GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets		
Country(ies):	Fiji	GEF Project ID:[1]	9095
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5589
Other Executing Partner(s):	Dept of Env/Biosecurity Authority of Fiji	Submission Date:	March 26, 2015
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of parent program:	N/A	Agency Fee ($)	332,782

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[2]

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in $)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-2 Program 4	GEFTF	3,502,968	14,260,093
Total Project Cost		3,502,968	14,260,093

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To enhance the chances of the long-term survival of terrestrial endemic and threatened species on Taveuni Island and surrounding islets by building national and local capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage Invasive Alien Species

Project Component	Financing Type[3]	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
1. Emplace National IAS Management Framework to prevent terrestrial IAS entering Fiji	TA	*Strengthened IAS policy, institutions and coordination and outreach efforts strengthen terrestrial IAS management at the national level to reduce the risk of IAS entering Fiji. This delivers (as indicated by):* • IAS of high risk to biodiversity prevented from entering Fiji (as measured by increased score in the GEF IAS TT items 1 – 4). • 20% increase in funding towards Biosecurity in Fiji (baseline to be established during PPG).	1.1. National inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder institutional framework in place to serve as coordinating body for biosecurity activities throughout the country. • National Invasive Species Action Plan indicates priority terrestrial ecosystems to protect, IAS species to control and internalizes climate risks. • Highest risk species and key pathways of IAS introduction defined through risk analysis and "Blacklist" of IAS for surveillance and control of importations defined for all sectors. 1.2. Capacity for surveillance and prevention strengthened through provision of necessary equipment and development and implementation of policies and training that are consistent with biosecurity requirements and international standards for IAS prevention, detection, monitoring and control. 1.3. Study on the economic impacts of IAS on food security, livelihoods, health, biodiversity and production sectors and the cost/benefits of these vs prevention measures supports mobilizing long-term financing as a basis for brokering new public and donor funding for biosecurity.	GEFTF	800,800	3,259,945

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.
[2] When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on *GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*.
[3] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

2. System for Inter-island IAS movement prevention and control demonstrated in order to protect vulnerable globally significant ecosystems on Taveuni Island and surrounding islets	TA	*Enhanced IAS prevention surveillance and control strategies prevent new introductions into Taveuni, Qamea, Laucala, Matagi (covering 47,897ha), as measured by*: • No upgrade or addition of threatened species from Taveuni Island and surrounding islets (Qamea, Matagi and Laucala) onto the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as a result of IAS. • No additional establishment on Taveuni Island and surrounding islates of any IAS species listed in the Fiji black list as well as well as any high risk species already present in Fiji but not Taveuni. • Increase in capacity of Biosecurity Officers as measured by UNDP Capacity Development scorecard.	2.1 System in place for strengthened IAS prevention, surveillance, management and control in targeted islands to prevent new introductions and reduce spread. This includes strengthening institutions (Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Minitry of Health and Tourism), introducing best practices in sectors (i.e. tourism), inspection and quarantine systems at ports of entry, training and awareness raising. 2.2 Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR system) developed and implemented at the selected islands to prevent establishment and impacts of IAS; experience gained from rapid detection efforts used to develop a national EDRR system. 2.3 Training of key personnel (Biosecurity Officers, military, police, community members and sector stakeholders) on best practices for prevention of inter-island IAS spread, inspection, control and management.	GEFTF	1,165,360	4,744,018
3. Eradication and control of invasive iguana or GII (*Iguana iguana*) in Taveuni Island and surrounding islets	TA	*Long-term natural restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and their biodiversity in the selected islands measured through*: • Eradication of GII from Qamea island resulting in 3,400ha of habitat that is GII free. • Stable populations of the banded iguana (*Brachylophus bulabula*) across 47,897ha (Taveuni and surrounding islets; stable or possibly increasing on Qamea). • Increased or stable food security (baseline, indicators and target to be established during PPG).	3.1 Survey and assessment to determine both the costs of damage already caused by GII to livelihoods, food security, health and biodiversity, as well as the projected future costs. Then an economic study to determine cost of eradication of GII from Qamea, Laucala, Matagi vs. the costs of current and projected future damage with no control or eradication to build the evidence base for eradication and secure stakeholder support for eradication. 3.2 Detailed plan, including detailed costings (using above studies), for GII eradication and prevention of re-establishment for Fiji developed. • Eradication of GII on Qamea island implemented. • Intensive control and containment measures implemented on Taevuni[4], Laucala and Matagi islands to prevent re-entry of GII to Qamea and spread to other islands.	GEFTF	1,070,000	4,355,820
4. Knowledge Management to Addresss IAS		Increase in awareness of travelling public, tourism operators, importers and shipping agents of the risks posed by IAS and the need for biosecurity (baseline, indicators and target to be established during PPG).	4.1. Strengthened awareness of IAS issues among public through inclusion of IAS themes into education curricula and delivering community and sector trainings.	GEFTF	300,000	1,221,258

[4] If individuals of GII are found on Taveuni they will be eradicated immediately.

Subtotal		3,336,160	13,581,041
Project Management Cost (PMC)[5]	GEFTF	166,808	679,052
Total Project Cost		3,502,968	14,260,093

If Multi-Trust Fund project :PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here ( )

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Recipient Government	Biosecurity Authority of Fiji	Grants	11,760,093
Recipinet Government	Department of Immigration	In-kind	500,000
Recipient Government	Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority	In-kind	500,000
CSO	Environmental NGOs (breakdown to be confirmed)	Grants	1,500,000
Total Co-financing			14,260,093

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS [a)]

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)[b)]	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Fiji	Biodiversity		3,502,968	332,782	3,835,750
Total GEF Resources					**3,502,968**	**332,782**	**3,835,750**

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

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)[6]

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: $150,000				PPG Agency Fee: $164,250			
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee[7] (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEFTF	Fiji	Biodiversity		150,000	14,250	164,250
Total PPG Amount					**150,000**	**14,250**	**164,250**

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS[8]

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*47,897ha*

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

[5] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

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

[7] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

[8] Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the *GEF-6 Programming Directions*, will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Global environmental problems:

