



Project Identification Form (PIF) entry – Full Sized Project – GEF - 7

Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Nauru

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10161

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity in Nauru

Countries

Nauru

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Communications, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Private Sector, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Focal Areas, Influencing models, Gender Equality, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biodiversity, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Land Degradation, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Large corporations, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Extractive Industries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Forest, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

72 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

332,782

Submission Date

5/3/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	1,319,863	4,180,920
LD-1-1	GET	1,091,552	4,180,920
LD-2-5	GET	1,091,553	13,936,398
Total Project Cost (\$)		3,502,968	22,298,238

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To achieve land degradation neutrality and improve ecosystem services in Nauru through integrated landscape management and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Improved governance for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation</p> <p><i>Specific indicators: i) land use planning and biodiversity integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks; ii) finalized Land Use and Restoration Plan; iii) land use database accessible by stakeholders; iv) system for compliance monitoring and enforcement; v) capacity developed to support to strengthen compliance and enforcement. Aichi Target indicators: number of draft legislation, sectoral policies and procedures integrating biodiversity and ecosystem service values; proportion of agriculture and forest land under SLM and SFM in the Land Use and Restoration Plan. Indicators</i></p>	<p>1.1: Review of national legislation, policies and procedures relevant to land use planning and management and biodiversity, including by strengthening of the SEA and EIA processes, to (i) prevent land degradation and biodiversity loss, (ii) identify barriers and options for rehabilitation and regeneration, as well as opportunities for biodiversity and social gains, and (iii) minimize impacts on ecosystem services and loss to society;</p> <p>1.2: Land Use and Restoration Plan developed, in consultation with the communities and</p>	GET	667,232	4,247,283

will be confirmed, and baseline and targets will be established during the PPG.

***GEF core indicators 1, 3 and 4;
Aichi Targets 2, 7, 12, 14 and 15****

land owners, to guide decision-making, land use management and facilitate mainstreaming of biodiversity into priority sectors to ensure that land and resource use maximize production without undermining biodiversity;

1.3: Land use database developed and published through a web portal, to keep involved and affected stakeholders updated on progress and developments;

1.4: Land degradation neutrality promoted through a stronger system for compliance monitoring and enforcement as part of multi-stakeholder land use planning and management systems (including monitoring of conditions arising from the SEA and EIA process) to

ensure that the targeted benefits are sustained;

1.5: Capacity, know-how and communication enhanced in Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, other relevant departments and district representatives to strengthen compliance and enforcement capacity.

Component 2: Rehabilitation and restoration* of degraded land to protect and reinstate ecosystem services in Nauru * For the purposes of this project proposal, "rehabilitation" is seen as the effort required to maintain, and enhance if possible, ecosystem services; whereas "restoration" is the return as close as possible to the original functional ecosystem with its biodiversity and	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Degraded arable and mined land are rehabilitated to reach land degradation neutrality</p> <p><i>Restoration will take place in areas where secondary mining for phosphate has been completed and where no further mining will take place. Specific indicators: i) assessment of land use, land cover and state of environment; ii) estimated economic impact of degraded land; iii) skills training programmes on SLM/number of people trained, disaggregated by gender; iv) cost analysis for best</i></p>	<p>2.1: Landscape survey carried out identifying land use, land cover and state of environment (ecosystems, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural production and degraded land that can be restored);</p> <p>2.2: Economic impact of degraded land on present and future socio-economic development and</p>	GET	1,334,464	8,494,567
---	----------------------	--	---	-----	-----------	-----------

sustainable state. To the extent possible, both will be attempted by the project.

restoration methods; v) increase in income/earning capacity of land owners, farmers and small business accessing incentives. Indicators will be confirmed, and baseline and targets will be established during the PPG. Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 will be initiated during the PPG phase so as to inform the design of the project and the most suitable SLM techniques to be implemented.

GEF core indicators 3, 4, 6 and 11; Aichi Targets 7, 14 and 15*

provision of ecosystem services estimated;

2.3: Gaps identified and skills training programmes on SLM developed and implemented for the benefit of land owners, farmers and other stakeholders, targeting 300 men and women and taking into account their different needs, roles and priorities, to improve their capacity to engage in sustainable agriculture, establish landscape management, and restore ecosystems while increasing agricultural production; training of government extension services to ensure continuity;

2.4: Soil restoration methods and sustainable land management techniques tested at pilot sites after secondary mining for phosphate has been completed to lower erosion, increase organic

matter content in
soil and improve soil
fertility; restoration
cost analysis
performed for
different
methodologies to
enable subsequent
scaling up;

2.5: New financial
support
mechanisms and
incentives for land
owners, farmers and
small business,
targeting 200 men
and women and
reflecting their
different needs and
priorities, to support
livelihoods and
adoption of SLM
practices on mined
sites.

Component 3: Conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's remaining forests	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3: Government takes steps towards the creation of a protected terrestrial area and sustainable management of priority areas with improved ecosystem services and sustainable forest management (SFM)</p> <p>Specific indicators: i) draft legislation and management plan; ii) number of native trees</p>	3.1: Draft legislation for the creation of a terrestrial protected area in Anibare Bay; Management plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, based on SFM approaches and including measures to avoid loss of biodiversity from potential threats such as	GET	834,040	5,309,104
--	-------------------------	---	--	-----	---------	-----------

propagated and planted; iii) information on monitoring and evaluation needs/population size of various species of birds; iv) IAS action plan. Aichi Target indicators: number of hectares *under PA and improved management; number of key bird species; number of trees of rare species planted; action plan identifying IAS. Indicators will be confirmed, and baseline and targets will be established during the PPG.*

***GEF core indicators 1 and 4;
Aichi Targets 9, 12, 14 and 15****

development (e.g. tourism, infrastructure development) and current threats (e.g. invasive alien species), developed and implemented for Anibare Bay and priority areas;^[1]

3.2: Local trees, particularly rare and threatened species, propagated in nursery and planted in the Anibare Bay protected area and other biodiversity priority areas (see annex A);

3.3: Monitoring and evaluation needs identified for Anibare Bay and priority areas; regular monitoring of key bird species, including the endemic and vulnerable Nauru reed-warbler, noddy birds (and their harvest rates), bristle-thighed curlew, Micronesian imperial-pigeon, bar-tailed godwit and grey-tailed tattler carried out; and measures

implemented to maintain and improve their numbers;

3.4: Action plan to manage and control invasive alien species in Anibare Bay and priority areas developed on the basis of existing assessments and implemented in coordination with regional project (ID 9410) to control alien species and prevent further introductions.

[1] In addition to Anibare Bay, the proposed project will focus on other priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The potential priority areas include the Ijuw-Anabar-Anetan mangrove and wetland area, Buada basin forest, selected un-mined rocky outcrops, Command Ridge and the railway zone of Topside, Coastal

Littoral strand (see Annex A for more information on the biodiversity value of the priority areas). The project's intervention sites will be identified during the PPG phase.

Component 4: Scaling up towards land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>Communication and knowledge management for dissemination and scaling up of sustainable land management approaches and ecosystem services</p> <p><i>Specific indicators: i) examples of gender equality and traditional knowledge in resource management; ii) outcomes of components 2 and 3 reflected in knowledge management products; iii) number of people targeted through awareness and education campaigns/examples of participatory monitoring/number of knowledge products shared; iv) national LDN targets/sector policies and legislation integrating scaling up strategy. Aichi Target indicators: trends in awareness and engagement with biodiversity; trends in the degree to which ecosystem services provides for the needs</i></p>	<p>4.1: Gender strategy and action plan developed and implemented to restore and strengthen traditional knowledge governing resource use that was once an integral part of Nauruan's connection to the land and sea;</p> <p>4.2: Project progress continually monitored and evaluated; achievements and results recorded and disseminated.</p> <p>4.3: Knowledge management products based on results and best practices from Outcomes 2 to 3 developed to ensure sustainable land</p>	GET	500,424	3,185,463
---	----------------------	--	--	-----	---------	-----------

of women and men. Indicators will be confirmed, and baseline and targets will be established during the PPG.

GEF core indicators 1, 3, 4 and 11; Aichi Targets 1, 2, 7 and 14*

management through cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder landscape approach to managing various land uses;

4.4: Environmental education and awareness campaigns implemented to: (i) provide citizens and landowners with knowledge on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) enable participatory project monitoring and evaluation; (iii) promote alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities and (iv) share and disseminate knowledge products for uptake by targeted national and regional audiences;

4.5: Upscaling strategy setting up national LDN targets and rehabilitation action plan developed and integrated into sector policy

	Sub Total (\$)	3,336,160	21,236,417
Project Management Cost (PMC)			
	GET	166,808	1,061,821
	Sub Total(\$)	166,808	1,061,821
	Total Project Cost(\$)	3,502,968	22,298,238

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Government	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	349,119
Government	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	349,119
Government	Republic of Nauru Phosphate	Grant	Investment mobilized	20,000,000
Donor Agency	Twain Technical Mission	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,600,000
Total Project Cost(\$)				22,298,238

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

* To identify "Investment Mobilized", potential partners were invited to indicate (i) the portion of their approved budget that will go to support the goals of the proposed project and (ii) the proportion from the identified amounts that will be used towards recurrent and operational expenditures, such as salaries, office space, utilities, etc. The sub-set of Co-Financing that meets the definition of "Investment Mobilized" was then identified by the Implementing Agency by removing the amounts for recurrent and operational expenditures.

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,319,863	125,387	1,445,250
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,183,105	207,395	2,390,500
Total GEF Resources(\$)					3,502,968	332,782	3,835,750

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**PPG Amount (\$)**

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	54,750
UNEP	GET	Nauru	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500	109,500
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000	14,250	164,250


Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Anibare Bay		Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	50.00			

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
----------------------------	---------	---------------	----------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--	------------------------------	-----------------------------

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

500.00

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

--	--	--	--

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

--	--	--	--

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

--	--	--	--

--

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

--

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

--

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

--

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	16152	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	16,152			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2041			
Duration of accounting	20			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
------------	---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	250			
Male	250			
Total	500	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Background context

The Republic of Nauru is a country located in the South Pacific, approximately 50 kilometers south of the Equator. The island is approximately 6 kilometers long by 4 kilometers wide with a land area of only 21 square kilometers (2,100 hectares), making it one of the smallest independent nations in the world. Nauru consists of a single raised coral-limestone island with a maximum elevation of 71 m. Beyond the shallow depths of the surrounding coral reef, the ocean depth drops to 4,000 m.

Nauru has large deposits of phosphorous and is surrounded by a rich marine environment characterized by fairly healthy coral reef ecosystems. The center of the island is a raised plateau called "Topside" with a coastal plain around it, known as "Bottomside", where the majority of the population live. An escarpment located between the Bottomside and Topside contain most of what is left of Nauru's forests. A line of wooded cliffs overlooking Anibare Bay comprises the richest remaining native vegetation on the island.

According to Nauru's last official census, the total population was 10,084 in 2011.^[1] More recent projections estimate the population at 11,288 in 2015.^[2] Nauru has a young and fast-growing population with the highest population density in the Pacific.^[3] By 2008, unemployment was around 40% and a quarter of the population lived on less than US\$1 a day.^[4] The country relies on narrow and uncertain sources of revenue, with limited private sector opportunities. Education outcomes are improving but are still poor by international standards, while rates of noncommunicable diseases are among the highest in the world.^[5] Water resources are scarce in Nauru and the island population is often faced with water shortages. There is one slightly brackish terrestrial lagoon in Buada, and the only permanent source of groundwater is often brackish and contaminated. The main sources of freshwater are a solar-powered desalination plant and rainwater collection tanks.

Land resources

Land in Nauru is limited both in its availability and use. Years of phosphate extraction have devastated the environment to the extent that the vast majority of the land is degraded. Eighty percent of the country's land has been utilized for the mining of phosphate and is uninhabitable and unsuitable for any type of sustainable development. The coastal strip provides the main space for the domestic, government, commercial and industrial sectors. The soil in the coastal areas is only about 25 cm deep, is coarse textured and contains more coral gravel than sand, and the fertility is highly dependent on organic matter. The plateau soils vary from shallow soils, on the tops of limestone pinnacles, composed primarily of organic material and sand or dolomite, with very little phosphate, to deep phosphatic soils and sandy phosphatic rock, up to more than 2 m deep between the pinnacles. The topsoil ranges from 10 to 30 cm in depth, overlying deeper subsoil, which is frequently reddish yellow, and between 25 and 75 cm deep. The undisturbed plateau soils have a high level of organic material and are generally fertile. In the last decades, these soil deposits have been stripped from the phosphate mining areas and stockpiled for use in future rehabilitation activities.

