PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) [1]

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Building national and regional capacity to implement MEAs by strengthening planning, and state of environment assessment and reporting in the Pacific Islands		
Country(ies):	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	GEF Project ID:[2]	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); other Regional Agencies may be involved	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐		Agency Fee ($):	770,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[3]:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
(select) CD-2	2.1 Institutions and stakeholders have skills and knowledge to research, acquire and apply information for collecitve actions Project Outcomes 2. Country and regional information is generated and kept in a coordinated and structured manner which meets all declared environmental monitoring and reporting needs and standards (at national and regional scales) and this information is readily available to countries and relevant institutions on a demand and regular basis. The information will provide for baseline and out-year comparisons as required (e.g. MEA and NBSAP reporting)	Institutions and stakeholders trained how to use different tools available to manage information Ability of stakeholders to diagnose, understand and transform information and knowledge into local actions increased and retained in 16 countries Project Outputs 2.1 Networked system of information repositories (number dependant on technical analysis of needs, capacity and resources) 2.2 Systems and processes established for analysing and reporting on data according to pro forma standards (including all four MEA conventions, possibly selected regional programmes as determined from needs analysis)	GEFTF	3,500,000	6,250,000

[1] It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.
[2] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[3] Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

		2.3 Baseline information for agreed variables established for each country and the region (broken down into units as required)			
(select) CD-5	5.1 Enhanced skills of national institutions to monitor environmental changes Project Outcomes: 5. The means to make monitoring and analytical processes and procedures institutionalised permanently within countries is established. Such processes would include feedback mechanisms so that lessons learnt can be shared within country and wider in the region/world	Monitoring systems established Project Outputs: 5.1 Relevant statutes/regulations in place to institutionalise the systems and processes in-country 5.2 Mechanisms in place to enable regular up-grading of systems and personnel involved at national and regional levels based on a well designed M and E system	GEFTF	3,500,000	6,250,000
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
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(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
		Sub-Total		7,000,000	12,500,000
		Project Management Cost[4]	(select)	**700,000**	0
		Total Project Cost		7,700,000	12,500,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Establish a network of national and regional databases for monitoring, evaluating and analysing environmental information to provide for environmental planning, forecasting and reporting requirements at all levels

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
1.Network of national and regional databases for monitoring the state of the Pacific's environment	TA	1.1 Pacific Island Countries and partner institutions have functional monitoring databases, that are networked, and users are largely dependent on them for their environmental monitoring and planning needs	1.1.1 Systematic assessments of existing technical capacity in-country using recent documentation and surveys of 14 countries and regional institutions including SPREP, SPC/SOPAC, USP, etc. 1.1.2 Analysis stemming from output 1.1.1 plus country consultations generate a protocol on how	GEFTF	1,750,000	3,150,000

[4] GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

			the databases will work at national and regional levels (including data ownership and sharing, compatibility with existing national and regional systems, and other issues that may arise). This proposal provides the platform for adapting as appropriate from national SOE reporting system deployments used in other region 1.1.3 Regional state of environment assessment indicators selected and agreed for use at national and regional scales, and baseline information for agreed variables established for each country and the region 1.1.4 Monitoring guidelines developed and agreed for the capture of data for all national and regional SOE indicators 1.1.5 Databases made fit for purpose through iterative trialling, initially in 4 pilot countries before replicating in the remaining target countries, and at regional level			

2 Environmental data are efficiently and effectively used for environmental planning and reporting at al levels	TA	2.1 Access to national and regional data made easy through a web-based system 2.2 Develop web-based templates to assist countries to produce national communications for MEAs 2.3 Provide guidance on how data generated can be used for different purposes, such as national and regional SOE reporting, and environment and sustainable development policy and planning 2.4 Reporting burden on countries is significantly decreased compared to the situation at the start of the Project	2.1.1 Established web-based national minimum environment indicators interface 2.2.1 Web-based templates made available at national and regional levels for individual MEA reporting needs 2.3.1 Methods for analysis successfully trialled and delivering required information which meet the necessary national and regional reporting, forecasting and planning requirements 2.4.1 Improved quality and timeliness of reporting achieved, through reduced effort and expense of reporting	GEFTF	2,800,000	4,980,000
3 Capacity development to support the technical facility	TA	3.1 Regional and national capacity requirements for supporting the system is established	3.1.1 National and regional training and capacity building carried out to address: • Data capture • Database management, including ongoing maintenance • Data analysis and reporting • End-user intepretation, including SOE formulation and reviews • Use for environmental planning and management	GEFTF	1,750,000	3,150,000