Fiji is an archipelago nation, comprised of 332 islands situated in the South Pacific Ocean. The country covers a total area of some 194,000 km^2, of which total land area is 18,270 square kilometres. ***Biodiversity of Fiji:*** The geographic complexity and isolated nature of Pacific islands have led to the development of extremely high levels of terrestrial endemism. However, the isolated nature and extreme vulnerability of island ecosystems and species to impacts such as habitat destruction and invasive alien species has resulted in many species of fauna and flora of this region being endangered. More than 946 endemic species are currently recorded from Fiji's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (with fewer than 20 currently documented from Fiji's marine ecosystems). About 23 per cent of Fiji's 1,769 vascular plant species are endemic, including an endemic family of primitive tree (the Degeneraceae) and all of Fiji's 24 native palm species, with many species endemic to a single island or site. Fiji's 27 endemic bird species include the Fiji petrel (*Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*), the Red-throated lorikeet (*Charmosyna amabilis*), both listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN, as well as the silktail (*Lamprolia victoriae*), Ogea monarch (*Mayrornis versicolor*) and Black-faced Shrikebill (*Clytorhynchus nigrogularis*), all of which are listed as Vulnerable to extinction by IUCN. Reptiles unique to Fiji include the Fijian copper-headed skink (*Emoia parkeri*), Fiji burrowing snake (*Ogmodon vitianus*), Lau banded iguana (*Brachylophus fasciatus*), Fiji banded iguana (*Brachylophus bulabula*) and Fiji crested iguana (*Brachylophus vitiensis*), all of which are threatened with extinction. Seventy-seven per cent of Fiji's 216 native species of land snail are endemic. In addition Fiji is home to a range of other unique species of mammals, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. ***Protected Areas:*** Fiji currently has 23 *terrestrial* protected areas that meet the IUCN definition of protected areas and are currently protected under national regulation[9] (including reserves, national parks, water catchments, sanctuaries and managed areas). These areas make up only about 2.7 per cent of Fiji's landmass.

Taveuni Island and its surrounding islets: Taveuni, Fiji's third largest island covering 43,400ha, has been proposed as potential World Heritage Site for its intact flora and fauna, is noted for its high endemism, and acts as an important refugia for threatened species (38.4% of its area has been proclaimed as protected areas versus the national protected area coverage of only 2.7%). Much of Fiji's land and forest has now been impacted and modified by deforestation, commercial and subsistence agriculture, plantation timber production and/or invasive alien species. Not only has Taveuni retained significant forest and wetland ecosystems across its full altitudinal range, but also it has not yet been severely impacted by invasive species. However, the Giant Invasive Iguana[10] (*Iguana iguana*), an aggressive invasive pest, was recently introduced nearby to Taveuni island. GII have been exported all over the world for the pet market. GII was bought illegally into Fiji in 2000, and the first free-living record was from 2008. The introduction of GII is cause for concern given that Taveuni is considered one of Fiji's "conservation strongholds". Taveuni is one of only three large islands with no mongoose in the oceanic Pacific. The absence of the mongoose has resulted in the retention not only of Taveuni's endemic fauna species but also Fijian endemics that have been extirpated[11] or are highly threatened on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, including the Endangered endemic Fiji banded iguana (*Brachylophus bulabula*). Both the Fijian Ground Frog (*Platymantis vitianus*; Endangered) and Fijian Tree Frog (*Platymantis vitiensis*; Near Threatened) are found here, alongside several lizards that do not occur on islands with mongoose. The Viti Barred Treeskink (*Emoia trossula*; Endangered) persists in Taveuni, while it has been extirpated from Viti Levu and Vanua Levu by mongoose predation. Taveuni is one of two remaining large forested landscapes in the oceanic Pacific that extends from the mountains to the sea. There are three terrestrial protected areas on Taveuni: Taveuni Forest Reserve (11, 160ha), Ravilevu Nature Reserve (4, 108ha), and Bouma National Heritage Park (1, 417ha). The island is a Key Biodiversity Area, and Taveuni's Highlands are an Important Bird Area (IBA). This IBA supports the majority of the world's Silktails (Lamprolia victoriae. The following bird species endemic to Fiji breed in this IBA, namely the Red-throated Lorikeet (*Charmosyna amabilis* – Critically Endangered), Friendly Ground-dove (*Alopecoenas stairi* - Vulnerable), Black-faced Shrikebill (*Clytorhynchus nigrogularis* - Vulnerable), Silktail (Near Threatened). Threatened endemic plants include *Syzygium phaeophyllum* (Critically Endangered), *Alsmithia longipes* (Endangered) and *Neuburgia macroloba* (Endangered and endemic to Taveuni). Several invertebrate and mammal species are endemic to Taveuni island itself, including: Fijian monkey-faced bat (*Mirimiri acrodonta*), Taveuni Silk bat, Taveuni beetle (*Xixuthrus terribilis*), and the Fiji Flying-fox (Critically Endangered), the latter of which is known only from a

[9] Fiji's Fifth (2014) National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

[10] The green iguana is termed the "Giant Invasive Iguana (GII)" in Fiji to avoid confusion with native iguanas that are also green in colour. Preliminary genetic analyses indicate that the source of the GII population in Fiji is commercially farmed (ie. pets and livestock) populations in central America that have been selectively bred for more than 40 years and are much larger than their native ancestors as a result.

[11] In Fiji, the Indian Brown Mongoose (Herpestes tuscus) is believed to have extirpated the skink *Emoia nigra* and possibly the banded rail (*Rallus philippensis*), sooty rail (*Porzana tabuensis*), white-browed rail (*Poliolimnas cinereus*), Purple swamphen (*Porophyrio porphyria*) and bar-winged rail (*Nesoclopeus poccilopterus*). Veron, G.; Patou, M.; Simberloff, D.; McLenachan, P.A; and Morley, C.G. 2009. *The Indian Brown Mongoose, yet another invader in Fiji.* Biol Invasions.

few specimens from the summit forests of the island. It is possible that other endemics are present that are yet to be discovered. For example, a species of endemic blind snake *Ramphotyphlops*, known only from one specimen from Taveuni, was recently re-discovered on the island. To the north of Taveuni, and in close proximity to it, lie the islands of Qamea (3,400ha), Laucala (1,000ha) and Matagi (97ha). Both Qamea and Laucala are well forested with distinct populations of several bird species. Laucala has been identified as a KBA, and at Qamea Island a mangrove forest reserve has been proposed but not adopted. A distinct population of the Fijian endemic orange dove (*Ptilinopus victor*) is present on Qamea and Laucala. A number of land snails are present on Qamea, including two Fijian endemics, the Endangered flax snail (*Placostylus ochrostoma*), and *Omphalotropis hispida*, known only from the original description of the type specimen from Qamea.