Terrestrial flora and fauna

Many of the native species have been extirpated or are on the verge of extirpation from the island. Although none of the recorded plant species are endemic to Nauru, some species are rare, and their conservation is of global relevance. Although greatly outnumbered by introduced species, the indigenous plant species still constitute the most culturally-useful and ecologically-important species. Due to the unique adaptability of indigenous Pacific island plants to the harsh conditions of coastal and small-island environments, and their cultural and ecological utility, their protection and enhancement are crucial as a basis for sustainable development on Nauru.

Seven species of birds are confirmed to breed on the island. Two species (Bristle-thighed Curlew and the endemic Nauru reed-warbler) are regarded as globally threatened, and three species (Micronesian Imperial-pigeon, Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey-tailed Tattler) are regarded as near threatened in accordance with the IUCN Red List.[6] The reptile community appears intact despite major habitat alteration. Four species of gecko, three skinks and a snake were recorded, including a new skink considered endemic to Nauru.[7]

Agriculture

Traditional Nauru agricultural techniques were used over generations to develop new crops and maximize the use of the natural environment to cultivate relevant species for food production. However, due to constraints on arable land there is no significant local agricultural production and, after years of mining, soils are generally poor and highly porous. Fertile and arable land areas are only found in the narrow coastal belt and the land surrounding Buada lagoon.

In the longer term, rehabilitation of the mined phosphate area is likely to provide improved access to land for agricultural development. Reestablishing agriculture is a priority sector within Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005 – 2025) to improve nutrition and food security.

Gender context

Nauruan society is patriarchal with an old system of chieftdom, but its land system follows matrilineal approaches. Women are not actively included in decision making processes for political and public life. While Nauru is likely to meet the indicator for gender parity in education, may meet the target of the economic empowerment of women, it is still lacking gender equality in high-level decision-making.[8] Like in many other SIDS, they face a range of socio-cultural and political disadvantages with limited power and access to economic assets. Mining led to the abandonment of farming and replacing of pandanus, coconuts and fish with store bought foods, further exacerbated by limited choices and high prices of foods, leading to high rates of obesity and diabetes affecting primarily the women. Although only a small proportion of Nauru's population engages in agriculture as their main activity, among those who do the majority (60%) are women. Most of the primary school teachers are women, who may play a key role in promoting long-lasting behavioural changes. Furthermore, a survey conducted by the government shows that Nauruan women have different priorities for the rehabilitation of the Topside. As such, it is imperative that the specific needs and priorities of women and men are identified and addressed throughout any strategy for sustainable development, including the requirement that women be actively involved in activity planning, implementation and monitoring.

Problem

Nauru is an island that has experienced great disturbances to its terrestrial and marine environments with mining being the greatest environmental impact. Approximately 80% of Nauru's total terrestrial space has been utilized for phosphate mining, while the limited remaining land area is used for domestic, commercial, industrial and government purposes, with the international airport occupying a significant proportion of the island. Decades of phosphate mining have left more than two-thirds of the island uninhabitable and killed about 40% of the surrounding marine life.[9]

With the estimate that the secondary mining, which is Nauru's main source of income, will last not more than another 20 years, the need to identify new and sustainable alternatives for economic development is urgent and will determine the future of the nation.

Other human induced changes also play role in the disturbance of the environment. Uncontrolled urban development, rubbish disposal on beaches, contamination of the water bodies, overharvesting of birds and native plants are some of Nauru's serious environmental concerns.

Land Degradation

Land degradation is a major challenge for the future of Nauru. There are several types of land degradation currently affecting Nauru, such as loss of forest and vegetation, soil erosion, soil contamination, water erosion, acidification and desertification. This includes the almost total degradation of Topside and localized inland and coastal erosion. These land degradation issues coupled with climate change impacts such as change in rainfall patterns and atmospheric and ocean temperature events exacerbate environment and sustainable development challenges. Land and resources are further constrained by a rising population and high demographic density (see above).

The most drastic land degradation has been caused by the removal of natural vegetation, topsoil, phosphate rock and the modification of various landscapes. Due to mining, more than two-thirds of the country were converted from a gently undulating, productive forestland to an almost totally unproductive pinnacle and pit topography. Even though there are varying degrees of vegetative re-growth, most of the Topside remains functionally useless (figure 1).



Figure 1. Limestone pinnacles exposed after primary phosphate mining in Nauru's Topside. A: recently mined area showing bare limestone pinnacles; B: area mined approx. 10 years ago showing some degree of revegetation.

Coastal and inland erosion are increasing challenges in Nauru. Soils in Nauru are like those of all small islands in the Pacific, a very precious resource whose conservation is of utmost importance. Localized soil erosion, coastal erosion and the loss of limited soil resources are important concerns. Throughout the history of mining, the soils of Nauru have been lost from the island. A small proportion remains in the form of stockpiles and underneath roadways. However, these stockpiles are estimated to provide only enough soil to reinstate approximately 32% of the land after rehabilitation. Development of buildings very close to the upper tide limit also affect the coast. Erosion of the coastline is of special concern owing to the possibility of global warming-induced sea-level rise. The intensification in extreme weather events also threaten the heavily populated coastal area of Nauru as land is eroded.

Lack of land use planning

It is estimated that secondary and residual phosphate deposits could extend mining activities in Nauru for an additional 15-20 years. The development of a sound plan for rehabilitation and sustainable land use is essential for shaping the future environmental, social and economic scenarios for Nauru. Failure to successfully implement such a plan will lead to continued breakdown of the physical environment of Nauru, as well as the social and economic well-being of the people through continued exploitation of remaining resources.

A draft Master Land Use Plan was developed in 1994 identifying different land uses for the Topside, following its rehabilitation, including designated areas for housing, conservation and sustainable land use, cemetery, educational complex, industrial complex, sports and recreation, and water reservoirs (figure 2). The Plan was never adopted or implemented due to lack of consultation and support by communities and land owners.^[10] In 2001, the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation attempted to review and finalize the draft through the appointment of Land Use Plan Committee, but very little progress was made.

1994 Rehabilitation and Land use Plan

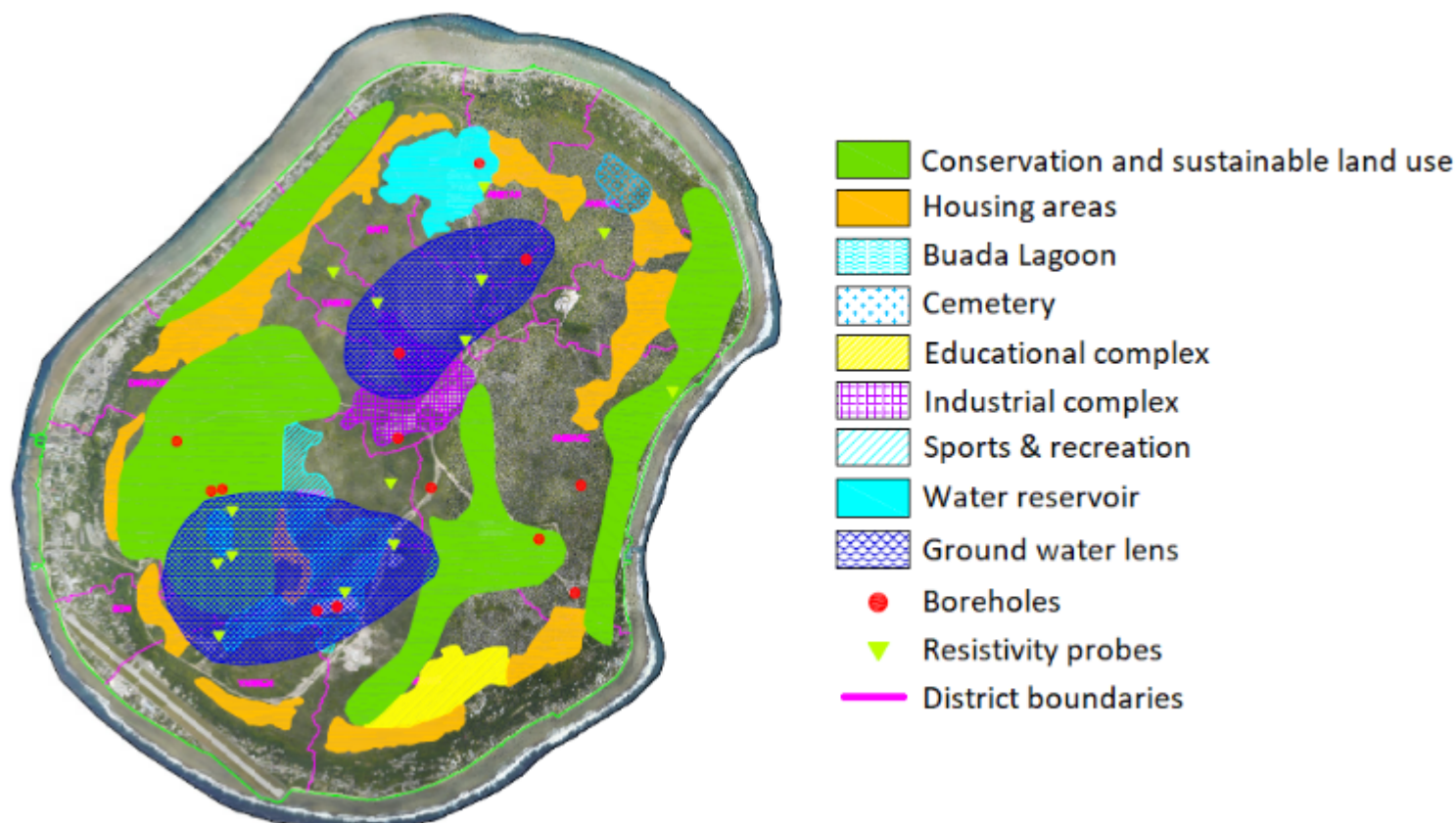


Figure 2. Nauru's draft Rehabilitation Land Use Plan (1994; *courtesy of Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation*).

At present Nauru has no endorsed land use plan to guide development decisions. Land use planning is critical to, for instance, ensure that future infrastructure investments are coherent with the visions and needs of all of Nauru's communities. Given that major infrastructure sectors such as energy and water have developed, or are developing, investment plans covering the next decade or more, preparation and endorsement of a Nauru Land Use Plan is becoming an urgent priority.[11]

Loss of biodiversity and traditional knowledge

Before mining began, Nauru was thickly covered with tropical rainforest dominated in parts by the Pacific mahogany (ljo or Tomano) tree (*Callophyllum inophyllum*), or pandanus (*Pandanus tectorius*). The land was managed by an agroforestry system, whereby productive tree species were planted, tended, and cultivated within an environment that was otherwise largely unmodified.[12] As a result, fertile soil for food production and clean and abundant groundwater

resources were available. Due to decades of mining, which has radically transformed the majority of the Topside, ecosystem services are substantially compromised.

Several plant communities have been found in Nauru, but since the landscape has been so severely disturbed by mining, only remnants are still there. Forests are largely confined to the coastal escarpment with a few fragments in the interior, and much of the island is now covered with a secondary shrub community in areas where mining has ceased. The protection of existing stands of coastal, escarpment and inland forest and threatened individual plant populations is seen as the highest priority for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Nauru.

Trees that serve as nest sites for seabirds, such as the tomano tree, a species that does not die under the physiological strain of the high nitrogen levels from the seabirds' fecal matter, are becoming rare on Nauru. Therefore, the seabirds are increasingly killing the nesting trees that they require for breeding. Further nest sites have recently been lost due to mining near the Bunda lagoon. Nesting trees are therefore likely to be a limited resource. Restoration of key sites will aid in recovery of declining bird and other animal species and in maintaining future food security.[13]

Alien invasives are prevalent on the island, with rats, feral dogs and cats present. Hunting of seabirds (and possibly of Micronesian Imperial Pigeon) continues, which may well impact on the nesting populations of these species.[14] Ecosystem services in the coastal zones are also threatened by the concentrated urbanization exacerbating water pollution and overfishing as there are no formalized management mechanisms, such as protected areas.