4 Project monitoring and evaluation	TA	4.1 Effective management and delivery of project, meeting agreed measurable output and outcome indicators	4.1.1 Project monitoring and evaluation methodology designed to align with GEF project and operating standards, including regular project audits 4.1.2 Mechanisms in place to enable regular up-grading of systems and personnel involved at national and regional levels based on a well designed M&E system 4.1.3 Relevant statutes/regulations in place to institutionalize the systems and processes in-country and at the regional level	(select)	700,000	1,220,000
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
				Sub-Total	7,000,000	12,500,000
				Project Management Cost[5]	(select)	700,000	0
				Total Project Costs		7,700,000	12,500,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	EU-ACP-MEA Capacity Building Project	Grant	1,400,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	SPREP	In-kind	8,000,000
National Government	SPREP National Focal Points	In-kind	2,800,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	300,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			12,500,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Multi-focal Areas	Global	7,000,000	700,000	7,700,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0

[5] Same as footnote #3.

(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				7,000,000	700,000	7,700,000

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

[2] Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF strategies /NPIF Initiative:

This project contributes to GEF-5 capacity development objectives 2 and 5, which aim to improve the generation, access and use of information and knowledge for purposes such as convention reporting, policy development, and monitoring and evaluating environmental impacts and trends. Recognizing the challenges individual Pacific countries face in generating and organizing environmental information, and based on a request from participating countries in this regard, this project will develop systems and processes for environmental monitoring in the Pacific subregion as a single entity and for individual countries, identify baseline information and indicators for agreed variables, link the information with convention reporting processes and other uses, and establish mechanisms to institutionalize (including capacity development) and regularly upgrade the system.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

A.2. national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

Implementation and reporting on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) will be supported through the following:

The 14 Pacific Island countries (which include five least developed countries (LDCs)) are parties to many MEAs, see Table in Attachment 1. There is an increasing burden on small island developing states to implement and report against MEA obligations.

Most Pacific Island countries have formulated their NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs and other national implementation documents. There is a need to consolidate and coordinate the implementation of these documents and to continually review and update them.

SPREP has begun to pilot processes to integrate the MEA implementation documents into a single national environment management strategy. This project can support this process and will also meet many of the priorities identified in country National Priority Formulation Exercises NPFEs.

This project will create a coordinated mechanism for national reporting on the various MEAs, reducing the burden on small island administrations.

The project will provide quality and readily accessible environmental information for informed decision making, planning and management at all levels, in particular national and sub-national.

The EU funded ACP MEAs project complements this project by piloting and testing many of the approaches at national and regional level. These lessons will be incorporated the design of this project. Phase II is planned to run parallel with this project and hence is a source of co-financing.

SPREP's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015, approved by SPREP Members[6], identifies environmental monitoring and governance as one of four strategic priorities. SPREP Secretariat reorganised to include a new Division of Environmental Monitoring and Governance, to facilitate implementation of activities under the strategic priority.

The SPREP Strategic Plan requires the approval by members of a framework for national and regional state of environment assessment and reporting by 2012: this framework is attached as Attachment 2. SPREP and its members have also committed by 2015 to publish its first regional state of the environment (SOE) report and national SOE reports in at least 5 countries.

The 2012 SPREP Ministerial Meeting endorsed the development of a GEF proposal to strengthen capacity for national and regional SOE monitoring, assessment and reporting; see Attachment 3.

Countries and the region will be better able to monitor the effective implementation of their national and regional policies and plans.

Regional advocacy in international fora will be more effective because it is underpinned by scientific, high quality and up-to-date information generated through this project.

