysis for the project has been undertaken using a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) approach. This economic and financial analysis, which is presented in Annex 3, assumes a 30-year lifetime for the project, covering the 10-year implementation period and 20 years post-implementation, and applies a social discount rate of 10% for the economic analysis and a financial discount rate of 5% for the financial analysis. Included in the economic and financial analyses is a detailed assessment of the costs, benefits and rates of return associated with the proposed project interventions in each of the four target provinces, namely Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata. All

assumptions underlying the analysis are clearly set out in the CBA model in Annex 3a and reported on in Annex 3b.

241. The following five key steps were used to undertake the CBA for the project:

- **Definition of an appropriate baseline or 'without intervention' scenario** against which the impacts of the proposed project's interventions were compared over their lifetime. Two scenarios were assessed. The first considers the costs of damages and losses that would occur assuming no future climate change. The second examines the impacts (costs and damages) and associated costs assuming climate change over the period 2021-2050 but without the proposed project interventions. The baseline was also used to derive a measure of the opportunity costs associated with the proposed interventions.

- **Estimation of the costs (including externality effects)** associated with each intervention type. The analysis considered costs across the lifetime of each intervention.

- **Estimation of the economic, social and environmental benefits** of the proposed interventions. Adaptation benefits and co-benefits were quantified and valued in monetary terms as far as possible and where it is proportionate to do so. In cases where it was not possible to quantify and value certain material benefits, these benefits (and their likely significance) were described in either quantitative (where possible) or qualitative terms.

- **Discounting and application of the appropriate decision rules.** The costs and benefits were estimated over a 30-year period, starting in 2026. Net benefits were calculated as the difference between the 'with project' and 'without project' scenarios converted to measures of economic net present value (NPV) and economic internal rate of return (EIRR) using a social discount rate of 10%. In parallel, the financial analysis assessed project cash flows over the same 30-year appraisal period using a financial discount rate of 5%.

- **Sensitivity analysis**. Sensitivity analysis was performed to test the sensitivity of the outcomes to changes in the underlying assumptions, focusing on key input variables with large uncertainties.

242. The results of the CBA at the project level are presented in Table 23. These suggest that, under the current set of assumptions, the total package of interventions is economically cost-beneficial, with the total project investment generating an ENPV of USD 13.7 million, with a benefit-to-cost ratio (BCR) of 1.65 and an EIRR of around 18%. On this basis, there is a clear economic case for implementing the proposed project, as well as for the use of GCF grant funding to finance it, particularly given that the EIRR exceeds the hurdle rate applied by most international development partners (for example, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the United States employs a hurdle rate of 10% EIRR for projects)[130]. The financial analysis demonstrates that the project interventions associated with revenue-generating activities, notably increased fishery productivity, are profitable at a 5% financial discount rate, with a financial net present value (FNPV) of USD 7.62 million, a financial benefit-to-cost ratio (FBCR) of 1.79 and a financial internal rate of return (FIRR) of 11%. Together, the economic and financial results confirm both the project's strong economic value in the context of climate change adaptation and tropical cyclone and flood risk management in Fiji, and its financial soundness for the subset of revenue-generating activities. The CBA results also show that, for all project sites, the costs of flooding are expected to increase in future as a result of climate change in the absence of adaptation interventions, whereas under a "with project" scenario the benefits of adaptation interventions under a future climate exceed their costs for all intervention types across all target areas.

[130] Millennium Challenge Corporation. (2021). *Guidelines for economic and beneficiary analysis*. Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Table 23. Cost-benefit metrics for the proposed project (base case)

	Economic Analysis	Financial Analysis
Total costs of interventions (USD, millions, undiscounted)	35.57	13.83
NPV (USD, millions)	13.70	7.62
BCR	1.65	1.79
IRR (%)	18	11

243. Significant economic benefits are associated with carbon sequestration, fisheries productivity, flood mitigation, and cultural services provided by EbA and living shoreline interventions, which, together, are valued at around USD 34.6 million. These findings are consistent with a growing body of global evidence demonstrating that investments in coral reef conservation and restoration can generate substantial economic returns while enhancing the resilience of coastal communities. Importantly, the economic analysis presented here captures only a subset of the project's potential benefits. Several important values, including biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, and non-use ecosystem values, were not quantified due to data limitations. As a result, the estimates presented are likely to be conservative, and the project's overall economic contribution may be higher than reported.

244. Sensitivity testing indicates that the project's economic viability is particularly sensitive to the social discount rate applied, and the extent of projected increases in fish yields. Variations in either parameter have a material effect on the results. Under the worst-case scenario, the project no longer demonstrates positive economic viability, highlighting the importance of achieving the anticipated ecological outcomes and maintaining the enabling conditions necessary for project success. Conversely, under the high-growth scenario, the estimated value attributed to mangroves is considerably higher than values reported in comparable mangrove valuation studies and should therefore be regarded as an extreme and highly unlikely outcome. The results of the sensitivity analysis are presented in the table below.

245. The financial viability of the project is similarly sensitive to the financial discount rate and the level of fisheries yield improvements achieved. Under the worst-case scenario, the cash revenues generated by project interventions are insufficient to cover the total costs of implementation. This reflects the fact that the only direct, realizable revenues quantified in the analysis are those arising from increased fisheries production, which enables households and enterprises to generate additional income through higher fish sales.

Table 24. Sensitivity analysis results

CBA inputs and outputs	Economic Analysis		Financial Analysis	
	Worst Case	Best Case	Worst Case	Best Case
Total costs of interventions (USD, millions, undiscounted)	35.57	35.57	13.83	13.83
NPV (USD, millions)	-3.59	103.00	-4.16	40.09
BCR	0.79	4	0.48	4.56
EIRR (%)	11	25	3	18

Application of best practices in Fiji's context

246. Best practices from similar projects, as outlined in Section B.1, were used to inform the design of EbA and living shoreline interventions to be implemented under the proposed project.

Lessons learned from key planned and ongoing investments into climate change adaptation in Fiji, including but not limited to: GCF FP180: Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Fund; Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) Initiative; Fiji Reef Resilience Program: Preparing Communities for Coral Bleaching and Disease in Fiji, were also used to guide the design of all project interventions. Such lessons include appropriate mechanisms for ensuring that project activities are implemented in a participatory, gender-inclusive and sustainable way. The specific international best practices and lessons learned that were applied to the design of the proposed project and that will contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of project interventions are summarized below.

247. Best practices and lessons learned identified for the project include:

- When looking to restore and preserve coral reef health, address those land-based threats which impact coral reefs including overfishing, unplanned or sustainable coastal development, and watershed sedimentation and pollution. This is an important lesson learned drawn from experiences to conserve Australia's Great Barrer Reef;
- Within the context of SIDs, identify intervention types which are well suited to the local context and local capacities including measures for which O&M can be sustained through local resources – this informed the selection of living shoreline solutions as opposed to costal hard infrastructure measures;
- To ensure sustainability of interventions, engage and empower government and communities in the execution of project interventions and foster a sense of ownership over these activities and their outcomes;
- Codify commitments required from stakeholders through agreements to ensure ownership and assigned responsibilities for different interventions including improved ecosystem management and O&M of EbA and living shoreline solutions;
- Engage communities and their decision makers, including Tribal Elders, to identify their perceived risks and desired solutions and reflect these solutions in project interventions areas to help ensure community engagement and buy-in for interventions proposed on community lands;
- Incorporate traditional knowledge into training for local communities and fishers on climate-resilient practices, community-based natural resources management and the adoption of climate-resilient livelihoods;
- Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management efforts to ensure that these interventions continue to directly respond to the adaptation needs of the target communities;
- To increase the likelihood of ownership and participation of local stakeholders leverage existing and functioning frameworks and coordination mechanisms;
- Ensure active participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making and livelihood development.

E. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

*This section refers to the project/programme's logical framework in accordance with the **GCF's Integrated Results Management Framework** to which the project/programme contributes as a whole, including in respect of any co-financing.*

E.1. Project/Programme Focus

Please indicate whether this proposal is for a mitigation or adaptation project/programme. For cross-cutting proposals, select both.

☐ Reduced emissions (mitigation)

☒ Increased resilience (adaptation)

E.2. GCF Impact level: Paradigm shift potential (max 600 words, approximately 1-2 pages)

This section of the logical framework is meant to help a project/programme monitor and assess how it contributes to the paradigm shift described in section D.2 above by applying three assessment dimensions - scale, replicability, and sustainability.

Accordingly, for each assessment dimension (see the definition per assessment in the accompanying guidance note), describe the current state (baseline) and the potential scenario (target) and rate the current state (baseline) by using the three-point-scale rating (low, medium, and high) provided in the guidance note. Also describe how the project/programme will contribute to that shift/ transformation under respective assessment dimensions (scale, replicability and sustainability). In doing so, please refer to section B.2(a) (theory of change).

Assessment Dimension	Current state (baseline)		Potential target scenario (Description)	How the project/programme will contribute (Description)
	Description	Rating		
Scale	Although the GSR is an important natural climate asset for reducing the economic and social costs of climate change in Fiji, it remains unprotected from threats of overfishing, coastal development, and sedimentation from degraded watersheds. These threats are reducing these "super reef's'" capacity to continue providing the valuable adaptation service of protecting coastal communities. Past restoration and ecosystem planning and management efforts have	Low	The potential target scenario is to support the GoF in operationalizing its climate ambition and policies in the GSR, its most valuable natural asset. Communities of the GSR would benefit from enhanced climate adaptation benefits and risk reduction through a healthy GSR under improved management by communities and local government and bolstered by scalable ecosystem-based interventions, particularly EbA and living shorelines which reduce climate and anthropogenic threats to the GSR.	The project will deliver scalable solutions by demonstrating the case for EbA and living shoreline interventions in Fiji and expanding the country's current planning instruments, including the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans to enable strategic and financing efforts to include EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem planning. The project will also create the first management arrangements for the GSR to reduce climate change threats for vulnerable coastal communities which go beyond single watersheds and cover project areas across the 4 provinces connected to the GSR. The project will also contribute to scaling up EbA, living shoreline interventions, and R2R ecosystem planning and management in Fiji by equipping

	been too limited in scale and scope to directly impact coral and coastal ecosystem health that achieve the necessary climate adaptation benefits for communities facing increasing levels of threat.			policymakers, planners and communities with the necessary skills and capacity to implement NbS and manage ecosystems at the necessary scale to respond to increasingly extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal flooding brought on by extreme events.
Replicability	EbA and living shoreline interventions have not yet been demonstrated as large-scale cost-effective extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal flooding risk reduction options in Fiji. Additionally, these interventions are not yet prioritized in the country's relevant regulatory frameworks for climate risk reduction - namely the NAP, the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP), and Provincial Adaptation Plans of Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata provinces. This makes replicating these interventions difficult. There are also currently no management arrangements for the GSR which define seascape and land use practices which reduce climate change threats for coastal communities. this has left regulators, planners, and communities in Fiji with few examples of large scale ecosystem management approaches which could be replicate and brought to vulnerable areas.	Low	An evidence base demonstrating EbA and living shorelines as cost-effective interventions for reducing the impacts of extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal flooding risk, as well as documented procedures backed by a rigorous scientific base that enables the GoF to channel future public and donor investments into EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem planning to respond to increasingly severe climate change. The project will also provide import blueprints and generate learning documents from its work establishing R2R ecosystem managements, community FMPs, establishing grant funds for community-based adaptation solutions, and supporting reef-positive businesses which could be used and replicated elsewhere in Fiji and other SIDs. These learning products will be disseminated by the project but also through the WWF Network.	The project will contribute to replicating EbA and living shoreline interventions in Fiji by: i) implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions at target sites in the GSR; ii) generating an evidence base of these interventions' adaptation benefits; iii) using this evidence to expand Fiji's climate plans through updated procedures that prioritize EbA and living shoreline interventions; iv) creating management plans and arrangements for the GSR; and v) strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to apply the updated procedures. This will enable the GoF to channel future investments into EbA and living shoreline interventions and replicate similar adaptation strategies in other extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal flooding risk prone areas in Fiji to those demonstrated under the proposed project. The project's staffing arrangements, supported with key experts from WWF-US is also central to the project's learning and replicability strategy. Staff members on the PMU and the project execution support team will have specific responsibilities tied to the generation and dissemination of knowledge products derived from lessons learned during execution.
Sustainability	Because Fiji's has not been able to operationalize its climate plans in vulnerable landscapes and seascapes, there is a lack of evidence, knowledge and awareness and capacity to implement EbA and living shoreline interventions. This has left the GoF unable to make long term	Low	The potential target scenario is to secure government commitment to implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in response to climate change-induced extreme events, sea level rise, and coastal flooding in Fiji by expanding the country's climate plans to include EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management into Fiji's strategy documents. This will enable existing/planned public funds to be channeled towards the implementation, operations and maintenance of EbA and living	Sustainability of the project's interventions will be enhanced by expanding Fiji's NAP, NBSAP, and four Provincial Adaptation Plans to prioritize EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management to reduce climate and non-climate threats. This integration will enable future investments and country-driven efforts to prioritize these interventions. Finally, the GoF and communities are committed to O&M of the project's interventions

	commitments to these approaches to help reduce climate change threats to its communities.		shoreline interventions to address climate change in Fiji. Government planners and regulators within key agencies have the necessary technical capacity and resources to implement and monitor the benefits of the GSR management plans to be created under the project. Provincial government and communities have the necessary technical capacity and resources to: i) operate and maintain the EbA and living shoreline interventions executed under the project to sustain their benefits over the long term, ii) implement the GSR management plans and FMPs to ensure the proper improved management of the GSR's ecosystems, and iii) the business environment in Fiji has the necessary coordination arrangements and business development service providers to increase transparency and access to finance for reef-positive businesses.	during and beyond the project period (see Section B.6 for further details). The project's strategy to also embed key project staff within key agencies in Fiji's is also central to its approach to the sustainability of its interventions to ensure proper knowledge transfer to enable these institutions to sustain this ecosystem management functions once the GCF execution period is complete. These efforts will be further supported with technical assistance, training, and goods and services provisions to GoF staff and communities to provide them with the necessary competencies to manage the GSR over the long term.