Loss of traditional knowledge, particularly for traditional environmental knowledge, is a major problem with regard to traditional resource management in Nauru. Nauruans have occupied their land for a period of around 3,500 years and once had a customary law governing the use of the land and the marine tenure. The loss of traditional environmental knowledge occurred with the advent of the mining industry and it resulted in the loss of the traditional marine tenure system and of traditional knowledge for agroforestry and agroecology.

Food insecurity and health issues

Currently only 100 hectares of land is presently available for cultivation with coconuts and pandanus being the main crops. Most food items are imported and only limited varieties of fruit trees and vegetables are cultivated on a very small scale for home consumption. Water scarcity and loss of native agricultural knowledge and practices are major limiting factors to the expansion of food production on the island. There is currently no formal commercial agriculture in Nauru. Livestock rearing is also limited.

The high cost of imported food products into Nauru, limited capacity for local food production and constrained fiscal situation constitute a threat to food security. Ninety percent of the country's food is imported, and fruit, vegetables and other nutritious foods are expensive, so the typical diet of the vast majority of people tends to be made up of less expensive and highly processed foods. Poor nutrition has in turn led to a rise in non-communicable diseases, widespread obesity and other health problems.[15]

In order to improve domestic food production and food safety as well as the nutritional status and income of vulnerable households, the development of "kitchen gardens" and sustainable farming of cash crops are necessary.

Barriers to be addressed

Despite several efforts by the Government, various political, socio-economic and institutional barriers currently hinder Nauru's capacity to attain conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and land degradation neutrality. Listed below are some identified barriers to achieving these goals:

Limited policy and institutional capacities for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation – Limited financial capacity, enforcement, coordination and consistency are some of the critical challenges in regard to Nauru's policy and institutions. Some policies and legal instruments related to the management of land, water and biodiversity exist but their implementation is either fragmented or nonexistent. Legislations and policies are often inconsistent due to lack of coordination and multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement process. Enforcement and regular monitoring are also limited due to technical and budget limitations of responsible institutions as well as lack of engagement of the private sector and communities.

Nauru's Lands Act (1976), which is the main legislation in Nauru dealing with land use, is outdated and lacks critical provisions such as requiring that environmental impact assessments be carried out prior to certain types of land use and development. Furthermore, monitoring of Nauru's biodiversity is practically nonexistent which is a reflection of the absence of any effective and systematic national monitoring system of natural resources in the country. A prescribed monitoring system to track and evaluate progress for biodiversity action has been defined in Nauru's NBSAP which is yet to be formally implemented. [16] Nauru does not have a legal framework for the implementation of environment impact assessments of developments. A draft Environment Management Bill has been prepared but requires further work before being presented to Parliament. [17] There are no legislations governing the issue of invasive species in Nauru.

Land tenure issues – Land tenure is perhaps the most critical consideration in terms of the practicality of implementing programs for both the proposed post-mining rehabilitation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Nauru. Land is central to the Nauruan 'identity' and is governed by customary rights of freehold title. [18] All land in Nauru is customarily owned under traditional ownership with access only allowable if registered under the maternal lineage, and customary title results in potential for disputes over land ownership, especially where it is put to productive use. Therefore, significant dialogue and engagement of the land owners is critical for mainstreaming biodiversity, land rehabilitation and restoration practices throughout Nauru's landscape. Unfortunately, such forums for dialogue, information sharing, and capacity building between the public, private sectors and civil society are still very limited.

Limited knowledge and experience on conservation and sustainable land management – The context of land degradation interlinked with the mining industry is an extremely unique and complex challenge faced in Nauru. Technical capacity for enforcing current regulations and practices in Nauru is low and voluntary standards are likely to be insufficient to support sustainable development. Due to decades of mining, Nauruans land owners have lost their ability to farm and the few remaining farmers have limited technical capacity to adopt sustainable and efficient agricultural practices; most farmers practice cropping on a part-time basis, with limited technical means. As a result, the country is heavily dependent on expensive imported food. With regard to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, there is little awareness among Nauruans of how human activities impact their environment or how changes in individual behaviour can play a role towards improving ecosystem services. Noddy birds are traditionally been hunted for food but their numbers seem to be declining possibly due to increases in harvest rates, degradation of breeding sites and/or predation by cats and rats. Conservation activities and capacities to protect important habitats and species within the priority sites are very minimal, and efforts and mechanisms to protect priority habitats from impacts from mining in adjoining lands and unplanned urban development are extremely limited. Despite acknowledging the value of biodiversity in its national strategies, Nauru has done very little to prevent the entry and control existing invasive species into the country.

Insufficient coordination mechanisms and platforms for learning, knowledge management and communication – Various efforts to gather data, reports, plans, and assessments related to land, environmental conservation and use of natural resources are conducted in Nauru. However, they are not easily accessible as there are currently stored as hard copies or in individual computers with no centralized location and protocols for knowledge management. Knowledge are also often managed sectorally, by departments or institutions, and rarely shared due to the lack of formalized platforms for coordination and information sharing. Furthermore, awareness and understanding of approaches for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable land management are limited, and effective capacity building opportunities and awareness raising tools are also not sufficient and targeted communication and outreach methods for various stakeholders are lacking. Information and discussions on ways to utilize mined out Topside land area are often limited to potential investors, the government and land owners, and rarely include civil society and community groups, small businesses, women's groups or youth groups. Therefore, the opportunities for these stakeholders to develop institutional, professional and technical capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management are very limited.

1.2 Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The government has recognized the serious impact that land degradation and loss of biodiversity has had and continue to have on the Nauruan environment and has taken a number of measures to address the problem. In 1997, to respond to environmental challenges faced by the country, the Government of Nauru adopted the **National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)** and **National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)** to serve as blueprints for sustainable development as well as guideline towards sustaining the island culture and island environment that will remain healthy and productive. A range of objectives and associated programmes to address the main environmental issues and constraints to environmentally sustainable development were identified, including the rehabilitation of the mined-out areas of the island; strengthening of environmental awareness and education; strengthening of environmental infrastructure planning and environmental legislation; protection of endangered terrestrial and marine resources; waste management and pollution control; and identification of sustainable economic alternatives to phosphate mining.

The following describes baseline programmes that will provide a foundation for the interventions in the proposed GEF 7 project.

Land use and rehabilitation

The **National Sustainable Development Strategy** (2005 – 2025; rev. 2009) guides Nauru's sustainable development by setting out short, medium and long-term milestones for the water, land, environment and agriculture sectors, including the "rehabilitation of mined out lands for livelihood sustainability" and "development of domestic food production". While no clear budgetary commitments were made, the NSDS estimates that US\$ 250,000 would be allocated per year for the "environment" and "community development".

More recently, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Environment has been responsible for the project *Implementing a "Ridge to Reef" approach to protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions in Nauru (R2R Nauru)*.^[19] Through the R2R Nauru, efforts have been made to gather earlier versions land plans and to develop sustainable land management plans in 5 pilot districts. The project is also promoting revegetation growth in unmined areas of the 5 pilot districts. Furthermore, R2R Nauru is laying the ground for the development of a rehabilitation plan for the 5 pilot districts that will feed into the development of the Land Use and Restoration Plan which is being envisaged under the proposed GEF 7 project.

Before Nauru's lands can be restored into productive land, it is necessary to recreate a surface that can be worked on by levelling the limestone pinnacles, which are up to 20 meters high and render most of the Topside uninhabitable and unsuitable for any type of sustainable use, including agroforestry and SLM (see figure 3). In 2018, a **feasibility study and survey** were carried out to determine the viability of secondary mining as a means to level the landscape and enable subsequent rehabilitation. The Republic of Nauru Phosphate (RONPHOS) and Nauru Rehabilitation Cooperation (NRC) are tasked with **mining of phosphate residues (secondary mining)** and **rehabilitation of the Topside**, respectively. The extraction and commercialization by RONPHOS of the residual phosphate through secondary mining followed by backfilling and levelling of the surface is likely to be the only economically feasible solution to prepare the land for further rehabilitation. As part of its mandate, US\$ 10 million of RONPHOS' yearly budget is earmarked for backfilling and levelling the mined land. NRC's budget for the duration of the proposed project is yet to be determined.[20]

The secondary mining has recently started in the western portion of the Anibare district and will progressively move, a few hectares at a time, in an anti-clockwise manner to other districts, eventually covering the entire Topside, in a process that is estimated to last 15-20 years. RONPHOS estimates that at least 100 hectares will be mined and backfilled per year. As areas are mined out, the resulting levelled areas will be ready for restoration into productive land. A pilot site currently under rehabilitation is shown in figure 4 below. This small site serves to demonstrate that within four months after spreading topsoil over the crushed pinnacles and planting coconut trees, natural vegetation[21] has started to reclaim the bare land adding green cover that will minimize soil erosion and providing organic matter that will improve soil quality. This is a promising result, however, without further intervention, it is unlikely that spreading topsoil over the levelled pinnacles alone will be sufficient to restore the land's full productive capacity.

Profile of proposed rehabilitated land

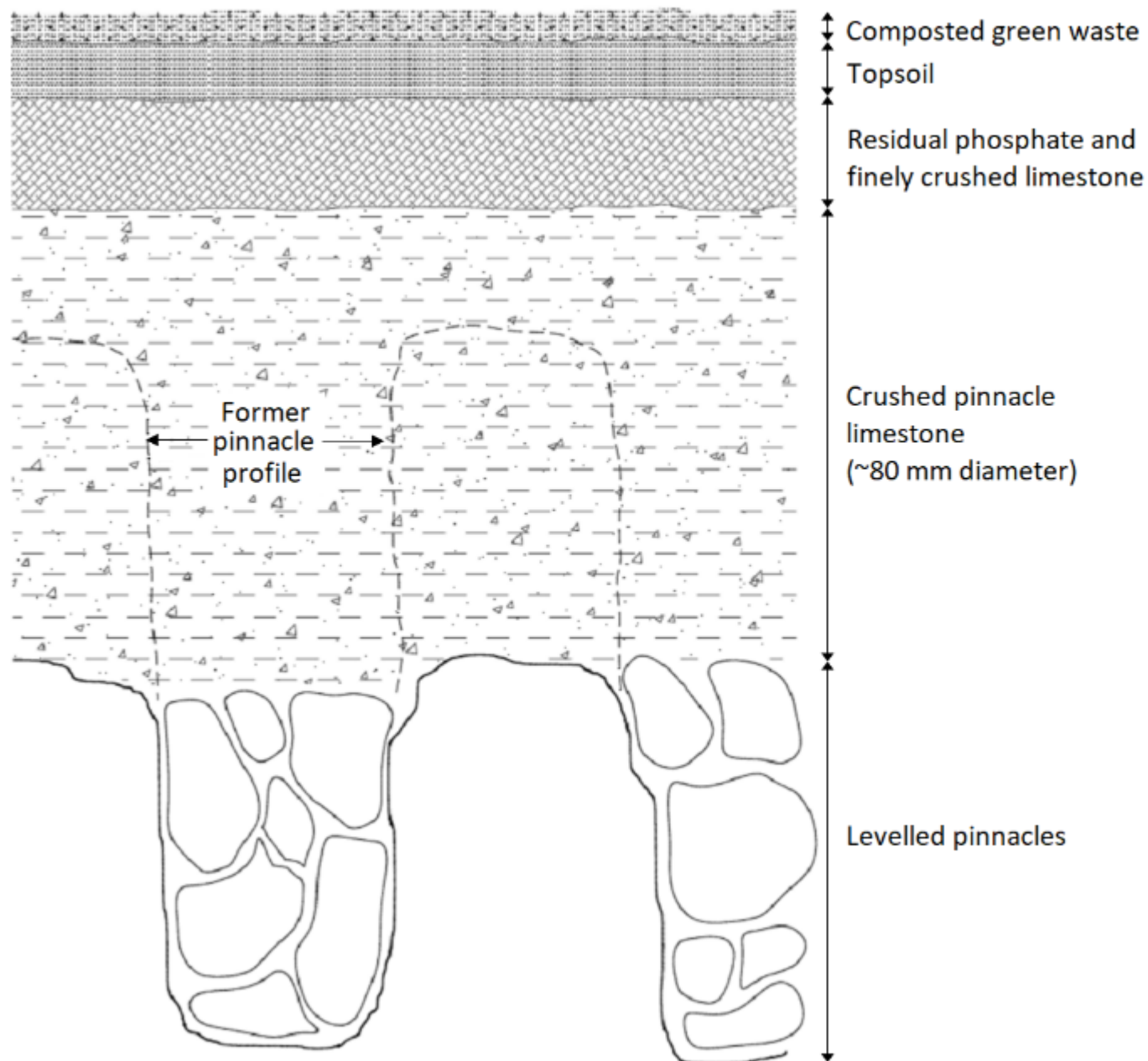


Figure 3. Land profile obtained by levelling existing limestone pinnacles resulting from primary mining of phosphate (*Source: NRC*). It is estimated that the land surface resulting from secondary mining will be 5 to 8 m lower than the current ground at the bottom of the pinnacles.