Threats:

Invasive alien species (IAS) are considered to be possibly the greatest threat to biodiversity in the Pacific Islands. Numerous invasive alien species have been introduced to Fiji, with significant impacts on natural landscapes and biodiversity. The recent introduction of GII (*Iguana iguana*) to Fiji, represents the first established population in the Pacific and is a potential bridgehead to the world's most isolated island ecosystems. GII have already caused harm throught the Caribbean where they are spreading fast and have been shown to have significant detrimental effects everywhere they have been introduced, including on native biodiversity, agriculture, tourism and are considered a health risk as they are a potential source of Salmonella. Invasion of *I. iguana* may adversely affect other fauna through predation, competition, and transmission of parasites and diseases. Moreover, populations of GII may support larger populations of exotic predators, with possible cascading effects. GII have been reported to feed on plants, bird eggs and chicks and snails, posing a threat to endemic plants, birds and other small fauna, and may also compete with other iguanids and ground-nesting birds for nesting areas. GII is a direct threat to one of Fiji's endemic and Endangered iguanids, Fiji banded iguana (*Brachylophus bulabula*). GII are vastly more fecund and aggressive than Fiji banded iguana and may have significant effects on remnant small island populations. In the Lesser Antilles, where the Endangered *I. delicatissima* co-occurs with the introduced *I. iguana*, the latter has displaced the former. Fiji's native *Brachylophus* iguanids occupy similar niches and habitats to *I. iguana* and could be displaced by it. GII also pose a risk to Fiji banded iguana through the possible transmission of iguana-specific diseases, parasites and pathogens. In addition, GII pose an immediate threat to local food security in villages and islands where they are present as they eat plants such as taro and cassava leaves, bele, tomatoes and cabbage, beans and yam vines. Because GII burrow in foreshore areas and eat mangroves voraciously, they may also damage and undermine the resilience of natural mangrove ecosystems to storms if allowed to reach high densities. In Fiji, GII has established on three islands adjacent to one another, Qamea (where GII was first introduced), Laucala and Matagi. The proximity of these islands to Taevuni, "Fji's conservation stronghold", is of particular concern. Taveuni has not yet been severely impacted by invasive species, but potential threats to Taveuni's biodiversity are present on nearby islands, for example the mongoose and GII. Given this and Qamea's proximity to Taveuni, Fiji's 2013 State of the Birds Report notes that it "would be a biodiversity conservation disaster" if the iguana were to spread to Taevuni. Given that this iguana is known to proliferate and expand its range rapidly under climatic conditions present in Fiji, GII are likely to spread to other islands if not addressed, where they would pose a threat to Fiji's other two threatened iguanid species.

Exotic introduced predators, including mongooses (*Herpestes javanicus* and *H. fuscus*), rats (*Rattus* spp.), feral cats (*Felis cattus*), feral pigs and goats have had devastating effects on avifauna and small fauna populations and habitats elsewhere in Fiji. For example, the small Indian mongoose (*H. javanicus*), introduced intentionally to control rats in the 1880s, preys on many vertebrates and is believed to be responsible for the decline, extirpation or extinction of multiple native species from Fijian islands, including several species of ground-nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians. Additionally, by impacting crops, livestock, horticulture, tourism, fisheries and forests, invasive species also threaten Fiji's economy, human health and agriculture. Fiji is typical of remote islands in the ecological susceptibility of its terrestrial biodiversity to IAS. IAS out-compete and replace indigenous fauna and flora through competition, predation, elimination of natural regeneration, introduction of diseases and parasites and smothering of creepers. Animal IAS, like rats, feral cats and other predators, can be devastating to the avifauna and small fauna, reducing levels of recruitment. Many terrestrial ecosystems of Fiji have been heavily affected by certain IAS, though there are some islands where highly damaging invasives have not yet established, as described above. Fiji's Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity highlights the increasing importance of prevention of spread of IAS: "Travel within the Fiji group is increasing rapidly and there is a need for measures to be introduced to prevent the spread of established invasive species within Fiji's 300+ islands". The nature of the IAS threats has changed dramatically as a result of increased trade and movement of people associated with development of tourism and industrial off-shore fisheries. This has increased the number of pathways for IAS introductions. This impact is seen in natural areas as well as in productive landscapes. Likely pathways of entry of IAS into Fiji include tourism, travel and transport (including in plants and animals and plant and animal products brought in, containers and packing materials, on vehicles/boats and machinery, shipping and in personal effects), production sectors (including agriculture, forestry, wildlife trade/pets and aquaculture). Species not yet present in Fiji that could have a major negative impact include the brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*), Exotic species of ants, beetles, mites and the Asian gypsy moth and giant African land snail. The brown tree snake has established a population of 3 million in Guam, causing species extinctions, as well as power outages, health and infrastructure problems, poses a significant potential

threat to Fiji's biodiversity if it finds a pathway into the country. The Asian gypsy moth and giant African land snail are known to prey vociferously on more than 500 different plant species and pose a significant potential threat to Fiji's flora if they were introduced.

Baseline projects and resources that will be committed from them:

In recent years, knowledge of and concern about IAS and their harmful impacts has increased in Fiji, sparking changes in the policy environment and new and increased baseline investments in IAS management. The Government established Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), under the Ministry of Public Enterprise (MPE), and it is the regulatory authority under the Biosecurity Promulgation of 2008 to prevent the entry of animal and plant pests and diseases into the Fiji islands, to control their establishment and spread into the Fiji islands, to regulate the movement of animal and plant pests and diseases and of animals and plants and their products, to facilitate international cooperation in respect of animal and plant diseases and for related matters. BAF is responsible for monitoring and surveillance, quarantine controls at borders, and post border operations, and provides import and export inspection and certification. All vessels and aircrafts are required to make a biosecurity arrival declaration prior to entering Fiji, and BAF officers have authority to inspect all incoming vessels, detain and confiscate all prohibited materials that may or will pose a threat to Fiji unique endemic biodiversity. BAF is mandated to protect Fiji's endemic flora and fauna and thus carries out Import Risks Assessments (IRA's) to ensure that all plants and plant products, animal and animal products continue to meet Fiji's Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP) before a permit is approved for import of these commodities. The IRA's identifies the biosecurity risks associated with the commodity and treatment regimes that needs to be implementing to address and eliminate these risks prior to being imported.