E.3. GCF Outcome level: Reduced emissions and increased resilience (IRMF core indicators 1-4, quantitative indicators)

Select appropriate IRMF core and supplementary indicators to monitor project/programme progress. More than one IRMF (core and or supplementary) indicators may be selected as applicable for each GCF results area and project/programme outcome (as defined in the table in section B.2(b)). If IRMF indicators are unable to measure any project/programme outcomes, project/programme-specific indicators should be developed under section E.5 (project/programme specific indicators).

GCF Result Area	IRMF Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
				Mid-term	Final[131]	
Total project beneficiaries without overlaps	Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached	Household surveys; interventions' completion reports	0	Direct: 45,274 people (23,089 men, 22,184 women) Indirect: 88,875 people (45,324 men	Direct: 121,358 people (61,893 men and 59,465 women) Indirect: 238,231 people	Notes ARA Core2 indicator here captures the total number of beneficiaries under the project. See Annex 2a Chapter 8 and Annex 2d for details on the methodology used to calculate Project beneficiaries.

[131] The final target means the target at the end of project/programme implementation period. However, for core indicator 1 (GHG emission reduction), please also provide the target value at the end of the total lifespan period which is defined as the maximum number of years over which the impacts of the investment are expected to be effective.

				and 43,549 women)	(121,497 men and 116,734 women)	
ARA1 Most vulnerable people and communities	Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached	Household surveys; interventions' completion reports	0	Direct: 44,595 people (22,743 men, 21,851 women) Indirect: 238,231 people (121,497 men and 116,734 women)	Direct: 119,538 people (60,965 men, 58,573 women) Indirect: 238,231 people (121,497 men and 116,734 women)	The beneficiaries here are those expected to be directly impacted by activities under the project linked with climate change risk reduction benefits. <u>Assumptions</u> EbA, living shoreline, locally led adaptation interventions are successful in attenuating the impacts of coastal flooding and reducing sedimentation causing reef mortality (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3). community-based natural resource planning and management interventions will improve the resilience of ecosystems, ecosystem service provision, and people depending on those systems for their lives and livelihoods (Outputs 2.1 2.2, and 2.3).
			0	Direct: 679 people (346 men and 333 women) Indirect: 238,231 people (121,497 men and 116,734 women)	Direct: 1,820 people (928 men and 892 women) Indirect: 238,231 people (121,497 men and 116,734 women)	The beneficiaries here are those expected to be directly impacted by activities under the project linked with reef-positive business support.
ARA3 Intrastructure and built environment	Supplementary 3.1: Change in expected losses of economic assets due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters in	Government records Post disaster needs assessments will be used to supplement the government records	USD 47,803,708	USD 2,708,545	USD 9,028,484	<u>Assumptions</u> The baseline and targets are based on modelled data presented in Annex 3. <u>Notes</u>

	te geographic area of the GCF intervention	mentioned above, as necessary.				The avoided losses captured by this target include: avoided crop damages, livestock losses, damages to housing, damages to infrastructure, direct losses to crops, housing, infrastructure (road and railways), as well as to irrigation networks, water supply, electricity distribution systems, telecoms network, etc., as well as indirect damages resulting from disruption of economic activities (e.g., because of transport severance) on or adjacent to the floodplain. The mid-term target represents the expected avoided losses in USD for the abovementioned categories as a result of the EbA and living shoreline interventions by Year 5. The final target represents the expected avoided losses in USD for the abovementioned categories as a result of the EbA and living shoreline interventions by Year 10.
ARA4 Ecosystems and ecosystem services	Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice	GIS maps, site surveys, and photographs	0	1,636,690 ha of natural resources under improved climate-resilient management 735,700 terrestrial ha across Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces 900,990 ha	2,581,003 ha of natural resources under improved climate-resilient management 735,700 terrestrial ha across Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata Provinces	<u>Assumptions</u> Natural resource management is owned and driven by communities and the GoF, ensuring its long-term success, including behavior change at the community level that supports the implementation of climate-resilient management practices. <u>Notes</u> The targets include areas under improved planning and management.

				of marine near-shore areas	1,845,303 ha of marine near-shore areas	The terrestrial targets are the same at the mid-project and final target as once the GSR management plan will be launched it will apply to the total area. The mid-project area target assumes that the Project will launch FMPs in approximately 10 qoliqolis by year 5.
MRA4 Forestry and land use	Core 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered	GHG assessment: National Forest Monitoring Systems and Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reports	0	The project does not anticipate significant GHG emission reductions until Year 7.	393,468 tons (10 years) 1,180,429 tons (30 years)	Assumptions The project's ecosystem restoration and community-based natural resource management interventions are successful. Notes The CO2 mitigation potential calculations are based on IPCC methodology. See Section D.1 of the Funding Proposal for further details. The Project is still an adaptation project – this result has been added at the request of the GCF to help track the project's mitigation co-benefits.

E.4. GCF Outcome level: Enabling environment (IRMF core indicators 5-8 as applicable)

Select at least two relevant IRMF core (enabling environment) indicators to monitor and elaborate the baseline context and project/programme's targeted outcome against the respective indicators. Rate the current state (baseline) vis-à-vis the target scenario and select the geographical scope of the outcome to be assessed. Describe how the project/programme will contribute towards the target scenario. Refer to a case example in the accompanying guidance to complete this section.

Core Indicator	Baseline context (description)	Rating for current state (baseline)	Target scenario (description)	How the project will contribute	Coverage
Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development	There is currently no entity mandated to manage protect the GSR to reduce climate risk for vulnerable communities in Fiji.	low	Managements arrangements and plans for the GSR are implemented to help reduce vulnerability of coastal communities in Fiji to	Under Component 2, the project will support the GoF's in operationalizing its key policies related to climate change by establishing management arrangements for	National level (one country)

pathways in a country-driven manner	Past efforts in R2R planning in Fiji have been limited to single watersheds hindering their ability to achieve the necessary adaptation outcomes needed for increasingly vulnerable communities. These efforts also did not define the necessary managements for these plans for the GoF and communities to ensure management efforts were sustained over the long term. The current NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptations Plans currently do not sufficiently reflect the value of these solutions to help the GoF achieve its climate change objectives. As the guiding documents for Fiji's climate strategy, public and donor finance is expected to follow the provisions and objectives of these documents.		increasingly severe threats brought on by climate change. The management efforts would be implemented at sufficient scale to achieve measurable climate adaptation benefits for communities. The NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans integrate EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management as key strategies that future government and donor finance should prioritize to achieve Fiji's climate change objectives.	the GSR – through the GSR MU, and developing the 10-Year R2R Land and Marine Ecosystem Management Plan. The GSR MU will be integrated within key agencies in Fiji responsible for coastal ecosystem planning and be supported with TA to ensure knowledge transfer for these agencies to sustain these management responsibilities over the long term. The project will also commission an evidence report to demonstrate the climate benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA, living shorelines, and R2R planning. This evidence report will provide the necessary evidence for the National Working Group – created under the project and chaired by the MECC – to formulate recommendations for updates to the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans so these documents can help direct future public and donor interventions and finance in Fiji in these solutions.	
Core indicator 7: Degree to which GCF Investments contribute to market development/transformation at the sectoral, local, or national level	There is currently limited finance available for reef positive businesses which help reduce pressures on coral reefs. Existing BDS providers have not targeted their support for business which present climate change benefits through improved coral reef protection, management, or restoration. These BDS providers have also focused on later stage businesses with a higher level of investment readiness.	low	BDS service providers in Fiji have greater capacity to identify early-stage reef-positive businesses and offer them the necessary technical assistance to increase their readiness for investment finance. Local financial institutions, BDS providers, and reef positive businesses have coordination mechanisms and shared resources to increase knowledge transfer and lessons learned to facilitate the mobilization of finance with businesses.	Under Component 3, the project will: i) Provide technical assistance to BDS service providers to broaden their areas of assistance to include identifying and supporting earlier stage business which offer climate benefits and reduce pressures on coral reefs and supporting these businesses. ii) Creating coordination mechanisms and knowledge products for	Multiple sub-national areas within a country

	There are also limited coordination and engagement mechanisms between key stakeholders in the sustainable finance sectors – including financial intuitions, businesses, and BDS service providers. This has led to a lack of transparency and coordination in these markets. There is limited available concessional finance for community led businesses who require assistance and flexible capital for early-stage business growth.		Early-stage community led reef positive businesses have access to concessional grant finance to help meet early growth needs which are not eligible for investment finance.	BDS providers, financial institutions, and businesses to increase coordination and transparency to facilitate the connection of investment finance with reef positive businesses. iii) Providing grant finance to early-stage business to support their early growth needs.	
Core indicator 8: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to effective knowledge generation and learning processes, and use of good practices, methodologies and standards	There is currently limited technical capacity within government and communities to implement, monitor, operate and maintain EbA, living shoreline interventions and design and implement large-scale R2R ecosystem management. Insufficient knowledge of climate change impacts on the GSR and communities, as well as the household income and livelihood security benefits EbA, living shorelines can deliver to communities. Strategic plans in Fiji – including the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation do not currently sufficiently integrate EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management as solutions to help achieve the GoF climate objectives and direct future public and donor finance towards these approaches.	low	Planners and regulators within the GoF at the national and sub-national level as well as communities have the necessary capacity to design, implement, and manage EbA, living shoreline interventions, and R2R ecosystem management arrangements to reduce climate change threats for increasingly vulnerable coastal communities. Evidence is generated which demonstrates that EbA, living shorelines, and R2R ecosystem management provide climate adaptation benefits and are cost-effective solutions. Planners in other areas of Fiji and in other SIDS have accessible learning products and blueprints from efforts under the project to: i) implement large scale EbA and living shoreline solutions to preserve ecosystem functioning and provide climate adaption benefits for coastal	The project's execution of Component 1 will provide important best practices in the large-scale implementation of EbA and living shoreline interventions along with community-led adaptation solutions. The 10-Year GSR Land and Marine Use Plan and FMPs will also serve as important references and blueprints for other provinces in Fiji and SIDs. The updated NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans also serve as important examples other SIDs and coastal countries and how these documents can integrate NbS and R2R ecosystem management to help directly public and donor finance towards these solutions in other geographies. Under Component 3, important cases studies will be drawn demonstrating how assistance	National level (one country)

			communities, and ii) ecosystem and community fisheries management plans provide replicable resources for provinces in Fiji and SIDs, and iii)	can be provided to BDS to help increase reef-positive business readiness to access finance. These important learning products will be created through WWF reports shared across its network and during international events. The project's strategy to embed members of the PMU within key agencies and Divisional Offices in Fiji is central to its approach to facilitate knowledge transfer and uptake of latest best practices and science within those agencies responsible for ecosystem management and climate change adaptation efforts in Fiji.	

E.5. Project/programme specific indicators (project outcomes and outputs)

*This section should list out project/programme-specific performance indicators (outcomes and outputs) that are not covered in sections above (E.1-E.4). List down tailored indicators to monitor /track progress against relevant project/programme results (outcomes/outputs). AEs have the freedom to decide against which outcomes they would like to set project/programme specific indicators. If any co-benefits are identified in sections B.2(a)(b), and D.3, AEs are encouraged to add and monitor co-benefit indicators under the "**Project/programme co-benefit indicators**" section in table below. Add rows as needed.*

Please number each outcome and output as shown below to indicate association of outputs to the contributing outcome. The numbering for outputs under this section should correspond to the output numbering in annex 4 (detailed budget plan).