Figure 4. Pilot rehabilitation of Topside after secondary mining of phosphate and levelling of limestone pinnacles. A: photo taken on 31 October 2018 immediately after spread of topsoil and planting of coconut trees (*courtesy of RONPHOS*); B: same area on 6 March 2019 showing spontaneous revegetation.

Sustainable land management and agriculture

The Division of Agriculture (DoA) of DCIE has ongoing initiatives (budgeted at approx. US\$ 200,000 per year) to tackle food security through the establishment of home gardens to increase the production of fruits and vegetables, and to improve soil fertility, which is essential to any efforts to restore green cover and consequently assist the re-establishment of forest cover and its associated native flora and fauna in Nauru. Among its initiatives, the Division of Agriculture is responsible for the ongoing **Grow and Green Project** to promote the planting of local fruit trees in the communities for food security, soil fertility improvement and building local capacity in tree planting. The project has been somewhat successful in the production of planting materials, setting up of family fruit tree plots, and raising awareness and providing training and technical support to individual households and schools in the planting and care of fruit trees, including lime, breadfruit, soursop, noni and coconut. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture is also responsible for the ongoing **Clean and Green Programme** which aims at reducing waste and improving soil fertility. Through the Programme, solid green waste is being composted to increase organic matter in soils to be used for agriculture and revegetation of mined out areas of the Topside. Furthermore, the Programme has engaged and trained a contingent of about 140 of young workers, who are fully employed in the 14 districts, to help promote awareness and education on waste management and provide support services to facilitate the effective collection and disposal of household wastes by district communities.

The Taiwan Technical Mission is responsible for the ongoing **Vegetable Production and Nutrition Enhancement Project**. The project, in cooperation with the Division of Agriculture and Department of Education, aims at improving food security and nutrition through vegetable farming and school meal programs, and developing capacity in agriculture and nutrition through extension and training of farmers. The project runs two farms in Anabar (figure 5) and Buada districts and is successfully producing 25 different vegetables, 10 tons of compost per month and 500 eggs per day. The Twain Technical Mission has already approved the extension of the project for another 5 years from 2020 to 2024, with US\$ 800,000 per year budgeted for the agricultural production and extension programmes.[22]



Figure 5. Twain Technical Mission farm in Anabar. A: Screenhouse where vegetables are grown; B: composting facility to improve organic matter content in the soil.

Biodiversity conservation

In 2013, a **Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Nauru (Nauru BioRAP)**[23] was carried out to improve the state of knowledge of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and provide a scientific basis for the conservation and management of nationally, regionally and globally important ecosystems and species. The report made key conservation recommendations for immediate actions to promote and establish a strong culture of conservation, protected areas, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the country. A particular focus of the Nauru BioRAP was to identify areas of conservation value and to investigate opportunities for establishing marine and terrestrial protected areas. Based on Nauru's BioRAP recommended priorities for conservation action, efforts are ongoing **through R2R Nauru** to protect Nauru's marine and terrestrial biodiversity with a view to formalizing locally managed marine protected areas (LMMAs) covering 30% of the coastline of Nauru. The **Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment** is using the BioRAP's baseline data and information to guide the development of strategies for conservation management and monitoring purposes. Although some progress has been made, the majority of the BioRAP's recommendations for conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's biodiversity remain to be implemented. To date, there are no terrestrial protected areas, declared community conserved areas or landscapes under improved practices in Nauru.

In 2008, **BirdLife International** identified the Anibare Bay escarpment as an "Important Bird and Biodiversity Area" (IBA). [24] IBAs are sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity, including vital habitat for threatened plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and are identified internationally agreed criteria. The same area had previously been proposed as a protected area.[25] In 2018, the **Queen's Commonwealth Canopy** initiative proposed the creation of a project in Nauru for the conservation of the Anibare Bay forest[26] as part of creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, which aims at conserving indigenous forests for future generations. The expected outcomes and funds for this project are yet to be determined.

Ongoing initiatives relevant to managing and controlling invasive alien species in Nauru include the **Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP)**, which services the islands in the Pacific and attempts to meet the management needs of the Pacific for invasive species, and the regional GEF project "*Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific*" ("**Pacific IAS project**") [27]. Although Nauru is not among the countries in the Pacific IAS project, it is expected that it will benefit from the project's regional coordination activities aiming at creating common ground between the Pacific countries and agencies to redress concerns related to invasive alien species.

1.3 Proposed alternative scenario

The proposed project will build the foundation for a transition from mining to sustainable development in Nauru by designing and testing integrated strategies for natural resource management and outlining the financial benefits of improved land use planning and options for increasing productivity. The expected outcomes of the project will create an enabling environment for scaling-up and mainstreaming biodiversity, SLM and LDN into priority sectors.

The project framework comprises four components, as follows:

Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation

One element of land degradation neutrality is the control and management of land and natural resources so as to prevent any new degraded lands and loss of biodiversity. The proposed project will identify opportunities and barriers to effectively promote and enforce sustainable land management and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Relevant legislation will be reviewed and updated, including the Lands Act and the draft Environmental Bill. The project will strengthen SEA and EIA processes to prevent land degradation and biodiversity loss, identify options for rehabilitation and regeneration and opportunities for biodiversity and social gains, and minimize impacts on ecosystem services and loss to society. A comprehensive Land Use and Restoration Plan will be developed, in consultation with the communities and land owners, to guide decision-making and land use management as a prerequisite for sustainable development. The Plan will define the principles for sustainable development in all districts and will include areas of conservation and sustainable land management. Biodiversity will be mainstreamed into priority sectors (agriculture, tourism, mining and infrastructure development) through land-use planning to ensure that land and resource use maximize production without undermining biodiversity. In addition, the project will support the development of a land use database, under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment in cooperation with the Department of Lands Management, and the setting up of a web portal for dissemination of the guidance to developers, land users, the agriculture sector and regulatory authorities.[28] The project will also identify the respective roles and responsibilities for compliance monitoring, enforcement and prosecution, as necessary. Capacity building will be provided by the project to relevant government institutions and district representatives to strengthen compliance and enforcement capacity.

Component 2: Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land to protect and reinstate ecosystem services in Nauru

The proposed project will address the recognized need for experimentation with sustainable land management techniques based on sound hypotheses, monitoring of the outcomes and management adaptation to suit the developing knowledge of how land rehabilitation should proceed. This component will focus on measures to move towards land degradation neutrality by (i) assessing the economic impact of degraded land on present and future socio-economic development and provision of ecosystem services, (ii) introducing and testing sustainable management techniques to sustain food production and livelihoods, (iii) providing technical advice and assisting government to provide the correct incentives to scale the technologies for restoring degraded mined land. It is emphasized that the project's interventions will take place on degraded land of the Topside where secondary mining has been completed or on degraded land that was never mined around the Buada Lagoon. A commitment that the lands where interventions will take place through the proposed project will not be mined in the future will be secured through appropriate policies and provisions (under Component 1).

Starting at the PPG phase, the proposed project will aggregate and build on existing studies detailing the extent of land degradation and loss of ecosystem services to assess the economic impact of degraded land on present and future socio-economic development. A landscape survey will be carried out to identify land use, land cover and state of environment (ecosystems, ecological values and vulnerabilities, agricultural production and degraded land that can be restored).

Land rehabilitation will start in areas where the secondary mining for phosphate has been completed and where mining will no longer take place. It is expected that 200 hectares in the Anibare district will be ready for initial restoration (i.e. already fully mined and with no perspective of future mining) at the start of the project. Moreover, during the first three years of project implementation, additional 100 hectares per year are expected to be released from mining. As land is released from mining, restoration will start in areas identified for sustainable land management in the Land Use and Restoration Plan. The proposed project will also test techniques and demonstrate incentives for sustainable land management around the Buada Lagoon, as the country's last remaining agricultural area that have never been mined, to restore the land's full productive capacity.

The stocked topsoil will be used to cover mined out areas to rehabilitate the land and restore vegetation cover. Dormant seeds present in the stocked topsoil are expected to germinate and create a basic green cover.[29] Seedlings will be planted and seeds sowed to improve the vegetation cover based on species that are known to grow in that type of soil and conditions. Innovative approaches for sustainable land management, including initiatives to increase topsoil from composting of solid waste, using aquatic plants, algae and dredged sediments from the Buada Lagoon to increase organic matter, using rainwater for irrigation, propagation and nursery production of native and crop plants will be tested and evaluated.

Involving the community and limited private sector in Nauru will be a key element of the project. Small business owners, farmers and land owners will be included in the project design and will contribute to the identification of new financial support mechanisms and incentives, including micro-loans, subsidies and prizes, that will help them to take up SLM practices on mined sites. The different needs, roles and priorities of men and women to support livelihoods and rehabilitation of degraded land will be taken into account throughout the design and implementation of the project. The results and lessons learnt under this component will be included in a scaling up strategy (see component 4).

Component 3: Conservation and sustainable use of Nauru's remaining forests

Through this component of the proposed project, the Government will take steps to protect the Anibare Bay area, including the coastal area and escarpment, with a view to conserving and managing biodiversity as a means to protect the last undisturbed landscape in Nauru and important bird habitat and refuge for rare and endangered species of plants (see annex A further describing this area). The project will also focus on additional priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity from among the key areas identified in the Nauru BioRAP, including (i) the Ijuw-Anabar-Anetan mangrove and wetland area because of its unique ecological importance (i.e. stands of mangroves) and scenic beauty; (ii) the remaining forest in the Buada basin, Topside western scarp forests and Topside railway zone; (iii) unmined rocky outcrops in the Topside; and (iv) coastal littoral trees (see annex A for more details on the biodiversity value of the priority areas). Management plans for the conservation and sustainable use of Anibare Bay and priority areas will be developed and implemented. The management plans will contain provisions to ensure that encroachment and hunting do not happen in the identified areas, as well as provisions to avoid loss of biodiversity from potential threats such as development (e.g. tourism, infrastructure development, mining) and current threats (e.g. invasive alien species), and will include mechanisms for monitoring compliance and for enforcement, as appropriate. Communities and land owners will be involved in the planning, maintenance and monitoring of these areas. Local trees, particularly of species that are rare and threatened in Nauru, will be propagated in nurseries and the degraded forest will be replanted in selected pilot areas. Monitoring of several bird species (Nauruan reed-warbler, bristle-thighed curlew, Micronesian Imperial-pigeon, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey-tailed Tattler) as well as harvest rates of black noddies will be carried out.[30] An action plan to control and prevent further introductions of invasive alien species in Anibare Bay and priority areas will be developed on the basis of existing assessments. The plan will have clear priorities, measurable targets and a resource plan for implementation. As a national commitment to take action against invasive species and to ensure sustainability and long term resources, the plan will draw on existing experience and knowledge from the region, and will be implemented in coordination with the regional hub of expertise being developed under the Pacific regional project "*Strengthening national and regional capacities to reduce the impact of Invasive Alien Species on globally significant biodiversity in the Pacific*" (GEF ID 9410).