At the international airports and international mail centers, X-ray machines are used to screen all passenger baggage and mail parcels for restricted and prohibited plants and plant products, animal and animal products. Import Permit conditions, document verification and inspection by BAF officers ensures that all agricultural related items are in compliance and meets Fiji's import requirements. In the region and international arena, BAF ensures that it continues to meet its obligations as a signatory to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and adopt and in cooperate international standards set under the three standards setting bodies, The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Codex Alimentarius (Codex) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). These affiliations ensure that Fiji's import protocols are based on IRA's that scientific based and also transparency in trade biosecurity related issues.

BAF also continues to engage and enhance exports through bilateral trade agreements and commodity pathways in collaboration with other trading countries NPPO's. For enhancing exports at the national level, BAF continues to work holistically with the Ministry of Agriculture through the implementation of systems approach and working in collaboration with the private sector on the treatment protocols tagged to the various agricultural commodities. BAF also continues to advocate and work together with various government ministries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOS), regional organizations, educational institutions and the discipline forces to address invasive species of concern and also the importance on Private-Public Partnership (PPP), thus ensuring that in the end the communities take ownership of these initiatives. BAF has on-going work to address GII, including awareness raising efforts in collaboration with local communities. BAF commissioned a draft eradication study, with support from USAID, developed by IUCN.

Root causes and barriers that need to be addressed:

While there are several initiatives (at national and local level) to address IAS in Fiji, these efforts are not adequately capacitated or coordinated to ensure a systematic and effective strategy to prevent introduction and spread of IAS in Fiji and to safeguard biodiversity-rich and important areas such as Taveuni Island and surrounding islets against the threats and impacts of IAS. Baseline initiatives are not based on an understanding of the ecology that underpins this valuable biodiversity. The long term solution sought by the project is to transform current baseline investments into a comprehensive approach to prevent, detect, control and manage the introduction and spread of terrestrial IAS through production sectors, transport and other pathways, and to reduce the impacts of IAS on globally significant biodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems, such as Taveuni Islands and surrounding islets. To achieve this, actions must be taken to strengthen decision-making tools and information resources; to enable institutional coordination; and to enhance financial and technical resources to better take into account the whole spectrum/range of intervention measures, that together will address the overall problem of IAS in the country. Further, the system should be reinforced by extending this system to in-country movement of IAS in order to prevent further spreading of high risk IAS within country and specifically to vulnerable ecosystems that contain biodiversity of global significance. There are four major barriers to implementing this solution, described below:

Barrier 1: Incomplete national management framework to support effective and cost-efficient prevention, detection, control and management of terrestrial IAS in Fiji

While establishment of BAF was a critical first step in consolidating legal and policy approaches to IAS in Fiji, there is a need for a comprehensive national IAS strategy and action plan to support coordinated, efficient and cost-effective prevention and

management of IAS. Monitoring and surveillance operations are compromised by shortage of funds and appropriate equipment. Coordination among stakeholders and sectors is ad-hoc and a coordination function needs to be institutionalized to facilitate effective coordination. For example, customs and immigration services at the ports can be more efficiently be used if these staff members are capacitated in the identification of IAS. Further, BAF has to date focused of inspections for IAS that pose a threat to agricultural and horticultural production. The coordination and use of expertise in the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry and Environmental NGOs, working in tandem with BAF, are badly needed in order to step up the effort in the prevention, control and management of BD-important IAS. These systems urgently need to be strengthened to address problems and manage risks that arise at the border and beyond. BAF has established a website which provides some information on IAS, but data are inadequate putting constraints on capacities to identify priorities and needs for IAS management. A national database for proper record keeping, operational manuals, and information system is lacking. More generally, there are few regulations and little institutional responsibility for spread of IAS to natural ecosystems or for managing their impacts on biodiversity. Additional budget resources will be needed to extend management actions to cover IAS that pose a risk to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Limited information on the invasion status, pathways, distribution, population size, ecology, and the economic, social and environmental impacts of IAS in Fiji hinders efforts to effectively address IAS and their impacts on biodiversity. Risk analyses to determine the highest risk species and their key pathways are lacking. There is no national "blacklist" detailing restrictions on the import of high risk IAS for all of the major sectors through which IAS tend to enter and spread in Fiji. Technical capacities to identify pathways, commodities and organisms that present an IAS risk, or to measure the threats and impacts of IAS, are still rudimentary. Information on the economic impacts of IAS (on biodiversity, livelihoods and key economic sectors) and the costs of different interventions is not available. This hampers priority setting for a coherent national strategy on IAS and represents a constraint to increased budgetary allocation. Such concrete information is needed to generate support among policy makers and the general public, including tourists and transport operators, of the cost-effectiveness of a pro-active biosecurity approach in line with international standards.

Barrier 2: Lack of effective systems and tools for managing inter-island spread of IAS in country and for management of high risk IAS in priority biodiversity areas

BAF leads programmes and efforts to address IAS in Fiji. There is a need for building the capacity of BAF to ensure systemization of results, basic operating procedures, roles and responsibilities in relation to mandates and budgets. Threats from IAS to biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and human health posed by rapidly increasing travel and trade within the Fiji group of islands are of increasing concern. Capacity and effective systems for preventing inter-island movement of IAS are lacking, as evidenced by spread of high risk IAS from one island to another. The range of IAS, the number of pathways by which they may travel and the variety of ways they compete with native and endemic species make single approaches or isolated individual campaigns insufficient to hold back the growing threat posed to high biodiversity islands. Inspection regulations and associated protocols to prevent IAS instructions are needed, as well as campaigns to make local residents and tourists aware of the threats posed by IAS and better practices to avoid introductions. In many cases, the most effective approach to IAS is early detection and response; however, the necessary early response systems, technical capacities, and support and involvement of local communities are not yet in place to support such actions in high biodiversity areas. The recent establishment of several pests on some islands, such as GII, underscores the need for standardizing a rapid response protocol that can be used to quickly prevent pests from establishing once detected that is currently lacking. No complete island-by-island inventory exists of introduced IAS and species considered to be native/endemic and at risk.