Project/programme results (outcomes/ outputs)	Project/programme specific Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
				Mid-term	Final	
Outcome 1: The resilience of reef-reliant communities in Fiji's GSR is enhanced through	Area (ha) of flood extent reduced	GIS maps, photographs	0	553 ha of flood extent reduced (after completion of 30% EbA and living shoreline interventions)	1,844 ha of flood extent reduced	Assumptions EbA and living shoreline interventions are successful in attenuating the impacts of coastal floods, reducing the area affected by flooding and the related risks on communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure within and around the project sites.

EbA and NbS solutions.						Baseline value is modeled data from the flooding analysis under Annex 2. The targets are projections for expected flood reduction using the same modeling from the EbA and living shoreline interventions. Maximum extent of peak flood heights across all five synthetic tracks were analyzed from Winston, a ~1% storm, and 6 synthetic tracks from Evan, a ~2% storm on a 2040 SSP 2-4.5 mean sea-level. We apply a 100-meter buffer to this extent, to ensure that we completely account for future flood risks from storm surges. This extent informs our assessment of future flood impacts for the baseline, i.e., no intervention, scenario. The maximum flood extents obtained by this approach correspond ultimately correspond to the flood extents from a ~1% chance storm surge event.
	Area (ha) of GSR reefs under reduced sediment exposure	Sedimentation analysis, GIS maps	Baselines will be set during Year 1 of the project	Area (ha) of reefs under reduced sediment exposure	Area (ha) of reefs under reduced sediment exposure	Assumptions: The restoration of riparian areas along watersheds connected to the GSR helps reduce sediment reaching reefs. Notes Using sediment capture rates from mangrove and riparian area restoration and using sediment dynamic models the project will be able to estimate the size of sediment plumes reaching target reef areas
Output 1.1: Reef-reliant communities and provincial governments engaged in the implementation of EbA interventions.	# ha of mangroves restored	GIS maps, photographs	0	256 ha of mangroves restored (30% of final target)	835 ha of mangroves restored	Assumptions The restoration of degraded mangroves is successful and leads to reduced coastal flooding. Mangrove restoration will be implemented in years 2 through 7. Suitability of sites will be revisited if mangrove survival drops below 50%. Notes Mid-term and final targets were determined based on the restoration schedule.
	# of ha of riparian hectares restored	GIS maps, photographs	0	757 ha of riparian forests restored (30% of final target)	2,524 ha of riparian forests restored	Assumptions The restoration of riparian forests is successful and leads to reduced sedimentation of watersheds and reefs.

						Riparian area restoration will be implemented in years 2 through 7. Suitability of sites will be revisited if vegetation survival drops below 50%. Notes Mid-term and final targets were determined based on the restoration schedule.
Output 1.2: Living shorelines constructed and operational	Length of living shorelines constructed	Engineering design documents; engineering completion reports; photographs; government monitoring reports.	0	3 km (25% of final target)	12 km Ba Province: 3.29 km Ra Province: 0.57 km Bua Province: 1.46 km Macuata Prov.: 6.67 km	Assumptions Living shorelines are successfully installed and protect the surrounding communities from flooding. Notes Designs and scale of living shoreline solutions are presented in Annex 2 and Sections B.3. Methodologies for calculating project direct and indirect beneficiaries are provided in Section D.1
Output 1.3: Locally Led Adaptation initiatives are supported and implemented to enhance climate resilience of reef-reliant communities in the GSR.	# of projects implemented through the LLAF	Signed copy of agreements	0	5 projects	12 projects	Assumptions Marketing and awareness raising efforts for the LLAF are successful and a sufficient number of communities and/or CBOs apply for LLAF funding and meet LLAF requirements. Minimum of 12 LLAF projects delivered across the four provinces, each capped at USD 125,000, allocated in proportion to provincial climate risk (Ba ~38%, Macuata ~29%, Ra ~21%, Bua ~12%).
	% of LLAF project funding targeting women-led or marginalized groups and/or organizations	Signed copy of agreements	0	8%	20%	Assumptions Marketing and awareness raising efforts for the LLAF are successful and a sufficient number of women-led and organizations representing marginalized groups apply for LLAF funding and meet LLAF requirements. The LLAF assumes that 20% of project funding will be awarded to women-led or marginalized groups and/or organizations.
	# of people with new capacity to develop and implement community-based climate adaptation projects	Number of participants in project trainings and workshops	0	400 people annually	400 people annually	Assumptions Communities and CBOs have interest in designing community-based adaptation projects and participate in LLAF trainings. This target assumes that 100 people are trained per province (x4) in years 2 through 8.

						There is a high likelihood that the same participants would attend multiple trainings. We are therefore including annual participants in order to avoid double counting.
	# of people with enhanced capacity to conduct community monitoring of projects	Number of participants trained in community project M&E	0	400 peoples	1080 peoples	<u>Assumptions</u> The mid project target assumes 50 participants per 4 projects annually in years 2-5.
Outcome 2: An enabling environment and R2R ecosystem planning frameworks are conducive to the effective management and implementation of EbA, NbS, and living shorelines interventions within the GSR.	# of ecosystem management plans adopted and implemented	Project reports	There is currently no management plan for the GSR. Current FMPs cover 419,900 ha in the GSR.	1 10-Year GSR Land and Marine and Ecosystem Management Plan established 10 FMPs established in community fishing grounds (qoliqolis)	1 10-Year GSR Land and Marine and Ecosystem Management Plan established 20 FMPs established in community fishing grounds (qoliqolis)	<u>Assumptions</u> Natural resource management is owned and driven by communities and the GoF, ensuring its long-term success, including behavior change at the community level that supports the implementation of climate-resilient management practices. The plan targets are the same at the mid-project and final target as once the GSR management plan will be launched it will apply to the total area. The mid-project area target assumes that the Project will launch FMPs in approximately 10 qoliqolis by year 5.
	Trend in percentage of coral cover in the GSR (outcome level)	Biological site surveys	34% - WWF 2022 GSR Survey	% targets of coral cover will be set in Year 1 of the Project fully capturing the anticipated benefits of sediment capture from the Project's restoration efforts.	% targets of coral cover will be set in Year 1 of the Project fully capturing the anticipated benefits of sediment capture from the Project's restoration efforts.	<u>Assumptions</u> Restoration and management efforts reduce threats to coral reef health, including overfishing, coastal development, and watershed sedimentation and pollution. These targets also assume that major coral bleaching events do not occur to an extent that the project efforts are unable to help reef health overall during the GCF period of execution.
	Kilograms per ha of fish biomass	Site level biological surveys	Mean fish biomass in 2019 across the GSR was 421 ± 60 kg/ha	No anticipated measurable impacts to fish biomass by Year 5 of the project.	20% increase in fish biomass against baseline for unhealthy qoliqolis (less than 500 kg per ha)	<u>Assumptions</u> Reefs that have fish biomass greater than 1000 kg ha-1 were classified as 'very healthy', 500 – 1000 kg ha-1 as 'sufficiently healthy' and less than 500 kg ha-1 as 'unhealthy'. Fish biomass takes 3-5 years to detect recovery following the statement of FMPs and interventions
Output 2.1. New management arrangements to reduce climate change	GSR MU is established and operational.	Project reports	There is no Management Unit with a mandate for protecting, conserving the GSR in Fiji	The GSR MU is set up and fully resourced	The roles and responsibilities of the GSR MU are codified for coordinating different	<u>Assumptions</u> The GSR MU is successfully established with the MU staff embedded with the MECC and other coordinating government agencies.

vulnerability developed for the GSR					management functions across national agencies, provincial governments, communities, and civil-society defined in the GSR Management Plan (Activity 2.1.2).	
	# of operating agreements in place with communities, provincial governments, and national agencies to define roles and responsibilities related to management, enforcement, and monitoring of the GSR.	Agreements	There are currently no operating agreements between communities and provincial government on the management of the GSR.	12 of operating agreements in place	36 of operating agreements in place	Assumptions Communities and provincial governments maintain their commitments to enter into agreements to improve the management of the GSR.
Output 2.2: Evidence base to support the adoption of EbA and living shoreline interventions by the GoF.	Evidence product on the economic benefits of EbA and living shoreline generated	Evidence Report Government reports, statements, policy	Evidence base is limited	Raw data collection ongoing	Evidence base for the economic benefits of EbA and living shoreline results in plans and is used to leverage funding for replication and upscaling of project interventions	Assumptions EbA and living shoreline interventions implemented by the project produce cost-effective benefits that demonstrate an economic case for the approaches.
Output 2.3: Updated procedures for implementing EbA and living shorelines in Fiji.	# of govt plans, updated or developed integrating EbA and living shoreline interventions	Revised NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans List of recommendations. Supporting documents of implementation	0	No recommendations will be available in Year 5 of the project as the EbA and living shoreline solutions will require more time to demonstrate results	Recommendations submitted via PSC to the National Working Group for EbA, living shorelines, and R2R reef planning to be integrated into the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial	Assumptions The National Working Group, other government departments and relevant ministries maintain support and interest in adopting the updated procedures for implementing EbA, living shorelines and R2R ecosystem management and planning in Fiji. -

					Adaptation Plan 4 Provincial Adaptation Plans for Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata Provinces integrate EbA, living shoreline, and R2R ecosystem management and planning	
	# of national and sub-national decision-makers and planners trained on the application of the updated procedures	Project reports	0	No training will yet be delivered in Year 5 of the project	660 of national and sub-national decision-makers and planners trained	
Outcome 3: Businesses that reduce threats to the GSR have improved access to commercial capital	# of reef-positive enterprises with increased access to capital	Project reports	0	15 businesses	50 businesses	Assumptions The businesses supported through this component will receive incremental business development support which would increase their readiness for commercial capital Reef positive business grant making starts in year 3
	Amount of commercial capital leveraged by the reef-positive businesses that receive targeted BDS support	Project reports	0	USD 100,000	USD 500,000	Assumptions An average facility size of USD 20,000 per enterprise, reflecting realistic initial lending by Fijian financial institutions to early-stage, frequently informal enterprises entering the formal financial system for the first time. The final target of USD 500,000 therefore corresponds to 25 enterprises accessing commercial capital, consistent with the assumption that at least 50% of the 50 enterprises supported under Output 3.1 will reach minimum bankability thresholds. The mid-term target of USD 100,000 corresponds to 5 enterprises being able to access commercial capital by the mid-term.
Output 3.1: Business development support providers	# of BDS service providers with increased capacity to provide support to reef-positive enterprises	Project reports	0	3 of BDS service providers #15 reef positive businesses	3 of BDS service providers	Assumptions All BDS providers to be supported through the project will be identified by Year 3 and will receive ongoing support throughout the duration of the

and relevant national and provincial institutions have enhanced capacity to support reef-positive businesses the GSR	# of reef positive business receiving/accessing targeted BDS # of reef-positive businesses that received targeted BDS support accessing commercial capital Amount of commercial capital leveraged by the reef-positive businesses that receive targeted BDS support			#5 reef-positive businesses	#50 reef positive businesses #25 reef-positive businesses	project. Hence, the mid-term and the final targets for the number of BDS providers supported are the same. The target for number of reef-positive enterprises that access commercial capital assumes that at least 50% of the reef-positive enterprises supported under Output 3.1 will reach minimum bankability thresholds following tailored BDS support, including improved financial management, market access, and investment readiness.
Output 3.2: Coordination between reef-positive enterprises, business development support providers, financial institutions and government is strengthened, improving enterprise visibility to capital providers	# of meetings of multi stakeholder working group # of capacity building sessions conducted # of common resources developed towards enabling access to capital for reef-positive enterprises	Project reports	0	8 multi stakeholder working groups convened 4 stakeholder engagement forums convened 8 capacity building sessions conducted for stakeholders involved in support to reef positive enterprises 4 resources such as framework to identify and assess reef-positive enterprises and a monitoring and evaluation framework for BDS providers and financial institutions that support enabling access to capital for	16 multi stakeholder working groups convened 8 stakeholder engagement forums convened 16 capacity building sessions conducted for various stakeholders involved in support to reef positive enterprises 8 resources such as framework to identify and assess reef-positive enterprises and a monitoring and evaluation framework for BDS providers and financial institutions that support enabling	<u>Assumptions</u> Improved coordination among stakeholders that increases transparency and creating common resources to support different stakeholders will improve the enabling environment for reef-positive enterprises, leading to improved access to capital