Component 4: Capacity building and knowledge sharing to enable scaling up towards land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation

Under this component, the proposed project will assess the results of components 2-3 to identify best practices for SLM, SFM, land rehabilitation and agroforestry. This will lead to the formulation of an upscaling strategy setting up national LDN targets and detailing a rehabilitation action plan that will be integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks (component 1). Capacity building will be a key component of the proposed project and will be embedded across all of its components and interventions. Awareness campaigns and capacity development will be carried out to inform the communities and

land owners of the presence of native, rare or endangered plants and encourage them to protect and conserve these species, including encouraging a reduction in harvesting of noddly birds to ensure the populations survival for future generations. The proposed project will also develop and implement a communication and knowledge management strategy to disseminate and replicate the results of the project with the aim of achieving land degradation neutrality. In effect, this component will lead to the project achieving its ultimate impact namely, the effective rehabilitation of degraded land and the prevention of new degradation on a nation-wide basis, in the long term. Alternative livelihoods study will be carried out, involving a range of income-generating activities that do not require land degradation or forest clearance and will promote the sustainable development of the Topside, including improved cultivation of staple and cash crops, with at least 500 people benefiting. Local communities and smallholder farmers will be involved, and mutually beneficial strategies will be pursued with the private sector targeting small and medium-sized enterprises to promote innovative agricultural production systems.

1.4 Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The proposed project offers an opportunity to restore agricultural productivity in a highly degraded agro-forestry system by improving soil management and increasing soil organic matter content, increasing the vegetation and tree coverage. These interventions will generate significant environmental and socio-economic benefits at national level. Emphasis will be placed on actions that will set the scene to arrest and reverse land degradation in Nauru and shift degraded lands into production agricultural systems to enhance food security, improve livelihoods and ecosystem services. The proposed project will create an enabling environment towards LDN in Nauru and will lay the groundwork for LDN target setting.

The proposed project will mainstream biodiversity conservation into priority sectors (agriculture, tourism, mining and infrastructure development) through land-use planning to ensure that land and resource use maximize production without undermining biodiversity. The proposed project will also make progress towards addressing direct drivers of terrestrial biodiversity loss in Nauru by creating a protected area (Anibare Bay) and implementing sustainable forest management practices in priority areas of important biodiversity and cultural value. A management plan for Anibare Bay and priority areas as well as an action plan to control and manage invasive alien species and prevent further introductions in those areas will be developed. Respective roles and responsibilities for compliance monitoring, enforcement and prosecution, as appropriate, will be identified.

1.5 Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

The following table provides a snapshot of the baseline situation, proposed alternative and the expected global benefits. Column one, depicting the baseline situation, shows that a significant set of activities are ongoing to address the problem of land degradation and loss of biodiversity in Nauru. However, this significant body of work will not be sufficient to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality and improve ecosystem services in Nauru, and the second column outlines the proposed alternative with the help of GEF. Finally, the third column discusses the global benefits that will accrue through the proposed alternative project, over and above the benefits to Nauru.

Baseline situation	Proposed alternative	Global benefits*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005 – 2025) sets out the “rehabilitation of mined out lands for livelihood sustainability” and “development of domestic food production” as priorities. 	<p>The proposed alternative, to be carried out with GEF support, will set long-term goals towards land degradation neutrality and improving ecosystem services in Nauru.</p>	<p>The implementation of the proposed project will have an immediate global environmental benefit through the rehabilitation of degraded land.</p>

- There continues to be insufficient **institutional capacities, coordination and alignment of policies and strategies** pertaining to economic growth and development with environmental legislation.

- A **Lands Act** is obsolete and does not consider the country's limitations and available resources for development, as well as environmental and socio-economic considerations for community welfare.

- A **draft land use plan** of 1994 is available, but it was never adopted or implemented and requires further work. The **R2R Project** is supporting the Department of Agriculture (DoA) and DCIE and community stakeholders to review existing **land use management plans** for each of the five R2R project districts. This review combined with the new district "terrestrial" profiles and community participatory approaches will result in site specific agricultural and land use plans for each of the R2R districts. These plans will highlight priorities for protection, rehabilitation and management.

- A **draft Environment Management Bill** has been prepared but requires further work before being presented to Parliament; lack of legislation governing the issue of invasive species.

- In 2018, **feasibility studies and surveys** were carried out to determine the viability of secondary mining followed by land rehabilitation; secondary mining is under way, and it is expected to level at least 100 hectares per year, creating a surface that can be subsequently rehabilitated into

u.

The project will review existing policies and legislation on environmental conservation and land use and management, and will propose amendments to address and remove barriers, mainstream biodiversity into priority sectors to improve management of protected area and landscapes and move towards LDN through a multi-stakeholder system for compliance and enforcement. The project will, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, assist with the development of a new national land use and restoration plan, which will define the principles for sustainable development at district and country levels. It will also propose facilities and sites of planned activities, specifying their objectives, dimensions and locations, including areas for conservation and sustainable agricultural production to guide decision-making and land use management. It will strengthen SEA and EIA processes and build capacity and know-how of the DCIE and other government agencies to measure compliance and enforce sustainable land management and conservation.

The economic impact of degraded lands on socio-economic development and ecosystem services will be understood. Technologies for sustainable land management

and restoration of degraded land in Nauru.

More specifically, the project will lead to the rehabilitation and restoration of 25 percent of Nauru's area (500 ha) and pave the way for scaling up similar improvements leading to land degradation neutrality.

The project will also bring about the protection of valuable ecological resources, such as the remaining coastal and inland forests and arable land, through the creation of a protected area in Anibare Bay (50 ha) and improved management of priority areas of biodiversity and cultural significance containing remaining pockets of natural vegetation (100 ha). This, in turn, will lead to the restoration and renewal of the natural habitats of rare plants and vulnerable animal species and valuable ecosystem services. In addition, land productivity, in various forms, will be enhanced. As a result, globally significant biodiversity will be conserved,

o productive land;

- Since about 10 years, the **Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (DCIE)** has been promoting sustainable land and management practices. A long-term partnership was developed between DCIE and the **Twain Technical Mission** through the vegetable production and nutrition project introducing SLM practices, but progress towards LDN has been slow partly due to lack of resources and coordination.

- The **Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Nauru** (2013) identified key actions for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; the **R2R Nauru** project is making progress towards formalizing locally managed marine protected areas (LMMAs) covering 30% of the coastline of Nauru.

- The Nauru's **BioRAP report** identified priority areas for conservation and sustainable use. In 2008, **BirdLife International** identified the Anibare Bay escarpment as an "Important Bird and Biodiversity Area" (IBA). In 2018, the Anibare Bay forest was included in a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects through the **Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative**.

- Continuing deforestation and land degradation resulting in loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and decreased environmental resilience. A prescribed **monitoring system** to track and evaluate progress for biodiversity action has been defined in **Nauru's NBSAP** which is yet to be formally implemented; the "**Pacific IAS project**" is currently being implemented.

t will be tested and assessed for Nauru's specific conditions creating an enabling environment for scaling up towards LDN. Collaboration with land owners, farmers, business and other stakeholders will support actions to rehabilitate the land and promote agroforestry.

The project will facilitate the creation of a terrestrial protected area and will lead to the improved management, through sustainable forest management approaches of landscapes of important biodiversity and cultural value. Through reforestation utilizing local / endemic tree species and fruit trees, functional agroforestry ecosystems will be in place to sustain livelihoods. The project will monitor key and rare species of plants and animals to inform the design of future conservation actions and lead to better control and management of invasive alien species.

The value of biodiversity and ecosystem services will be better understood and capitalized upon. Policy makers and resource managers will have access to updated biodiversity data so that conservation efforts can be better targeted. Best practices for sustainable natural resource management, such as restoration, SFM/SLM, will be recognized, understood and implemented. Environmentally sustainable sources of income will

valuable ecosystem services will be safeguarded and land under sustainable agricultural production will be increased.

The project will also formulate ways in which to upscale and replicate best practices for SFM and SLM by introducing financing mechanisms to support decoupling economic growth from unsustainable use of natural resources and a knowledge management system to facilitate communication and disseminate the lessons arising from the pilots and tests which will be carried out.

The project will directly benefit at least 500 people, including 250 women, among local communities and smallholder farmers and mutually beneficial strategies will be pursued with the private sector targeting small and medium-sized enterprises to promote innovative agricultural production systems.

<p>ect" offers a platform for Nauru for regional coordination with regards to invasive alien species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of awareness and understanding among the general public about the status of threatened biodiversity in Nauru and the benefits that can be derived from improved practices as well as reforms to increase investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. 	<p>sustainable sources of income will be expanded with support and investment from private sector. Through the creation and implementation of financing mechanisms, and the mainstreaming of a sustainability ethic into land use and conservation, these benefits will be sustainable.</p>	
--	---	--

* Global environmental benefits will be further quantified at the PPG phase.

1.6 Global environmental benefits

Sustainable land management and improving ecosystem services in Nauru will contribute to global environmental goals, as follows (*global environmental benefits will be further quantified at the PPG phase*):

(a) Although Nauru has lost most of its biodiversity richness, it still has rare and vulnerable species of global relevance. The Government will take steps towards the creation of a protected area of 50 hectares in Anibare Bay, which is a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Important Bird Area (IBA), and improving management of remaining pockets of natural vegetation (100 ha) through sustainable forest management approaches and mainstreaming of biodiversity into priority sectors will help in the survival of rare species of plants and animals. Namely, the conservation and sustainable use of these areas will contribute to the survival of two bird species that are regarded as vulnerable (Bristle-thighed Curlew and the endemic Nauru reed-warbler), three species are regarded as near threatened (Micronesian Imperial-pigeon, Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey-tailed Tattler),^[31] rare species of trees, a newly discovered endemic micro-moth and of a new species of skink endemic to Nauru. The conservation and sustainable use of the protected area and landscapes under improved practices will also contribute to the nesting and survival of Micronesian Imperial Pigeons, if any still remain in Nauru, and a number of tree-nesting seabirds.

(b) A National Land Use and Restoration Plan will guide development of the Topside in a planned manner integrating the principles of sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The project will result in a significant portion of Nauru's total area (400 hectares) being rehabilitated through re-vegetation growth, paving the way for further development into productivity land through sustainable land management. In addition, piloting of innovative methodologies for sustainable land management will be carried out on 100 hectares creating an enabling environment for scaling up best practices towards LDN once mining activities have ceased.

Innovation: The project is innovative as little effort to date has been made to date to create a national, comprehensive and effective approach to the problem of land degradation and towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The project's efforts to support the government, land owners and the private sector to build such integrated approach based on the acceptance that this is a shared responsibility is the first such attempt in the country. The project will be designed to ease the collaboration between different government agencies and for the government, communities and the private sector to work together. This is expected to contribute to institutional innovation in the country. A salient innovative feature is the use of sustainable land management approaches to reshape the future of the entire country and offer alternative sources of livelihoods during the transition to the post-mining era. The creation of the first protected area in Nauru (component 2) will have both practical and symbolic importance for future conservation efforts in the country as well as globally. Finally, the project has the potential to be a "game-changer" by bringing, to the Nauru context, the realization that economic development can happen hand-in-hand with sustainable use of natural resources.

Sustainability: As the project builds a strong enabling environment taking into account the needs of the government sector and focussing on building their capacities for long term effective management, the actions proposed are expected to be sustainable. The project is designed to involve different sectors of the government by building on their comparative advantage and their core mandates, which will further ensure sustainability. By focusing on financial sustainability and scaling up from demonstration models (see below), project design has a strong focus on sustainability. In addition, the project will work closely in true partnership with the private sector in its search for integrated land use planning and management of competing land uses. This will create a better climate for sustainability.

Potential for scaling up: The project approach is to develop the enabling environment for LDN and ecosystem restoration (component 1) and then to test/demonstrate SLM techniques for land restoration (component 2) and a management plan biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (component 3). The results of the proposed project will be the basis for the formulation of an upscaling strategy towards LDN which will be developed under component 4. The strategy will set up national LDN targets and detail an action plan that will be integrated into sector policy and legislative frameworks under component 1. The results of the proposed project in Nauru will also serve as example for other SIDS that face similar challenges.

[1] Nauru's census report 2011.

[2] Nauru's Bureau of Statistics (<https://nauru.prism.spc.int>).