Barrier 3: Insufficient capacity and expertise to quickly and effectively contain and/or eradicate newly established populations of IAS like GII that pose a high risk to globally significant biodiversity

An effective, systematic and comprehensive eradication effort to exterminate GII, before populations grow to the point where it is too late, is currently lacking and urgently needed. Lack of awareness among local communities and other stakeholders of the negative impacts of GII on native biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and human health poses a constraint and stakeholder support will be important to successful eradication. Detailed information on GII in Fiji and evidence-based costs of interventions vs. business as usual with no eradication, including the economic impacts of GII, are lacking and these are needed in order to build the evidence base for eradication and secure stakeholder support. Although tried and tested IAS eradication methods are available from global best practice, economic studies that document the impacts of eradication projects are not available, and are needed to make the case for scaling up. Such scaling-up will also reduce the cost of ensuring no re-establishment as pathways are reduced. There is a lack of understanding of using a phased, highly targeted approach that focuses available funding on achieving complete eradication from one island, and using this success to make the case and secure funding for eradication from the next island, rather than using all limited funding over multiple islands and a wider area, which is less likely to be successful. Effective and proven eradication methods and approaches developed elsewhere for iguana and other IAS species (e.g. the use of sniffer dogs to locate individuals) have not been adapted for and demonstrated for eradication of GII in Fiji. As a general rule, eradication is only considered to be feasible in the early stages of invasion, when populations are small and localized, and only in areas of manageable size, such as small islands or other isolated ecosystems. While many established invasives have already spread too widely across Fiji for an eradication campaign to be effective, giant invasive iguana (GII) is a recently established pest with major negative impacts on native biodiversity, agriculture, tourism and health, that is only established on a small number of islets at present. There is strong consensus that this invasive needs to be dealt with quickly and effectively before the population proliferates and spreads to the point where it would be too late, but efforts have been hampered by a lack of funds and institutional capacity, including skilled practitioners and appropriate equipment and training, to effectively contain and eradicate the GII. A population model based on results from 2000 population simulations indicates that existing GII populations are near the end of their establishment phase and

that rapid increases in numbers can be anticipated soon. This demonstrates that any eradication operation should be initiated as soon as possible in order to prevent anticipated major increases in numbers and range – at which point eradication from Fiji, or even from some islands, may no longer be possible, even with improved capacity. An IAS eradication and prevention of re-establishment plan urgently needs to be developed and implemented while it is still can. If such prioritization and planning can ensure eradication and prevention of re-establishment in a specific area then such solutions will be of great economic value in securing further support for comprehensive eradication.

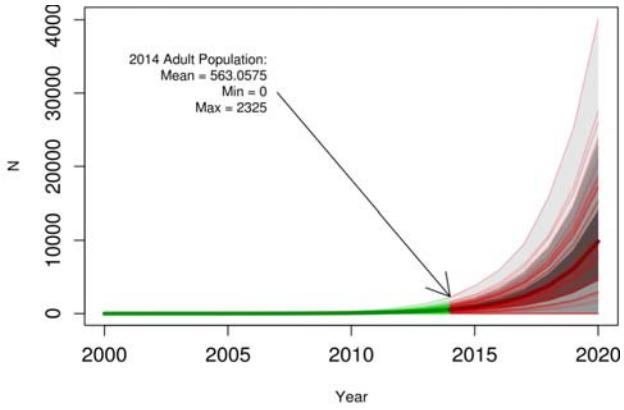

Figure 1: Adult GII population simulation. (Source: Saunders and van Veen, 2014).

Barrier 4: Lack of awareness among public, key sectors, importers and shipping agents of the risks posed by IAS and the need for biosecurity measures

A lack of awareness among the public, key sectors, importers and shipping agents of the harmful impacts of IAS, how IAS enter Fiji and spread among islands, and of what measures are needed to prevent this is an important barrier to more effective IAS prevention and control. There is inadequate understanding among the public, sectors and other key stakeholders of negative economic impacts of IAS on food security, liveihoods, health and biodiversity, and of the cost effectiveness of strong biosecurity measures to prevent IAS entering the country and to control and manage those established. An effective and comprehensive national awareness strategy on IAS and biosecurity is needed, as well as effective documentation of best practices on IAS prevention, detection, control and management.

Proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF and co-financing

The objective of the project is: to enhance the chances of the long-term survival of terrestrial endemic and threatened species on Taveuni Island and surrounding islets by building national and local capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage Invasive Alien Species. The following four components have been designed to achieve this aim and overcome the barriers listed earlier.

Component 1: Emplace National IAS Management Framework to prevent terrestrial IAS entering Fiji

This component will advance a comprehensive and consistent national approach to strengthen policy, institutions, coordination and outreach efforts on biosecurity across Fiji. It will develop decision-making tools to inform cost-effective prevention of IAS and leverage increased funding for biosecurity. A national inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism will be formed to facilitate effective communication, coordidation and participation among stakeholders and sectors. Under the leadership of the executing agency and this coordination mechanism, a National Invasive Species Action Plan will be developed that defines priorities, including priority terrestrial ecosystems to protect and IAS species to control, and management actions. Risk analyses to determine the highest risk IAS and their pathways will be developed to inform this plan, and a “blacklist” of high risk IAS will be compiled for improved prevention, surveillance and control of imports. Capacity for surveillance and prevention will be strengthened through provision of necessary equipment and development of policies and best practices, including protocols and quarantine mechanisms that have proven efficient and effective and are consistent with biosecurity requirements and international standards for IAS risk analysis, early warning response and monitoring. Support will be focused on biosecurity measures at all ports and airports into the country. To build the business case for increasing resources flows, valuation will be undertaken on the economic impacts of IAS, including on food security, livelihoods, health, biodiversity and production sectors, and the costs/benefits of these impacts compared with improved biosecurity to clearly demonstrate the advantages of improved biosecurity versus current (or even reduced) capacity in biosecurity. This information will be used by BAF to broker public and donor resources for increased funding towards biosecurity. BAF will serve as a central data centre for reporting, analysis screening, and maintaining records for vector activities or non-native species information.