				reef-positive enterprises created	access to capital for reef-positive enterprises created	
Project/programme co-benefit indicators						
Co-benefit 1: GHG emission reduction from ecosystem restoration and improved ecosystem management	Estimated GHG emissions reduced/avoided	GHG assessment: National Forest Monitoring Systems and Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reports	Core Indicator 1	Core Indicator 1	Core Indicator 1	<u>Assumptions</u> The project's ecosystem restoration and community-based natural resource management interventions are successful. <u>Notes</u> The CO2 mitigation potential calculations are based on IPCC methodology. See Section D.1 of the Funding Proposal for further details.
Co-benefit 2: Improved biodiversity as a result of the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions.	Individual per ha of shark populations including whitetip reef sharks and grey reef sharks.	Project reports, biological surveys of qoliqolis	2.54 individuals/ha	No anticipated measurable impacts to shark populations by Year 5.	2.66 individuals/ha (5% increase)	<u>Assumptions</u> Improved habitat will provide increased hospital breeding and feeding grounds for sharks. Targets will consider the population of species within and adjacent to the project boundaries.
	Percentage increase in ray populations including manta rays and eagle rays	Project reports, biological surveys of qoliqolis	No baseline data for Ray populations is available in the GSR – baseline will be set under Activity 2.1.1	No anticipated measurable impacts to shark populations by Year 5.	5% increase from baseline	<u>Assumptions</u> Improved habitat will provide increased hospital breeding and feeding grounds for rays. Targets will consider the population of species within and adjacent to the project boundaries.
Co-benefit 3: Improved business development support results in increased percentage of women-led reef-positive businesses who have access to funding, leading to their empowerment	Percentage of women-led businesses selected as potential business cases to attract investors.	Project reports; baseline assessment and LLAF-specific reports	There is no baseline data available on the number and type of reef-positive, women-led businesses	At least 15% of reef-positive businesses are women-led	At least 30% of reef-positive businesses are women-led	<u>Assumptions</u> Providing need-based practical capacity strengthening sessions to women-led businesses will improve their ability to access financing opportunities and lead to their economic empowerment. <u>Notes:</u> GEDSI-responsive criteria will be developed to ensure women-led businesses have equitable access to financing opportunities offered by the project during the selection process, A GEDSI Action Plan baseline assessment will be conducted in the first year of project, which will establish current baseline data and may lead to adjustments in the mid-term and final targets to reflect the current situation relating to women-led reef-positive businesses in the project area.
E.6. Project/programme activities and deliverables						

E

All project activities should be listed here with a description and sub-activities. Significant deliverables should be reflected in annex 5 implementation timetable. Add rows as needed. Please number the activities as shown below to indicate association of activities to the related outputs provided above in section E.5. Similarly, please number sub-activities as shown below to associate to the related activity.

Activities	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Activity 1.1.1: Restore coastal mangroves to reduce flooding risk and increase sediment capture	Through this activity vegetation cover will be restored across 835 ha of coastal mangroves. Afforestation activities will include the planting of indigenous tree species which have close association with native biodiversity and adapted to local conditions. Natural regeneration (assisted natural regeneration) will be leveraged where possible, supplemented by active restoration as needed.	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1: Validate proposed mangrove restoration sites and baseline conditions Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2: Restore mangroves in the Ba province. Sub-Activity 1.1.1.3: Restore mangroves in the Ra province. Sub-Activity 1.1.1.4: Restore mangroves in the Macuata province.	1.1.1.1: Validation report confirming sites and extent for interventions under Activity 1.1.1. 1.1.1.2: 541 ha of mangroves reforested 1.1.1.3: 192 ha of mangroves reforested 1.1.1.4: 102 ha of mangroves reforested
Activity 1.1.2: Restore GSR watershed riparian buffers to increase sediment capture	Through this activity vegetation cover will be restored across 2,524 ha of riparian buffers in GSR watersheds. Afforestation activities will include the planting of indigenous tree species which have close association with native biodiversity and adapted to local conditions. Natural regeneration (assisted natural regeneration) will be leveraged where possible, supplemented by active restoration as needed.	Sub-Activity 1.1.2.1: Validate proposed riparian buffer restoration sites and baseline conditions Sub-Activity 1.1.2.2: Restore riparian forests in Ba province. Sub-Activity 1.1.2.3: Restore riparian forests in Ra province. Sub-Activity 1.1.2.4: Restore riparian forests in Bua province. Sub-Activity 1.1.2.5: Restore riparian forests in Bua province.	1.1.2.1: Validation report confirming sites and extent for interventions under Activity 1.1.2 1.1.2.2: 896 ha of restored riverine buffers in Ba Province 1.1.2.3: 424 ha of restored riverine buffers in Ra Province 1.1.2.4: 483 ha of restored riverine buffers in Bua Province 1.1.2.5: 721 ha of restored riverine buffers in Macuata Province
Activity 1.2.1: Design and construction of living shorelines to reduce coastal flooding	The Project will build 12 km of living shorelines, also known as “living shorelines” across the four target provinces. These living shorelines would be built combining natural elements such as mangrove rows, soil walls, vetiver grass, and boulders. The living shorelines will use native vegetation along with locally sourced materials such as stone, soil, and clay. To further reinforce the grass on the	Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1: Validate proposed living shorelines sites and baseline conditions Sub-Activity 1.2.1.2: Design and implement pre-construction measures Sub-Activity 1.2.1.3: Construction of living shorelines	1.1.2.1: Validation report confirming sites and extent for interventions under Activity 1.1.2 1.2.1.2: Design report for the seawalls and completion of

	flood embankments, the riverbank slope will be armored with stone pitching or riprap (loose stone).		all required pre-construction measures 1.2.1.3: 12 km of living shorelines constructed in all four provinces
Activity 1.3.1: Operationalize the LLAF	The LLAF will operate as a grant facility administered by WWF-Fiji who will assemble an independent Technical Advisory Board (TAB). Through this governance body, WWF-Fiji and the TAB will select and approve interventions proposed by associations and organizations on behalf of their beneficiary communities. Accordingly, communities will access the funds by presenting their proposed adaptation interventions.	Sub-Activity 1.3.1.1: Develop the LLAF operational framework Sub-Activity 1.3.1.2: Establish the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) responsible for project selection	1.3.1.1: Facility Management Unit (FMU) established including a fund management system with financial reporting and auditing procedures 1.3.1.2: Technical Advisory Board (TAB) in place for the LLAF
Activity 1.3.2: Source and select LLAF projects	The FMU will raise awareness of the LLAF on conducting the necessary outreach to begin supporting communities in applying for LLAF grants. This will include marketing the LLAF through local networks, conducting outreach to local community-based organizations or relevant local stakeholders in the project areas, and providing technical assistance to community groups to develop project proposals. The FMU will then review grant applications and submit proposals to the TAB which successfully meet all application requirements and project criteria.	Sub-Activity 1.3.2.1: LLAF marketing and awareness raising Sub-Activity 1.3.2.2: Training and capacity building workshops Sub-Activity 1.3.2.3: Project review and selection Sub-Activity 1.3.2.4: Fund Disbursement and Financial Management Sub-Activity 1.3.2.5: Project M&E and Learning across the LLAF portfolio Sub-Activity 1.3.2.6: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback	1.3.2.1: LLAF marketed through local media networks, including radio, and through community networks including local churches, community group, and through the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs communication networks 1.3.2.2: 4 trainings per year in years 2-8 of the Project for communities and CBOs in the development of climate change adaptation project proposals 1.3.2.3: Review of proposals from communities 1.3.2.4: Disbursement of funds by the LLAF to approximately 10-12 approved community projects by the TAB 1.3.2.5: Annual training for approved projects in M&E of project interventions

			1.3.2.6: Annual stakeholder engagement workshops
Activity 2.1.1: Develop a GSR Management Unit and the required operational procedures for implementing a GSR Management Plan	Under this activity, a first of its kind in Fiji Management Unit (MU) will be established for the GSR. The MU will be comprised of Project staff responsible for the development and implementation of a GSR Management Plan. The MU will also support communities, provincial governments, and national agencies in creating agreements which outline roles for each of these constituents including community and government functions for management of ecosystems, EbA and living shoreline assets implemented under Component 1, and requisite ecosystem monitoring.	Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1: Establish the GSR Management Unit. Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2: Establish community advisory boards to ensure local involvement in decision-making processes of the GSR MU. Sub-Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop operating agreements with communities, provincial governments, and national agencies to define roles and responsibilities under the GSR Management Plan related to management, enforcement, and monitoring. Sub-Activity 2.1.1.4: Develop arrangements for long-term sustainability the GSR MU.	2.1.1.1: GSR MU established. 2.1.1.2: Community advisory boards established to ensure local involvement in decision-making processes of the GSR MU. 2.1.1.3: 12 operating agreements in place between communities, provincial governments, and national agencies 2.1.1.4: Future operation arrangements developed for the long-term sustainability of the GSR MU, including a GSR MU government management plan for the GSR.
Activity 2.1.2: Develop a 10-Year Ridge to Reef (R2R) Land and Marine Use Management Plan for the GSR.	The GSR MU (established under Activity 2.1.1) will facilitate the development of a GSR Management Plan for the GSR through an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder consultation process engaging with communities in the GSR, industry members including tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and waste management and sub-national and national government agencies. The Plan will determine suitable land and seascapes uses to protect and restore the resilience benefits they provide.	Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1: Gather necessary data and information to set baselines for land and seascape uses. Sub-Activity 2.1.2.2: Develop the GSR Management Plan for the GSR which includes targets and indicators for climate change adaptation Sub-Activity 2.1.2.3: Hold national and sub-national validation workshops with GSR communities, provincial governments, the expert consultative group and scientific and technical advisory Taskforce of NAP to validate the management plans developed under Sub-activity 2.1.2.2. Sub-activity 2.1.2.4: Launch the GSR Management Plan	2.1.2.1: Baseline report on current landscape and seascape uses and conditions 2.1.2.2: Draft of the GSR Management Plan 2.1.2.3: Hold 1 national workshop, 4 sub-national validation workshops with representatives from GSR communities, provincial governments, the expert consultative group and scientific and technical advisory Taskforce of NAP. 2.1.2.4a: the GSR Management Plan is shared with relevant stakeholders

			2.1.2.4b: Official Launch of the GSR Management Plan
Activity 2.1.3: Support for national and divisional staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shoreline interventions.	This activity will strengthen the capacity of national and sub-national staff, as well as community leaders/representatives, to implement the GSR Management Plan. Wide-scale implementation of EbA and living shoreline interventions to reduce ecosystem threats and enhance coastal ecosystem and community resilience is not yet institutionalized in Fiji.	Sub-Activity 2.1.3.1: Support for national and divisional staff to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shoreline interventions. Sub-Activity 2.1.3.2: Support for community leaders/representatives to implement the GSR Management Plan, EbA, and living shoreline interventions.	2.1.3.1: 3 training for national and sub-national government technical staff on the implementation, monitoring, operations, and maintenance of ecosystems in the GSR. Training will be carried out in Years 3, 6, and 9 with approximately 100 attendees). 2.1.3.2: 28 training workshops for local community leaders/representatives (approx. 50 attendees) in R2R ecosystem management and the implementation, monitoring, operations, and maintenance of ecosystems in the GSR (1 training per Province x4 in Years 3-10).
Activity 2.1.4: Develop and implement fisheries management plans in 20 Qoliqolis in the GSR	WWF-Fiji will help scale and replicate its past work by establishing FMP is 20 additional qoliqolis in the GSR to place a significantly greater area of coral reefs under improved management, therefore maximizing their climate resilience. Together with the already existing 12 FMPs, the 20 additional FMPs would cover the entire community fishing grounds which cover the GSR.	Sub-Activity 2.1.4.1 Review and establish the most applicable fisheries management plan template and guide to suit the Governance structures and information needs Sub-Activity 2.1.4.2 Conduct a desktop review and consultations with communities and provincial governments to establish the status of FMPs in each of the provinces covered by the Project Sub-Activity 2.1.4.3 Conduct a biological assessment of the 20 qoliqolis Sub-Activity 2.1.4.4: Develop FMPs and implementation plans for the 20 qoliqolis Sub-Activity 2.1.4.5: Provide TA and training for communities for FMP enforcement and monitoring Sub-Activity 2.1.4.6: Launch communications and awareness campaigns targeting the Qoliqoli to ensure the provisions of the plans are well understood.	2.1.4.1: 1 Fisheries Management Plan template and 1 guide produced 2.1.4.2 Report on the status of existing FMPs in each of the four provinces 2.1.4.3 Biological assessment of the 20 selected qoliqolis 2.1.4.4: FMPs and implementation plans developed for the 20 qoliqolis 2.1.4.5: 24 training workshops for communities on FMP enforcement and monitoring (4 annual trainings – 1 in each Province in years 3 and 8).