[3] Republic of Nauru's Second National Communication to UNFCCC.

[4] U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2015) Situational Analysis of Employment in Nauru.

[5] Asian Development Bank (<https://www.adb.org/countries/nauru/main>).

[6] <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/nauru>.

[7] SPREP (2013) Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of the Republic of Nauru (hereafter "Nauru BioRAP (2013)"). Available at <https://nauru-data.sprep.org/dataset/nauru-biological-rapid-assessment-biorap>.

[8] Asia Development Bank (2017) Nauru: Port Development Project.

[9] Republic of Nauru (1999) First National Communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- [10] Mr. Peniasi Nakantoga, Department of Land Management, personal communication.
- [11] Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (2015) Climate change: Building our resilience.
- [12] Feary (2014) Restoring the soils of Nauru Plants as tools for Ecological Recovery, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ.
- [13] Nauru BioRAP (2013).
- [14] BirdLife International.
- [15] Nauru and FAO: Partnering to improve food security and income-earning opportunities (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-av263e.pdf>).
- [16] Nauru's country profile, CBD website (<https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=nr>).
- [17] SPREP (2016) The State of Conservation in Nauru – Country Report 2013.
- [18] In a “customary title” system, which is common in the Pacific English-speaking countries, land is held in accordance with traditional customs of indigenous people of those islands. As opposed to a “private title” system, customary land is rarely sold but rather inherited or gifted.
- [19] GEF ID 5381; GEF project grant of US\$ 2,644,358.
- [20] NRC has recently undergone organizational changes and its new business plan is expected to be adopted by the government in July 2019; a budget will be developed on the basis of NRC's new business plan.
- [21] Likely coming from dormant seeds that are present in the stocked soil (Feary, A. (2011) Restoring the soils of Nauru Plants as tools for Ecological Recovery. Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand).
- [22] Mr. Daniel Lee, Leader, Twain Technical Mission (personal communication).
- [23] Nauru BioRAP (2013).
- [24] BirdLife International (2019) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Anibare Bay Escarpment (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/anibare-bay-escarpment-iba-nauru>).
- [25] Republic of Nauru (2004) National Assessment Report.
- [26] Mr. Peter Jacob, Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation, personal information. Information on the project will be made available at <https://queenscommonwealthcanopy.org/projects/nauru-project/>.
- [27] GEF ID 9410 (currently under review by the GEF Secretariat); GEF project grant US\$ 6,252,489.
- [28] The resources necessary for maintaining and updating the data management system will be identified during the PPG phase.
- [29] Feary, A. (2011) Restoring the soils of Nauru Plants as tools for Ecological Recovery. Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

[30] IUCN Red List status: Nauruan reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus rehsei*) – vulnerable; bristle-thighed curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) – vulnerable; Micronesian Imperial-pigeon (*Ducula oceanica*) – near-threatened; Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) – near-threatened; Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) – near-threatened; Black noddy (*Anous minutus*) – least concern.

[31] In accordance with the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Map and available coordinates are presented in annex A below.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

N/A

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The proposed project will seek opportunities to engage the community in the restoration efforts as a mean to facilitate stronger relationships between land and culture by reconnecting communities with their landscapes, empowering citizens through participation, and promoting enduring awareness of the relationship between healthy environments and healthy communities. The project will engage all relevant stakeholders, including public authorities and agencies, representatives of villages, land owners, industry representatives, farmers and civil society organizations. Several initiatives under the project will be carried out at the community or household level, and it is of crucial importance to engage the civil society and local communities, taking into account the traditional systems of governance in Nauru. Local communities (resource users and land owners) and their representatives will be involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the conservation areas and areas under sustainable land management. Land owners' support and endorsement of land use planning frameworks and willingness to adopt SLM practices will be key to overall success of the project. Land owners will be actively engaged in the development of the Land Use and Restoration Plan (component 1). Furthermore, various stakeholders, including land owners, farmers, small business and community members will be involved in the identification of financial incentives to support livelihoods and decouple economic growth from unsustainable use of natural resources. They will also receive skills training to improve their capacity to engage in sustainable practices and in the knowledge sharing and awareness campaigns (component 4). The private sector will be involved to mainstream biodiversity across sectors and to catalize the outcomes of the project. Local communities and smallholder farmers will be involved, and mutually beneficial strategies will be pursued with the private sector targeting small and medium-sized enterprises to promote innovative agricultural production systems. The project will rely and build upon the experience of past and ongoing programmes, including the Twain Technical Mission, to ensure wide participation of all relevant stakeholders. Communication means which are well established in Nauru (for example, Facebook and mass text messaging "bulk SMS") will be used and small incentives (for example, lottery prizes) may be considered to reach out and ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders during implementation.

An overview of individual stakeholders and their roles is presented in annex D below.

Annex D

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE BASELINE

Programmes / Projects	Description
Supporting Mainstreamed Achievement of Roadmap Targets on Energy in Nauru (GEF 6 ID 9974) <i>(ongoing)</i>	This project aims at enabling the increased applications of feasible renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies for supporting socio-economic development in Nauru in accord with the country's energy roadmap targets.
Construction of an international port <i>(in planning)</i>	Nauru's first international port will be built through a project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Australia. The port will allow cargo ships to berth alongside and is a relevant development for the current project proposal because it will reduce the cost to import fertile soil into Nauru and will facilitate the export of agricultural products in the future.
Strengthening Household Capacity for Integrated Agro-forestry and Food Crops Production and Utilisation in Nauru (FAO, 2015 – 2017)	A project working to increase the number of local fruit trees, root crops and forestry trees as well as introducing new varieties. The project targets 150 households as well as plans to include interested schools or organizations.
Pacific Regional Integrated Water Resource Management Project (IWRM, GEF TF, 2009 – 2014).	Water and natural resource management is led by the Water Division of the Department of Commerce, Industry, and Environment. The project monitored groundwater quality and implemented water resource management initiatives, such as promotion of installation and maintenance of household rainwater harvesting equipment and compost toilets, that were initiated through the Pacific Regional Integrated Water Resource Management Project.
State of Conservation in Nauru – Country report (2013)	This Nauru country assessment provides key findings for Nauru that contributed to developing the comprehensive State of Conservation in Oceania 2013 report. This report assesses the overall state of conservation in Nauru using 16 indicators. The indicators provide information not only about the state of conservation in Nauru but also about what pressures and threats conservation in Nauru is facing and what action is being taken to halt further loss or degradation and improve its long-term sustainability.
An Assessment of increased agricultural production project development in Nauru (FAO, 2012; TCP/NAU/3301; consultancy report)	The report is an output of a FAO Technical Cooperation Consultancy Mission to Nauru. The report assesses the status of past and present efforts to develop crops and livestock farming, and outlines the necessary actions for improving the development of agriculture in Nauru.
Ground Water Survey (2010)	Project carried out by the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

	with support from WHO, European Union and Australian government aimed at taking stock of the number of water wells and assessing groundwater quality.
The vegetation and flora of Nauru – 2007. Current Status, Cultural Importance and Suggestion for Conservation, Restoration, Rehabilitation, Agroforestry and Food, Health and Economic Security	This report was prepared by SPREP to suggest some of the most important species and areas that can be protected, rehabilitated and replanted to provide a foundation for 67 environmentally, economically, nutritionally and culturally sustainable future occupation of the island by Nauruans.
Academic studies (indicative)	<p>Deiye, M. (2015) Prospects for Community-Based Marine Conservation in Nauru: Attitudes, Policies & Institutions, Victoria University of Wellington. <i>Objective</i>: to identify and explore the success criteria of community-based resource management.</p> <p>Feary, A. (2011) Restoring the soils of Nauru Plants as tools for Ecological Recovery. <i>Objective</i>: to test the possibilities of soil restoration of stock-piled soils through use of cover-crop.</p>

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

Nauruan society is patriarchal with an old system of chieftdom, but its traditional land ownership system follows matrilineal inheritance between generations. Approximately 33% of Nauruan households are headed by women and are reliant on local natural resources to a varying degree for their family's nutrition, health and livelihood, especially marine and coastal resources. This results in many of these women bearing an enormous burden in finding creative ways of sustaining their families.[1] Although only a small proportion of Nauru's population engages in agriculture as their main activity, among those who do the majority (60%) are women. The proposed project will adopt UN Environment's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and take into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women. The project will acknowledge that women are often the most vulnerable to land degradation such as that resulting from poor management of the agricultural sector, and will be proactive in seeking women's input to local innovations for sustainability, particularly those with a focus on rehabilitation and restoration. A gender strategy will be developed under component 4.

Gender equality and women's empowerment will be mainstreamed into project activities, ensuring that women have a real voice in project formulation, as well as governance and an active role in implementation. Women will participate equally with men in any dialogue or decision-making initiated by the project and will influence decisions that will determine the success of the project and ultimately the future of their families.

Workshops, surveys and face-to-face interventions during the PPG will target government, key stakeholders and communities to discuss and identify key considerations, needs and differentiated roles that men and women play in accessing, managing and utilizing of land and other natural resources. The findings resulting from these exchanges for both genders will be included in the project. The PPG will also identify more specifically the areas for women's participation at the outcome level.

[1] Project document "Nauru Ridge to Reef" (GEF 5381).

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

Both private sector land owners and operators are stakeholders in the project as it affects their land use and development practices. Biodiversity and sustainable land management will be mainstreamed into their operations as they work within the guidance provided by the Land Use and Restoration Plan and sector development plans. It is expected that the private sector exponents will include farmers, land owners, as well as tourism, food and retail operators, etc. Private sector stakeholders will be involved during the project design phase to identify options for financial incentives that will facilitate the adoption of SLM practices and the decoupling of economic activities from unsustainable use of natural resources, and will be consulted on the possibilities for private companies and land owners to rehabilitate and sustainably develop Nauru's Topside in accordance with the Land Use and Restoration Plan to be developed under the project.

Capacity building targeting small business will be done through the development of needs-based skills training programmes for identifying needs and enhancing the capacity of both existing and potential small businesses to promote biodiversity and sustainable land management.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental 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 (table format acceptable)

The following risks were identified. Further details on mitigation actions will be provided during the PPG phase.

Risks	Likelihood	Mitigation actions
Lack of community buy-in due to land tenure issues	Medium	Include all community members during project design consultations, ensure all submissions are taken onboard, clarify grey areas, and advocate best practices using examples from Fiji, REDD+ and other countries and initiatives. Furthermore, together with National government authorities and NRC, during the PPG process, existing policy / governance mechanisms related to land rehabilitation work will be closely examined, reviewed and integrated into the project design.
Lack of political support due to change / turnover of political leaders and government staff	Medium	During the project design period, project management structure and mechanisms will be reviewed in detail to ensure an effective project implementation structure and governance mechanism. Lessons learned will also be examined through past and ongoing initiatives. Awareness raising and communication of the project will also be done through stakeholder consultation and through various government channels (i.e. in focus sessions with parliamentarians / cabinet, etc.) when needed through the project design phase.
Conflict between land restoration and mining interests	Low	The proposed interventions on the Topside will only take place on sites where secondary mining has been completed. At the time of intervention these sites will contain little to no deposits of phosphate. Other proposed intervention sites are located on the escarpment, which is inaccessible to mining equipment. Commitment by the government will be gained through the legislations and policies to ensure that (a) the restored and conserved areas will not be adversely affected by operational needs of ongoing nearby mining and (b) the few remaining un-mined sites on the Topside will not be mined. For these reasons, mining of these areas during or after the project is highly unlikely.
Limited capacity could limit success of project implementation	Low	The project includes a capacity enhancement program based on capacity assessment conducted during the project preparation period to identify required and useful skills. Recognise which of these skills are available

		<p>country requires and resources, recognition of these skills are available in the country, and methods for acquiring those skills currently lacking. The project will allocate sufficient resources to ensure participation of key local staff. The Nauruan branch of the University of the South Pacific (USP) is available for skills development. Technical partnerships and support opportunities with regional technical agencies such as University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) the Pacific Community (SPC) will also be explored.</p>
Extreme climatic events (e.g. tropical storms, prolonged drought) jeopardize the integrated land and water measures introduced and cause declines in livelihoods and further land degradation	Low	<p>Within the process of developing the policy framework and institutional capacity, such as the MLUP, climate change consideration will be taken into account including extreme weather events, especially for drought. In designing integrated land and water management measures, information regarding historical and current rainfall as well as the rainfall variability will be taken into consideration in analyzing viable interventions – i.e. type of vegetation for re-vegetation, etc.</p>

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

A thorough analysis of initiatives with similar coverage of area, scope or involved agencies will be carried out during the PPG phase (so as to keep it up to date) to ensure maximum complementarities and synergies, and to avoid duplication of efforts particularly with other GEF projects and other projects under preparation. A number of initiatives were identified related directly to land degradation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity which can contribute through technical, capacity and data to support the proposed project. Some of the key initiatives include the GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef program and the GEF 6 regional project on invasive alien species. Furthermore, coordination will be carried out with the Twain Technical Mission project through its agroecological capacity building programme and innovative techniques, which will be looking specifically into the Nauruan lack of food security. Furthermore, and as presented earlier, the project is looking at developing an approach for the delineation of protected areas and their integration into a National Land Use and Restoration Plan.

Partners from these projects and other complementary projects will be invited to coordination meetings of the PPG to ensure that proper communication and collaboration takes place.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The project will support the goals of various national development policies in Nauru, including the National Environmental Management Strategy (1996). National Environment Action Plan (1996) and the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005-2025; revised in 2009).

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under the Convention on Biological Diversity – Nauru's NBSAP was developed in 2009, endorsed by the Government in 2013, however is yet to be formally implemented. The NBSAP is mainstreamed in Nauru's Sustainable Development Strategy which is linked to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Commitments in Nauru's NBSAP that are relevant to the current project proposal include: (i) the mainstreaming of biodiversity into national and sectoral planning by promoting an integrated approach through policy development, horizontal cross-scale planning, as well as the development of appropriate environmental legislation; (ii) commitment to increase protected and conserved areas of both land and coastal areas to 30% by 2025. The plan is to incrementally increase the number of protected or conserved areas by 2% per annum, but so far no protected area has been created; (iii) promotion of native species management and sustainable use of important species found both on the land and in the marine environment; (iv) recognition of communities play a significant role to implementing the strategy and to provide the means of empowering of district communities to protect, conserve and sustainably use and manage land biodiversity; the empowerment of communities includes promoting the use of local traditional knowledge and practices to protect and conserve biodiversity; (v) recognition of the need for research and development, and capacity building for both local communities and government staff to achieve the goals; and (vi) development of a public awareness campaign strategy to maintain the plan of actions.

Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity – Nauru's 5th National Report to the CBD fulfils its reporting obligations, and its first ever national report to the Convention. As a first report it will serve as a baseline for Nauru's future reporting obligations to the CBD. The report was prepared through national stakeholder consultations and the study of relevant literature on the state and trends of Nauru's biodiversity, persistent and emerging threats to its survival and the implications of these realities on the future of ecosystem services and social development on Nauru Island. The report reveals key findings and concerns that require adequate attention by the government and communities of Nauru for improving the management of biological resources on land and on sea, and to strengthen the role of ecosystem services in the sustainable development of the country.

In terms of other biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Nauru is exploring membership in the Convention on Wetlands or the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species CMS and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species CITES in collaboration with other member countries of the Pacific.^[1]

First National Report to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2003) – In 1998, Nauru acceded to and entered the UNCCD. This first report identifies the issues with land degradation and the actions the country has taken so far to combat land degradation and desertification. Nauru has yet to set its National Voluntary LDN Targets in the context of SDG target 15.3.^[2] The proposed project will lay the groundwork towards LDN target setting by establishing a foundation for Nauru, in accordance with its National Sustainable Development Strategy, to move from mining to sustainable land management. An upscaling strategy towards LDN will be developed through the project. The strategy will facilitate the engagement of decision makers and stakeholders involved in land management and will enable Nauru to seek support from UNCCD's Global Mechanism and take part in the LDN Target Setting Programme.

[1] Nauru's fifth national report to the CBD.

[2] <https://www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme>

8. 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.

Sharing of experience and knowledge management regarding the value of biodiversity and productive landscapes will be paramount to the success and sustainability of the project. The project will review and strengthen the enabling environment for the effective management of land use across the country and elements of the enabling environment will be tested in pilot situations, evaluated and refined before being rolled out for replication. The project will also focus on the creation and management of a protected area. The project will have an immediate impact on a small number of problem sites, but its ultimate impact will be nationwide through replication through dissemination of the lessons and knowledge gained.

In order to ensure these, through activities under Outcome 4, the project will incorporate learning from previous experience as an essential component to improving the effectiveness of future actions. By reviewing existing data and results from previous experience through an efficient knowledge management system, the most and least successful approaches will be identified and replicating past problems will be avoided. The project will set up a web portal, to be maintained by CIE, to provide managed access to developers, applicants for various land use permits, EIA consultants, regulatory authorities both at central and local government levels, NGOs and community members. All those involved in the permitting, operating and management of land use, will be able to stay up to date with the latest developments and technical advances. The portal will become a source of advice and guidance, built initially on the results of the pilot projects but becoming increasingly valuable through the accumulation of experience and knowledge.

Annex F

GENERIC AND SPECIFIC INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE ATTAINMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS[1]

Aichi Biodiversity Target	Generic Indicator	Specific Indicator	Available today (X) or under active development (Y)	Easy to communicate	Global indicator can be disaggregated to create national indicator or is aggregated from national data	National data are aggregated to form global indicator	Used in BOD	SDG Indicator	Source
---------------------------	-------------------	--------------------	---	---------------------	--	---	-------------	---------------	--------

							4		
Target 1 - By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably	Trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity	Online interest in biodiversity (Google Trends)	X		X	X	X		Google trends
	Trends in public engagement with biodiversity	<i>No specific indicators identified</i>							
Target 2 - By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems	Trends in number of countries that have assessed values of biodiversity, in accordance with the Convention	Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (indicator for SDG target 15.9)						X	
	Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies	Number of countries that have integrated biodiversity in National Development Plans, poverty reduction strategies or other key development plans	X	X		X	X		Roe D. (2010)
Target 7 - By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	Trends in proportion of area of agriculture under sustainable practices	Areas of agricultural land under organic production	X	X	X		X		International Foundation for Organic Agriculture
		Areas of agricultural land under conservation agriculture	X		X	X	X		FAO
		Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (indicator for SDG target 2.4)	X					X	FAO
	Trends in proportion	Progress towards sustainable forest management (indicator for SDG target 15.2)	Y					X	FAO

	n of area of forest production under sustainable practices	Wild Bird Index for specialist forest birds / Living Planet Index (forest specialists)	X	X	X	X	X	BirdLife International /EBCC C/ WWF/ZSL
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 their introduction and establishment	Trends in identification and prioritization of invasive alien species	<i>No specific indicators identified</i>						
Target 12 - By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained	Trends in extinction risk and populations of species	Red List Index (indicator for SDG target 15.5)	X	X	X		X	IUCN, BirdLife International and other Red List Partners
		Wild Bird Index	X	X	X	X	X	BirdLife International /EBCC
Target 14 - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services	Trends in safeguarded ecosystems that provide essential services	<i>No specific indicators identified</i>						
	Trends in benefits from ecosystems	Better Life Index	X					GEF

<p>essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable</p>	from ecosystem services	Better Life Index	X						OECD
	Trends in restoration of ecosystems that provide essential services	<i>No specific indicators identified</i>							
	Trends in the degree to which ecosystem services provided for the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	X					X	FAO
<p>Target 15 - By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification</p>	Trends in ecosystem resilience	<i>No specific indicators identified</i>							
	Trends in carbon stocks within ecosystems	Global Ecosystem Restoration Index	Y						GEO BON-iDiv

[1] From decision XIII/28 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting.

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 with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Berilyn Jeremiah	Secretary Commerce, Industry & Environment	Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment Republic of Nauru	3/13/2019

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Annex A

PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

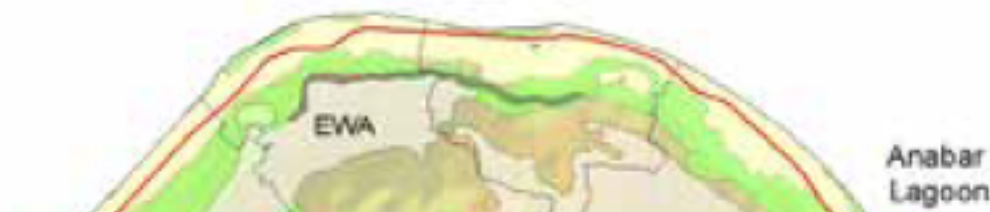
Nauru is located about 40 kilometres south of the Equator at 0°32'0" S, 166°55'0" E. The island is divided into two plateau areas – “Bottomside” a few metres above sea level, and “Topside” typically 30 metres higher. The project will focus on (i) restoring land on the Topside; (ii) creating a protected area in Anibare Bay, including its coastal vegetation, escarpment and surrounding area; and (iii) sustainably managing other biodiversity priority areas as identified in the Nauru NBSAP and BioRAP. Below is a brief description of each of these areas:[1]

(a) **Nauru’s “Topside”** – This area consists of a raised limestone plateau that takes up the central portion of the island and accounts for approximately 80% of the area of the country. The highest point is 65 m above sea level. The Topside has been almost entirely mined for phosphate during the last 100 years, creating one of the most disturbed environments in the world. The primary mining of the Topside created a highly irregular surface made of high limestone pinacles interspaced by valleys and rendered most of the Topside uninhabitable, infertile and unproductive. Secondary mining has been initiated and it is expected to return the land of the Topside to a flat surface which will be suitable for development, including agriculture if measures are taken to improve the quality of the soil. The proposed project will focus on revegetation of pilot sites in the Topside.

(b) **Anibare Bay** – The topographical nature of the site renders it less susceptible to mining compared with all other areas on the island, and its wooded cliffs represent just about the last area of Nauru that has not been altered substantially by man. This site is reported as the area holding the highest density of Nauru reed-warbler on the island, although actual numbers are not known, and forests where rare trees and a newly discovered micro-moth are found. It is likely to also be a preferred site for nesting Micronesian Imperial Pigeons, if any still remain, and is also known to hold numbers of tree-nesting seabirds. The woodland is dominated by *Ficus prolixa* and other rare trees. On the narrower coastal strip on the southeastern side are several small ponds with traces of mangrove vegetation. A second smaller depression is a tangled scrubby wood, partly of indigenous trees. The Topside margin are rare areas of un-mined shallow phosphate soils and original un-mined pinnacles that are critical for seabird breeding and undisturbed deeper soil ecosystems. Anibare Bay is a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) having met two of the four global criteria for IBA status.[2] The area was proposed as a protected area in Nauru’s National Assessment Report.[3] One of the key outcomes of the proposed GEF 7 project is drafting the legislation for the creation of the Anibare Bay Protected Area totalling approximately 50 hectares including the coastal plain, escarpment and the ‘Topside’ margin.

(c) **Ijuw-Anabar-Anetan mangrove and wetland area** – This site, of approximately 25 hectares, contains the most valuable brackish open water habitats for birdlife, significant areas of mangroves and supports the richest vegetation mosaic of the coastal plain. It also has high scenic values and holds endemic vascular plants. It provides significant habitat for invertebrates, lizards and birds due to the absence of sea protection works, the uniqueness of the ponds and the inclusion of the coastal plain rubble forest and rocky scarp. This area was found to meet the Ramsar Convention criteria for wetlands of international importance.[4] Tree species found in this area that are common elsewhere in the Pacific but very rare in Nauru include *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* and *Rhizophora stylosa*. [5] Conservation of these and other species in the mangroves and wetland areas of Nauru is warranted.

- (d) **Buada basin forest** – The Buada Lagoon is a unique landlocked freshwater or slightly brackish central lagoon with sizable portions of remaining forest in its basin. The Buada lagoon forest and soils surrounding the lagoon have the greatest potential for agro-forestry and food production. In addition to coconut, breadfruit, pandanus and banana cultivars (many of which are endangered and are pivotal to food security on Nauru), tree species that are found in the Buada basin forest include *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Adenanthera pavonina*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Guettarda speciosa*, *Annona muricata* (soursop) and *Morinda citrifolia* (noni).[6]
- (e) **Selected un-mined rocky outcrops** – These sites, which total approximately 15 hectares, are important wildlife habitats and examples of pre-mining ecosystems. The original elements of this landscape have no value for phosphate mining but retain pockets of vegetation and soils. There remain very few such areas, but consideration should be given to their protection. This habitat hosts species of reptiles, including a new undescribed species of skink (*Emoia* sp.) that is likely to be endemic to Nauru. It is also the likely site for remaining threatened invertebrates that are endemic to Nauru, including three land snails (*Trochomorpha insolata* and *Sturanya subsuturalis*, both tentatively listed by IUCN as critically endangered (CR), and *Sturanya subsuturalis*, tentatively listed by IUCN as vulnerable (VU)) and one undescribed leafminer moth of the genus *Stigmella* (not evaluated). Moreover, the vegetation in these areas can provide propagules of native trees that are rare on Nauru to colonise the surrounding mined-out lands, including *Pisonia grandis* (listed by IUCN as least concern (LC)) as a favorite nesting site for seabirds, such as noddies, that contribute to biodiversity conservation, culture, food security and improved soil quality.
- (f) **Command Ridge and the railway zone of Topside** – This area, of approximately 60 hectares, contains the deepest mining, about 20 meters deep, and the “Grand Canyon” of Nauru, and the most advanced natural regeneration in mined sites. The area provides habitat for most of the reptile species due to the mix of exposed habitat and vegetation cover. These areas are important habitat for Micronesian pigeon (*Ducula oceanica*; listed by IUCN as near threatened (NT)) and Nauruan reed-warbler (*Acrocephalus rehsei*; VU), brown noddy, which started to nest there (*Anous stolidus*; LC), and black noddy (*Anous minutus*; LC), and may become a key landbird stronghold. Because this site was hand-mined at a very early stage of mining, there is probably less residual phosphate and less reason for this area to undergo secondary mining. Given its value to the biodiversity of Nauru, sustainable management practices and policies should be put in place to avoid future destruction of this habitat, for example, due to urban or residential development of the Topside. Historic mining, railway and track networks are features that could be developed into a sustainable and environmental-based ecotourism to ensure sustainability of these areas.
- (g) **Coastal Littoral strand** – The zone within 50 metres of the mean high tide mark contains species of trees that are rare and endangered in Nauru, including *Cordia subcordata*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Hernandia nymphaeifolia*, *Ochrosia elliptica* and *Thespesia populnea*. [7] Sustainable management of the coastal would include the implementation of an active program of coastal reforestation, including collecting the seeds and regenerating selected species, and enrichment planting with endangered or culturally-useful salt-tolerant trees. Conserving these trees will restore formerly powerful cultural associations and uses of both indigenous and introduced plants.



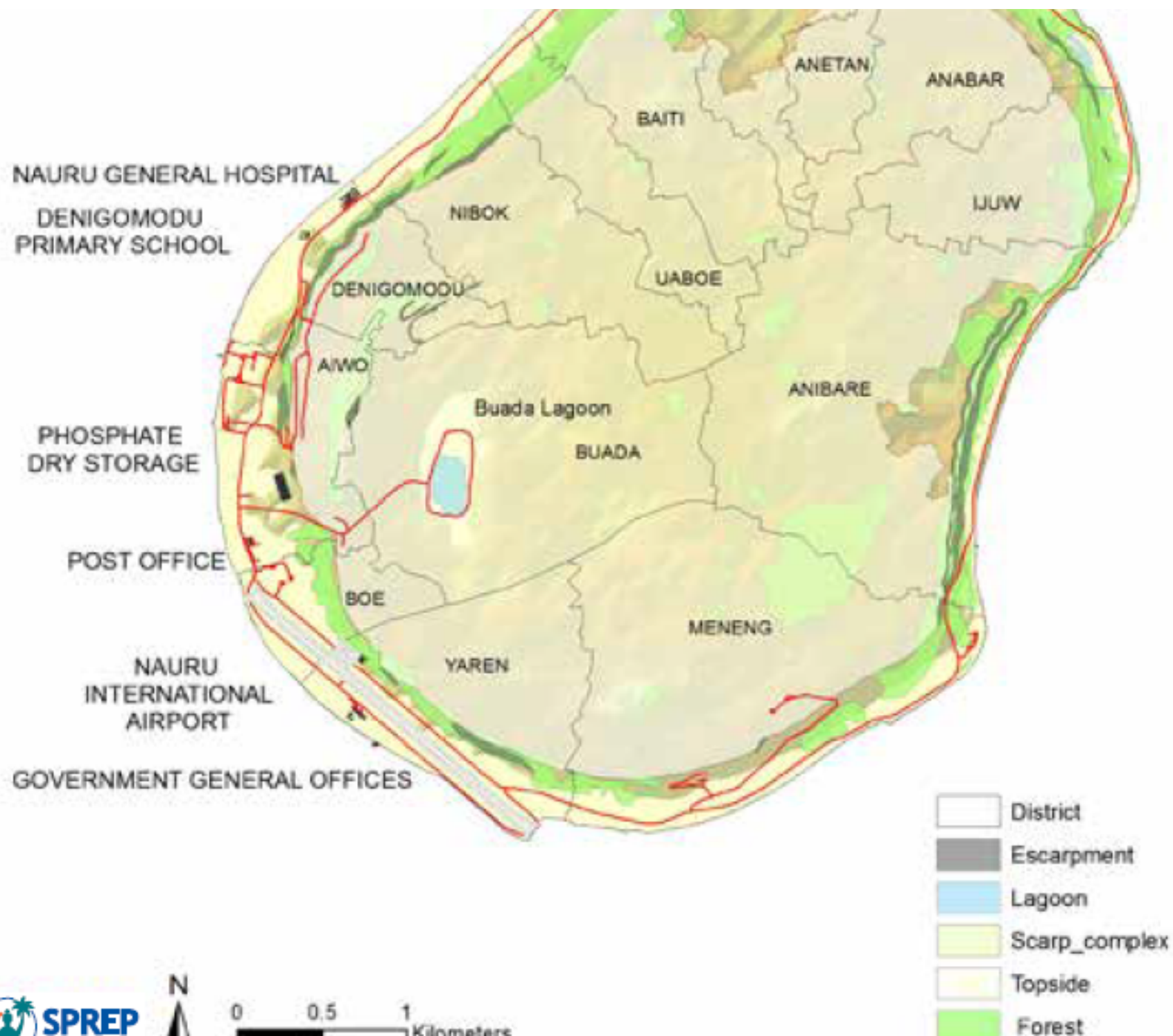


Figure 6. Districts and land forms of Nauru (*source:* SPREP (2013) Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of the Republic of Nauru).

[1] The description of the biodiversity priority areas was adapted from the Nauru's NBSAP and BioRAP.

[2] BirdLife International (IBA criteria A1: Globally threatened species; and A2: Restricted-range species).

[3] Republic of Nauru (2004).

[4] <https://www.ramsar.org/news/the-republic-of-nauru-considers-joining-the-ramsar-convention-on-wetlands>.

[5] *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* is not listed under the IUCN Red List. *Rhizophora stylosa* is listed as "Least Concern" (LC) in the IUCN Red List, but its current population trend is declining. General conservation actions for this species include "Continued monitoring and research is recommended, as well as the inclusion of mangrove areas in marine and coastal protected areas".

[6] Although none of these species is threatened, they are used for food, medicines and timber playing an important role in this agroforestry system.

[7] While rare on Nauru, most of these trees are common elsewhere in the Pacific.

Annex E

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPECTIVE ROLES

Stakeholder	Roles
Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (DCIE)	The DCIE is the main agency responsible for environmental conservation and land management. It is also the National Focal Point for the UNCBD and UNCCD. It is proposed as current projects' executing agency and will be involved throughout the process of project preparation and responsible for coordination and monitoring of the project progress.
Department of Agriculture (DoA)	The Department of Agriculture will play a key role in the development of the Land Use and Restoration Plan of Nauru. The DoA will also provide advice and technical expertise during project preparation.

Customs and Quarantine	Responsible for implementing biosecurity measures for border control on invasive species and items/goods that may be detrimental to the environment.
Department of Lands Management	The Department of Lands Management has responsibility for land use planning in Nauru although to date this has focussed on keeping a registry of land ownership in Nauru and negotiating land leases between landowners and government. The Department will play an important role during project preparation in relation to the development of the Land Use and Restoration Plan and in facilitating the leasing of land to be protected or restored under project activities and beyond.
Development Planning and Policy Division (DPPD)	DPPD is responsible for coordinating development efforts at the national level, in particular monitoring the implementation of Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005 – 2025). DPPD will be involved in the project preparation to ensure alignment with the Development Strategy.
Home Affairs Department	Houses the National Heritage Committee and is responsible for implementing the National Heritage Legislation identifying national sites of cultural relevance and declaring them as heritage sites.
Nauru Phosphate Corporation (RONPHOS)	RONPHOS is a state-owned enterprise established in 2005 to operate and maintain the phosphate mining industry and other activities. RONPHOS is introducing a number of innovative approaches to mining and land restoration. According to RONPHOS' business model, once a parcel of land has been mined, the land is returned in such a manner that it is ready for further use and development, including sustainable land management. RONPHOS is a key stakeholder in any programme to restore the "Topside", and will be involved in the project during the design and implementation phases.
Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation (NRC)	NRC is a state-owned enterprise responsible for the rehabilitation of mined lands in the "Topside" and management of tree planting nursery. NRC's mandate is therefore fully aligned with the objective of the current project proposal. The NRC will be involved in project design and implementation.
Nauru Community Council (NCC)	Elected representatives of each district and work in partnership with the national government on all community development projects ensuring local ownership. The NCC will be part of the project design and consultation processes.
Twain Technical Mission	The Twain Technical Mission is an aid organization boosting socio-economic development, building human capacity and promoting economic relations through sustainable agriculture and nutrition. Although operating at a smaller scale, the Mission's aim is very much aligned with the objective of the current project proposal. The Twain Technical Mission will be a full project partner providing technical expertise and innovative solutions for sustainable land management and agroecology.

Women's group	The Women's group will be involved in the project design phase, consulting on the role of gender in land management and the potential role of women in rehabilitation and restoration of Topside.
District Community Committees	The Committees serve as platforms for two-way communication between the government and communities in the implementation of programs/projects and to inform the government of the communities' needs.
Nauru Small Business Association (NSBA)	NSBA raises the capacity of the country's private sector to become a more organised body that is capable of consulting with Government on key policy making issues as well as addressing the requirements of small businesses. Through the NSBA, it can be expected that networking and information sharing with similar institutions in the Pacific Islands will be mutually beneficial.
Business enterprises (e.g. "Capelle and Partner")	Business enterprises are key actors in adding value to agricultural products and promoting sustainable tourism. They are vital to generating sustainable income to local communities and will act as project partners. "Capelle and Partner" is the largest privately-owned business enterprise employing over 100 people in Nauru and operating in the retail, food, eco-tourism and hospitality sectors. They are strong promoters of environmentally sound practices, such as selling of reusable bags, installing solar panels and separating cardboard boxes for composting.
Nauru Island Association of NGO's (NIANGO)	The Nauru Island Association of Non-Government Organization (NIANGO) comprises a number of NGOs, including Church Groups, Women's Group, Youth Groups, Life Skills Groups (i.e. fishing) and cultural groups. They are in a unique position to mobilize the different groups and will be involved from the design phase of the project.
EcoNauru	EcoNauru is one of the most active NGOs in Nauru focusing on environmental and social issues. Its objective is to promote ecologically sustainable development in Nauru to achieve equity for present and future generations and preserve ecological integrity and biological diversity. EcoNauru is a key GEF Partner managing and overseeing the GEF Small Grants Program in Nauru. EcoNauru will be involved throughout the project design and implementation phases.
BirdLife International (BLI)	BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organisations (NGOs) that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. BirdLife International has 121 partner NGOs worldwide and has confirmed interest in being part of the proposed GEF 7 project.
GEF 5 Reef 2 Ridge project team	The project team will be involved in the project design phase for technical support.