The project will support reporting on environmental indicators relevant to regional and global sustainable development targets and plans, such as the Pacific Plan, Millennium Development Goals and the ongoing discussion on sustainable development goals post Rio+20.
This project will also support major global and regional initiatives, especially the Global Partnership for Oceans, Pacific Oceanscape framework, and others.

This project will inform allied initiatives such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), the Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook (PECCO), Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and Politically Sensitive Sites and Areas (PSSAs). Consolidation of national communications by MEA Secretariats will be made easier by the presentation of the reports of the national communications in web-based formats.

The project addresses the findings of the GEF FNR_Rio project[7] which include: the need for increased collaboration and coordination among the organisations involved with data and information management; the importance of improved mechanisms for collecting and managing data and information at the national level; and the fact that national capacity in reporting and implementation needs to be built in an integrated way, through training and the provision of technical and financial resources.

The regional reporting framework, when developed, will facilitate reporting to the biodiversity and chemicals conventions clusters. SPREP is the regional reporting entity for the UNCCD Convention and supports national reporting through the Project Review Achievement Implementation System PRAIS system.

[6] SPREP Members: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, UK, USA, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu

[7] Report "UNEP/GEF project "Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to the Rio Conventions" - the FNR_Rio project: Outcomes of pilot from joint reporting to the Rio Conventions" UNEP WCMC, July 2012.

The project will complement and build on the work being undertaken by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on the development of indicators to track MEA implementation, as well as providing a regional platform to link to WCMC tools such as the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) registry.

There are a growing number of initiatives in the French and USA Pacific territories that are being supported by the French Development Research Institute (IRD) (Blucham support) and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These initiatives are probably ahead of any others occurring in the countries covered by this project. Hence it is anticipated that this project will trade on lessons learnt from these and link to them, so that data and information may be traded to facilitate the regional scale objectives of the project.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

In the Pacific region, environmental monitoring, evaluation, reporting and forecasting is fragmented within and between countries and the region as a whole. This project will build on existing national and regional systems which handle environmental information in order to create a centralised (or as much as possible) system to serve the Pacific region in its demands for standardised monitoring, evaluation/analysis and forecasting for national and regional planning, reporting and forecasting. The project will include setting up the hardware, software and personnel training required to set-up such a system for permanent use. Any statute and/or regulations required will also be supported.

This project will build on substantial efforts being carried out by SPREP in the development of regional reporting frameworks to facilitate national and regional environmental assessment, funded by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) MEA project and funds from the Noumea Convention, as well as in kind support from SPREP staff. The current regional frameworks project has focused on top level indicators, at the Exclusive Economic Zone scale, has worked with Pacific island countries to develop key metrics and, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, develop a centralized web site of these key indicators to facilitate use by countries in their reporting to MEAs as well as regional reporting needs. The overall framework, which was formally noted by Pacific island countries and territories at the 2012 SPREP annual meeting, is presented in (http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Streamlining_rep_brochure.pdf) and includes high-level regional reporting (current efforts) and the centralization of county data to support State of Environment reporting at national and regional scales, as well as allowing for more effective use of environmental data in national planning, decision making and policy setting. Another quantifiable outcome of the current efforts, which demonstrates the needs and scoping of the proposed effort, was to support Samoa in the development of their 2012 review of State of Environment – one outcome of which was to facilitate the production of a synthetic brochure on Samoa SoE (http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Samoa_SOE_2012_brochure.pdf).

Within the realm of environmental monitoring and projection with respect to climate change, this has been done by the Pacific Island Meterological services with support from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and CSIRO through the AusAID funded PACCSAP (Pacific and Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Programme). This was previously the PCCSP (Pacific Climate Change Science Programme). Under PACCSAP, Pacific Island Met Services are also working with BoM to get the fundamental climate variables (e.g. temperature, rainfall) into a common database (called CliDE – Climate Data for the Environment). This could act as a prototype database for general environmental data.

AusAID also fund the newly initiated COSPPac (Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific), which follows up the previous South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project (SPSLCMP) and the Pacific Island Climate Prediction Project (PI-CPP) and adds a capacity building branch. The SPSLCMP has been particularly successful in building a time series of sea level changes across the Pacific.