Component 2: System for Inter-island IAS movement prevention and control demonstrated in order to protect vulnerable globally significant ecosystems on Taveuni Island and surrounding islets

This component will build capacity within BAF to emplace a system for IAS prevention, surveillance, monitoring, early detection and control strategies to reduce introduction rates and inter-island spread of IAS to and within high biodiversity islands in Fiji. The islands have been selected based on the presence of globally significant biodiversity and because they are a last refuge of threatened species that have been extirpated or severely depleted elsewhere by highly destructive IAS, such as the mongoose, that are not yet present in them. As such these islands are a high priority for strengthened biosecurity measures to keep out these IAS. Through BAF the project will carry out training, education and outreach with stakeholders and key sectors (in particular local communities, tourism, agriculture), and work with them to develop and implement participatory protocols for IAS prevention and control as well as strengthening inspection systems. An Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) system will be developed and initiated to test strategies for immediate eradication or reducing spread, as well as long-term IAS management costs; this system will serve as a model for the development of a national EDRR system. BAF will integrate the lessons learned from demonstrating IAS management in these islands into its information management systems and share the results regionally to promote replication at other sites during and after the project, as well as with other countries in the Pacific and other SIDS globally. Training for key personnel (Biosecurity Officers, police, Military personnel and community members and sector stakeholders) on best practices, including for prevention of inter-island spread, inspection, control and IAS management activities, will strengthen capacities to prevent IAS introductions and spread in the selected islands.

Component 3: Eradication and control of GII (*Iguana iguana*) in Taveuni Island and surrounding islets (Laucala, Matagi, Qamea)

This component will develop a detailed plan for complete eradication and prevention of re-establishment of GII (*Iguana iguana*) from Fiji and implement the plan on Qamea island (3,400ha). This will draw on best practice for eradication and also include a risk management and mitigation strategy. Qamea is the first island on which GII were introduced, is a manageable size for cost-effective eradication, and is located between the larger Taveuni and the smaller Laucala and Matagi. A survey for GII and economic studies will be conducted to assess the current and projected future economic impacts of GII on livelihoods, food security, health and biodiversity, and to determine cost of eradication of GII from Qamea, Laucala and Matagi vs. the costs of current and projected future damage with no control or eradication. This will build the evidence base for eradication and be used to secure community and stakeholder support for eradication. BAF and partners' key staff will be capacitated with equipment and training to implement the eradication plan. A communication and awareness-raising programme will also need to be developed not only communicating the eradication, but also the measures that are needed to prevent re-establishment. Intensive control and containment measures for GII will be developed and implemented on the other islands in this group (Taveuni[12], Laucala and Matagi) to contain populations, prevent spread to other islands and reduce the risk of GII being re-introduced to Qamea.

Component 4: Knowledge Management to Addresss IAS

This component will enhance and amplify the above interventions by ensuring that the studies and best practices developed under the project are documented, widely disseminated to key target audiences in appropriate formats, and that lessons learned are systematised. A national outreach and education programme will be developed and implemented to raise citizens and visitors' awareness to a level where they are clearly aware of IAS issues, support biosecurity efforts, and prevention activities. The project will deliver community and sector trainings and work to integrate IAS themes into education curricula. The results of the tools and studies developed under the above components will be synthesised and used to raise awareness among the public, key sectors and importers of the economic impacts of IAS on food security, livelihoods, health, trade and biodiversity and to make the business case for biosecurity measures and the actions these stakeholders can take to support biosecurity. The project will also take advantage of opportunities for South-South cooperation with other GEF financed IAS initiatives in other Pacific Island Countries through mutually beneficial learning, exchange of lessons and information.

Summary comparison of baseline and alternative scenarios and global environmental and development benefits

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place by the project	Selected environmental and development benefits
NATIONAL LEVEL		
- Lack of comprehensive national framework and coordinating mechanism results in inefficient and ad hoc approaches to IAS, without clearly defined priorities to guide actions. - Inadequate information on which are the highest risk IAS to biodiversity, food security,	- Comprehensive national framework and coordinating mechanism results in more efficient and effective actions to address IAS with clearly defined priorities. - Risk analyses document which are the highest risk priority IAS for biodiversity, food security, livelihoods, health and trade, and official Blacklist facilitates prohibition of high risk imports (goods that seek to enter will be	- IAS of high risk to biodiversity, food security, livelihoods, health and trade prevented from entering Fiji resulting in reduced threats to endemic and threatened species within Fiji including *Pseadobulweria macgillivrayi*, *Charmosyna amabilis*, *Lamprolia victoriae*, *Mayrornis versicolor*,

[12] If individuals of GII are found on Taveuni they will be eradicated immediately.

livelihoods, health and trade, and the pathways by which they enter the country and lack of Blacklist results in introductions of high risk IAS. - Entry of IAS into Fiji as importers, producers and public are unaware of risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services. - Inadequate capacity for surveillance and prevention of IAS that pose high risk to biodiversity results in introductions of species with negative impacts on globally significant biodiversity. - Lack of investment in biosecurity measures in line with international standards due to lack of information and understanding on the cost-effectiveness of prevention.	subject to inspection based on the official black list and other screening mechanisms). - Importers, producers and public are more careful with goods due to outreach and awareness efforts. - Improved institutional capacity to prevent and address IAS that pose a high risk to biodiversity reduces risk of high risk IAS introductions. - Monitoring system to track movements of high risk IAS inside the country. - Import, breeding and distribution more secure through better information systems / tracking of exotic species, application of biosecurity measures, capacity building of personnel, and participation in certification systems. - Economic studies document cost-effectiveness of a pro-active biosecurity approach and used to make the case to decision makers for increased investment in biosecurity.	*Clytorhynchus nigrogularis*, *Emoia parkeri*, *Ogmodon vitianus*, *Brachylophus fasciatus*, *Brachylophus bulabula* and *Brachylophus vitiensis*. - Increased awareness of travelling public, tourism operators, importers and shipping agents of the risks posed by IAS and the need for biosecurity reduces risk of new introductions of IAS resulting in reduced threats to endemic and threatened species including among others the species mentioned above, as well as reduced threats to food security, livelihoods, health and trade. - 20% increase in funding towards Biosecurity in Fiji further reduces risk of alien introductions which in turn results in reduced threats to endemic and threatened species including among others the species mentioned above, as well as reduced threats to food security, livelihoods, health and trade.
SITE LEVEL (Taveuni, Laucala, Qamea and Matagi islands)		
- Inadequate IAS prevention surveillance, monitoring, early detection and control measures at inter-island level results in established IAS spreading to further islands of Fiji threatening remaining populations of globally significant biodiversity as well as food security, livelihoods, health and trade. - No system for early detection and rapid response (EDRR) results in introduced IAS establishing and populations growing to the point where they are very difficult to address. - Biosecurity Officers are not adequately equipped or trained to fully prevent inter-island spread of high risk IAS. - GII proliferates throughout the islands where it is established, impacting Fiji banded iguana and other endemic and threatened biodiversity in Taveuni and surrounding islets, as well as local food security, livelihoods and health, and risking spread to other islands, where it has further negative impacts.	- System in place for enhanced prevention, surveillance, management and control reduces inter-island movement and spread of high risk IAS. - EDRR system in place reduces IAS establishment and spread, as well as long-term IAS management costs; and lessons learned inform development of a national EDRR system. - Biosecurity Officers are trained and equipped to prevent inter-island spread of high risk IAS. - GII eradication and prevention of re-establishment plan for Qamea island developed and implemented results in cost-effective eradication, recovery of globally significant biodiversity and greater local food security. - Economic assessment of Qamea eradication plan used to leverage funds for further eradication on Taveuni, Laucala and Matagi.	- No upgrade or addition of threatened species from Taveuni Island and surrounding islets (Qamea, Matagi and Laucala) onto the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. - Strengthened measures for prevention of entry of IAS of high risk to biodiversity and economic sectors into Taveuni and surrounding islets in place. - Increase in capacity of Biosecurity Officers as measured by UNDP Capacity Development scorecard. - Eradication of GII from Qamea island resulting in 3,400ha of habitat that is GII free. - Stable populations of the banded iguana (*Brachylophus bulabula*) across 47,897ha (Taveuni and surrounding islets; stable or possibly increasing on Qamea island). - Reduced threats to endemic and threatened species such as *Alopecoenas stari* and *Chamosyna amabilis* - Increased or stable local food security (baseline and indicators to be established during PPG).

Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The EDRR system developed and tested at selected islands through this investment to prevent the establishment and impacts of IAS is a new approach for Fiji, which is currently lacking. The decision making tools, including economic

assessments of IAS impacts, developed through this investment will be new to Fiji and will provide an important tool for increasing support among decision makers and other stakeholders of the cost-effectiveness of the biosecurity approach.

Potential for scaling up: The EDRR system developed and tested at selected islands through this investment to prevent the establishment and impacts of IAS, will have excellent potential for refinement and replication at scale in other islands of Fiji. BAF will integrate the lessons learned from demonstrating the EDRR system and IAS management in islands into its information management systems and share the results nationally to promote replication at other sites during and after the project, as well as with other countries (e.g. other Pacific Island States). In addition, the project will specifically address measures to reduce or eliminate harmful practices in the key pathway sectors; and will develop practical experience and knowledge on IAS management by implementing IAS strategic programs at selected sites encompassing high priority ecosystems. These will enable the Government of Fiji to determine cost effective IAS management practices over the long-term and provide a model for replication. The economic assessments developed under the project will provide an evidence base to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of strengthening biosecurity, aiming to leverage increased investment for scaling up biosecurity and eradication best practices collated under the project.

Sustainability: The project is building on a strong commitment from the Government of Fiji to improve biosecurity, as evidenced by the baseline investments. GEF funding can be viewed as "seed money" that will kick-start the development of a comprehensive national framework and increase awareness among governmental institutions, decision makers, and other stakeholders as to the extent of IAS problem in Fiji. An understanding of the linkage between these threats and an evidence base provided through the decision making tools developed through the project, including economic assessments to demonstrate the costs of impacts, will broaden the decision-making process beyond short-term benefits to take account of long-term, costly and potentially irreversible impacts to the environment, economy and human health, and thereby ensure increased long-term funding for IAS management. By working through BAF and by securing at least a 20% increase in funding towards BAF using the economic studies developed under this project, the project will embed actions and costs involved in sustaining the system into the government.

2. *Stakeholders*. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society and indigenous people? (yes ☒ /no☐) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/preparation:

Stakeholder	Role and Involvement in the Project
Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF)	Government agency responsible for biosecurity in Fiji. As the lead agency responsible for biosecurity in Fiji, they will be the project executing agency. Monitoring, prevention and control and eradication, as well as promoting the biosecurity agenda among different sectors, training, establishing regulations and standards, community outreach, and determining a sustainability plan to ensure actions and costs are embedded into government.
Ministry of Public Enterprises	The Ministry under which BAF is established; they will be an important advocate for the project at the national level.
Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tourism & Tourism Fiji	Relevant Ministry for tourism and Fijian Government's tourism promotion arm. As such, key sector representatives; engaged through awareness and training and invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Key sector representative; engaged through awareness and training and invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MFF)	Responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies to promote best practice in Fisheries and Forestry sector. Key sector representative that will be engaged during planning and implementation, invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
Department of Immigration (DOI)	BAF cooperates with with the Department of Immigration (MOU in place) on sharing of information to enable better collaboration in enhancing enforcement of biosecurity regulations at borders.
Ministry of Agriculture	Responsible for maintaining food security through extension and research services for livestock and crops, commodity projects, building capacity of farmers to increase production, sustainable management of natural resources through flood protection and sustainable land management. Invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment	Focused on legislative reviews, urban planning and managing the impacts of rapid urbanisation, municipal reforms, fire protection and disaster management, and control and regulation of land use.
National Trust of Fiji (NTF)	Statutory body funded jointly by the Fiji Government, independent donors and multi-lateral projects, established in 1970 to provide for the protection of Fiji's natural, cultural and national heritage.
The University of the South Pacific	The Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies/School of Government, Development and International Affairs conducts regionally-relevant relevant to government, development and international affairs.

UNESCO	Sites targeted by the project encompass Natural Heritage Parks and areas proposed for listing by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.
Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development & National Disaster Management	Relevant district and provincial offices.
Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	Relevant district and provincial offices.
Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA)	BAF cooperates with Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority to enhance collaboration in enhancing border security and safety in Fiji (MOU in place).
Local communities	Participation in community awareness building and stakeholder consultations and participation in surveillance and IAS management measures. Invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism. Explore opportunities for engaging with the local community through the GEF Small Grants Programme on GII eradication at target sites.
IUCN	International NGO. Produced eradication study for GII for BAF. Consulted during project preparation; invited to participate in the inter-sectoral coordination mechanism.
Ministry of Defence, Police and Military	Maintaining Law & Order and Upholding the Rule of Law Effectively and Efficiently. Engaged for inspections, strengthening enforcement of biosecurity measures.
Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) and Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)	PIP is umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on IAS in more than one country of the Pacific and PILN) is a network for invasive species workers in the countries and territories themselves. Opportunities explored for South-South cooperation and mutually beneficial learning.