			2.1.4.6: Communications and awareness campaigns implemented targeting the Qoliqoli to ensure the provisions of the FMPs are well understood.
Activity 2.2.1: Develop an evidence-based case of the climate change adaptation benefits of EbA and living shorelines in Fiji.	The evidence will be generated under the project through an economic valuation of the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions which will include monitoring and analysis of these interventions' cost-effectiveness and efficiency in reducing the impacts of climate change-induced extreme events and coastal flooding and human induced overfishing, coastal development, and sedimentation and pollution on vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Fiji.	Sub-Activity 2.2.1.1: Prepare baselines and indicators for the biophysical benefits of EbA on ecosystems and their flood attenuation and water resource-related services. Sub-Activity 2.2.1.2: Monitor the biophysical benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems and their flood attenuation and climate buffering services using the baselines and indicators prepared under Sub-activity 2.1.1.1. Sub-Activity 2.2.1.3: Conduct an economic valuation of the benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems and their coastal flood and extreme event impact attenuation services. Sub-Activity 2.2.1.4: Identify additional opportunities and sites at the national level across Fiji for scaling up and replicating the project's EbA and living shoreline interventions for coastal flood risk and marine and coastal ecosystem management. Sub-Activity 2.2.1.5: Collate and store the data and information generated under 2.2.1.1–2.2.1.4	2.2.1.1: Report capturing the baselines and indicators for the biophysical benefits of EbA on ecosystems 2.2.1.2: Monitoring reports on the biophysical benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems using the baselines and indicators prepared under Sub-activity 2.1.2.1 2.2.1.3: Economic valuation report of the benefits of EbA and living shorelines on ecosystems 2.2.1.4: Report on additional potential sites for EbA and living shoreline interventions 2.2.1.5: Evidence report printed/shared as a digital copy with national and provincial planners and regulators as well as academic and research institutions.
Activity 2.2.2: Develop and disseminate an evidence report to national and provincial government agencies for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in response to extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji.	The data and information generated under Activity 2.2.1 will be collated and synthesized into an evidence report, highlighting EbA and living shoreline interventions' extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise risk reduction potential, economic value and environmental and social benefits. This report will serve two main purposes. First, it will be used to develop updated procedures under Output 2.3 for Fijis key regulations and plans for marine and coastal ecosystem resources management on the proper execution	Sub-activity 2.2.2.1: Prepare an evidence report on the use and benefits of EbA and living shoreline interventions in response to extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji. Sub-activity 2.2.2.2: Disseminate the evidence report developed under Sub-activity 2.2.2.1 to national and provincial planners and regulators as well as academic and research institutions.	2.1.2.1: 1 Evidence report 2.1.2.2: Evidence report disseminated to MECC, MoAWSI, MoFF, MoRMD, and MIA as well as Divisional Commissioners Offices

	of EbA and living shoreline interventions to reduce the impacts of extreme events, coastal flooding, and sea level rise in Fiji. Second, this evidence report will stand alone as an important knowledge product and decision-making tool for policymakers and planners in Fiji to use in other decision making around climate change planning and marine and coastal ecosystem management.		
Activity 2.3.1: Update the National Adaptation (NAP), Provincial Adaptation Plans in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for implementing EbA and living shoreline interventions in Fiji.	This Activity will contribute to transforming Fiji's approach to coastal ecosystem management by establishing a National Working Group, chaired by the MECC, to: i) review of the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans to identify entry points to integrate the GSR as a priority seascape and landscape for the implementation of NbS to address threats in the GSR; and ii) lead the development and adoption of updated procedures for Fiji's key regulations and policies for coral reefs and climate change — namely the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans — on the proper execution of EbA and living shoreline interventions to reduce the impacts overfishing, sedimentation and pollution reduction, and coastal development to preserve the resilience benefits of the GSR for vulnerable coastal communities in Fiji.	Sub-Activity 2.3.1.1: Establish a National Working Group to develop and adopt Assemble working groups responsible for developing recommendations which should include communities directly connected to the GSR and identified as vulnerable Sub-Activity 2.3.1.2: Review of the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans to identify entry points for improved management of the GSR Sub-Activity 2.3.1.3: Draft recommendations for amendments to the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans Sub-Activity 2.3.1.4: Validate the updated documents	2.3.1.1: National Working Group established 2.3.1.2: Review report of the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans with identified entry points for improved management of the GSR 2.3.1.3: Recommendations report drafted with proposed amendments to the NAP, NBSAP, Provincial plans, and community plans 2.3.1.4: 1 validation workshops with representatives from MECC, MoAWSI, MoFF, MoRMD, and MIA as well as Divisional Commissioners Offices
Activity 3.1.1: Improve institutional capacity of existing BDS providers in Fiji to support reef-positive businesses	This activity is focused on supporting BDS providers in designing and implementing tailored incubation and acceleration programs specifically aimed at supporting early-stage reef-positive enterprises. These programs will be customized to address the unique challenges faced by reef-positive businesses.	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1: Shortlist BDS providers to support for reef-positive enterprises Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2: Support identified BDS providers to develop incubation and acceleration programs for reef-positive enterprises Sub-Activity 3.1.1.3: Support BDS providers to develop a monitoring framework to assess the environmental, socio-economic impacts of the businesses Sub-Activity 3.1.1.4: Provide ongoing support including technical assistance (TA) to the identified BDS providers Sub-Activity 3.1.1.5: Facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning among BDS providers	3.1.1.1 Three BDS provider shortlisted for support 3.1.1.2 Tailored incubation and acceleration programs that engage and enable improved access to capital for reef-positive businesses developed and at least 40 businesses supported through these programs 3.1.1.3 A monitoring framework that can be used by the BDS providers to assess the environmental, socio-economic impacts of the businesses developed

			3.1.1.4 At least 15 support sessions for targeted technical assistance to individual or group of BDS providers completed 3.1.1.5 At least 10 knowledge exchange and peer learning sessions with BDS providers completed
Activity 3.1.2: Empowering relevant national and provincial government institutions to encourage entrepreneurship and identify reef-positive enterprises	This activity focuses on strengthening the capacity of key government institutions, at the national and provincial level in fostering entrepreneurship and supporting reef-positive enterprises	Sub-Activity 3.1.2.1: Develop tailored capacity development plans for national and provincial government institutions Sub-Activity 3.1.2.2: Establish necessary arrangements within the government to address capacity and other gaps Sub-Activity 3.1.2.3: Provide ongoing training and capacity building	3.1.2.1 Capacity development plans for key national and provincial government institutions developed 3.1.2.2 Necessary arrangements, including embedding staff, to bridge the capacity and other gaps identified through the capacity development plans put in place 3.1.2.3 At least 20 training and capacity building sessions with the relevant national and provincial government institutions completed
Activity 3.2.1: Enable effective coordination between various stakeholders	This activity aims to address the coordination challenges and foster a more conducive environment for sustainable marine-based businesses. This will involve two sub-activities, namely setting up of a multi-stakeholder working group to streamline	Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1: Set up a multi-stakeholder working group to streamline support for reef-positive enterprises Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2: Facilitate periodic stakeholder engagement forums to engage the wider stakeholder network	3.2.1.1 16 multi-stakeholder working group meeting convened 3.2.1.2 8 stakeholder engagement forums convened
Activity 3.2.2: Develop shared resources and deliver capacity-building programs to support stakeholders to deliver effective support to reef-positive enterprises	This activity focuses on developing resources for different stakeholders and delivering capacity-building programs to create a unified and supportive environment for these enterprises.	Sub-Activity 3.2.2.1: Develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy to educate and engage stakeholder Sub-Activity 3.2.2.2: Create a framework to identify, and assess reef-positive enterprises Sub-Activity 3.2.2.3: Provide training and capacity building for the relevant stakeholders	3.2.2.1 A communication strategy targeted at the relevant stakeholders designed and implemented 3.2.2.2 Framework to identify and assess reef-positive enterprises created

		Sub-Activity 3.2.2.4: Develop a comprehensive monitoring and enforcement framework to assess impacts on the GSR ecosystem Sub-Activity 3.2.2.5: Develop a sustainability strategy to ensure ongoing support to reef-positive enterprises beyond the duration of the project	3.2.2.3 At least 8 training and capacity building sessions conducted 3.2.2.4 A monitoring and enforcement framework that assess impacts of businesses on GSR developed 3.2.2.5 A sustainability strategy that ensures sustained support to reef-positive enterprises beyond the project's duration developed

E.7. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

248. In addition to the AE's obligations set out in the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA), project-specific monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will consist of the following arrangements:

M&E Plan

249. The project includes monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress towards the planned outcomes over the ten-year term of the project. A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan) has been prepared for the project and is included as Annex 11 to the Funding Proposal. Fund-level monitoring and evaluation of the project will be based on the indicators identified in Section E above.

250. The AE will require adherence with the M&E Plan and the relevant monitoring and evaluation systems described in this Funding Proposal in its Subsidiary Agreements with the EEs. As such, WWF-Fiji will be required to comply with their obligations to the AE, including for reporting on project indicators, implementation challenges, and financial status. See Section B.4, Implementing Arrangements, for an illustration of those agreements within the institutional arrangements for the project.

Primary Responsibility for Monitoring & Evaluation

251. The PMU within WWF-Fiji (within the MECC) will overall be responsible for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Project, however the M&E Manager will be the primary focal point for project-level M&E information when required by the AE, PSC, NPD and WWF-Fiji (EE). The project NPD will take the lead on reporting with support from the M&E Manager, who will work closely with the ESS Coordinator and Gender Coordinator, to integrate ESS and Gender monitoring data into Project reporting, and to validate the means of verification proposed in sections E3, E4 and E5 above.

252. The M&E Manager will receive technical support from the WWF-Fiji's M&E Unit, to ensure compliance with WWF Network standards, including linking the project with the Global Goals and Outcomes of the WWF Network. Additional support will be provided by the WWF GCF AE Results based Management Specialist, as necessary, to ensure compliance with GCF and WWF M&E policies and procedures.

253. The M&E Manager will be the custodian of all project-level M&E data, including the development and maintenance of a centralized database for data collation, consolidation, analysis and reporting. This manager will be supported by the following personnel:

254. Two full-time M&E Officers in the DIUs (project staff) will report directly to and receive technical guidance from the M&E Manager. They will develop data collection tools for the project's interventions and train the project field teams on their use. The M&E Officers will monitor the project's progress against the targets specified in the Logical Framework (see Section E1–6) and be custodians of provincial-level M&E data.

255. One LLAF M7E Officer in the PMU will report directly to and receive technical guidance from the M&E Manager. The LLAF M&E Officer will develop data collection tools for the project's interventions and train the project field teams on their use. The M&E Officers will monitor the project's progress against the targets specified in the Logical Framework (see Section E1–6) and be custodians of provincial-level M&E data.

256. Full-time Environment and Social Safeguards (ESS) and Gender Managers (PMU staff) will collect M&E data related to the implementation of the ESMF (Annex 6) and Gender Action Plan (Annex 8), respectively, under the guidance of the M&E Manager.

257. Part-time independent consultants will conduct interim and final evaluations for the project in accordance with AE and GCF requirements.

258. During the implementation phase, specific means of verification (MoVs) will be used to assess the: i) progress of project interventions towards achieving GCF Result Areas and Outcomes; and ii) performance of interventions against the project performance indicators presented in Section E.5 of the Funding Proposal. WWF-US The M&E costs, as well as the salaries of the project management staff are presented in Annex 4: Detailed budget. The M&E process for the proposed project is described below.

259. First level: The project field teams will collect M&E data on site-specific activities (based on the indicators, targets and means of verification presented in Sections E.1–6 and Annex 11). The collected information will be quality assured and validated by the Divisional M&E Officers, who will conduct quarterly monitoring visits to the project sites and develop site-specific quarterly internal monitoring reports. M&E data as well as their sources will be validated by the M&E Manager who will conduct biannual field monitoring visits to the project sites.

260. Second level: The M&E Manager will consolidate the findings of site-specific quarterly monitoring reports (delivered by the Divisional M&E Officers) and present them in quarterly planning and progress review meetings. The M&E Manager will facilitate these meetings, which will be attended by the NPM, ESS and Gender Managers, and Community Engagement Leads (based in the DIUs). During these meetings, the ESS and Gender Managers will present updates on the implementation of the ESMF (Annex 6) and Gender Action Plan (Annex 8), respectively. The M&E Manager will coordinate with provincial M&E Officers and ensure updated information is shared timeously with relevant project partners. The M&E Manager will also organize at least one reflection session per year with the PM, EEs and relevant technical project staff to assess the

project monitoring data against the project's Theory of Change and Logical Framework to adaptively manage the project. This reflection exercise will inform annual reporting and work planning.

261. Third level: In accordance with GCF requirements, the M&E Manager will compile Annual Progress Reports (APRs) supported by project M&E staff, and ESS and Gender Managers. First, these reports will be submitted to WWF-Fiji's M&E Unit (based at the Head Office) for clearance. Following this review, the APRs will be shared with the AE as per agreed frequencies mentioned in the signed project agreements. The APRs will explain the progress of the project against result indicators, implementation challenges/delays, achievements against targets and financial status.

Periodic Reports

262. For activities implemented by consultants or contractors, WWF-Fiji will include in the contracts with these providers a request for regular progress reports. These reports will be required to document progress on project activities, challenges encountered, expenditures, lessons learned, and any adaptive management measures suggested or applied. These quarterly reports, monitoring data, qualitative feedback and reflections from the annual reflection meeting will all feed into the PMU's consolidated reports to the AE.

263. The PMU will submit semi-annual technical reports to the AE, one at the mid-year and one at the end of the calendar year, to allow the AE, in turn, to report to the GCF. Additionally, the PMU will submit to the AE quarterly financial reports that consolidate all financial information from the other EEs, to allow the AE to make its financial reports to the GCF. WWF-Fiji will be responsible for preparing the financial reports, controlling their quality, and submitting them to the AE. M&E reports to be produced, including details of their frequency, authors and recipients are presented in Table 25 below.

Table 25. Project-specific M&E reporting summary.

M&E Report	Frequency	Responsibility	Recipient/s
Site-specific quarterly internal monitoring reports	Quarterly	Divisional M&E Officers	M&E Manager
Mid-year technical report	Mid-year	PM and M&E Manager (reviewed by WWF-Fiji's PRC)	AE
Annual Progress Reports, including quarterly financial reports	Annually	PM and M&E Manager (reviewed by WWF-Fiji's PRC)	AE, NDA. The AE will submit these reports to the GCF.
Interim evaluation report	At project mid-point	Independent consultant	AE, GCF, NDA, WWF- Fiji's M&E Unit, PMU

Final evaluation report	At project end point	Independent consultant	AE, GCF, NDA, WWF-Fiji's M&E Unit, PMU

AE Monitoring and Evaluation

264. The AE will carry out the following project-level monitoring and evaluation activities:

a. The AE will maintain and comply with an adequate system to monitor the performance of the EEs and contractually cause regular reporting from them in the Subsidiary Agreements in accordance with the AMA.

b. The AE will carry out an inception workshop to: (a) inform project stakeholders of the project strategy and discuss any changes in the overall context that influence project implementation; (b) discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication lines; (c) review the results framework, discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities, and finalize the M&E plan; (d) review financial reporting requirements and procedures, and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit; (e) agree on templates and the timelines for technical and financial reporting with the PMU and executing partners; and (f) finalize the first year's work plan.

c. The AE will carry out annual supervision missions during which, among other things, it will review the previous Annual Performance Report with stakeholders including the EEs and the NDA. During these missions, the AE will conduct workshops with the EEs, the NDA, and other stakeholders to (a) review whether the project strategies are having the expected results according to the project theory of change; (b) analyze risks and assumptions that hinder project success, to discuss modifications to make the project more efficient and effective; (c) discuss lessons from the past year(s) of project implementation; and (d) evaluate the project's gender responsiveness and application of social and environmental safeguards.

d. The AE will submit a copy of the APR to the NDA by the end of February each year.

e. During the project, based on the PMU's reporting to the AE described above, the AE will submit to the GCF Annual Performance Reports, including financial management reports, which will include, among other things, the dates and amounts disbursed for each funded activity and compliance with financial covenants.

f. The AE will also provide to the GCF on an annual basis (a) a self-assessment of compliance with the GCF's Fiduciary Principles and Standards, Environmental and Social Safeguards, and Gender Policy; and (b) a report on its actions carried out or planned to be carried out to strengthen the capacities of, or otherwise support, potential subnational, national and regional entities.

g. The AE will arrange and contract qualified external consultants to complete the independent interim and final evaluations of the project. Planning will begin approximately one year in advance of commencing each evaluation and it is expected to take place over a six month

period, including the time for GCF review and feedback. The mixed- methods approach will include document review, key informant interviews, surveys and focus group discussions, GIS analysis and purposive sampling. Additional methods may be identified in the planning and inception stages. The scope will include GCF and co-financed portions of the project. The evaluator(s) contracted at the interim and end of project will be independent, free of any conflicts of interest and have qualifications in mixed-methods and participatory evaluations. The team of evaluators will also have relevant technical expertise, regional familiarity, and qualifications to assess gender and social inclusion /environmental and social safeguards. The evaluations will be participatory, transparent and with an approach that follows ethical principles including 'do no harm.' The evaluations will contain the information described in Section 15.02(b) of the AMA and will apply the relevant GCF and AE policies identified in the AMA. The AE will, in collaboration with the PMU, prepare a formal management response to the findings of the independent evaluations, and will provide the evaluation terms of reference, inception and draft evaluation reports and the management response to the GCF for feedback.

h. The interim evaluation will take place at the mid-point of project implementation. The purpose of this evaluation will be to support accountability, transparency and adaptive management of the project. The objectives of the evaluation will be to assess the project to the midterm including performance, progress and credibility of expected and reported results and co-benefits; overall management and coordination; and the potential for paradigm shifts and sustainable, replicable, and catalytic impacts. The criteria will include: Relevance (including country ownership), Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, (potential for) Impact, Gender equity and Social Inclusion, Innovativeness, Replication and Scalability, and Unexpected (positive/negative) Results. Additional cross-cutting assessment areas will include review of M&E/ adaptive capacity, environmental and social safeguards, and knowledge management. Evaluations will review the project within the context of its theory of change. The WWF GCF AE Management Response will be authored following the delivery of the evaluation report and will assess the evaluation report quality and findings and respond to the recommendations of the report. The response will also include an action plan for all recommendations adopted, which will enhance implementation during the second half of the project.

i. The final evaluation will be submitted within six months after the project's completion date. The purpose of this evaluation is to support accountability and transparency and conduct a comprehensive review of the project according to the established criteria mentioned above and centered around the project theory of change. Note that the final evaluation places greater emphasis on Sustainability, Impact, Innovativeness, Replication and Scalability, and Unexpected Results compared to the midterm. The objectives will be to determine if project outcomes and impacts were achieved as intended, and to identify insights and lessons to improve sustainability of project results, planning for future projects and portfolio decision-making.

265. Within three months of the project's completion date, the PMU will prepare the Project Completion Report for the AE's review and revision, and the AE will submit the final report to the GCF. This comprehensive report will also be made available to the public. It will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met, and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also provide recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replication of the project's results.

F. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

F.1. Risk factors and mitigations measures (max. 3 pages)

F.

Please describe financial, technical, operational, macroeconomic/political, money laundering/terrorist financing (ML/TF), sanctions, prohibited practices, and other risks that might prevent the project/programme objectives from being achieved. Also describe the proposed risk mitigation measures. Insert additional rows if necessary.

For probability: High has significant probability, Medium has moderate probability, Low has negligible probability
For impact: High has significant impact, Medium has moderate impact, Low has negligible impact
Prohibited practices include abuse, conflict of interest, corruption, retaliation against whistleblowers or witnesses, as well as fraudulent, coercive, collusive, and obstructive practices

Selected Risk Factor 1

Category	Probability	Impact
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium

Description

The project is proposing the establishment of new mechanisms which require additional coordination with and among national and provincial agencies, and other constituents. Should these new coordinating groups not fulfil their mandates and responsibilities under the project, or be delayed by lengthy administrative procedures, the successful O&M of the NBS interventions under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2, and the design and implementation of the GSR Management Plan (Activity 2.1.1) and formulation of amendments to the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans (Sub-Activity 2.2.1.1) could be affected.

Mitigation Measure(s)

E

The embedding of the GSR MU within the MECC and other agencies responsible for the management of coastal ecosystems in Fiji has been proposed under the project so ensure close collaboration between project staff and the GoF's. This will help ensure that execution of project activities continues to align with the GoF's climate change objectives and streamline activity execution requiring government participation. Embedding project staff within government agencies in Fiji has been done on past donor projects and was advised by MECC to enable coordination efficiency and knowledge transfer.

The NWG will be established to lead the development and adoption of updated procedures for Fiji's NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans of Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata provinces — on the proper execution of EbA and living shoreline interventions to reduce the impacts of SLR, extreme events, and coastal flooding. This working group will also ensure these procedures align with current national and provincial climate change planning frameworks. The NWG will include representation from the MECC, MoAWSI, MoRMD, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Western Division Offices, Northern Division Offices, community representatives, academic institutions, and NGOs. The NWG members will be selected based on: (a) their subject matter expertise and capacity to influence government regulation and procedures, and/or (b) position within government and decision-making authority or influence to change government regulation and procedures.

The project Steering Committee (PSC) and Divisional Oversight Committees (DOCs) will be critical in facilitating participation within the NWG, securing government and community buy-in, and driving approval/decisions at the national and provincial levels related to adopting an integrated approach to flood and water resources management under the project. The National Project Director will coordinate with the PSC and the NWG closely to ensure the timely formation of the NWG, selection of its members, routine scheduling of NWG meetings, progress on the review of recommended amendments to the Implementation Framework for the NAP, NBSAP, and Provincial Adaptation Plans following the implementation timetable in Annex 5.

Selected Risk Factor 2

Category	Probability	Impact
Technical and operational	High	Medium

Description

Extreme climate events, such as cyclones may disrupt project implementation and accessibility to the sites could be constrained for up to six months which could cause government to prioritize disaster recovery and have reduced resources for implementing the project activities.

Mitigation Measure(s)

The reforestation, revegetation, and restoration using native species, and living shoreline intervention types were selected as those best suited to withstand future likely climate scenarios described in Section B.1. To further reduce risk of delays and damages to the revegetation and green infrastructure building activities, the project team will schedule activity implementation, planting and construction, during seasons when risks of flooding or other extreme events are less likely. The project implementation plan (Annex 5) has also been designed to

accommodate potential delays in implementing project activities due to climate events. The National Project Director will be responsible for coordinating adaptive management planning and response with the PSC and DOC.

Selected Risk Factor 3		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		
Communities in Fiji have high levels of autonomy from the national and provincial governments. Due to their special status, the communities' Tribal Elders and leadership may not maintain their commitment to participate in the project if engagement wanes.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
WWF-Fiji has engaged with the Tribal Elders in communities in the project areas in the project, included in Annex 6. As described in Section B.3 and in Annex 4, it has been assumed that the project will only carry out restoration activities in 80% of identified sites to accommodate any changes in community commitment to the project. The ESMF (Annex 6) and SEP (Annex 7) have established both safeguard and stakeholder engagement procedures which take into account local governance status. During implementation, activities in Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata provinces will be executed through local Divisional Implementation Units which will work with communities on the project activities included in Section B.3 following the agreed upon engagement mechanisms defined in Annexes 6 and 7.		

Selected Risk Factor 4		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		
Restriction may occur under several Activities, including mangrove restoration as well as in the design and updating of improved management practices. Limiting access for local peoples to community areas which they traditionally access for food, fodder and other uses could lead to negative livelihood outcomes as well as wavering support for the project and ultimately disrupt activity delivery.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
During development of the project ESMF, SEP, and GAP communities have been fully briefed on the project activities including the need to limit access to certain areas during activity execution. Community leaders have provided their approval of the project and will be essential partners for communicating the project's long-term benefits to their communities, and the need for temporary limitations to achieve these benefits. The ESMF and SEP outline measures to accommodate communities during execution of the project for any restrictions which may arise. During execution of the project and before planting begins, WWF-Fiji will use the Safeguard Eligibility and Impacts Screening, which		

can be found in Annex 6 to determine if any restrictions are necessary. The screening will assess community dependency on the project areas, and work with communities to create Alternative Livelihood Plans that are mutually agreed upon.
Selected Risk Factor 5

Category	Probability	Impact
Forex	Medium	Medium

Description
Inflation of local prices and foreign exchange risk could affect the financial performance of the project.
Mitigation Measure(s)
Inflation in Fiji is markedly low averaging only 2% annually over the past ten years. The project has taken varying inflation rates from 2% - 3% on select costs in Annex 4 to mitigate against inflation risk. FJD versus USD exchange rates have varied up to 10% over the past 5 years. GCF funding will be disbursed quarterly throughout the project's term in the historically and presumptively more stable currency of the US dollar, which will mitigate the impact of any devaluation of the Fijian dollar relative to the US dollar. A clause in the EE subsidiary agreement will be added that 'In case of significant exchange gain/loss, the EE should immediately inform the AE who will take appropriate action by mutual agreement with the EE within the approved financing amount.' The expected change in foreign exchange rates can also be analyzed and incorporated into the annual project budgets.
Selected Risk Factor 6

Category	Probability	Impact
ML/FT	Low	Medium

Description
Money laundering or terrorist financing leads to improper use of property, assets, or GCF funding. Project actors fail to comply with all applicable anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism laws.
Mitigation Measure(s)
As part of its financial and operational due diligence, the AE has assessed WWF-Fiji in the areas of financial management, internal controls, accounting, human resources, procurement and procurement systems, equipment management, and the ability to comply with donor requirements, and has determined that their overall policies and procedures, experience, and level of supervision proposed for this project are sufficient to mitigate any potential risks or vulnerabilities related to money laundering, terrorist financing, or prohibited practices. As noted in Annex 9b Financial Due Diligence, the EE follows a zero tolerance stance towards fraud, bribery and, and corruption and is committed to developing an anti-fraud culture.

The AE's Subsidiary Agreements with the EE will require compliance with the AE's and the GCF's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing policies described in the Funded Activity Agreement and AMA and will flow down remedies for non-compliance. The Subsidiary Agreement will require that the EE in turn flow down those provisions to all project subrecipients.

Before submission of the project to the GCF Board, the AE will compare the name of the EE and the known executing partners against UN and US sanctions lists, including sanctions established by the United Nations Security Council; sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control within the U.S. Department of Treasury pursuant to the Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations, the Foreign Terrorist Organizations Sanctions Regulations, and Counter Narcotics Trafficking Sanctions. At the time of submission of this proposal the AE is not aware of any individual or entity expected to receive project funds or material support or resources that are included on those lists.

The following mechanisms will be available for the reporting of complaints and allegations of impropriety, wrong-doing or other related issues in the project and its activities (i.e., whistle-blower programs): WWF's whistleblower system is open to staff, partners, communities, and other stakeholders to report suspected illegal or inappropriate activity, or concerns about the implementation of WWF projects. This system is an online and phone mechanism hosted by a third-party provider, Whistle B, which can receive reports online or by phone in multiple languages. All complaints submitted through the mechanism are investigated.

Selected Risk Factor 7

Category	Probability	Impact
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium

Description

Interference or delays with procurement or transportation of inputs/equipment or required permits, such as EIAs, and challenges with supply chains and labor could delay the development of project activities such as the building of living shoreline interventions and restoration activities.

Mitigation Measure(s)

Local supply chains and locally available materials and labor will be used wherever possible. Similarly for other items and inputs, reputable suppliers will be engaged through competitive procurement to ensure timely supply and transportation of inputs.

Annex 5 has been designed to provide flexibility in implementation timelines to accommodate potential delays in permitting processes. The PMU will also work closely with the PSC, which will include representatives from key regulatory agencies. The PSC will serve as a coordination mechanism to help facilitate the timely review and issuance of required permits, thereby supporting efficient project implementation and reducing potential bottlenecks.

Selected Risk Factor 8

Category	Probability	Impact
Prohibited practices	Medium	Medium

E

Description
Corruption, fraud, or abuse leads to theft, misappropriation, waste, or improper use of property, assets, or GCF funding.
Mitigation Measure(s)
As part of its financial and operational due diligence, the AE has assessed WWF-Fiji in the areas of financial management, internal controls, accounting, human resources, procurement and procurement systems, equipment management, the ability to comply with donor requirements, and has determined that their overall policies and procedures, experience, and level of supervision proposed for this project are sufficient to mitigate any potential risks or vulnerabilities related to prohibited practices. For this project, tailored controls include financial and operational due diligence of the Executing Entity; incorporation of the AE's and the GCF's Prohibited Practices requirements into the WWF Fiji subsidiary agreement(s) and subsequent agreements with any subrecipients; sanctions screening of the EE and known implementing partners prior to funds being disbursed at all project levels; application of procurement and financial management requirements consistent with the AE's policies; and access to independent whistleblower mechanisms for project staff, partners, communities, and other stakeholders. A specific area receiving enhanced attention in this regard is the LLAF, as it introduces fiduciary complexity due to varying levels of institutional and financial management capacity among community organizations. To address these risks, the LLAF will operate under a dedicated grant administration process with clearly defined eligibility criteria established by the EE and subject to the AE's review and approval. WWF Fiji will conduct due diligence appropriate to the size and nature of each small grant, provide implementation guidance and capacity building support to recipients, and will monitor compliance through periodic financial and technical reporting, the verification of expenditures, field monitoring, and the review of supporting documentation. The AE will maintain oversight of the EE via its standard methods. The AE recognizes that project risks may evolve during implementation and therefore applies ongoing monitoring (via regular project supervision, quarterly financial reporting including procurement detail, audits, supervision missions, follow-up actions, and reviews of any complaints received) to ensure that control measures remain appropriate and effective. In the case of disbursement of cash, vouchers, commodities, or other items of value directly or indirectly to individual beneficiaries, agreements will be signed with the relevant beneficiary or service provider that include guidelines for distribution and reporting including proof of expenses and receipts. If that is not possible in some rural areas, it may be replaced by a declaration on the use of the funds that includes expense details. Administrative monitoring, including physical verification as appropriate, will be included in the relevant EE's roles and responsibilities.
Selected Risk Factor 9

Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		

F

The population of Fiji consists of two principal ethnic groups: the Indigenous Melanesian population or those of mixed Melanesian-Polynesian origin (referred to as Indigenous Fijians), who now constitute most of the population (555,499, 63%), and the Indo-Fijian (commonly referred to as Indian) population 289,237 (33%). There is a risk that the minority Indo-Fijian groups' views will not be accurately integrated into the design of the project and its activities due to a lack of engagement with these communities as a result of the social structures in place in Fiji. This could strain social relationships, weaken community resilience, and exacerbate existing inequalities. Relations are already strained between land holders (mostly Indigenous Fijians) and Indo-Fijians who must lease land from Indigenous Fijian landowners to farm cash crops or secure licenses to fish in traditionally owned waters. Many Indo-Fijians believe that their dependence on leased land and fishing rights constituted de facto discrimination against them. Many ethnic Fijians believe the rental formulas prescribed in national land tenure legislation discriminated against them as the resource owners.

Mitigation Measure(s)

The project has several mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential conflict between the two groups, including the SEP, which should prioritize engagement with both Indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians to ensure their concerns, knowledge, and aspirations are reflected in the project activities.

Also included in the ESMF is the requirement for the following activities:

1. Inclusive Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis
2. Customized Consultation Processes
    - Culturally appropriate consultations: Conduct separate consultations for Indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians to respect their cultural differences and traditions.
    - Use trusted local facilitators and community leaders to ensure trust and encourage active participation.
    - Ensure consultation methods are inclusive by addressing language barriers, accessibility issues, and literacy levels.
3. Early and Continuous Engagement
4. Grievance Mechanisms
5. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Planning Framework (IPLCPF)
6. Tailored Approaches for Fishing and Agriculture and Fishing License Cap and Controls of Fishing Grounds that include Inclusive Co-Management such as establishing co-management committees for fishing grounds that include Indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians as equal participants.
7. Access Rights and Equity Measures that include developing transparent and equitable processes for allocating fishing licenses, with clear prioritization for subsistence fishers.
8. Capacity Building with Cultural Sensitivity
9. Gender and Social Inclusion in CSA, by ensuring women, youth, and marginalized farmers from both Indigenous Fijian and Indo-Fijian communities are included in CSA capacity-building initiatives.
10. Support for Livelihood Diversification by introducing additional income-generating opportunities linked to CSA, such as agro-processing or ecotourism, with training and support tailored to local needs.

Selected Risk Factor 10		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		
Limited recognition among financial institutions of the investment value associated with reef-positive businesses, coupled with a thin pipeline of investment-ready enterprises, may constrain access to financing and impede the scaling of these interventions.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
This risk has two dimensions. On the enterprise side, the project engages very early-stage reef-positive businesses, for which maturation is inherently uncertain; revenue models may remain weak, and some enterprises may never reach the threshold at which financing becomes viable. To mitigate this, the project will deliver Business Development Services (BDS) tailored to early-stage enterprises, sequencing support to establish core business fundamentals before pursuing investment readiness, and tracking progress against defined readiness milestones to enable early reprioritization of underperforming pipeline candidates. On the institutional side, capacity-building support for local financial institutions will build familiarity with reef-positive business models and equip them with the tools needed to assess and underwrite such investments, thereby reducing the perceived risk that currently constrains lending. By simultaneously strengthening the pipeline of investment-ready enterprises and the ecosystem that supports them, the project lays the groundwork for blended finance vehicles - such as the GFCR-funded Integrated Coral Reef Blue Economy (ICRBE) program, including Fiji's Blue Lending Facility - to subsequently capitalize on a stronger deal flow.		

G. GCF POLICIES AND STANDARDS

G.1. Environmental and social risk assessment (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

266. The project will comply with GCF's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), including the Policy on the Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (SEAH) and Indigenous Peoples Policy (IPP) through application of WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, as detailed in the Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) and Guidance Note on GBV & SEAH.

267. The project has been categorized as Category "B" given that it is designed to address locally driven threats and pressures to the GSR by directly implementing NbS, addressing ecosystem planning and management gaps, building local community capacity for adaptation, and supporting reef-positive business scale-up and access to finance. It is expected to generate significant positive and durable social, economic, and environmental benefits. Any adverse environmental and social impacts are expected to be minor, site specific and can be mitigated.

268. An ESMF (Annex 6), including an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Planning Framework (IPLCPF), a Process Framework (PF), and a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been prepared to manage potential environmental and social risks and impacts. Additionally, the project will have an ESS Manager within the PMU, an ESS and Gender Officer based in the Northern landscape, and four Community Engagement Officers, one per province to manage ESS risks and ensure the project complies with all policies and mitigation measures.

269. The proposal formulation process has involved consultations with a variety of stakeholders including communities, national and local governments, public entities and universities using a gender-responsive approach, to ensure equitable and meaningful participation from women and men.

270. A summary of the ESS risks and mitigation measures is given below, divided by the Standards found in WWF's SIPP. For full details on environmental and social risks and mitigation measures, please refer to Section 4 in Annex 6 of the FP.

Standard on the Protection of Natural Habitats

271. Risks include disruption of natural sediment transport and alteration of coastal habitats associated with the construction of living shorelines, and secondly, the risk of various livelihood activities under Outcome 2 and 4. To address these risks, detailed environmental assessments and sustainable management strategies will be implemented, including feasibility studies for mangrove and coral restoration projects, enforcing sustainable fishing regulations, promoting eco-friendly tourism practices, and integrating nature-based solutions into agricultural and coastal management.

Standard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement

272. There will be no land acquisition or involuntary resettlement under the project. This standard is triggered because of possible access restrictions to fishing or marine resources. A Process Framework (Annex 6) and a stakeholder engagement plan (Annex 7) have been prepared. Any restrictions on use or access will only come with the consent of communities and their leaders.

Standard on Indigenous People

273. This standard is triggered because all project stakeholders are either Indigenous Fijians or Indo-Fijians, who possess the characteristics of Local Communities. A IPLCPF has been prepared as part of the ESMF. Once project implementation begins and landscape-level ESS Screenings have been conducted, IPLCPs will be created through an FPIC process in partnership with the relevant communities. Stakeholder engagement has already begun in these areas during the FP stage. More details about the consultation process and stakeholder engagement during implementation can be found in Annex 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Standard on Community Health and Safety

274. This Standard is triggered due to activities involving construction of seawalls and mangrove restoration. These will take specialized knowledge and labor and the Project will use a competitive process to hire environmental engineers with a strong safety record who will be required to comply with WWF's guidance note on Labor and Working Conditions.

Standard on Cultural Heritage

275. This Standard has been triggered because the Great Sea Reef is culturally significant to Fijians, and the project will need to carefully consult communities on any potential cultural impacts and create appropriate mitigation measures as part of the yearly ESS Screening.

Grievance Mechanism

276. The gender and SEAH-responsive project-level grievance mechanism as detailed in Section 5.8 of Annex 6 will be implemented within the first 3 months of implementation. WWF-Fiji's (EE) GRM and WWF US's (AE) grievance mechanism will accessible to stakeholders and project-affected peoples throughout the project lifecycle. The GCF's IRM will also be socialized.

277. The final ESMF and SEP will be translated into Fijian before GCF Board Submission allowing for the 30-day public disclosure required by GCF's Information Disclosure Policy and final documentation will be disclosed in country in a locally relevant and culturally appropriate manner for 45 days per WWF policy before AE approval.

G.2. Gender assessment and action plan (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

278. Fijian women's subsistence and reproductive activities rely heavily on the abundance, biodiversity and health of natural resources and ecosystem services. Structural gender inequalities embedded in Fiji's patriarchal cultural and social norms manifest in asymmetrical power relations limiting women's access to and control of resources as well as their ability to make and influence decisions about resource management. This results in great risks, burdens and impact for Fijian women as natural disasters strike and as climate change occurs. Women's vulnerability is differentiated by their intersectional identities based on among other things, age, disability, cultural background, socio economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity and geographic location.

279. It has been noted that the socioeconomic profile of women in Fiji does not provide a good basis for women's resilience to disaster and climate risks, as women rate significantly behind men in access to secure and well-paid employment, occupy few senior and decision-making roles, and suffer very significant levels of sexual harassment in the workplace and domestic violence at home. In its National Action Plan (NAP 2023-2028), the Fiji government aims to ensure the full and effective participation of women in decision-making, equal opportunities for leadership, equitable access to economic resources and financial services, and equal rights to opportunities from adaptation action. The specific functions that women have in different sectors, such as selling farm produce or fishing, are identified as entry points for women to play an active part in the implementation of adaptation activities in these areas.

280. The GEDSI Assessment provides a clear background on the context and the situation relating to gender issues in the project area. The Assessment includes an analysis of the legal framework, laws, policies and institutional practices on gender equality, women's and youth empowerment, gender-related climate vulnerability, access to decision-making processes, disability inclusion, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) and other related fields. This ensures that a positive enabling environment to promote and support gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) mainstreaming is integrated in the design phase of the project.

281. Within the Project Management Unit (PMU) a Gender Lead based in the Fiji Office will be hired to lead the implementation and monitoring of the GAP, in close coordination with the ESS Specialist (responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the ESMF), and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Specialist (responsible for overseeing the MEL framework) for the CRRP. Community Officers will be

based in the provinces of Ra, Ba, Bua and Macuata and oversee the coordination and implementation of the GAP at the provincial level.

282. Based on the literature review, secondary data with additional provincial data drawn from the Stakeholder Analysis, including the results of extensive GEDSI-responsive stakeholder consultations in the proposed project area during the design phase - the key findings from the review have contributed to the design of the GEDSI-specific actions in the GEDSI Action Plan (GAP) found in Annex 8. The specific GEDSI actions in the GAP are based on the knowledge and cultural context gathered from the GEDSI Assessment. The Action Plan includes GEDSI-specific activities, indicators and targets that promote equal and active participation of iTaukei and Indo-Fijian women and other marginalized groups (youth, elders, people with disabilities, others). The Action Plan also goes beyond participation of these groups into more transformative initiatives to achieve empowerment and involvement in decision-making processes at various levels of governance systems. Specific project Outputs where women's empowerment and improvement in their access to and engagement in decision-making processes are expected, include: Outputs 1.3, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2.

G.3. Financial management and procurement (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

283. WWF-US grants management and subrecipient monitoring is supported by a grants management system that is integrated across its donor management, accounting, and budgeting systems. This system provides notifications for due dates of deliverables (from the grant recipient and to the donor), tracks disbursements, project expenses, milestones, audit findings (if applicable) and identified risks so that project supervision as a whole is informed and documented.

284. WWF-US is in the process of completing a due diligence assessment on WWF-Fiji's financial systems, controls, management framework, policies, and procedures. This assessment will be submitted in the subsequent submission. Through this assessment it will be determined whether the EE meets WWF's minimum fiduciary standards. Through its preliminary assessment, WWF-US has identified that WWF-Fiji has staff in-office trained and skilled in financial management, grants management, accounting, and project management.

285. WWF-Fiji is a WWF-International Office. It is a separate legal entity from WWF-US and follows the policies and procedures flowed down to it from the WWF-International Head Office. In areas where WWF-Fiji has policies or procedures specific to their local office, such as procurement policies and local accounting policies, these will be reviewed by the AE as part of the in-process due diligence assessment.

286. The GoF is a co-financier and key implementing partner to the project. Under this Project, WWF-Fiji will be entering a grant agreement for the disbursement of GCF funds to the Divisional Offices of Forestry. The Divisional Offices of Forestry are a pre-selected procured party. The subsidiary agreement between WWF-Fiji and the Divisional Offices of Forestry will include all relevant GCF reporting requirements, covenants, and warranties for the efficient and allowable use of GCF proceeds under the Project. WWF-Fiji and various GoF Ministries (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Min. Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry, Min. of Fisheries & Forestry, Min. of Itaukei Affairs, Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources, Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, and SMEs, and the Western and Northern Divisional Commissioners Offices) will sign a cooperative agreement that details the secondment of PMU staff by WWF-Fiji to the Ministries and the receipt of goods and services in the form of technical assistance, training, and logistical support.

287. GCF funding identified in the Funded Activity Agreement will be channeled by WWF-US WWF-Fiji through a subsidiary agreement (in the form of a grant agreement). Upon completion of the annual disbursement requirements, WWF-US will advance funds to WWF-Fiji (for the implementation of

agreed and approved project activities), through quarterly disbursements based on spending projections included with the quarterly financial reports, in accordance with WWF-US standard grants management policies. Consolidated project expenses will be reported semi-annually to the GCF (at the mid-year financial report and the Annual Performance Report (APR). A dedicated project account will be setup by WWF-Fiji to receive these disbursements, and any interest accrued during the project will be reflowed to the GCF, as will any unused funds at the time of the project's financial close. A statement of Investment Income earned on GCF Proceeds, as well as the amount of such Investment Income paid to the Fund for each calendar year of the project will be submitted annually by March 30 along with an unaudited financial statement per WWF's AMA.

288. As the only Executing Entity, WWF-Fiji will be responsible for overseeing the procurement and financial management of all GCF resources, subgrantees, and contractors under the project. WWF-Fiji will follow approved procurement policies and procedures, and the project's t detailed in Section B.4 for the project's contractual arrangements. In any instance where eligibility criteria will be further developed by WWF-Fiji during project implementation, the WWF-US AE will review and approve this criterion prior to the criteria being applied on the ground.

289. WWF-Fiji will be responsible for overseeing the financial management, grants management, and overall administration of the Locally Led Adaptation Fund (LLAF) in Component 1. WWF-Fiji will conduct due diligence in line with the LLAF's eligibility criteria on any community organizations, associations, or local NGOs that apply to the LLAF and support their administrative capacity for the effective and efficient use of grant resources. These due diligence assessments will be reviewed and approved by the WWF-US AE prior to the first disbursement of GCF funds to any LLAF applicant. LLAF recipient organizations will be contractually required through a grant agreement with WWF-Fiji to ensure that all funds provided under the Project shall be used exclusively to finance eligible expenditures in accordance with the Funded Activity Agreement, and to use the funds solely for the Activities. LLAF recipient organizations will be required to report quarterly on fund expenditures to WWF-Fiji, who will report these expenditures to the WWF-US AE. The project budget includes extensive capacity building, training, and continuous engagement by WWF-Fiji with LLAF recipients to foster and encourage accurate financial and technical reporting by LLAF grant recipients. WWF-Fiji will have a dedicated LLAF management team under the project including an LLAF Finance & Contracts Management Officer.

290. For this Project, the PMU sitting under WWF-Fiji will submit annual work plans and budgets to the WWF-US AE. WWF-Fiji will submit quarterly requests for disbursements. Reporting from the GoF, LLAF recipients, and any subgrantees or contractors will be consolidated by the PMU and submitted to WWF-US AE quarterly. WWF-US will then submit Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and financial reports to the GCF as defined within the AMA and FAA.

291. The project's field offices in Labasa and Lautoka will each have a dedicated Project Accountant, Senior Finance Officer, and Procurement coordinator to oversee the financial management of the project's field activities. These positions will report into the PMU Project Finance Manager.

292. This Project will follow GCF's required reporting templates. The EE will be required to implement the project in compliance with their respective Financial Policies and Procedures once they have been assessed to meet WWF-US's Minimum Fiduciary Standards. In legal terms, this will be ensured through the subsidiary agreement (in the form of a grant agreement) signed between WWF-US (as the GCF AE) and WWF-Fiji and the cooperative agreement between WWF-Fiji and the GoF.

293. To ensure that all materials and technology procured under this project are used only for the purposes intended, all contracts will include clauses that describe the use of materials, technology, and

intellectual property. In addition, language will be included that prohibits the diversion or use for unauthorized, improper, or illicit purposes. The transfer of goods is documented and includes purpose and ownership. This documentation is signed by both parties.

294. During project implementation, WWF-US will provide oversight and quality assurance in accordance with its policies and procedures, and any additional specific requirements contained in the subsidiary agreements (in the form of a grant agreement). This may include, but is not limited to, monitoring missions, spot checks, facilitation, and participation in project steering committee meetings, quarterly progress and annual implementation reviews, and audits at project level on the resources received from WWF-US.

295. All projects are audited annually following the WWF AE project audit guidelines. A scheduled audit is used to determine whether the funds transferred to the Executing Entities were used for the appropriate purpose and in accordance with the approved project work plan and budget and the EE's assessed policies and procedures. The annual project audit based on the calendar year will be submitted to the GCF by Apr 30, for each year of execution.

296. Internal and external complaints and/or allegations of impropriety, wrong-doing and other issues related to the Project and its activities can be made through WWF-Fiji's complaint mechanism which is accessible on WWF-Fiji's website (https://www.wwfpacific.org/grievance_mechanism). WWF-Fiji staff, project staff and beneficiaries are made aware of the processes of communicating complaints, allegations of impropriety, wrong-doing or other issues and are protected when doing so under WF-Fiji's whistle-blower policies. External complaints are investigated WWF-Fiji's Project Complaints Team. Procedures for investigating Internal complaints are determined pending the level at which the staff person is employed within the organization. Any Project-related complaint is required to be reported to WWF-US along with the details of how it has been resolved. Complaints can also be made directly to WWF-US through its online and phone mechanism hosted by a third-party provider, EthicsPoint (https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html). Further details on the project's grievance mechanisms are included in Annexes 6 and 7.

Annual monitoring and reporting from the PMU to WWF demonstrates that
Reporting on past activities • At least 70% of the GCF funding received by the EE has been spent as specified in the funding proposal and its agreed updates and the annual work plans and budget. **Reporting on co-financing** • All contributions to the project by the GoF are up-to-date and aligned with the co-financing committed in this Proposal budget. **Reporting on next year program of activity** • The Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) (including relevant safeguard mitigation measures) are aligned with this GCF Proposal and its budget.

G.4. Disclosure of funding proposal

Note: The Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) provides that the GCF will apply a presumption in favour of disclosure for all information and documents relating to the GCF and its funding activities. Under the IDP, project and programme funding proposals will be disclosed on the GCF website, simultaneous with the submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information that may not be disclosed pursuant to the IDP. Information provided in confidence is one of the exceptions, but this exception should not be applied broadly to an entire document if the document contains specific, segregable portions that can be disclosed without prejudice or harm.

Indicate below whether or not the funding proposal includes confidential information.

☒ No confidential information: The accredited entity confirms that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may be disclosed in full by the GCF, as no information is being provided in confidence.

☐ With confidential information: The accredited entity declares that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may not be disclosed in full by the GCF, as certain information is being provided in confidence. Accordingly, the accredited entity is providing to the Secretariat the following two copies of the funding proposal, including all annexes:

- full copy for internal use of the GCF in which the confidential portions are marked accordingly, together with an explanatory note regarding the said portions and the corresponding reason for confidentiality under the accredited entity's disclosure policy, and
- redacted copy for disclosure on the GCF website.

The funding proposal can only be processed upon receipt of the two copies above, if containing confidential information.

H. ANNEXES

H.1. Mandatory annexes

☒	Annex 1	NDA no-objection letter(s) **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 2	Feasibility study - and a market study, if applicable
☒	Annex 3	Economic and/or financial analyses in spreadsheet format
☒	Annex 4	Detailed budget plan **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 5	Implementation timetable including key project/programme milestones **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 6	E&S document corresponding to the E&S category (A, B or C; or I1, I2 or I3): **(ESS disclosure form provided)** ☐ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) ☐ Others (please specify – e.g. Resettlement Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework, Indigenous People's Plan, Land Acquisition Plan, etc.)
☒	Annex 7	Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan
☒	Annex 8	Gender assessment and project/programme-level action plan **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 9	Legal due diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance)
☒	Annex 10	Procurement plan **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 11	Monitoring and evaluation plan **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 12	AE fee request **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 13	Co-financing commitment letter, if applicable **(template provided)**
☒	Annex 14	Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule

H.2. Other annexes as applicable

☒	Annex 15	Evidence of internal approval **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 16	Map(s) indicating the location of proposed interventions
☐	Annex 17	Multi-country project/programme information **(template provided)**
☐	Annex 18	Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
☐	Annex 19	Procedures for controlling procurement by third parties or executing entities undertaking projects financed by the entity
☒	Annex 20	First level AML/CFT (KYC) assessment
☐	Annex 21	Operations manual (Operations and maintenance)
☒	Annex 22	Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects)[132]
☒	Annex X	Other references

** Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents.*

[132] Annex 22 is mandatory for mitigation and cross-cutting projects.