The Finnish Met Service is also currently in the process of donating 3 million euro to Pacific Island Met services (through SPREP) to upgrade some of the monitoring equipment and to enhance communication of met information to appropriate sectors through the FinPAC project.

Finally, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also offer climate services to the US territories through the Climate Prediction Centre (CPC) and the Climate Programme Office (CPO). This project will not duplicate the above initiatives and, if not already happening, provide or facilitate these networks interacting. Further, this project will pro-actively engage existing related initiatives during the planning and design phase to ensure maximum leveraging between all related projects.

B. 2. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The project will combine existing efforts within and between countries and bring to bear expert support from relevant regional agencies such as SPREP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) and should/could at a regional level result in less money, time and effort being spent on these activities (as above) and increase the predictive and reporting capacity of countries and the region as a whole in such critical environmental variables as global warming, sea level rise, acidity and extreme environment events. The project will be careful not to duplicate existing initiatives/projects/processes and instead build/incorporate them. It will relieve the administrative/reporting burden on countries and better allow accurate/comprehensive/timely reporting on the environmental conventions at a regional level which will also streamline the information load at the Convention level.

The project will also address issues identified through countries National Capacity Self Assessments (NCSAs). A review of the 10 NCSA reports completed in the Pacific region by 2012 (http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/NCSA_PacReg.pdf) noted the following common problems and vulnerabilities:

- A lack of historical and current evidence of the status of various environmental resources, the trends in that status, and the drivers of changes in that status;

- Information management problems, including lack of standardized procedures for collecting and aggregating relevant environmental data; and
- Dissemination problems, with information that *is* available not always getting into the hands of local scientists, local government officials, or local citizens

The project aligns with agreements made by leads of Pacific island countries (including New Zealand, Australia, USA and France), especially the Cairns Compact on strengthening development coordination in the Pacific. This project supports at least the following key deliverables: "tracking development efforts in progressing achievement of Forum Island Countries (FIC)'s development data to guide better decision making and development planning; enhancing collection, analysis and dissemination of FIC's development data to guide better decision making and development planning; review and reporting on national development plans".

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.":

The project will provide Quality Assured raw data/information and analysis to enable countries to report on MEA related conventions and other instruments (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Stockholm Convention etc). Regional scale information will also provide the material to enable countries to decide on policy on issues relating to sea level rise, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction etc with obvious social and economic ramifications. Fine grain information (country level and disaggregated at the regional level) will enable countries to meet their reporting obligations to MEA's and make informed plans for national level activities such as coastal management, waste management, biodiversity protection and protected area management.

Gender issues will be considered during the design of the project – localised capacity will be ensured to maximise the capacity benefits locally and at regional levels. Use of disaggregated data will allow an analysis of gender issues and more effective gender awareness in the environmental mainstreaming process.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risk and Rating (H,M,L)	Mitigation
Retaining intellectual property at source (M+), and otherwise willingness of participating actors to share data	Agreements with countries and institutions designed and approved *a priori* to gathering information Support initiatives to allow statutes and regulations which will allow information transfer between countries and agencies handling data
Long term commitment from countries and contributing institutions (e.g. SPREP, SPC etc) (H)	Include in the activities of the project steps which mainstream practices relating to acquiring, processing, analysing environmental data so the practices developed in the project become the norm Ensure that all processes in the acquisition and handling of environmental data are fully endorsed at all stages of development
Duplicating existing initiatives relating to Capacity Development/ensuring complimentarity and collaboration (L)	Close communication with countries to ensure awareness and get them to assume responsibility for avoiding duplication Project Management Group well networked in the region to keep track of similar initiatives and ensure complementarity and cooperation Ensure the main players in the CD field are included in the project
Ensure QA standards throughout the region and over time (exacerbated by turnover of staff) (M)	Regular training and QA systems set up in-country and mechanisms to ensure standards are met throughout the region
Buy-in, commitment and involvement of partner regional agencies such as Secretariat for the Pacific Community, University of South Pacific etc (M)	Research and analysis of their work programmes and negotiation between them and SPREP/UNEP to prevent competition and promote cooperation. Heads of agencies regularly communicate to avoid issues before they arise.

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Various Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific agencies : SPREP (main executing agency – others may be added), SPC (principle collaborator with regard to technical information gathering, processing, analysis etc; includes SOPAC), Forum Fisheries Association (collaborating particularly with harvested marine species related information), USP (collaborating with including coursework providing training for countries in information gathering, analysis etc), others will be sought to match the needs of the project as its design becomes more defined.
Bilateral agencies : AUSAID; NZAID; USAID; EU; France; DFID; others as identified as the project develops. Appeal to governance related objectives (e.g. AUSAID); partner government aid agencies such as USA, France, Britain to attempt to lock in their Pacific territories to enable better meeting regional environmental monitoring objectives
Countries: see Attachment 3 for ministerial endorsement of the proposal and LOEs from national focal points will follow, if required.
World Conservation Monitoring Centre: engage existing expertise, analytical/reporting and electronic resources in the WCMC and use these in designing the Pacific environmental monitoring programme.
Non-government Organisations: some NGOs have environmental monitoring programmes and every endeavour will be made to collaborate with them.

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

The SPREP – UNEP revised MoU is likely to include WCMC projects at global and regional levels which will ensure information will contribute to global environmental monitoring.

There are 2 related GEF5 proposals in Kiribati and Palau which will be considered in the design of this project, if funded.

In addition, there is also the proposal “Enhancing capacity to develop and manage environmental projects in the Pacific” aimed at strengthening internal processes and capability of SPREP as a potential GEF implementing agency.

Similarly, this project will build on the EU-UNEP project “Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries” (ACP MEA project) which will enter its second phase during the execution of this project. Phase II will include capacity building in information and data management, as well as in the processes required to feed up and into the regional framework.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 with a mandate including: "To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system" and "To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries". In 2005, the UNEP Governing Council adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, with the objective of strengthening capacities of developing countries and economies in transition, among other things, "to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives" and "to develop national research, monitoring and assessment capacity to support national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends".

UNEP promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and is able to offer a unique range of expertise and services relevant to the environment and its interface with development. UNEP has extensive experience and is a global environmental leader in:

- Working with scientific and technical communities and at the science-policy interface, including providing integrated environmental assessments for priority setting and decision-

making;

- Facilitating and supporting multi-stakeholder international environmental law and policy processes;
- Promoting regional cooperation to address emerging and transboundary environmental issues;

UNEP has strong linkages to key environmental bodies through:

- Establishing and hosting convention secretariats for multilateral environmental agreements;
- Acting as one of the implementing agencies for GEF, including providing the secretariat for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and implementation support to countless national and international projects in all focal areas;
- Partnership agreements with collaborating centres of excellence and hosting the secretariat of many partnership initiatives;
- Its network of regional offices and links with other technical divisions.

This project links with UNEP's Programme of Work for 2012-2013, output 443, "Institutional and technical capacities of Governmental and partner institutions in environmental monitoring, assessment and early warning are strengthened to support national decision-making." It relates strongly to Expected Accomplishment (c) under the new Subprogramme 7 of UNEP's Programme of Work for 2014-2015: "The capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge is enhanced".

This work is led by UNEP's Division of Early Warning Assessment (DEWA), which coordinates global scientific assessments such as the Global Environment Outlook, and supports national and regional capacity building in areas such as environmental data and information, environmental assessment methodologies, scenarios, and other links between science and policy. DEWA also maintains close partnerships with other institutions such as UN Statistics Division and European Environment Agency, which may consider technical support to the project.
The Pacific region is covered by UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), as well as a dedicated subregional office for the Pacific based in Fiji, which retains close coordination with SPREP and other Pacific-wide institutions, and were involved, among other things, in technical support to the recent Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook (PECCO).

UNEP-WCMC is also part of DEWA, and can draw in WCMC's expertise in developing on-line MEA reporting platforms. UNEP's Division of Enviromental Law and Conventions may also be involved in work relating to MEA reporting.

The Division of Early Warning and Assessment and its regional coordinating office, as well as the UNEP Pacific Office, have provided a key anchor for development of this project, and in providing environmental analysis as well as information for sustainable development planning. UNEP is also a project partner for one of the coordinated initiatives which makes it uniquely positioned to ensure collaboration, coordination, synergy, alignment and value added. This project will thus build upon other processes which UNEP is engaged in to achieve global environment benefits.

UNEP and SPREP will also bring the following to the project in their respective implementing agency and executing agency roles:
UNEP's current/recent past involvement as IA for the ACP MEA project and SPREP as EA, coupled with a planned MEA 2 follow-on project due to commence in May 2013
UNEP and SPREP are mandated (in separate instruments) to set up a system as described in this PIF
UNEP and SPREP have had a historical role running similar projects world-wide and in the

Pacific which means they can bring to bear a huge corporate experience/knowledge to the project
SPREP (and to a lesser extent UNEP) can contribute significant in-kind and co-finance including money supporting the related Noumea Convention
SPREP is formally committed to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to implement the Cairns Compact which has common goals (as above) and these activities bring with them funding. The same is true for assisting in the implementation of the Pacific Plan.

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

UNEP will provide US$ 300,000 in co-financing for this project, in terms of the time of staff members principally from the Divisions of Environmental Policy Implementation and (DEPI, Pacific Office, Apia) and Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) Capacity Development Branch. It is anticipated that four staff will contribute to supervising this project, two at Nairobi Headquarters, and two in the assessment team of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. These staff members have expertise in supporting environmental assessment, environmental information and early warning, including methodologies and best practices, and facilitating partnerships with global and regional scientific and statistical expertise, other relevant units in UNEP and the United Nations, and development partners. UNEP will seek to increase its contribution, involving other UNEP Divisions, e.g. DELC, and to use its convening and networking power to identify further partners and resources during the preparatory and implementation phases of the project.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

UNEP now has a large portfolio of running similar projects in the Pacific including four Biodiversity projects partially funded by the GEF PAS. Three of these are multi-country projects which means its catchment of countries involved in these projects spans the whole Pacific region. These projects have been in development since 2006 which means its collective knowledge of the region in areas of biodiversity, sustainable land/forest management, biosafety and POP's is unsurpassed by any other Implementing Agency operating in the region. Its close ties with the UNEP/World Conservation Monitoring Centre and Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Progamme means there is opportunity to leverage this project with the benefits which come with this agencies (e.g. UNEP's Pacific Office is co-located with SPREP affording maximum opportunity for liaison and cooperation). SPREP also is Executing Agency for two GEF PAS projects for which UNEP is Implementing Agency which also allows maximum continuity/complimentarity and mutual support between this and the existing projects. Similarly, with UNEP as IA for the Micronesia Challenge which includes Palau, the same benefits can occur. And again the outputs from this project can be incorporated into the enabling Multi-Environmental Agreement project (Africa, Carribean and Pacific) for which UNEP is IA and SPREP is EA.

This project would also be implemented by UNEP and executed by SPREP. UNEP's science and technical focus will bring comparative advantages as summarized in the following table.

Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)		UNEP Thematic Priority Areas					
		Climate change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues	X		X	X		
	Science to Policy linkages	X		X	X		
	Environmental monitoring and assessment	X		X	X		
	Norms, standards, and guidelines	X	X	X	X		
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies						
2. Cooperation, coordination and partnerships (regional or international)	Trans-boundary cooperation						
	Regional, or South-South cooperation	X		X	X		
	Global transformative actions						
3. Technical assistance and capacity building at country level (contribution to Bali Strategic Plan)	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation						
	Capacity building			X	X		
	Lifting barriers to market transformation						
4. Knowledge management, awareness raising and advocacy		X		X	X		

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	**Signature**	**DATE** *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email Address**
Maryam Niamir-Fuller GEF Coordination UNEP			Charles Davies, Programme Officer, DEWA Capacity Development Branch. Greg Sherley, DEPI	+254-(0)20-762-3792	Charles.davies@unep.org Greg.Sherley@unep.og