3. Gender Considerations. Are gender considerations taken into account? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

UNDP systematically integrates gender equality and a social inclusion perspective in programme/project planning and implementation. Project preparation will ensure that those trained through the project and target communities for outreach include participation of both sexes. Instituional development will mainstream gender in the instituitonal system and decision making mechanisms and the coordination mechanism will mandate representation of both sexes. The project willl apply the relevant GEF and UNDP policies to promote enhance roles and capacities for women in biosecurity and IAS management. Gender disaggretated target and baseline will also be established where appropriate as part of the project monitoring plan. Further, the project is expected to contribute positively to women and poor households by reducing the risks posed by IAS, many of which impact negatively on food security, livelihoods and health.

4. *Risk.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the puroject objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable):

Risks	Rating	Preventive Measures
Conflicts of interest and different priorities of stakeholders constrain implementation of activities	Moderate	Needs and priorities of stakeholders will be identified, and constructive dialogue, joint planning and problem solving will be promoted through the multi-stakeholder, inter-sectoral coordination mechanism. Interest will also be fostered among stakeholders by making the economic case for strengthened biosecurity measures to prevent and control IAS.
Insufficient funding to continue necessary IAS management after the project ends	Moderate	Governmental support for biosecurity and IAS management has increased in recent years along with an increased awareness of the economic/environmental impacts of IAS. This dynamic is likely to continue. The project will take advantage of this to continue to raise awareness, and bring in further information to guide decision making on investments, including providing with detailed analysis of the overall cost of IAS to the Fiji economy and promote increased and efficient budget allocations for IAS management over the long-term.
Increased international trade may introduce unforeseen IAS	Moderate	The project will take an adaptive management approach including developing and using data mining and other predictive tools to continually revise phytosanitary and sanitary measures in response to changing conditions. Risk assessments will be periodically updated to assure that new commodities, pathways and species are accounted for. The development of the EDRR system under the project will also mitigate this risk.
Governmental agencies / private companies unwilling to share information / data	Low	Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination are a key component of this project. Open-access and the mutual benefits of information sharing will be included in all agreements for databases, websites, etc. sponsored by the project.
Climate change may alter the threats and risks associated with IAS	High	Climate change may raise the threat of IAS by increasing the frequency/severity of fires, floods, etc. and thereby decreasing ecosystem resilience and creating conditions where invasive species can more easily become established. Climatic parameters will

		be included in the project's risk analysis activities.
Resistance of local communities to killing/eradication of GII	Moderate	Under the project's specific component on knowledge management and by engaging and training communities on target islands under components 2 and 3, the project will build strong awareness of the impacts of GII on food security, livelihoods, human health and native biodiversity and of the costs of these impacts to local people to obtain their support. PPG will design effective community engagement measures to secure support based in lessons learned from baseline initiatives.

5. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives:

The proposed project adds value to a number of related initiatives as set out below:
The project will work with other emerging GEF financed IAS projects in the Pacific region (e.g. regional IAS project being developed for Micronesia) to foster South-South cooperation through identification of opportunities for collaboration and exchange and scaling-up of lessons learned. The UNDP supported GEF financed *Implementing a "Ridge to Reef" approach to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji* project seeks to improve management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas and enhance their financial sustainability, restore carbon stocks in priority catchments, and demonstrate sustainable forest management and integrated management for biodiversity, forests, land and water. Prevention and management of IAS is a key issue for protected areas. The UNDP supported GEF financed *Capacity Building For Mainstreaming MEA Objectives Into Inter-Ministerial Structures And Mechanisms* (2014-2017) aims to strengthen capacities of individuals and institutions involved in environmental management in Fiji to coordinate better, make better decisions addressing global environmental issues and mainstream global environmental issues into national legislation, policies, plans and programmes. This will help Fiji to improve its compliance with various related MEAs, particularly the three Rio Conventions. Lessons learned through this MEA project will be useful in the design and implementation of this IAS investment proposal. Related projects in Fiji will be invited to participate in the inter-sectoral, multistakholder coordination mechanism established through this IAS investment. Regular meetings will be held between the different projects to leverage synergies and ensure efficieny in implementing the projects. The studies conducted and the information gathered under the other projects will be integrated into project development and implementation.

6. *Consistency with National Priorities*. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

The proposed project is consistent with national priorities and plans and will advance Fiji's national targets and international commitments for biodiversity conservation. Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategy (2007) identifies control of IAS as critical to the success of biodiversity conservation and proposes priority actions, including: adopt relevant quarantine regulations; standards and tools developed to assist in the decision making processes involved in the importation of exotic species; strengthen legislation and enforce heavy penalties on individuals and organisations illegally importing organisms; increase public awareness on the risks and impact of exotic invasive species on native ecosystems and biodiversity; effectively control invasive and potentially invasive species present in Fiji. This investment promotes closer cooperation among agencies, sectors and stakeholders on biosecurity; strengthens capacity; develops inter-island quarantine awareness and enforcement and raises public awareness of the threat caused by inter-island traffic in spread of IAS; and establishes a database of invasive species present in Fiji (these all directly relate to/implement action items under Objective 5.2 which calls for "Effective control of invasive and potentially invasive species present in Fiji").

In addition, the project will contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under the strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent introduction and establishment; and under strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, Target 12: By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has improved and sustained. The project also contributes to the emerging post-2015 development agenda because it contributes to enhancing food security in Fiji by reducing and addressing risks from IAS, specifically to proposed Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders

This project has a knowledge management component built into it to ensure special emphasis is paid to delivering effective communications campaigns, training and developing education curricula to strengthen awareness of IAS issues, the need for biosecurity and what stakeholders can do to support effective biosecurity to protect food security, biodiversity, livelihoods and

health. Concise summaries and user-friendly outreach materials, including posters, booklets and other products will be developed to communicate key information to target audiences (including actions that these audiences can take to help biosecurity and why these are important). The project will establish a presence in social media and will use all interactions with stakeholders (workshops, trainings, community outreach) to actively engage them in this channel. Members of the national inter-sectoral coordination mechanism created under this project will be encouraged to take a lead in participating and sharing this information widely. A communications officer will be hired or capacitated within the executing agency for this purpose.

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT[13] OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this SGP OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Mr Samuela Namosimalua	Permanent Secretary for Local Government, Housing and Environment	**MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**	**02/24/2015**

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[14] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator		March 26, 2015	Johan Robinson Regional Technical Advisor – EBD UNDP	+66-22802700	johan.robinson@undp.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required **GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template** to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

[13] For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

[14] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF