



Government of Tonga



United Nations Development Programme

MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT

**CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN
TONGA**

Brief Project Description

The extent of land degradation resulting from factors such as agriculture mechanization, slash and burn, natural disasters and human settlement in Tonga is not known. However, it is estimated that only 4.5% of Tonga's land area now remain under forest cover. The leading causes of forest degradation are agricultural malpractices, unsustainable mono-cropping systems and over-use of pesticides. Population growth, coupled with urbanization especially on the main island of Tongatapu has resulted in an increased demand for land. Unfortunately, regulatory entitlements can no longer be fulfilled, pushing families to put more pressure on coastal, mangroves and swampy areas. If this rate of degradation continues unabated, it will result in the increased loss of biodiversity, pollution of productive coastal and marine areas, contamination of water resources and damage to natural ecosystems. All these will in turn seriously affect the government's vision for a high quality of life for the people of the kingdom.

The Tonga Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project intends to stem the current rate of land degradation by developing individual, institutional and systemic capacity to manage land wisely, and to mainstream sustainable land management tools and practices into the development and budgetary processes of the government. GEF funding requested through this proposal will be used to lift barriers to sustainable land management and thus contribute to enhancing ecosystem health, stability, functions and services. It will also enable the government of Tonga to strengthen its policies, regulatory and economic incentive frameworks to facilitate wider adoption of sustainable land management practices across sectors.

The ultimate goal of this project is to enhance ecosystem stability, functions and services while promoting sustainable livelihoods through sustainable land management. Particular focus will be paid towards supporting and strengthening national and local level activities identified during the process of developing Tonga's NAP under the UNCCD and other instruments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). To ensure sustainability, part of the strategy to achieve the project objectives will be the development of an investment plan wherein specific activities will be identified for donor funding. A Coordinated Resource Mobilization Plan (CRMP) will also be developed to help secure funding support for the implementation of the investment plan. The total project cost of the SLM MSP is US\$1,012,493.36, and consists of a GEF contribution of US\$475,000 and Co-financing of US\$537,493.36

**Expedited Medium Size Project Proposal
Under the
LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management**

REQUEST FOR GEF FUNDING

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID: 3406
GEFSEC PROJECT ID:
COUNTRY: Kingdom of Tonga
PROJECT TITLE: Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Tonga
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES):
DURATION: 4 years
GEF FOCAL AREA: Land Degradation
GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM: OP 15
GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SP 1
ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: January 2008

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF PROJECT/COMPONENT	
MSP Project	475, 000
PDF A	25,000
<i>Sub-Total GEF</i>	500, 000
Co-financing	
Government	335,000
SPC	124,493.36
SPREP	78,000
<i>Sub-Total Co-financing:</i>	537,493.36
<i>Total Project Financing:</i>	1,037,493.36
FINANCING FOR ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY IF ANY:	

Country Eligibility: The Kingdom of Tonga ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on 25 September 1998 and is eligible for funding under paragraph 9(b) of the GEF Instrument.

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY INDICATORS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN:

Although there have been a number of capacity building projects carried out in Tonga in the past decade, none of these had specifically targeted sustainable land management. Further, it is still unclear whether any of these projects have catered for the real needs and how much they have contributed to improve capacity at different levels in the country. The capacity development and mainstreaming focus of this SLM project falls clearly under the Pacific UNDAF that will build national capacity for participation in environmentally sustainable development. It will therefore make a direct contribution to the key indicators of the Business Plan.

RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT:

GEF OFP Endorsement: Dr. Sione Nailasikau Halatuituia <i>CEO</i> Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment	OFP Endorsement Date: 13 August 2007
OFP PDF A Endorsement Date: 4 August 2004 OFP Endorsement: LDC-SIDS Umbrella Project:	
CCD National Focal Point Endorsement: Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tone <i>CEO</i> Ministry of Foreign Affairs	NFP Endorsement Date: None

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for a Medium-sized Project under the LDC-SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management.	
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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBEMP	Capacity Building for Environment Management Project
CRMP	Coordinated Resource Mobilization Plan
DCP	Department of Central Planning
DoE	Department of Environment
DoF	Department of Forestry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
SIWRM	Sustainable Integrated Water Resource Management Programme
MAFFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries
MD	Meteorological Division
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MLSNRE	Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment
MTNIP	Medium-Term National Investment Plan
MoF	Ministry of Forestry
NAP	National Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NECC	National Environment Coordinating Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Programme
PASA	Pesticide Awareness and Sustainable Agriculture
PC	Project Coordinator
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PM	Project Manager
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SDP	Sustainable Development Plan (for Tonga)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SOPAC	Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TDT	Tonga Development Trust
TEMPP	Tonga Environment Management and Planning Project
TVB	Tonga Visitors Bureau
TWC	Technical Working Committee
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of the South Pacific

SECTION I: ELABORATION OF THE NARRATIVE

PART I: SITUATION ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Environment Context

1. The Kingdom of Tonga lies between latitudes 15 and 24 degrees South and longitudes 173 and 177 degrees West. The Kingdom is an archipelago of more than 70 islands with a total land area of approximately 747 sq.km. Only 36 islands in the group are inhabited. The island of Tongatapu make up almost half of the land area and the majority of the Kingdom's population of about 100,000 live there.
2. The climate of Tonga is characterised by a wet season during December to April and a dry season from May to November. On the island of Tongatapu, the average annual temperature is 23°C with a maximum of 32°C and a minimum of 11°C. The islands in the north receive on average about 2,600 mm of rainfall per annum while those in the south receive about 1,700 mm per year. Notable droughts have occurred in Tonga in 1926, 1930, 1952-53, 1977-78 and 1992¹.
3. Tropical cyclones are a common occurrence in Tonga. On average, two cyclones affect Tonga per annum but this figure disguises the fact that there is more than a 50% probability that no cyclones will affect Tonga in any particular cyclone season while in other years; three or more cyclones may pass through the group.
4. The people of Tonga are Polynesian in origin and the socio-political order is a blending of traditional Polynesian elements and Western influences. The social structure has three tiers consisting of the Royal Family, nobility and the people.

Land Tenure and Land Use Trends

5. All lands in the Kingdom belong to the Crown with four tenure categories: (i) Hereditary Estates of the King; (ii) Hereditary Estates of the Royal Family; (iii) Hereditary Estates of the Nobles and Matapule; and (iv) Government Land. Land from any of the four categories can be leased, but no land in Tonga can ever be sold. The King, with the consent of the Privy Council, has the power to retrieve land from any holder for public purposes in which case, the dispossessed may be compensated with replacement land, money or both.

Soils

6. In general, most of Tonga's soils are friable, well-structured, well drained and with reasonable management, are capable of sustaining production of a wide range of tree and ground crops. The soils range from recent volcanic soils on Tofua and Kao and on

¹ Nunn, P & Wedell, E. Implications of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise for the Kingdom of Tonga. Report of a Preparatory Mission. SPREP, 1992.

the nearby island of Fotuha'a to sandy, well-drained soils of low fertility on Uoleva and some of the smaller inhabited and uninhabited islands and in coastal areas.

7. The main agricultural soils of the raised limestone islands are brown clay soils derived from volcanic ash. They are often deep, friable, well-structured and have high water holding capacities and good aeration but have marked deficiencies in nitrogen, phosphorous, sulphur and potassium. Tropical yellow-brown coral sandy soils are found in coastal areas of the raised limestone islands. These have serious chemical and physical limitations for agriculture, are excessively well-drained, have low nutrient content, low water holding capacity and very loose structure. The soils of some low-lying islands like Uoleva for example are generally only suitable for the production of coconuts and a narrow range of mainly subsistence crops such as cassava, sweet potato and melons, which do well on sandy soils.

8. The advent production of squash for export in 1987 has resulted in a three-fold increase in the cropped area in Tongatapu, Vava'u and 'Eua islands. The use of mechanical tillage generally has reduced the soil fertility at a much faster rate as compared to the traditional no tillage cropping system. In lands that had been cropped continuously with mechanical tillage, it is generally known that crop failures are highly probable with sub-optimal climate, such that in dry growing seasons very low crop yields are likely to result. The tillage preparation of land for the squash season occurs within the main rainfall seasons of Tonga, which makes the clay loam soils of Tonga prone to a dramatic increase in soil fertility degradation. Due to the high clay content of the soil, the soil structure is very fragile when wet and prone to damage when tilled. As soil structure is degraded, in combination with increased mixing of topsoil with subsoil and exposure to air, there is increased mineralization of soil organic matter. This is exacerbated by the current trend of increasing the length of the cropping phase with very short fallow periods, to almost continuous cropping. Consequently, soil organic matter decline, which results in concomitant reductions of the biological, physical and chemical soil fertility of the agricultural lands of Tonga. This form of land degradation is accelerating at an alarming rate.

Forest resources

9. Like its Polynesian neighbors, Tonga's landscape has been extensively modified by natural disasters and by human activity. This has led to the loss of much of the native vegetation that once covered the islands. Only the sparsely populated island of Eua and volcanically active islands like Kao and Tofua have some of the best remaining flora and vegetation in all of Tonga.

10. A comprehensive forestry inventory was carried on the Natural Forests of Tongatapu in 1999. This survey concluded that natural forests cover only 4.43 percent of Tongatapu's land area. Similar resource inventories have not been carried out in other islands centers of Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, Niuatoputapu and Niuafu'ou. However, estimates of total area covered by natural forests in the Kingdom ranges from 11.58 percent (Desloges (1994) to 5.5 percent (Pacific Island Economies, 1995) and 6 percent

(FAO 2000). The remaining patches of natural forest stands are found on inaccessible areas of inhabited islands and uninhabited islands such as Kao, Tofua and Late with the exception of 'Eua, one of the main islands where the forested like coast has recently been established as a national park.

11. Tonga's limited land, coupled with a high population growth rate in the urban center has put considerable pressure on the country's natural resources. Mangroves have been cleared for residential purposes and agricultural development has resulted in the destruction of the indigenous forest resources.

12. There is no forest industry in Tonga to speak of, nevertheless there is a strong reforestation policy towards providing local timber needs and reducing overall loss of foreign exchange has resulted in over 300 hectares of exotic trees being planted on the island of Eua. A plan to commercialize the plantation is currently being discussed.

Agriculture

13. Agriculture has always been the principal sector of the economy and remains the primary source of livelihood for over two-thirds of the population. Most islands have gentle overland slopes with the exception of some steeper areas on the higher islands, such as Eua and Vava'u.

14. Traditional farming such as agro-forestry systems of bush or grass fallow with cultivated palms or other useful trees creating a multi-level over-story for predominantly root crops. Traditional practices are however fast being replaced by intensive monocrop production, for example of squash-pumpkin requiring increased input of fertilizers and pesticides. The main agricultural crops today are vanilla, squash (Japanese pumpkin), watermelon, bananas and root crops. Coconuts, once the major crop for copra production and for coconut meal, have virtually ceased to be harvested commercially apart from the local culinary market. The major root crops are yam, taro, sweet potato, cassava, and giant taro.

Construction

15. The growth in the construction sector has also led to the increased mining of some of Tonga's sandy beaches thereby exposing these low-lying areas to the adverse impacts of wave action and beach erosion. Disposal of domestic and commercial waste is a major concern for the country but with the assistance of donor-funded projects, efforts are now underway to address this problem.

16. The above problems are all contributing to the degradation of land and resources in the Kingdom of Tonga and if this degradation continues unabated, it will seriously affect the government's vision for a high quality of life for all the people of the Kingdom².

² Strategic Development Plan Seven 2001-2004. Central Planning Department, May 2001.

Socio-economic context

17. Tonga has an agriculture-based economy organized around semi-subsistence small holdings. Subsistence production focuses on a range of customary root crops such as yams, taro, sweet potato and more recently, cassava. Commercial production has focused on copra and copra products but these have been severely affected in recent years by drought, cyclones and falling world prices. As a result, considerable effort has been made to diversify into higher-value export crops notably vanilla, banana and squash but these too, have proven hazardous ventures because of the problems of quality control, diseases and major fluctuations in supply and demand³.

18. During the period 1981-1985, the natural resource sector (i.e. agriculture, forestry, fisheries) was expected to be able to contribute more than 40% of GDP and it was predicted that this would increase by 15% during the 1986-1991 period. Unfortunately, these predictions were not realized as a zero and negative growth rates were experienced for the respective periods. Agriculture value-added rose by almost 11% in 2000 as root crops and squash production recovered strongly however, growth value dropped considerably in 2001 to a modest 1.3%. During the period 1994-2001, the fisheries sub-sector accounted for approximately 22% of the value-added in the primary sector.⁴

19. The profound change in Tonga's agricultural system is largely characterized by the shift from traditional agricultural practices to large scale (mainly squash production) commercial agricultural activities. This has resulted not only in the change in land use, but also in the extensive use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides, especially on the main island of Tongatapu. Although there are some livestock farming for domestic use, crop production and forestry are the two main land uses in the Kingdom.

20. The term 'poverty' as perceived by many other countries does not appropriately reflect the nature of poverty that exists in Tonga. Instead, the term 'hardship' has been proposed as more befitting to appropriately reflect the experiences of many families in meeting their basic needs, which includes food and non-food needs⁵. In essence, poverty and hardship in Tonga is associated with difficulties in meetings basic needs, and not an inability to meet these needs.

21. An Asian Development Bank (ADB) Assessment of Hardship and Poverty in Tonga in 2003 estimated a 7.7 per cent ranking for the country, indicating that there was neither deep nor severe hardship or poverty in the Kingdom. The United Nation's Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the other hand rated Tonga as the

³ GoT, Sixth National Development Plan 1990/91-1994/95.

⁴ ADB Pacific Studies Series. Tonga Natural Resource Use and Sustainable Socio-economic Development, April 2002.

⁵ GoT, Tonga 1st National Status Report, Millennium Development Goals (Draft), National MDG Taskforce 2004.

third most vulnerable (out of 111 developing countries) to external economic shocks and natural disasters which threaten the sustainability of livelihoods⁶.

Policy, Institutional and Legal Context

22. Although there is as yet no comprehensive “environmental law” for Tonga, there is a large body of legislation, some going back to more than sixty years, which contain provisions of environmental importance. They include: Land Act 1903; Minerals Act 1949; Forest Act 1961; Forest Produce Regulations 1979; Noxious Weed Act 1903; Parks and Reserves Act 1988; Petroleum Mining Act 1969; Plant Quarantine Act 1981; Birds and Fish Preservation Act 1989; Public Health Act 1913; Waterboard Act 1966; Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1978 and a series of Town Regulations and Public Health (Building) Regulations covering house locations, town cleanliness, planting, cutting of plants, pig and goat control, and littering.

23. The existence of this large body of legislations underpins the current inherent difficulty, if not impossibility, of administering environmental control in a cohesive and coordinated way. This is seen as a major flaw which will be overcome only when a comprehensive environmental legislation is introduced. A comprehensive Act that embraces land, water resources, marine resources, mineral resources, flora and fauna, forest produce, environmental management, national parks and reserves, and other aspects of environmental protection such as hazardous chemical control would help address the uncoordinated way environmental issues are being dealt with at present.

24. The fact that Tonga currently has no formal National Land Use Policy to address short term leasing of land allowed massive land degradation up to the present times. Furthermore, other related policies are not sufficient to address the alarming rate of degradation.

25. The insecurity in short term leases for most leasers or borrowers who are mainly farmers, creates the tendency to reap as much benefit as they could from the land in the shortest time possible ignoring any need for the long term sustainable management of the land. The short-term leasing of farmlands for commercial agriculture has been noted to contribute negatively towards forest conservation.

26. Land leasing of all forms need adequate review. It was also noted that there needs to be greater awareness among owners of land that is leased for short term agricultural purposes that they have a right to notify the leaser or borrower of conditions on how their land is used and how much vegetation or forest is to be removed.

27. Sustainability of Tongan agriculture would benefit from the introduction and enforcement of legislation embodying provisions for protecting the rights of growers from adverse impacts of others. While some legislation currently exists, for example

⁶ Ibid

relating to the use of agricultural chemicals, there is no evidence of its being enforced and it is in need of updating.

Local Institutions

28. The **Department of Environment** (DoE) was established by a Privy Council Decision as a fully fledged government department in July 2001 in recognition of the growing importance of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources as the basis for the economic, social and cultural development of the Kingdom of Tonga. DoE is also the Executing Agency for the Strategic Action Programme for International Waters, the UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities, the Biosafety Initiative, the NBSAP, POPs, and Ozone Depleting Substances and is the Competent Authority for Tonga under the Waigani Convention⁷. The 2004-2007 Corporate Plan for the DoE provides a new mission ‘to sustain the integrity of the ecosystems of Tonga to support life and livelihood’. The Department of Environment has recently in 2006 merged with the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources to form the Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment (MLSNRE).

29. The Minister for the Environment is the chair for the National Environment Coordinating Committee (NECC) which serves as the coordinating body for all environmental projects and programmes in the Kingdom of Tonga. The NECC comprises representatives from other relevant government agencies and NGOs with responsibilities for the conservation and management of Tonga’s environment.

30. The **Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources** and Environment (MLSNRE) is the Government Focal Point for SPREP and the Stockholm Convention and is the Operational Focal Point for the GEF. It also has primary responsibility for land ownership and land management issues in Tonga. The Minister of the MLSNRE has responsibility for coastal areas under the Lands Act. MLSNRE is a member of the NECC and has been identified as a key stakeholder for the SLM project.

31. The mission of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Fisheries** (MAFFF) is ‘to provide clients with appropriate and timely agricultural technologies and services’. Since agriculture is the dominant land use in Tonga, the MAFFF plays an important role in ensuring the sustainability and profitability of agricultural lands in the Kingdom. The Quarantine and Quality Management Division of MAFFF aims to avoid the introduction of unwanted pests and diseases that could have devastating effects on the local environment and assists monitor the health of watersheds on ‘Eua from soil erosion and agricultural practices. MAFFF participates in the NBSAP and Biosafety technical working groups and there has been effective collaboration between the Ministry and DoE on several environment projects.

⁷ The Waigani Convention is the Convention to Ban the Importation by Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region.

32. **The Department of Forestry (DoF)** under the MAFFF has been in the process of identifying funding to formulate a forest policy. DoF involvement in environmental projects in the past has mainly been through the participation of the MAFFF Director in the NECC although the current OIC of DoF has been directly involved in the work for the Technical Working Committee of the NBSAP and the UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP) and Third National Report (3NR). DoF operate tree nurseries producing tree seedlings for planting throughout the country. It also looks after the remaining indigenous forest and protected areas in the Kingdom.

The **Department of Central Planning (DCP)** is responsible for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans (SDP) for Tonga. SDP8 (2006-2009) reaffirms a commitment by the government of Tonga to the maintenance of a healthy and unpolluted environment and to the thoughtful management of natural resources for the present and future generations. This provides a platform for the planning and implementation of activities under the mandates of line Ministries such as DoE, MAFFF, MoF, etc. DCP participates in the NECC and played a key role in the drafting of Tonga's First National Status Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

33. **The Tonga Visitors Bureau (TVB)**, with assistance from NZAID is implementing a programme to promote the sustainable development of tourism with an emphasis on nature-based tourism in Tonga. Eco-tourism projects have been established on the islands of Vava'u and 'Eua, both focusing on whale-watching and guided national park tours. Although TVB does not have much say in the way land is managed in Tonga, it does provide advice to hotel developers and proprietors relating to the local circumstances and conditions (including environment) that they need to be aware of.

34. **The Meteorological Division (MD)** of the Ministry of Civil Aviation now has capacity to provide weather forecasting and predictions which was previously provided by other countries such as Fiji, New Zealand or Australia. Although MD has the capacity to forecast droughts and other extreme climatic events, it is currently looking for further assistance to build its capacity to be able to predict extreme events 3 months in advance. There is no specific Act of Parliament relating to meteorological services and the MD is looking for funding to engage a legal expert to draft such an Act. The MD is an active member of the Technical Working Committee of the Climate Change project in Tonga and was involved in the drafting of Tonga's Initial National Communication Report to the UNFCCC.

35. **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)** is the National and Political Focal Point for regional and international conventions and treaties the government of Tonga is a party to. It serves as the clearing house for convention-related information but does not have the technical capacity to review or comment on reports prepared by line Ministries for the secretariats of international conventions, including the UNCCD.

36. **The Tongan Development Trust (TDT)** is one of many local NGOs active in environment work in the Kingdom. It promotes and implements a number of community-based development projects such as the Pesticide Awareness and Sustainable Agriculture

(PASA) project which aims to wean farmers away from the use of pesticides but instead tries to introduce organic farming as a better alternative. According to TDT, more and more small farmers are turning away from the use of pesticides but convincing the larger, commercial producers to do the same remains a challenge.

Causes of land degradation

Tropical Cyclones

37. Historical records indicate an increased trend in tropical cyclone frequency in the South West Pacific since the 1960s. It is also apparent that a corresponding relationship exists between increased cyclone activity in Tonga and the El Nino phenomenon. Tropical cyclones is a common occurrence in Tonga and is one of the causes of land degradation by its accompanying characters of strong winds and salt spray that contribute to land degradation. The cyclone season for Tonga runs from November through to April although deviations outside this period occur. Tonga experiences an average of two tropical cyclones per year. With the anticipated increase in the occurrence of El Nino events and the potential impacts of climate change, there is a growing need to strengthen specialized warning and advisory services on tropical cyclones and related climatic events.

Clearance of forest and vegetative soil cover

38. Although statistical information on the amount of land degradation resulting from factors such as agricultural mechanization, slash and burn, natural disasters and human settlement is not known, available statistics show that Tonga's land area under forest cover ranges from 4.4% to 11.6% depending on several estimations conducted. Population growth, coupled with urban migration especially on the island of Tongatapu is increasing the already growing demand for land for settlement purposes. Regulatory entitlements can no longer be fulfilled pushing families to put pressure on coastal areas and mangrove swamps. If this rate of degradation continues unabated, the damage to natural ecosystems could seriously affect the government's vision for a 'high quality of life for the people of the Kingdom'.

39. Majority of forest degradations is caused by agriculture development. Other causes are attributed towards infrastructural activities, harvesting of commercial tree and plant commodities, and associated natural causes.

Population growth against available land

40. Increased population and migration into the urban centers have and will continue to put pressure on the very limited forested lands and mangroves on Tongatapu⁸. Due to the limited availability of land, some mangrove areas have been subdivided and filled for settlement especially on the islands of Tongatapu and Vava'u. Swamp forests have

⁸ The annual rate of growth for Tongatapu for the period 1976-1986 was 1.1% while its net in-migration for the same period was 3.4% or 1332 people. Ibid.

suffered the same fate. These lands are rarely filled to sufficient heights to escape the effects of flooding during storms or even from unusually high tides.

41. The most recent available data on land holdings, indicate that in 1989, 9.8% of the total land area of Tonga has been allocated as leasehold land (LATU;1995). Suppose we used the total land area allocated as leasehold land of 1989 with the male population of 1986 census, if these male population chose to exercise their right to a full grant of heritable land as provided by the law, only 37.7% could have been accommodated. The remaining males would be considered as landless. A review of the land tenure system has been advocated in recent years but the system is considered too sensitive and complex that it will probably take several more years before such a review is undertaken.

Monocropping

42. There is growing concern with the impact of mono-crop farming, particularly in relation to squash. Moreover there are soil degradation and erosion concerns with the preparation of land for seeding. While trees, shrubs and other plants have traditionally been used in agro-forestry type farming systems, such trees are now seen as 'obstructions' to mechanical ploughing and are summarily removed with only a few left to mark the boundaries of '*apis* or agricultural plots.

43. Reducing the fallow and denuding the land is the effect of the monocropping of export crops such as squash. It is noted that commercial agriculture tends to be increasingly practiced on the large tracts of land. Where this involves frequent cultivation, loss of soil fertility and soil moisture can be severe. This condition is very difficult to reverse and large quantities of organic matter are needed to encourage the growth of new crops.

Agricultural Chemicals

44. The increased use of agricultural chemicals has also been blamed for land degradation in Tonga. Export crops such as squash demands extensive use of pesticides and when these chemicals are indiscriminately used, as is often the case with rural farmers, other life forms (including humans) will also be affected.

45. The preferred aim of Tonga's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries (MAFFF) and other Ministries is for Tonga to engage in organic farming. Organic and sustainable farming may be an option for Ha'apai and the Niuas, and possibly Vava'u to some extent, but it is not an easy option for Tongatapu and 'Eua.

Mechanical agriculture

46. Mechanical tillage results in shorter fallow periods and the destruction of the soil structure that in turn results in soil compaction. Soil tillage during wet seasons and on hilly sites worsens soil compaction and erosion. While trees, shrubs and other plants

have traditionally been used in agro-forestry type farming systems, such trees are now seen as ‘obstructions’ to mechanical ploughing and are summarily removed with only a few left to mark the boundaries of ‘*api*’s or agricultural plots.

Short term lease land

47. Lease Tenure System allows both parties (the lessor and the lessee) to come to an agreement where the lessee will use the land at a certain period of time (in years) for a particular purpose. Another form of tenure is an official agreement for gardening by the land owner and the borrower. This type of tenure is registered in the Justice Department and is filed in the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources. This type of tenure may not exceed five years. Large parcels of land still held as noble’s “*tofi’a*” or inheritance. These land are also leased out on short-term arrangements.

48. During this period of leases, the lessee or borrower will pay the agreed annual rent and has unlimited rights to do what ever he likes on that land starting from the day the lease is registered regardless if the activities do not ensure long term sustainability for that piece of land.

49. Because there is insecurity in short term leases for most farmers, there is a tendency for them to reap as much benefit as they could from the land in the shortest time possible ignoring any need for the long term sustainable management of the land

Livestock Grazing

50. More than 70% of households own pigs that are not confined full time, Pigs play a valuable role in the many religious/traditional/national obligations of families. On the other hand, pigs are regarded by all including owners, as pests that destroy crops, health, aesthetic value of the country sides, thwarts tourism, and are the initial cause of serious soil erosion in townships and roadsides.

51. Traditionally villages were fenced to keep the animals (largely pigs) in and goats, cattle and horses were tethered. The law states that a landowner may kill a roaming pig but that the dead pig is left on the road for its owner to retrieve. Civil cases of landowners claiming damages caused by roaming animals are not uncommon.

Absence of a Land Use Policy

52. The fact that Tonga has no formal National Land Use Policy to address short term leasing of land allowed massive land degradation up to the present times. Furthermore, other related policies are not sufficient to address the alarming rate of degradation.

53. The insecurity in short term leases for most leasers or borrowers who are mainly farmers, creates the tendency to reap as much benefit as they could from the land in the

shortest time possible ignoring any need for the long term sustainable management of the land. The short-term leasing of farmlands for commercial agriculture has been noted to contribute negatively towards forest conservation.

54. Land leasing of all forms need adequate review. It was also noted that there needs to be greater awareness among owners of land that is leased for short term agricultural purposes that they have a right to notify the leaser or borrower of conditions on how their land is used and how much vegetation or forest is to be removed.

55. Sustainability of Tongan agriculture would benefit from the introduction and enforcement of legislation embodying provisions for protecting the rights of growers from adverse impacts of others. While some legislation currently exists, for example relating to the use of agricultural chemicals, there is not evidence of its being enforced and it is in need of updating.

Barriers to SLM

56. A number of barriers to SLM have been documented and revealed through lessons learned from previous environmental programmes carried out in Tonga. The most common is the lack of up-to-date information on the sectors described above to enable government decide on an integrated approach towards sustainable land management that takes into account a cross-sectoral approach to all environmental thematic areas highlighted in the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA) for Tonga.

57. Up-to-date information is needed mainly to fill the gaps that have been evident in Tonga's progress on implementing environmental programmes; such information ranging from land and marine resource surveys, geographic information system (GIS), mapping and digitizing of all land use patterns and areas, soil and geology information, database information on land and marine resources, scientific research studies on climate variability, and lessons and best practices adopted by local communities in addressing environmental concerns. This information, once gathered, collated and updated will need to be synthesized in such a way that priority areas can be determined and appropriate approaches are taken to implement the Programme of action for Tonga in the next 10 years or so.

58. Promoting SLM as a vehicle to address land degradation in Tonga will undoubtedly encounter a number of these barriers that will influence progress and direction for the project. However, Tonga has come a long way with its implementation of a number of enabling activities funded through the GEF to meet some of its obligations under the UNCBD, UNFCCC and recently the UNCCD. GEF's involvement would significantly assist Tonga address some of the pertinent and newly emerging land degradation issues within the context of the UNCCD and most importantly, to strengthen the linkages between land degradation as a cross-cutting issue and other key thematic areas relating to climate change, biodiversity and others.

PART II: PROJECT STRATEGY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

59. Tonga fully endorsed the LDC-SIDs Portfolio project. In this regard, Tonga is eligible to access funds under the Portfolio project to implement an MSP on Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management (SLM). This MSP will amongst other things, enable Tonga to address SLM issues in an integrated manner and support efforts to mainstream SLM into national development planning processes.

Baseline course of action

60. The baseline is a description of the programmes, initiatives and projects that are related to sustainable land use and that would take place even in the absence of this proposed, GEF-funded capacity building project for sustainable land management (SLM). After the baseline is presented, it is then analyzed to identify gaps and capacity building needs in relation to what is needed to overcome the root causes of land degradation.

61. Tonga has completed its draft UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP) with financial and technical assistance from Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The NAP outlines actions to be conducted that will minimise land degradation and combat drought. The NAP was prepared inline with the GEF funded National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) project and capacity, environmental issues and counteracting actions that were identified in the NAP were also mentioned in the NCSA action plan. The SLM will provide an opportunity implement some of the actions identified in the NAP.

62. The Government of Tonga is a party to no less than 15 environmentally-related regional and international conventions and treaties including the UNCCD and is currently implementing through the MLSNRE a number of donor-funded environmental projects. To ensure close cooperation and sharing of information between all these projects, a single National Environment Coordinating Committee (NECC) has been established to have oversight of the management of projects. Each project is however supported by a Technical Working Committee (TWC) which is largely responsible for the preparation of technical reports and advice to the NECC and to donors.

63. With financial assistance from the ADB, IUCN and SPREP, the Kingdom of Tonga, in 1993 prepared an Action Strategy for managing its environment. This followed revisions to an earlier Environment Management Plan for the Kingdom for the period 1989-1990⁹. The Action Strategy outlined key environmental issues in the Kingdom and identified strategies to address them. As such, the strategy was an important first step to ensuring sustainable economic development and environmental management for the Kingdom of Tonga.

⁹ The Environment Management Plan was prepared with funding assistance from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

64. The UNDP-funded Capacity Building for Environment Management Project (CBEMP) provided many Pacific island countries including Tonga an opportunity to consider and suggest methods for capacity building that will suit their specific needs while bearing in mind the need to integrate traditional and non-traditional knowledge where appropriate. The CBEMP represented a first ever opportunity for many island countries to critically assess and determine their human and financial needs in relation to the responsibilities assigned them by law.

65. The already concluded UNDP/GEF-funded South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) provided funding support for the establishment and management of the Ha'apai Conservation Area Project since 1995. An important aspect of the project was the building of capacity within the then Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources and the communities on Ha'apai to jointly manage the resources of the conservation area. An inventory of the forest resources on the islands of Kao and Tofua in Ha'apai was undertaken as part of this project¹⁰.

66. In 1992, the University of the South Pacific (USP), with financial assistance from UNEP, carried out a study on the implications of climate change and sea level rise for the Kingdom of Tonga. Some key recommendations from this study included, (i) the dissemination of information about appropriate sea wall design; (ii) that mangrove clearing be curbed by legislation; (iii) current legislation covering coastal sand mining be enforced, and (iv) a national strategy be developed with regard to future climate change and sea level rise.

67. From 1998 to 2001, the Government of Australia, through AusAID, funded the Tonga Environmental Management and Planning Project (TEMPP) which aimed at strengthening the government's capacity to implement sustainable development principles, procedures and standards. The specific objective of this project was to strengthen institutional capacity especially of MLSNR to carry out its environmental mandate. Capacity building activities carried out under the TEMPP included training needs assessments, on-the-job training, short term attachments to relevant agencies in Australia, and two graduate scholarships in Australia and Fiji.

68. The GEF/UNDP-funded National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) carried out a stock take of terrestrial and marine biodiversity information during the preparation of Tonga's Initial Communication Report to the CBD Secretariat. Plans for the review of the NBSAP are underway. The TWC for this project include experts from other relevant agencies of government and some NGOs.

69. The Climate Change project is also funded by the GEF/UNDP and executed by DoE in conjunction with other agencies and NGOs. An inventory of green-house gases has been completed and the First National Communications Report for Tonga has been completed and approved by Cabinet in 2005. This report was prepared with help from

¹⁰ See 'The Terrestrial Ecology and Botany of Tofua and Kao Islands in Haapai, Kingdom of Tonga' by Geoff Park and Art Whistler, July 2001.

members of the TWC. Funding from GEF/UNDP for the preparation of the Second National Communications has been initiated in the earlier half of 2007.

70. The DoE was also the executing agency for the GEF/UNDP-funded International Waters Project in Tonga. A report highlighting priority environmental concerns in Tonga has been prepared and waste management (another land use issue in Tonga) has been selected as the focus area for the Tonga IWP. Two scholarships award for studies in Universities in New Zealand and Fiji was funded by the project.

71. A one year GEF/UNEP-supported Biosafety project provided assistance for the development of a National Biosafety Framework for the Kingdom of Tonga. National inventories have been completed and stakeholder consultations were carried out. A capacity needs assessment has been conducted while a biosafety management framework and biosafety legislation are currently being developed.

72. Tonga's report on the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (Report to WSSD) provides a detailed and comprehensive account of progress made by the government of Tonga in implementing the recommendations and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Tonga's First National Status Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) also provides a useful assessment of the current status of implementation of the Goals, Targets and Indicators of the MDG. It identifies what the issues/ problems are, analyze the actions needed to be taken, and outlines government's policy response to these. In essence, the report examines how achievable are the Goals, Targets and Indicators within the context of Tonga's current social, economic and financial climate.

Capacity and Mainstreaming Needs for SLM

73. Although there have been several environmental capacity building projects implemented in Tonga over the past decade, none has specifically targeted sustainable land management. The CBEMP provided general assistance for environmental management and planning mainly at the government level. The POPs will be concluded at the end of 2007 and whatever capacity building assistance it will provide have only focused specifically on the conduct of POPs inventory and management. The NBSAP helped build capacity in terrestrial and marine resource surveys to help future management of Tonga's natural resources. The Biosafety project on the other hand carried out a capacity needs assessment for biosafety management and the drafting of a biosafety management framework and legislation have been identified as high priorities.

74. The NCSA is currently undertaking self-assessments to determine Tonga's capacity to meet its obligations under the UNCBD, UNFCCC and the UNCCD. The stocktake and thematic assessments have been completed. The NCSA was able to identify through nationwide consultation existing capacity status for implementation of the UNCCD and future needs and actions both at the systematic, institutional and individual level. The SLM will address some capacity and environmental issues

identified by the NCSA. These actions was also linked with the NAP to ensure mainstreaming of actions when implemented.

75. As indicated earlier, the main land uses in Tonga are agriculture and forestry. Both are considered of vital importance to Tonga's economy and are therefore well integrated into the SDPs and other economic strategies and budgetary processes of government. The main challenge for Tonga therefore is to develop the necessary capacity and provide adequate resources especially at the local level, to make these land uses sustainable and profitable in the long term. There is little understanding of mainstreaming tools such as: Sustainable Environment Assessments; economic valuation and analytical tools such as cost-benefit analysis, environmental accounting and market based instruments (such as reforms of taxes, subsidies, etc). The project will build national capacity for the utilization of such tools.

76. More than 60% of households in Tonga are engaged in agricultural activities either for home consumption or for sale. Although less than 3% of the households are involved in commercial agriculture for exports, they contribute more than 80% of Tonga's total agricultural earnings during the period 2000-2002¹¹. This much needed contribution is however coming at an alarming environmental cost for the Kingdom with mechanical tillage now the much preferred method for clearing and cultivating land. Pesticides are extensively used on commercial plots and are likely to continue in order for Tonga's export crops to continue to have access to overseas markets.

77. How to make the agriculture and forestry sectors more sustainable in the long term without seriously affecting the current levels of export earnings is a challenge the government of Tonga will now have to face. During the stakeholders' workshop and consultations held as part of the process for the development of this proposal, a number of activities were suggested to be undertaken in order to achieve this goal. They include the following:

- Review of the land tenure and land leasing systems in Tonga;
- Preparation of a land use plan or land use policy for the Kingdom;
- Development of a Land Information System for Tonga;
- Preparation of appropriate legislations for the forestry sector and meteorological services;
- Preparation of a resource atlas for the Kingdom;
- Implement demonstration projects on farmers plots for minimizing land degradation
- Build capacity to deal with deforestation issues; and
- Increase inter-agency collaboration to support land degradation mitigation.

¹¹ Squash pumpkin alone accounted for an average 64% of all agriculture export earnings during 2000-2002. Agriculture made up 62.8% of Tonga's total export value during the same period. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Corporate Plan 2004-2007.

78. The above recommendations from the stakeholders' consultations have been taken into account in the development of this proposal for sustainable land management in Tonga. In addition, this MSP project will endeavor to link strongly with Tonga's centralized government agency, the Ministry of Finance, in order to mainstream SLM into national planning and strategy framework. At the completion of the MSP, SLM will be incorporated into Tonga's leading planning document, Tonga's Sustainable Development Plan, which will clearly outline strategic goals and policies for integrating SLM into key sectors such as education, agriculture, health, fisheries, tourism development, energy, and community development initiatives. To achieve this, the MSP will pilot demonstration projects to showcase the benefits of SLM practice in communities. The intention is for communities to witness and experience these benefits which will hopefully allow them to drive advocacy campaigns for integrating SLM at the national level.

79. Whilst NAP priorities have been discussed in stakeholder workshops, some of these priorities lack of data at the country level. There is also a poor recognition of the role of the NAP, and how the proposed actions would lead to more concrete initiatives and implementation. The aim of this MSP is to assist in the elaboration of the NAP through promotion of SLM priorities across different levels of stakeholders. The MSP outcomes and outputs will also be used to generate among other things the medium term investment strategy for implementation of sustainable land management practices (such as sustainable agriculture and soil conservation techniques).

Project rationale and objectives

80. The long term goal for the Tonga Sustainable Land Management project is 'to enhance ecosystem stability, functions and services while promoting sustainable livelihoods through hardship¹² alleviation and sustainable land management in the Kingdom of Tonga'.

81. The objective of the project is 'to strengthen national capacity for sustainable land management and mainstream SLM principles into national development strategies and policies'.

82. The project will assist strengthening of policy, regulatory and economic incentive frameworks in Tonga to facilitate wider application of sustainable land management practices across sectors. Mainstreaming tools will be introduced to assist project design, implementation, outputs and impacts and ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for SLM. The project outcomes are stated as follows:

- Awareness and Support of the UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP);
- Capacities developed for SLM;

¹² Instead of poverty, the Tonga MDG National Status Report had adopted the term 'hardship' as more appropriate in describing the difficulty many families are experiencing in meeting their basic needs, which includes food and non-food needs.

- Mainstreaming of SLM;
- Development and implementation of Medium Term Investment Plan
- Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned

83. GEF funding requested through this proposal will help lift barriers to sustainable land management and thus contribute to enhancing ecosystem health, stability, functions and services which will in turn, result in a productive and sustainable environment for the Kingdom of Tonga. The SLM project will therefore establish close linkages with the NBSAP, the NCSA and any other relevant project in the Kingdom.

84. The Tonga SLM will, in addition to capacity building and mainstreaming, produce a Medium-Term National Investment Plan (MTNIP) for SLM together with a Coordinated Resource Mobilization Plan (CRMP) for the implementation of the NAP and other SLM-related frameworks. The CRMP will identify projects for investment by specific interested donors. The design for the Tonga SLM follows closely that of the LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project and it is expected that close linkages will be established between the Tonga project and the wider framework.

85. An increasing amount of information is being collected on the ecological and socio-economic value of goods and services provided by natural and semi-natural ecosystems in Tonga. A wide range of ecosystem functions and their associated goods and services have been analysed in previous GEF projects such as the International Waters Project (IWP) and First National Communication to UNFCCC (direct and indirect benefits of clean air). However, much of this information appears scattered throughout a disciplinary academic literature and unpublished government agency (project) reports. In addition, data on ecosystem goods and services often appears at incompatible scales of analysis and is classified differently by different authors. It is also noted that the extent of degraded lands in Tonga is unknown. It is however observed that land cover and land based ecosystems have had extreme levels of modification with limited efforts on conservation and rehabilitation.

86. In order to make comparative ecological economic analysis possible, a standardized framework for the comprehensive assessment of ecosystem functions, goods and services is required (Groot et al., 2002). To respond to this challenge, the MSP will develop a conceptual framework and typology for describing, classifying and valuing bio-physical ecosystem functions, goods and services in a clear manner, which is consistent with the Millennium Ecosystem Approach (Outcome 2, output 2.4 - 2.6). The MSP will also enable the Government of Tonga to quantify and map the extent of soil degradation, as well as conduct technical assessment in relation to soil types, fertility and other bio-physical characteristics of degraded lands in Tonga. Based on such information, stakeholders will then be trained in SLM concepts and techniques

87. Many Pacific islands face the same problems as those confronting the SLM initiative in the Kingdom of Tonga today. However, there is no regional activity that

could help bring the experiences and lessons from these countries together. In this regard, the SLM project for Tonga will commence on its own until such a time when more PICs become involved in the LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project and until a regional organization is interested and willing to provide a coordinating role for a regional approach to SLM. Through the national implementation of this project, Tonga may discover barriers common to the region and would then be able to act in an advisory role to other PICs and SIDS, thereby enhancing South-South cooperation.

88. The Tonga SLM project will address particularly the following outcomes under the Immediate Objective 1 of this umbrella project:

- Cost-effective and delivery of GEF resources to target countries;
- Individual and institutional capacities for SLM will be enhanced; and
- Systemic capacity building and mainstreaming of SLM principles

89. The principle direct global benefit from this project is the enhanced capacity for ecologically sustainable land management in Tonga which is expected to have national trans-boundary effects whereas indirect benefits include the following:

- Coordination of SLM at the national, regional and international levels that all have one common goal of a clean and healthy global society through individual SLM actions at in-country local levels;
- Cross-sectoral integration of SLM into plans, policies, strategies, programmes, funding mechanisms and multi-sectoral stakeholder groups;
- Maintenance of the structure and functions of soil and ecological systems;
- Enhanced biodiversity conservation due to reduced deforestation and reduced sedimentation in lagoons and improved health of coral reefs;
- Enhanced carbon sequestration through improved capacities for sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture and reduced deforestation.

90. The principal national benefits are the enhanced capacities for economic and financial sustainability of the agricultural and forest use systems in the country. The indirect national benefits include the following:

- Enhanced crop production through improved soil fertility;
- Greater empowerment and self-sufficiency of resource users and stakeholders to participate directly in the conception, monitoring and adaptive management of lands and resources;
- Improved technical human capacity and early warning systems for drought;
- Reduced risks of human disasters
- Identification of appropriate alternative species for reforestation purposes.

Future scenario without GEF Funding

91. Sustainable land management through the ecosystem approach by the GEF OP 15 will undeniably address most, if not all of the land management threats in Tonga.

Although there are baseline activities that addresses sustainable land management, without GEF's support and commitment to mobilize financial resources to complement the implementation of the baseline activities, Tonga would not be in a position to fully address the threats of unsustainable land management and practices and mainstream SLM policies into the national development framework.

Expected project outcomes and outputs

92. The following outcomes and outputs are anticipated for the Tonga SLM project. A detailed presentation of Outcomes, Outputs, Activities and budget is in the Logical Framework Matrix in Annex 1.

Outcome 1: NAP produced and accepted by Govt. and overall awareness and support generated

- Output 1.1 NAP produced,*
- Output 1.2 NAP approved by cabinet,*
- Output 1.3 NAP promoted at all levels.*

The total cost of this Outcome is USD 13,000 which was fully funded through co-financing from SPREP, \$8,000 and GoT of \$5,000.

Outcome 2: Capacities developed for Sustainable Land Management

- Output 2.1. Enhanced capacities for the effective administration and sustainable management of land and land-based resources.*
- Output 2.2. Strengthened capacity for sustainable agriculture.*
- Output 2.3. Enhanced capacity for the rehabilitation of degraded coastal areas.*
- Output 2.4. Assessment of appropriate uses of land.*
- Output 2.5. Enhanced SLM through improvements of individuals, systemic and institutional capacities including relevant national plans and policies.*
- Output 2.6. Monitoring and evaluation systems on the effectiveness of SLM developed.*

The total cost of Outcome 2 amounts to \$626,693.36. Co-financing sourced from the GoT totals \$179,000 GEF funds allocated for this Output comes to a total of \$281,700. Co-financing from SPC and SPREP totals \$165,993.36 for this output.

Outcome 3: SLM Mainstreamed

- Output 3.1. Gender Needs Assessment for SLM*
- Output 3.2. SLM principles and NAP priorities integrated with key national development plans*
- Output 3.3. Knowledge on SLM shared and disseminated*

The total cost of Outcome 3 is \$160,700. GEF will fund \$105,700 and GoT co-financing at the value of \$55,000.

Outcome 4: Medium Term Investment Plan

Output 4.1. A Medium Term Investment Plan with associated resource mobilization plan that incorporates SLM is produced. Total cost of this output is \$32,200. GEF will fund \$27,200 with GoT co-financing \$5,000.

Outcome 5: Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned

*Output 5.1 Adaptive Management Established
Output 5.2 Effective M&E systems established and operational*

The total cost of Outcome 5 is \$27,200. GEF will fund \$ 13,200 with co-financing by GoT of \$6,000. Co-financing from SPREP and SPC totals to \$8,000.

The Logical Framework Analysis for the Tonga SLM project is in Table 3.

Key assumptions

93. The key assumptions underpinning project design include the following:

- The various institutions will be willing to collaborate on integrated approaches to sustainable land management and on sharing access to land information systems;
- Government authorities will remain committed to reviewing and mainstreaming SLM issues into government legislation, policy and national plans;
- Government and key institutions involved in the project will commit the resources needed to sustain the project beyond GEF funding;
- The monitoring and evaluation systems will be developed with project assistance;
- Government commits the resources necessary for digitizing the land survey/ownership records, as well as making the land information systems the most useful for SLM monitoring and planning;
- That all stakeholders remain committed to SLM principles and practices.

94. Climatic conditions such as severe rainfall deficits, droughts and rising sea levels contribute to soil infertility and degradation in drought prone areas. These areas will be targeted by the project which will amongst other things also address sustainable livelihood issues and food security during extreme drought. These areas will provide pilot studies for demonstrating the impacts and benefits of sustainable land management practices among communities that are vulnerable to climate change and anthropogenic hazards.

Global and Local Benefits

95. By applying sustainable land management practices, Tonga can address the threats of land degradation that has for years, undermined the structures and functions of ecological systems that are critical to the economic development of Tonga and its people.

96. However there are critical barriers to realizing SLM in the Kingdom. They include limited capacity at all levels; agriculture and rural development are sectorally based; limited land use planning undertaken so far have not been accompanied by institutional reforms and decentralization to allow effective implementation and enforcement; and SLM budgetary allocations and policies are often weak and inadequate.

97. The SLM project will help lift some of these barriers thus paving the way for the Kingdom of Tonga to achieve greater economic success, food security and environmental sustainability. Capacity building activities of the project will help develop the knowledge and understanding of local farmers about SLM practices and tools and their application. It will also help increase the understanding and appreciation of government agencies thereby facilitating the effective mainstreaming of SLM into national strategies and plans.

98. There are important capacity and thematic similarities between Tonga and many other SIDS throughout the world. There is therefore an opportunity for Tonga to draw on the experience of other SIDS and vice versa in dealing with land degradation which has both poverty and global environmental dimensions. Although small in comparison to other nations, the Tonga SLM project will be an invaluable contribution to global efforts to address the imminent threat of land degradation and desertification.

99. The SLM project in this context shall be seen as fostering cooperation at the local, sectoral, national as well global scales. They all aspire to optimize beneficial gains through collaborative coordination and effective systems of land use monitoring and evaluation. Its utmost significance lies in reversing land management situations at the local level that are manifested through the loss of ecosystem integrity often directly linked to changes in how the land is managed at the community or higher level.

Linkages to the Implementing Agency's activities and programmes

100. The SLM is particularly relevant to other UNDP/GEF projects in Tonga especially the NBSAP, the POPs and NCSA. These projects are all managed by the DoE under the guidance of the NECC thereby providing an excellent opportunity for the establishment of effective linkages and synergies between them. Many agencies and organizations participating in the NBSAP, POPs, IWP and NCSA have also been identified as SLM stakeholders. These agencies and organisations will ensure that SLM activities are fully integrated with those of other IA projects they are involved with.

101. Regional activities of UNDP will also be able to assist the Tonga SLM project and provide the necessary gateway for the sharing of experiences and information between the Tonga project and those of other PICs. This includes the Sustainable

Integrated Water and Waste Water Resource Management (SIWRM) Programme, which currently under formulation in partnership with SOPAC. The SLM will link well with the soil, water and land use monitoring programme as a demonstration activity to prevent contamination of ground water resources. The programme will also complement the activities under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change programme (PACC). One of the key objectives of the PACC is to Integrate sustainable water resources management in villages/communities and the SLM will assist the PACC by improving the understanding and rehabilitation needs on arable land. Both the SIWRM and PACC are under development as regional programmes (with substantial national components) in the Pacific.

102. Under the framework of the UNDP's Country Program of 2005-2007, support for Tonga in the environment sector focuses mainly on the provision of upstream policy advice, technical backstopping, partnership building and resource mobilization for the formulation and implementation of a number of strategic demonstration initiatives. The UNDP program in Tonga emphasizes meeting the MDG targets and the protection of the environment. In addition the UNDP is actively supporting the UN process for the 10-year review of the Barbados Plan of Action regarding sustainable human development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Tonga participated in the Barbados + 10 SIDS Conference in January 2005 and will ensure that coordination and synergies are fostered with other initiatives which are funded by the GEF Implementing Agencies and other key donors such as Australia and New Zealand.

103. With GEF support, Tonga will be able to strengthen its institutional and human resource capacity to improve sustainable land management planning and implementation. It will also enable Tonga to strengthen policy, regulatory and economic incentive frameworks to facilitate wider adoption of sustainable land management practices across sectors. Therefore, the SLM project for Tonga will most certainly contribute to achieving UNDP-CP goals and objectives at the country level which are inspired by environmental threats. The holistic approach of the project will foster greater appreciation, ownership and leadership which are fundamental to project success particularly at the community level.

Synergies and Linkages to other relevant GEF projects

104. The government of Tonga has implemented a number of enabling activities funded by the GEF through UNDP to meet some of its obligations under the CBD, UNFCCC and more recently the UNCCD. GEF's involvement would significantly assist Tonga's capacity to address some of the pertinent and newly emerging issues of land degradation within the context of the UNCCD and most importantly to strengthen the linkages between land degradation as a cross-cutting issue and other key thematic issues relating to climate change, biodiversity and others. Tonga's membership in a number of other MEAs, in particular the CBD and UNFCCC have been very useful for Tonga to access financial and technical support for the implementation of various activities aimed at achieving sustainable development and at the same time enhancing the awareness of people and communities of the concerns and issues and elicit appropriate responses.

105. A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was completed in 2006 and now serves as the guiding blueprint for the protection and conservation of Tonga's biological diversity. The NBSAP was the culmination of extensive research and multi-sectoral consultative activities. It outlines the state of Tonga's biological resources and identifies actions necessary to curb their degradation and achieve sustainable development. The SLM project ties in very closely with the NBSAP and both will be implemented in a complementary way.

106. The SLM will also complement the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) project funded by the GEF through UNDP. The NCSA provides a platform for synergies of the CBD, UNFCCC and the UNCCD. It focuses on the assessment of capacity needs and gaps to implement Tonga's obligations under the conventions and will therefore provide important baseline information that is critical to SLM implementation.

107. Synergies shall also be fostered with the UNDP/GEF Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollution (POPs): National Implementation Plan (NIP) and the International Waters Project (IWP). Both are particularly important on lands where the use of pesticides and dumping of municipal solid waste have further exacerbated soil degradation. In connection with this, attention shall be paid to agriculture lands now used for intensive agricultural purposes.

Stakeholder Involvement Plan

108. The Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment will be the key implementing stakeholder. This is in recognition of the important role this Ministry has in terms of allocating and leasing lands. All Divisions of the Ministry (Lands, Survey, Environment & Conservation) have mandates and responsibilities that are directly or indirectly relevant to sustainable land management. The MLSNRE through the Environment Division will be the lead executing agency for the project and will house the project staff.

109. Other important agencies of government expected to participate in the project include the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Central Planning, Tonga Visitors Bureau and Foreign Affairs. The Tonga Development Trust, the Pan-Pacific, the Langa Fonua 'a Fafine Tonga and the Aloua Ma'a Tonga are some of the NGOs expected to participate in the project. Numerous subsistence and commercial farmers will also be invited to participate however the final list of stakeholders will be decided by the NECC prior to the commencement of project activities. Detailed discussion of the functions of these stakeholders is in Part 1 under the sub-heading "Local Institutions".

110. All the above groups will benefit from the project. Most are already participating in the NECC and will therefore be closely involved in making decisions for the project. Others will be invited to participate in specific activities of the project including the SLM Technical Working Committee. Through the NCSA, the specific capacity needs for SLM of these stakeholders will be assessed for implementation once this project proposal is approved and funded.

111. The NECC was established in 2001 by decision of Cabinet to have responsibility for monitoring Tonga's environment. Participation at this committee is at senior staff level and this has and will continue to help sustain stakeholder participation in the NECC and involvement in environmental issues in general. Although the NECC is dominated by male participation, this is not considered an issue for the project at this stage.

112. No adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the project. Instead, stakeholders will benefit from their increased capacity to manage their land on a more sustainable basis. The land resource of Tonga will also benefit from properly planned and managed agricultural practices which in turn will result in a sustainable agriculture industry for the Kingdom. This will then contribute enormously to the achievement of 'a high standard of living and quality of life for both men and women' of Tonga as presented in the Vision Statement of His Majesty's Government National Strategic Development Plan 7¹³.

Risks

113. As a multi-stakeholder project, there are a number of potential risks to the successful implementation of the Tonga SLM project. The main ones are described below, along with measures designed to reduce them.

1. Ability of government to secure adequate co-financing

114. As shown in page 2 of this document, the Government of Tonga has been able to raise the necessary co-financing in support of the project. It is expected that further in-kind and cash contributions will be secured from other sources as the project progresses.

2. Inadequate support by other key stakeholders

115. The active support and participation of all key stakeholders, especially the subsistence farmers, the commercial farmers, NGOs, the private sector and relevant government agencies is crucial to the success of the SLM project. It is possible that, because of other commitments and limited in-house capacity, some of these stakeholders may not be able to commit the amount of time and resources required to the project.

116. Apart from the MLSNRE that will be mainly responsible for the implementation of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will also be a key players. An assessment of other stakeholders' interest in the project will be carried out through the NECC and other means early during project implementation. Those who confirm their interest will receive support to further increase their capacity and commitment to the project. As many stakeholders are already members of the NECC, it is expected that this risk will not present a major problem for the project.

¹³ Quoted from Opening Statement by Hon. James Cecil Cocker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment. In Department of Environment, Corporate Plan 2004-2007.

3. Insufficient research and technical information on which to base plans and management actions.

117. Specific up-to-date scientific knowledge and information on land use patterns, soil structure, nutrients, land capability, etc are required in order to plan for the sustainable management of Tonga's land resources. Although this knowledge is steadily building, there are gaps in existing knowledge and understanding of the potential of the land to continue to withstand the abuse and overuse experienced thus far.

118. The SLM, through supported research and studies, will facilitate the collection and analysis of basic and technical information relating to Tonga's land resources and assist the establishment of a land information system for the Kingdom. This will provide government and the private sector with an important tool for the sustainable management of Tonga's land resources.

4. The SLM may not be sustainable after initial donor funding

119. Whilst recent initiatives point to a strong commitment to the sustainable management of Tonga's natural resources (including land), there is a risk that, because of other pressing demands on limited national resources, the government may not be able to sustain the same level of support to SLM when donor funding runs out. Such a situation would pose a considerable risk to the project.

120. It is intended that the SLM will develop a Coordinated Resource Mobilization Plan to not only support the SLM investment plan during the initial term of the project, but also to continue support for SLM activities beyond donor funding. During the course of project implementation, the NECC will continue to assess and monitor the needs of the project and to seek alternative sources of support if needed.

FINANCING PLAN OF THE SLM PROJECT

Streamlined Incremental Costs Assessment

121. Whilst donor funding have largely been targeted for building local capacity to implement specific projects, government had focused its support on providing the necessary environment within which these projects could be implemented more effectively. For example, the Environment Bill (2002) provides the legislative framework for the establishment of the DoE and for the management of the environment. The NECC was established to monitor all environmental projects in the country and the DoE was given the mandate to coordinate the implementation of various regional and international projects and programmes relating to the environment. Without these instruments, it would have been extremely difficult for the DoE to execute donor-funded projects it now has under its jurisdiction.

122. GEF finances will be used to build on baseline activities as described in the foregoing sections to achieve the objectives of the SLM project. This will be done by building the capacity of SLM stakeholders and by supporting the development and introduction of mainstreaming tools for the effective mainstreaming of SLM principles into government strategies and budgetary processes.

123. Other donors will be asked to contribute to the preparation of the Coordinated Resource Mobilization Plan and support for activities on the Medium Term Investment Plan. Government will likewise be invited to support capacity building, mainstreaming and where possible, invest in activities of the Medium Term Investment Plan.

124. The Global Environmental Objective of the project is to build the capacity for sustainable use of the country's land and resources. The project will secure GEF incremental funding to complement other financing sourced from the government of Tonga, the regional organisations and UNDP to undertake a programme for mainstreaming SLM into national plans and strategies, for human resource development in key sectors, for developing knowledge management capacities for integrated SLM and for completing the NAP.

125. The project will develop a comprehensive range of interventions designed to build capacity for developing sustainable land management systems that address the root causes of land degradation and that overcome barriers to SLM. The project will address identified problems of unsustainable agriculture, deforestation and land degradation.

Project Budget

126. Table 1(a) provides an estimate of average costs for each of the Outcomes of the SLM project and the source of co-financing. A full, detailed activity budget for the project is presented in Table 7. A breakdown of co-financing by source is provided in Table 1(b).

Table 1(a): Estimate of Average Costs for Generic Activities of the SLM Project (USD)

Component	GEF	Co-finance		Total
		Government	Other	
Production and Awareness of NAP	0	5,000	8,000	13,000
Capacity development for SLM	281,700	179,000	165,993.36	626,693.36
Mainstreaming	105,700	55,000	0	160,700
Medium Term Investment Plan & Resource Mobilization	27,200	5,000	0	32,200
Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned	13,200	6,000	8,000	27,200
Project Management Unit	47,200	85,000	20,500	152,700
TOTAL MSP	475,000	335,000	202,493.36	1,012,493.36

Table 1(b): Breakdown of estimated co-financing by sources

Co-financing sources				
Source	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status
Government of Tonga (through contributions by Department of Environment and MLSNRE, Agriculture, Forestry, and land degradation projects implemented inline with SLM)	Government	In-kind	335,000	Secured and attached with proposal
SPC	Other	In-kind	124,493.36	Secured and attached with proposal
SPREP	Other	In-kind and cash	78,000	Secured and attached with proposal
Total co-financing			537,493.36	

Co-Financing Letters of Commitment

127. The following letters of commitment are attached for further reference:

- a) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC): Source: Various technical assistance program to Tonga. Value \$124,493.36.
- b) Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Source: Funds for preparation of State of Environment Report that will cover status of land degradation and impact of drought and desertification on land degradation. Value \$ USD 40,000. Funds for preparation of NAP. Value USD 8,000. Capacity building and various other technical assistance programmes. Value USD \$30,000.
- c) Government of Tonga; Source: Department of Environment that will be implementing the project on behalf of the GoT, Environment staff time in coordinating implementation of project, office space and office equipment at Department of Environment, Survey and Monitoring budget allocation of Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries technical support to project implementation, Department of Forestry technical support to project implementation, Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources GIS project. Value: USD \$335,000

Table 2: Project Administration Budget¹⁴

Component	Estimated consultant weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Local consultants/Contractual Services	150	40,000	40,000	80,000
International Consultants	-	0	0	0
Office equipment and Supplies, Survey and GIS equipment, Communications, Printing & Production		4,000	20,000	24,000
Trainings and Demonstration Pilots		0	0	0
Travel		3,200	45,500	48,700
Total		47,200	105,500	152,500

¹⁴ Refer to Table 7 and associated budget notes

Table 3: Consultants Working for Technical Assistance Components¹⁵

Component	Estimated consultant weeks	GEF(\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
Local consultants/Contractual Services	240	249,100	211,000	460,100
International consultants	35	38,500	55,500	94,000
Total		287,600	266,500	554,100

PART III: MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Institutional framework and project implementation arrangements

General Framework

128. The GEF implementing agency for the project will be the UNDP Country Office based in Suva, Fiji. The project will be executed under UNDP National Execution (NEX) modality and procedures and in accordance with the appropriate GEF guidelines for SLM Medium Sized Projects.

Project Executive Group

129. The NECC will be the Project Executive Group (PEG) for this project. The NECC will be responsible for making executive management decisions for the project when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including approval of project revisions. Members of the NECC consists of the executive role which is held by the Ministry of Finance , Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry, and a number of other government agencies and NGOs.

Ministry of Finance

130. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) is the designated government agency that assumes primary accountability to UNDP and Government in ensuring that outcomes, outputs and activities are delivered in line with signed project document and following accepted rules and regulations. It endorses the Government of Tonga’s co-finance for the project and its execution modality, ensures coherence with national policy and objectives through participation in the appraisal process, and participates in monitoring and evaluation. MoF is also responsible for the coordination of all reporting requirements (Financial reports, quarterly reports, and audit reports) and their subsequent submission to UNDP.

¹⁵ Refer to Table 7 and associated budget notes

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

131. MFA is the UNCCD National Focal Point for Tonga. Its role is to endorse all UNCCD related projects and acts as the clearing house for all international Conventions that Tonga is a party to, which include UNCCD.

Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources and Environment

132. MLSNRE is the GEF Operational Focal Point for Tonga and the national implementing agency for the project. Its role is to endorse all GEF funded projects and ensure that GEF requirements are duly met and adhered to. It will also coordinate the implementation of the project and ensures the timely delivery of all outcomes and outputs. The Department of Environment within the MLSNRE will house the project and will be responsible for providing administrative and technical support as part of the Ministry's contribution to the project.

Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry

133. The Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry will assist the MLSNRE implement the project. Their role is to provide technical advice and support for the effective implementation and delivery of project outcomes and outputs.

Project Implementation Arrangements

134. The SLM will be implemented by the MLSNRE with guidance and advice from the NECC and from the UNDP Suva Office as the GEF Implementing Agency. MLSNR will establish a SLM Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising a Project Manager (PM) provided by MLSNRE, a Project Coordinator (PC), a Project Officer (PO) and an Administrative Assistant (AA). The PMU will be answerable to the NECC through the CEO of the MLSNRE regarding the implementation of the project.

135. The NECC is chaired by the Minister of Environment while the CEO MLSNRE serves as the secretary to the Committee. The NECC comprises representatives from government agencies with environmental responsibilities and some key NGOs in Tonga. The NECC will ensure that there is close coordination between the SLM and other capacity building projects in Tonga. The SLM Technical Working Committee (TWC) will serve as the technical arm of the NECC providing technical and management advice to the NECC and to the MLSNRE for the effective implementation of the project.

136. The SLM Technical Working Committee (TWC) will provide technical support to the project (refer TOR in Annex). It will comprise individuals from MLSNRE and other Ministries¹⁶ and civil society who are selected on the basis of their competence in their

¹⁶ Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests, Tonga Visitors Authority, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Works, and others.

respective fields. This Committee shall meet at least once a month to ensure progress and provide policy and technical advice for the implementation of the project.

137. The MLSNRE does not have adequate capacity to manage the project on its own. It will therefore recruit from outside the agency a Project Coordinator, Project Officer and Administrative Assistant to have responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the project. The PC will however be working under the guidance of the Project Manager who will be the Deputy CEO-Environment. Other staff of MLSNRE will also be available to assist the PC as required.

138. As the Implementing Agency, the MLSNRE will have financial (including co-financing) and management responsibility for the SLM. MLSNRE will recruit an SLM Project Coordinator (PC) who will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the project. The PM will chair the SLM TWC and as such will also be able attend specific meetings of the NECC dealing with the SLM project.

139. The PC, through the PM will report on a quarterly basis to the NECC regarding progress in the implementation of the project. Copies of these reports will be made available to all stakeholders including UNDP and other donors to the project. The PC will establish linkages between the Tonga SLM and those of other PICs. S/he will also ensure that there are linkages with any regional SLM initiatives by SPREP or another regional institution.

140. In addition to the NEX Guidelines , the project is required to comply with the following agreed policies:

- Travel: All travel must be in line with the project objectives and are duly prescribed in the project document and within the approved allocated budget.
- Support costs: GEF Guidelines only allows for up to 25% of the total budget for administrative support.
- Committee Meeting Costs: All meeting costs should not exceed 3 per cent of the total administrative costs.
- In line with UN policy, no sitting allowances are allowed for all public servants except for representatives from NGOs and civil society.

141. UNDP may provide direct services to the project when the need arises. Given that the project is based on the NEX modality, any requests for direct payments, procurement of goods and services to be conducted by UNDP on behalf of the project, the costs associated with these direct services will be charged to the project according to the UNDP Universal Price List.

142. In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, the GEF logo shall appear alongside the UNDP logo on all relevant project publications, including amongst others, project hardware purchased with GEF funding. Any citation on publications regarding project funded by GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to GEF.

143. The project implementation plan is presented in Appendix 1 while the SLM Organizational Chart is in Appendix 2.

PART IV: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

144. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with UNDP and GEF procedures. The Logical Framework Matrix in Table 3 provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with corresponding means of verification. These will form the basis on which the project's monitoring and evaluation system will be built.

145. In line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Tool Kit provided by the Global Support Unit (GSU), the PMU will endeavor to complete and supply UNDP CO with a *National MSP Annual Project Review Form* by 1st July annually for review and subsequent transmission to the GSU by the 15th July. The APR Form will outline project identifiers, monitoring impacts and performance, including monitoring project processes, adaptive management and lessons learned.

146. The Monitoring Impact and Performance section of the APR Form will report whether the impacts and performance of the project so far have resulted in an increased or strengthened capacity for SLM. The project impact will report on the progress in achieving the national MSP project objective while the project performance measures the progress towards achieving the four (4) outcomes that are common to the MSP project. In addition, this section will elaborate on how the project activities are meeting GEF requirements and principles.

147. Lastly, the Monitoring Project Processes, Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned section will provide data and process related to how key decisions are made including reporting on challenges and factors limiting the success of the project. This will provide the basis for identifying lessons learned.

148. The following sections outline the principal components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Tonga SLM.

Monitoring and Reporting

Project Inception Phase

149. With help from UNDP-CO (and possibly SPREP), MLSNRE will organize a Project Inception Workshop for the NECC, all relevant stakeholders co-financing partners, NGOs and other ongoing capacity building projects in Tonga.

150. The fundamental objective of this inception workshop is to assist all the stakeholders (including the PMU) to understand the project and take ownership of its goals, objectives and process. This will also provide an opportunity to review the project's logframe and finalize the project's first Annual Work Plan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project. In addition, the workshop will provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions and responsibilities within the project's decision making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Monitoring responsibilities and events

151. A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the PMU, in consultation with MLSNRE and other project partners and incorporated into the Project Inception Report. Such schedule to include: (i) tentative time frames for Multi-partite Reviews, NECC reviews and (ii) project related Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

152. Day to day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the PM and PC based on the project's AWP and its indicators. The PM will inform the UNDP-CO of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion.

153. Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by UNDP-CO through regular meetings with the MLSNRE. This will allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities.

154. Annual monitoring will occur through the Multipartite Review (MPR). This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of the project. The first MPR will be held within the first twelve months of the start of full implementation. The MLSNRE will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it through MoF to the UNDP-CO and other project partners at least two weeks prior to the MPR for review and comments. The MLSNRE will present the APR to the MPR, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the MPR participants.

Terminal Multipartite Review (TMPR)

155. The TMPR will be held in the last month of project operations. The MLSNRE is responsible for the preparation of the Terminal Report for submitting to the UNDP-CO and other project partners; the draft of such report to be completed at least two months in advance to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussion at the TMPR.

156. The TMPR will consider the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader national environmental and developmental objectives. The

TMPR decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as the vehicle through which lessons learnt can be captured to feed into other projects under implementation or formulation.

Project Monitoring Reporting

157. The PMU will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process.

a) Inception Report (IR)

158. A Project Inception Report will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop. It will include a detailed First Year Annual Work Plan divided into quarterly time frames outlining the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. The report will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months time frame. The IR should be submitted within three months after project start-up.

159. When completed, the PMU will provide UNDP-CO a copy of the IR for their review. Following UNDP-CO review, the PMU will revise (if required) the report for circulation to project partners for their own review and comments.

b) Annual Project Report (APR)

160. The APR is a UNDP requirement. It is a self-assessment report by the PMU to the UNDP-CO and provides input to the CO's reporting process to the ROAR as well as forming a key part in the MPR. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the MPR to reflect progress achieved in meeting the project's AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes and outputs.

c) Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)

161. Short reports outlining main updates in project progress will be provided on a quarterly basis by the PMU to the UNDP-CO.

d) Project Terminal Report (PTR)

162. The PMU will prepare the PTR during the last three months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements and outputs of the project, the lessons learnt, objectives met, or not achieved, structures and systems implemented, etc. The PTR will be the definitive statement of the project's activities during its life time. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's activities post-GEF funding.

2. Independent Evaluation

160. The project will be subjected to two independent evaluations as follows:

(i) Mid-term Evaluation (MTE)

163. An independent mid-term evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the second year of implementation. The MTE will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify remedial actions if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the MTE will be decided by UNDP-CO after consultation with all project partners.

(ii) Final Evaluation

164. An independent final evaluation will take place three months prior to the TMPR and will focus on the same issues as the MTE. The final evaluation will however also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The final evaluation will also provide recommendations for follow up activities. The terms of reference for this evaluation will again be the responsibility of the UNDP-CO. Table 2 provides an Indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan and Corresponding Budget for the Tonga SLM project.

Audit

165. The project will be audited on a yearly basis for financial year January to December as per Government of Tonga and NEX procedures and GEF requirements. The MLSNRE on behalf of the government of Tonga will provide the UNDP Resident Representative with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNDP (including GEF) funds according to the established procedures set out in the UNDP Programming and Finance Manuals. The audit will be conducted by a legally recognized auditor of the government, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the government.

3. Learning and Knowledge Sharing

166. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects in Tonga or other PICs. Identifying and analyzing lessons learned is an ongoing process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contribution should occur no less than once every 12 months. UNDP/GEF shall provide a format and assist the PMU in

categorizing, documenting and reporting on lessons learned and to this end, a percentage of project resources will need to be allocated for these activities.

Table 4: Indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan and Budget for the Tonga SLM Project.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Party	Budget (US\$)	Timeframe
Inception workshop	PMU & UNDP-CO	2,000	Within 3 months of project commencement
Inception report	PMU	0	Within 3 months after project start-up
APR	DoE, UNDP-CO, Project team	0	Annually
MPR & MPR report	DoE, UNDP-CO, Project team	2,000 (average)	Annually, upon receipt of APR
NECC meetings	DoE, NECC	200 (average)	Quarterly
Periodic status reports	DoE, Project team	0	Quarterly
Mid-term Independent Evaluation	UNDP-CO, DoE, Project team	6,000	End of first two years of project term
Terminal Report	UNDP-CO, Project team, DoE	0	1 month before end of project
TMPR & TMPR report	UNDP-CO, DoE, Project team	2,000	Last month of project term
Final Independent Evaluation	UNDP-CO, UNDP/GEF Headquarters, DoE	8,000	At end of project implementation
Lessons Learned	Project team, UNDP-CO, DOE, GEFSEC	4,000 (average)	Every 12 months
Audit	DoE, UNDP-CO, Project team	1,000 (average)	Annually
Field visits	UNDP-CO	2,000 (average)	Annually
TOTAL INDICATIVE COST (excluding PMU and UNDP staff time & travel)		27,200 (approx)	

SECTION II: STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Logical Framework Analysis

Table 5: Project Logical Framework Analysis

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators			Sources of Verification	Assumptions
	Indicator	Baseline	Target		
<p>Overall Goal: The long term goal for the Tonga Sustainable Land Management project is ‘to enhance ecosystem stability, functions and services while promoting sustainable livelihoods through hardship¹⁷ alleviation and sustainable land management in the Kingdom of Tonga’.</p>					
<p>Objective: To strengthen national and local capacity development and mainstreaming into national development strategies and policies, while improving the quality of project design, implementation, outputs and impacts; and ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for the process.</p>					<p>Key stakeholders are willing to commit fully to the project.</p>
<p>Outcome 1: NAP produced and accepted by Govt. and overall awareness and support generated</p>	<p>NAP formally approved by Cabinet and UNCCD</p> <p>Recognition of NAP in Govt. planning and budgeting process</p>	<p>No action in place</p>	<p>NAP adopted and implementation commenced</p>	<p>Cabinet decision paper. High quality NAP document made publicly available.</p>	<p>Continued political support for integrating SLM into national plans and policies</p>
<p>Output 1.1: NAP produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft of NAP completed 	<p>The NAP is being developed based on existing baseline information from the First& Third National Reports to UNCCD and other key literature.</p>	<p>NAP finalized through 1 national stakeholder workshop</p>	<p>Official launch of NAP.</p>	<p>GoT is able to secure funding for NAP preparation</p>
<p>Output 1.2: NAP approved by cabinet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAP submitted to UNCCD Secretariat and GM for approval NAP officially submitted to Tonga’s Cabinet for final approval 		<p>NAP approved by Cabinet</p>	<p>Annual reports/Corporate reviews & plans;</p>	<p>NAP is completed with 1-3 months of project start-up</p>
<p>Output 1.3: NAP promoted at all levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal adoption of NAP by national Stakeholders consultation with donors 	<p>Promotion of environmental issues, but not specific to land degradation or land policy</p>	<p>Promotion of NAP action priorities in 3 stakeholder workshops</p>	<p>Media coverage. NAP publicly available. Donors aware of NAP; national reports covering SLM</p>	<p>Continued support from SLM stakeholders</p>

¹⁷ Instead of poverty, the Tonga MDG National Status Report had adopted the term ‘hardship’ as more appropriate in describing the difficulty many families are experiencing in meeting their basic needs, which includes food and non-food needs.

<p>Outcome 2: Capacities developed for sustainable land management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staffs of MLSNR have the capacity to implement SLM practices and train others in SLM • Community based capacities are enhanced through SLM pilot and community based training • Best SLM practices are established by MLSNR 	<p>A very small number of government officials have had training in LIS/GIS but very little capacity specific to SLM. Framers lack knowledge of best framing practices</p>	<p>2x1 week training in LIS/GIS in year 1.</p>	<p>Training reports disseminated. At least 50 Tongans trained in LIS/GIS</p>	<p>Government remains committed to implementing NAP.</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Enhanced capacity for the effective administration and sustainable management of lands and land-based resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant staff trained and certified to conduct effective assessments. • Better management of degraded land by government and farming sector. • Updated data for land-use and land management 	<p>MLSNR has limited GIS capacity.</p>	<p>At least one training in LIS/GIS each year after year 1.</p> <p>No less than 50 officials trained after project.</p> <p>Extend of land degradation problem known by end of year 2.</p>	<p>Training reports. Trained personnel helping implement SLM.</p>	<p>SLM capacity assessments will be carried out under the Tonga NCSA project.</p>
<p>Output 2.2: Strengthened capacity for sustainable agriculture, particularly in drought prone areas.</p>	<p>At least 50 farmers and 20 extension officers trained, understand and promoting SLM best practices</p>	<p>A few organic farming projects have been established.</p>	<p>Land information system established by end of year 2. GIS upgraded by end of year 2</p>	<p>Better understanding and application of SLM practices evident throughout island groups.</p>	
<p>Output 2.3: Enhanced capacity for the rehabilitation of coastal areas</p>	<p>One training workshop conducted for costal dwellers.</p> <p>At least 2 pilot projects for demonstration of coastal rehabilitation established</p>	<p>Subsistence farmers have had little training and no equipment to do controlled burns as land management tools.</p>	<p>Two pilot communities selected by end of year 1.</p> <p>One training workshop for costal communities per annum.</p>	<p>Two pilot communities fully participating in demonstration projects.</p>	<p>Coastal communities are committed to participate in the project.</p>

	Set up pilot demonstration plots for techniques to minimise soil erosion				
Output 2.4. Assessment of appropriate uses of land.	Causes and severity of land degradation identified throughout the Kingdom. Best practices for sustainable land management documented.	No detailed study on ecological sustainability or extent of land degradation problem as well as on the biophysical environment in relation to soil fertility and productivity has ever been done.	Assessment of types and extent of different forms of land use in Tonga carried out in year 1.	Technical assessment report on soil types, land uses and other biophysical characteristics made public.	
Output 2.5. Enhanced SLM through improvements of individual, systemic and institutional capacity including relevant plans and policies	A National Land Administration Policy developed.	There is no system of monitoring SLM best practices	Review of NCSA for capacity needs and gaps on year 1. Land Administration Policy prepared in year 2.	Cabinet submissions for a Land Administration Policy.	Government accepts the need for a National Land Administration Policy
2.6. Monitoring & evaluation systems on the effectiveness of SLM developed	M & E framework prepared, approved and applied.	No recent review of land lease / allocation arrangements.	M&E framework in year 2.	M&E framework in use.	Government remains committed to SLM implementation
Outcome 3: SLM Mainstreamed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate legislation reviewed to strengthened the inclusion of SLM & gender issues • SLM public awareness campaign completed • SLM strategies are integrated into NSDS, National Plans, MDG reporting 	none	<p>SLM mainstreaming agenda developed by end of year 1.</p> <p>At least 50% of stakeholders actively pursuing SLM agenda.</p>	SLM mainstreamed into National Development Plan	Government remains committed to SLM implementation

	and Policies				
Output 3.1 ¹⁸ : Gender Needs Assessment for SLM	1. Gender assessment report 2. Evidence of gender-specific process for NAP development 3. Evidence of gender dimension in NAP document	Gender dimensions of land degradation and potential strategies for land resource management have not been considered, even though women are profoundly affected by deteriorating land productivity	1. Gender assessment report prepared with guidance and instruction to NAP team on both principles and procedures for including women's perspectives in development of the plan and other aspects of the project 2. NAP process meets and addresses specific gender needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender assessment available on national reports and other media • Evidence of gender issues throughout NAP document 	Assumes all stakeholders are fully committed to an inclusive process that addresses the full range of stakeholder concerns in a culturally and gender-appropriate manner. Risk of gender assessment being ignored if assumption is incorrect
Output 3.2: SLM principles and NAP priorities integrated with key national development plans	SLM is mainstreamed into National Development Strategy and other relevant national plans of Tonga	UNDP is assisting with MDG processes but nothing has been done to integrate SLM into other major policy platforms to date.	Stakeholder consultations begin in year 1.	At least 5 agencies have mainstreamed SLM into their corporate plans and policies	All stakeholders including government accept the need for mainstreaming SLM
Output 3.3: Knowledge on SLM shared and disseminated	Majority of farmers and resource users receive adequate information and materials on sound SLM practices and benefits.	There is limited awareness on SLM issues and practices.	Publication and dissemination of NAP and awareness materials throughout project life. At least one awareness workshop per year.	Educational and awareness materials (brochures, posters, articles on lessons learned, etc) widely available	
Outcome 4: National medium-term investment plan for SLM.	Medium term investment plan completed. Number of donors committed to funding specific projects under the investment plan.	There are existing investments in sustainable development of lands but none specific to SLM.	Investment plan completed by end of year 2. At least 50% of total cost of projects under the plan	A multi-stakeholder investment plan approved by government.	Donor commitment to mitigation of land degradation is stable.

¹⁸ (Draft) Vanuatu Sustainable Land Management MSP Brief, 2007

			secured by end of project.		
Output 4.1: Development of a medium term investment plan with associated resource mobilization plan that incorporates SLM	Investment Plan used to mobilize resources for SLM implementation	none	Investment Plan completed by end of year 2. 50% of resources required mobilized by end of project.	A multi-stakeholder investment plan adopted and approved by government.	Government and donors will use Investment Plan to guide future support for land related projects in Tonga.
Outcome 5: Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned	NECC approval for project activities Project activities implemented according to UNDP/GEF guidelines	NECC already established Monitoring and Auditing procedures in place	6 monthly meetings of NECC. Mid term and Final evaluation of SLM, Annual Auditing of project	Meeting minutes and discussion papers Various evaluation, workshop, training reports. Audit report	The Government of Tonga remains committed to implementing SLM activities
Output 5.1: Adaptive Management Established	Project activities approved by NECC	Establishment of NECC	6 monthly meetings of the NECC to review project activities	Meetings minutes	NECC remains committed to SLM
Output 5.2: Monitoring and Evaluation	Project activities are within GEF, UNDP guidelines	Monitoring and Auditing procedure in place for other GEF projects in Department of Environment	Mid term evaluation end of year 2. A final evaluation end of project. Annual auditing of project funds	Mid-term evaluation reports. Final Evaluation reports. Audit reports. Workshop and training reports	

SLM Implementation Plan
Table 6: SLM Implementation Plan

Outcomes & Outputs	Activity	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8	Q 9	Q 10	Q 11	Q 12	Q 13	Q 14	Q 15	Q 16
Outcome 1: NAP produced and accepted by Govt. and overall awareness and support generated Output 1.1 NAP produced	1.1.1. Develop a draft NAP including problem and root cause analysis and prioritization of actions																
	1.1.2. Complete the modification and validation of the NAP through stakeholder workshop																
	1.1.3. SLM National Steering Committee endorsement/validation of the NAP																
Output 1.2: NAP approved by cabinet	1.2.1 Final Compilation of the NAP and submission to Govt.																
	1.2.2. Official Submission of the NAP																
	1.2.3. Official Launch of the NAP Document																
Output 1.3: NAP promoted at all levels.	1.1.1. National Awareness workshops to promote NAP.																
	1.1.2. Donor dialogue meetings to propose funding for NAP																
	1.1.3. Media programmes to promote NAP																
Outcome 2: Capacities developed for SLM Output 2.1. Enhanced capacity for effective administration and sustainable management of land and land-based resources	2.1.1. Conduct trainings on the assessment and appropriate use of land and land-based resources																
	2.1.2. Update through technical and information registry of land allocation/distribution																
Output 2.2. Strengthened capacity for sustainable agriculture.	2.2.1. Establish pilot sites for sustainable farming in drought prone areas.																
	2.2.2. Conduct trainings through demonstration pilots and workshops on sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices.																
	2.2.3. Develop and apply training modules n sustainable farming for Tonga.																
Output 2.3. Enhanced capacity for the rehabilitation of degraded coastal areas.	2.3.1. Conduct trials of soil protection measures through the rehabilitation of 2 pilot sites on eroded coastal areas.																
	2.3.2. Conduct educational workshops for coastal communities in the three sub-groups of islands.																

Project Management Unit	Recruitment of Project Coordinator	Yellow															
	Recruitment of Project Officer	Yellow															
	Recruitment of Project Assistant	Yellow															
Office equipment	Office space	Yellow															
	Stationery	Yellow			Yellow			Yellow				Yellow					
	Maintenance costs					Yellow					Yellow		Yellow				
Travel costs	Overseas and local travel			Yellow				Yellow						Yellow			
	Accommodation & allowances			Yellow				Yellow						Yellow			

Table 7: Total SLM Project Budget and Work Plan

Award ID: 00038792											
Award Title: PIMS 3406 TONGA CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN TONGA											
Business ID: FJI10											
Project Title: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN TONGA											
Executing Agency: Department of Environment in the Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment											
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party (Implementing Partner)	Fund ID	Source of Funds	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/Input	Amount (USD) Year 1	Amount (USD) Year 2	Amount (USD) Year 3	Amount (USD) Year 4	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
OUTCOME 2: Capacities Developed for SLM	MLSNR/PMU/SPC/SPREP	62000	GEF	71300	Local Consultants	7,000	8,000	8,000	7,000	30,000	a
				71200	International Consultant	5,000	7,000	5,000	0	17,000	b
				71400	Contractual services-Individ	22,000	21,000	20,000	20,000	83,000	c
				74500	Miscellaneous	28,000	0	0	0	28,000	d
				72800	Survey and GIS Equipment	20,000	12,000	15,000	0	47,000	e
				72400	Communications	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	f
				74200	Printing & Production	1,000	10,000	10,000	0	21,000	g
				72500	Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	700	3,700	h
				71600	Travel	15,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	40,000	i
	Total Outcome 2			102,000	72,000	72,000	35,700	281,700			
OUTCOME 3: Mainstreaming SLM	MLSNR/PMU	62000	GEF	71300	Local Consultants	0	7,000	10,000	5,000	22,000	j
				71200	International Consultant	0	8,000	5,000	3,500	16,500	k
				71400	Contractual services-Individ	8,200	8,500	10,000	15,000	41,700	l
				72500	Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	m
				74200	Printing & Production	8,000	5,000	3,500	5,000	21,500	n
					Total Outcome 3			17,200	29,500	29,500	29,500
OUTCOME 4: Medium Investment Plan	NECC/PMU	62000	GEF	71300	Local Consultants	0	6,000	0	0	6,000	o
				71200	International Consultants	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	p
				71400	Contractual services	0	7,000	1,200	5,000	13,200	q
				74200	Printing & Production		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	r
	Total Outcome 4			0	14,000	7,200	6,000	27,200			
OUTCOME 5: Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned	NECC/MLSNR/PMU/UNDP	62000	GEF	71400	Contractual services-Individ	2,500	3,500	1,700	5,500	13,200	s
					Total Outcome 5			2,500	3,500	1,700	5,500
Project Management Unit	MLSNR	62000	GEF	71400	Contractual services-Individ	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	t
				72200	Office Equipment	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	u
				71600	Travel	800	800	800	800	3,200	v
	Total Management			11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	47,200			
PROJECT TOTAL (MSP)											
Summary of Funds:											
GEF (MSP)											475,000
PDF-A											25,000
Government of Tonga (Inkind)											335,000
SPC											124,493
SPREP											78,000
Project Total											\$1,012,493.36

Budget Note:

a.	A group local consultants will be recruited to form a technical working committee (TWC) to provide technical support for drafting technical assessment reports in relation to soil types, fertility characteristics of degradation lands and assist in facilitating trainings for stakeholders in SLM concepts and techniques, appropriate use of land and land based resources
b.	1-2 International Consultants to review existing land policies and develop a land administration policy to regulate the development and use of land
c.	Specialised short term service contracts by individuals for assisting and coordination of national workshops, training events on assessment and appropriate use of land and land based resources, sustainable agriculture and organic farming practice and farming, existing land policies and inputs for development of land administration policy. For outcome 2, the cost for administrative and preparing workshop reports for the project coordinator is included.
d.	Conduct trainings through establishing demonstration pilots on sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices, conduct trials of soil protection measures
e.	Equipment such as survey and monitoring to determine soil types, fertility and extent of land degradation. GIS equipment will be included to digitally represent the data and prepare soil maps.
f.	Communications costs under national/community awareness programmes (media cost, radio, television and newspaper)
g.	Printing costs for production of information/awareness materials including production of soil maps
h.	Includes stationery and material supplies for workshops
i.	Includes travel of local consultants to conduct workshops (include 3 sub-group of islands)
j.	A group of local consultants will be hired to form a technical working committee (TWC) to assist in determining land management gender specific needs and conducting public awareness campaigns.
k.	International consultant will be hired to assist in reviewing existing legislations to include SLM and strengthen provision under which SLM could be implemented and enforced
l.	Specialised short term service contracts by individuals for coordinating and facilitating awareness campaigns and trainings. For outcome 3, the cost for administrative and preparing training and awareness programme reports for the project coordinator is included
m.	Costs to cover materials and supplies for trainings and awareness campaigns
n.	Printing costs for preparation of SLM awareness materials and production costs for TV and radio spots for public dissemination
o.	A group of local consultants will be hired to form a technical working committee (TWC) to assist in identifying priority SLM investment needs and opportunities. Also include assisting to facilitate donor dialogue meeting to market investment plan.
p.	1 Regional/International consultant will be recruited for developing a costed SLM Investment Plan including brief concept papers for priority investments and Resource Mobilisation Plan
q.	Specialised short term service contracts by individuals for coordinating the preparation of SLM Investment Plan and Resource Mobilisation Plan including facilitating donor dialogue meeting.
r.	Printing costs for preparation of reports. Include production of materials for meeting.
s.	Specialised short term service contracts by individuals for coordinating inception, TPR and other stakeholder meetings including NECC (targeted specifically for monitoring & evaluation and adaptive management).
t.	Project Coordinator and individuals to be contracted to prepare TORs, disseminate draft workshop report, undertake coordination responsibilities with Government, and relevant organizations, gather feedback from relevant agencies and organizations as appropriate, assist in project monitoring as well as reporting to donors, UNDP, GEF and Government
u.	Office expenditures, not including computers, desks (co-financed by Government), stationery and maintenance of equipment
v.	Travel of Project Coordinator to attend workshops and trainings

Breakdown of Project Funding by Source
Table 8: Breakdown of Project Funding by Source

Outputs	Total		SPC	SPREP	Totals
	GEF	GoT			
1.1.	0			4000	4000
1.2.	0			2000	2000
1.3.	0	5,000	0	2,000	7,000
Sub-totals	0	5,000	0	8,000	13,000
2.1.	80,000	20,000	21,000	8,000	129,000
2.2.	42,100	35,000	54,500	20,000	151,600
2.3.	44,700	36,000	10,500	9,000	100,200
2.4.	46,000	25,000	21,993.36	0	92,993.36
2.5.	43,400	59,000	0	21,000	123,400
2.6.	25,500	4,000	0	0	29,500
Sub-totals	281,700	179,000	107,993.36	58,000	626,693.36
3.1.	24,200	10,000	0	0	34,200
3.2.	46,500	20,000	0	0	66,500
3.3.	35,000	25,000	0	0	60,000
Sub-totals	105,700	55,000	0	0	160,700
4.1.	27,200	5,000	0	0	32,200
Sub-totals	27,200	5,000	0	0	32,200
5.1.	2,000	2,000	0	0	4,000
5.2.	11,200	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Sub-totals	13,200	6,000	4,000	4,000	27,200
Project Management Unit					
Contractual Services					
	40,000	40,000	0	0	80,000
Office Equipment	4,000	20,000	0	0	24,000
Travel	3,200	25,000	12,500	8,000	
Sub-totals	47,200	85,000	12,500	8,000	152,700
TOTAL	475,000	335,000	124,493.36	78,000	1,012,493.36

SECTION III: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Appendix 1: Letter of Endorsement by GEF Operational Focal Point



Government of Tonga
MINISTRY OF LANDS, SURVEY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
P.O. Box 5, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Telephone: General Office + (676) 23 611
Direct Line + (676) 23 210

Fax: + (676) 23 216
E-mail: ceo@lands.gov.to

Resident Representative
UNDP Fiji Office
Suva
Fiji

13 August 2007

RE: Tonga's Endorsement Letter for the GEF/UNDP Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Project (SLM)

On behalf of the Government of Tonga and, in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the SLM project executing agency, Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment and also as the GEF Operational Focal Point, I hereby endorse the *Medium Sized GEF/UNDP Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Project (SLM)*.

The Kingdom of Tonga considers that the SLM project meets its capacity development priorities for the UNCCD implementation and sustainable land management, and I submit the proposal and required documents for submission by UNDP to the GEF for expedited approval.

I look forward to the favorable approval from GEF and its procurement of funding for the implementation of Tonga's SLM project.

Yours Sincerely,

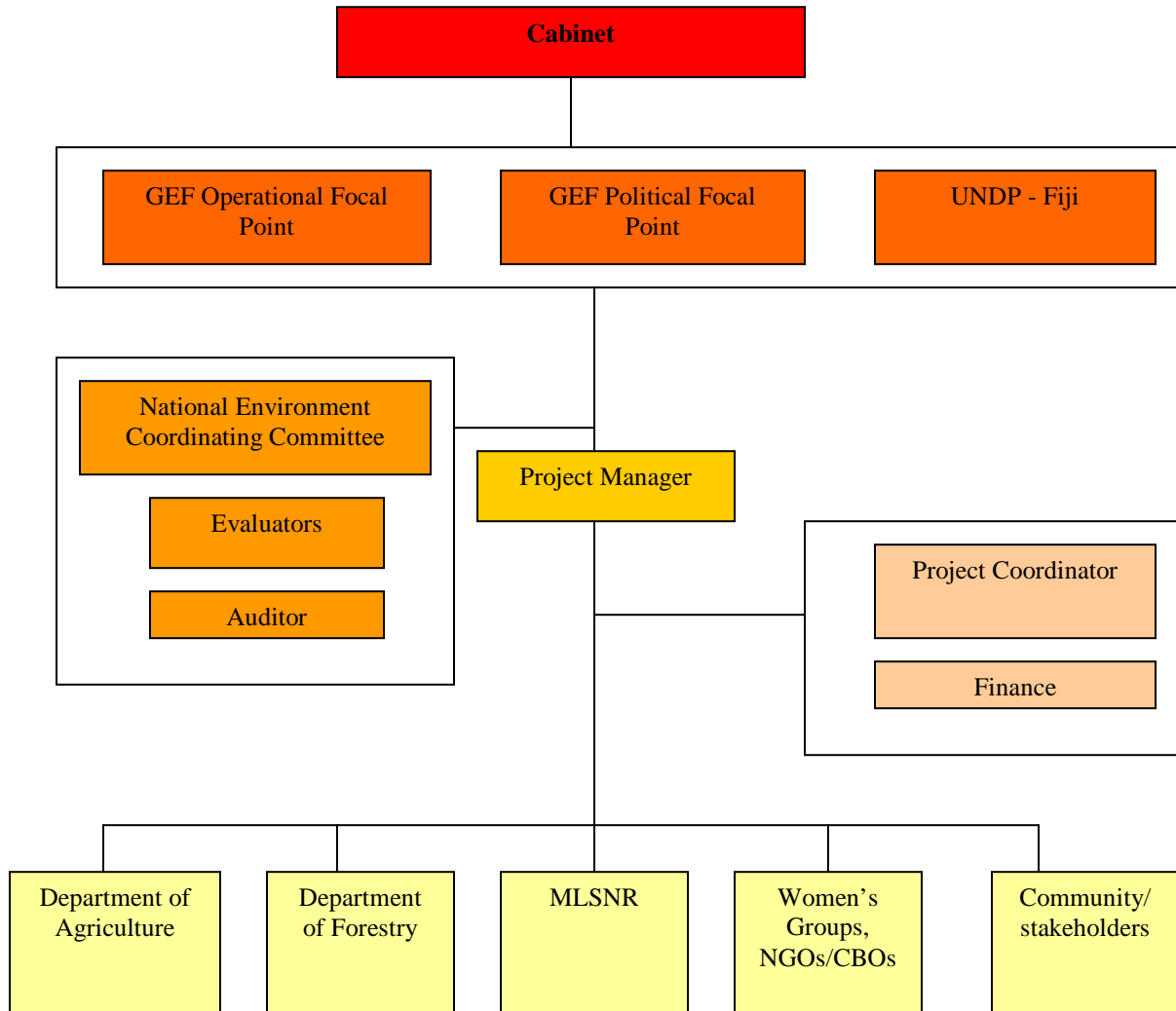
Dr. Sione Nailasikau Halaalofa
CEO of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment and GEF Operational Focal Point



Attention: Asenaca Ravuvu, Alvin Chandra

Appendix 2: Letter of Co-finance from Government of Tonga

Appendix 3: Proposed Management Structure for the Tonga SLM MSP



Appendix 4: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Project Executive Group, the Project Manager, the Project Coordinator, the Technical Working Group, and the Project Management Unit

1. Project Executive Group

The National Environment Coordination Committee (NECC) shall act as the Project Executive Group (PEG) for the Tonga Sustainable Land Management Medium Size Project. The PEG shall provide high level orientation and policy guidance for the project. PEG will ensure that smooth progress is made towards achieving the project's outcome and outputs. In addition, the PEG shall:

- a) Ensure that the project develops in accordance with national development objectives, goals and policies;
- b) Pay special attention to the post-project sustainability of outcomes and results achieved by the project;
- c) Provide advice on stakeholder identification and participation and endorse the defined roles for each of the participating agencies;
- d) Ensure participation of stakeholders through liaison with relevant stakeholder groups;
- e) Review and endorse annual work plans and budgets in line with project document;
- f) Participate in the inception workshop as part of the capacity building activities of the project;
- g) Monitor the performance of the project through evaluation of three monthly reports produced by the Project Coordinator and project team;
- h) Facilitate inter-agency sharing of information relevant to the project;
- i) Meet at least once every quarter to review project implementation progress;
- j) Evaluate and approve all draft reports/policy papers etc produced as outputs of the project;
- k) Ensure the integration and coordination of project activities with other related government and donor-funded initiatives;
- l) Facilitate discussions on possible funding for Resource Mobilization Plan;
- m) Facilitate coordination of project activities across institutions;
- n) Review on a regular basis, project activities and their adherence to the work plan set forth in the project document;
- o) Take decisions on the issues brought to its notice by UNDP and other cooperating institutions and advise regarding efficient and timely execution of the project;
- p) Initiate remedial action to remove impediments to the progress of project activities that were not envisaged earlier.
- q) Ensure that the needs of women and vulnerable groups (youth and children) are addressed and responses promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, especially in SLM approaches & tools and other capacity initiatives of the project.

2. Project Manager (PM)

The PM, who shall be the head of the Environment Division of the MLSNRE, shall have general oversight of project implementation. He/she shall perform a liaison role with government and MLSNRE, UNDP and all other stakeholders involved in the project and will be fully accountable to the CEO and the PEG for the satisfactory execution of the project. More specifically, the PM shall:

- a) Provide overall management of the project;
- b) Coordinate recruitment of project staff including preparation of TOR for PC, PO and PA;
- c) Review and endorse reports of the PMU;
- d) Supervise work of PMU staff;
- e) Ensure project activities are fully integrated into plans and policies of MLSNRE;
- f) Ensure proper management of funds consistent with UNDP requirements, and budget planning and control;
- g) Report progress of project to CEO and PEG;
- h) Help resolve problems/issues affecting project implementation;
- i) Endorse detailed annual work plans of the project;
- j) Have responsibility for meeting all government obligations under the project;
- k) Other activities as assigned by CEO

Selection Criteria

- Postgraduate degree in natural resource management or other relevant academic and professional qualifications with at least 10 years professional experience;
- Proven extensive experience and technical ability to manage a large project especially SLM-related projects in the Pacific;
- Ability to communicate with different types of stakeholders, including senior government officials, farmers, communities and business executives;
- Ability to lead, manage and motivate teams of local and national consultants to achieve results;
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written;
- Good knowledge and understanding of UNDP project implementation procedures, including procurement, disbursement and monitoring.

3. Project Coordinator

The Project Coordinator (PC) will be responsible for the implementation of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs and supervision of consultants and sub-contractors. The PC will be the head of the PMU and will be accountable to the CEO and PEG through the PM for the effective execution of the project, including authority to select and sub-contract specific activities or components of the project. Specific responsibilities shall include:

- a) Supervise and coordinate the production of project outputs as per the project document;
- b) Ensure the technical coordination of the project;
- c) Attend with the PM, meetings of the PEG and Technical Working Committee;
- d) Prepare TOR for consultants and sub-contractors;
- e) Work closely with project partners to ensure better coordination of project outcomes, outputs and activities;
- f) Manage procurement of goods and services in accordance with UNDP guidelines;
- g) Prepare and revise project work and financial plans as necessary for PEG and UNDP consideration;
- h) Prepare progress reports in accordance with project reporting and monitoring plans and timelines;
- i) Disseminate project reports and respond to queries from concerned stakeholders;
- j) Prepare detailed annual work plans for the project;
- k) Identify, document and facilitate sharing of lessons learned from the project;
- l) Inform the PM as soon as possible of problems/issues affecting project implementation and provide possible solutions;
- m) Arrange for audit of project accounts for each fiscal year;
- n) Other responsibilities that may be assigned from time to time by the PM and/or the PEG.
- o) Ensure that the needs of women and vulnerable groups (youth and children) are addressed and responses promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, especially in SLM approaches & tools and other capacity initiatives of the project.

Selection Criteria

- Postgraduate degree in natural resource management or other relevant academic and professional qualifications with at least 10 years professional experience;
- Proven extensive experience and technical ability to manage a large project especially SLM-related projects in the Pacific;
- Ability to communicate with different types of stakeholders, including senior government officials, farmers, communities and business executives;
- Ability to effectively coordinate a complex, multi-stakeholder project;
- Ability to lead, manage and motivate teams of local and national consultants to achieve results;
- Capacity to think and plan strategically;
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written;
- Good knowledge and understanding of UNDP project implementation procedures, including procurement, disbursement and monitoring.

4. Technical Working Committee (TWC)

The TWC will serve as the technical arm of the PEG. Its main function will be:

- provide advise to the PEG regarding the implementation of technical aspects of the project;
- review technical reports of the project, including from consultants, and make comments as necessary;
- consider technical aspects of decisions/recommendations referred to it by the PEG;

The TWC will be chaired by the PM and will be composed of individuals from government, private sector and NGOs who are widely recognized as being the most technically knowledgeable and well equipped with relevant expertise in their component fields. The participation of the following agencies and institutions in the TWC would be useful.

- Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Forestry
- Ministry of Works
- University of the South Pacific
- Tonga Trust (NGO)

5. Project Management Unit (PMU)

The PMU shall compose of the CEO (MLSNRE), the PM, PC, PO and PA. The key rationale for the establishment of the PMU is to foster effective coordination and implementation of the project at the national, community and sectoral levels. This unit will be responsible to the CEO through the PC and PM and will feature as the key body through which decisions relating to the implementation of the project activities are made to:

- Ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process at the Ministry level;
- Support timely reporting and efficient delivery of project outputs;
- Advise on house-keeping matters of the project;
- Advise on the use and allocation of funds in cases of delays and / or changes to how funds are used from what is stated in approved project budget;
- Advise on the use and allocation of technical resources;
- Advise and involve in the selection process for all local and expatriate consultants;
- Overall success of the SLM project
- Ensure that the needs of women and vulnerable groups (youth and children) are addressed and responses promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, especially in SLM approaches & tools and other capacity initiatives of the project.

Appendix 5: Initial Format for Total Project Workplan and Budget

TOTAL PROJECT AND WORKPLAN BUDGET								
Award ID: 00038792								
Project Title: Tonga Sustainable Land Management Project								
Outcomes/Outputs	Responsible Party	Source of Funds	Budget Description/ Input	Amt (USD) Year 1	Amt (USD) Year 2	Amt (USD) Year 3	Amt (USD) Year 4	Total (USD)
Outcome 1: NAP produced and accepted by Govt. and overall awareness and support generated								
Output 1.1: NAP produced	MLSNR / PMU/SPREP	SPREP	workshops and meetings	4000				4000
Output 1.2: NAP approved by cabinet		SPREP	Communications and Publicity	2000				2000
Output 1.3: NAP promoted at all levels		SPREP	Publicity, media costs, workshops and meetings	2,000				2,000
		GoT		5,000				5,000
Sub-total for outcome 1				13,000	0	0	0	13,000
Outcome 2: Capacities Developed for SLM								
Output 2.1. Enhanced capacity for the effective administration and sustainable management of land and land-based resources	MLSNR / PMU/SPC /SPREP	GEF	Consultant/stationery/software/ field visits, workshop, etc	35,000	20,000	20,000	5,000	80,000
		GoT		3,500	6,500	6,500	3,500	20,000
		SPC		6,000	6,000	5,000	4,000	21,000
		SPREP		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000

Output 2.2. Strengthened capacity for sustainable agriculture	MLSNR / consultant / SPC	GEF	Consultant / training, training materials, printing costs	15,000	11,000	11,000	5,100	42,100
		GoT		5,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	35,000
		SPC		21,000	16,000	11,000	6,500	54,500
		SPREP		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
Output 2.3. Enhanced capacity for rehabilitation of degraded coastal areas	MLSNR / PMU / SPC / SPREP	GEF	Workshop costs, field trials, travel	20,000	10,000	10,000	4,700	44,700
		GoT		9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	36,000
		SPC		2,500	3,000	3,000	2,000	10,500
		SPREP		3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	9,000
Output 2.4. Assessment of appropriate uses of land	MLSNR / PMU / consultant	GEF	Technical survey equipment, consultant, laboratory tests, production of soil maps, training workshops, report production costs	15,000	13,000	11,000	7,000	46,000
		GoT		7,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	25,000
		SPC		6,993.36	6,000	5,000	4,000	21,993.36
Output 2.5. Enhanced SLM through improvement of individual, systemic and institutional capacity including relevant plans and policies	MLSNR /PMU/ SPREP	GEF	Community consultation costs, workshop, consultant costs, and printing costs	13,000	13,000	13,000	4,400	43,400
		SPREP		5,000	5,000	5,500	5,500	21,000
		GoT		13,000	17,500	17,500	11,000	59,000

Output 2.6. Monitoring & evaluation systems on the effectiveness of SLM developed	MLSNR / PMU / consultant	GEF	Workshop costs, monitoring and evaluation costs.	4,000	5,000	7,000	9,500	25,500
		GoT		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
<i>Sub-total for Outcome 2</i>				<i>191,993.36</i>	<i>172,000</i>	<i>160,500</i>	<i>102,200</i>	<i>626,693.36</i>
Outcome 3: SLM Mainstreamed								
Output 3.1. Gender Needs Assessment for SLM	MLSNR	GEF	Consultant, training, consultation costs	4,200	10,000	10,000		24,200
		GoT			5,000	5,000		10,000
Output 3.2. SLM principles and NAP priorities integrated with key national development plans	MLSNR	GEF	Consultant, consultation costs	8,000	9,500	9,500	19,500	46,500
		GoT		2,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	20,000
Output 3.3. Knowledge on SLM shared and disseminated	PMU	GEF	Production costs, promotional materials, media costs	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	35,000
		GoT		7,000	7,000	7,000	4,000	25,000
		Others		0				
<i>Sub-total for Outcome 3</i>				<i>26,200</i>	<i>46,500</i>	<i>46,500</i>	<i>41,500</i>	<i>160,700</i>

Outcome 4: Medium Term Investment Plan									
Output 4.1. A medium term investment plan with associated resource mobilization plan that incorporates SLM is produced	Consultant / NECC	GEF	Consultant, printing and distribution, stationery, meetings		14,000	7,200	6,000	27,200	
		GoT			2,000	2,000	1,000	5,000	
		Others							
Sub-total for Outcome 4				0	16,000	9,200	7,000	32,200	
Outcome 5: Adaptive Management and Lessons Learned									
Output 5.1. Adaptive Management Established	NECC	GEF	NECC Meetings	500	500	500	500	2,000	
		GoT		500	500	500	500	2,000	
Output 5.2. Effective M&E established and operational	MLSNR / PMU / UNDP	GEF	Evaluation and Auditing	2,000	3,000	1,200	5,000	11,200	
		GoT		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
		SPC		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
		SPREP		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
Sub-total for Outcome 5				6,000	7,000	5,200	9,000	27,200	
Project Management Unit									
Project Coordination	MLSNR	GEF	Contractual Services	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	
		GoT		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	
Office Equipment	MLSNR	GEF	Maintenance costs, stationery	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	
		GoT		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	
Travel costs	MLSNR	GEF	Staff external	800	800	800	800	3,200	

		GoT		/ internal travel, accommodati on	6,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	25,000
		SPC			2,500	4,000	4,000	2,000	12,500
		SPREP			2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000
		Total Management			37,300	39,800	39,800	35,800	152,700
		GRAND TOTAL			274,493.36	281,300	261,200	195,500	1,012,493.36

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Country: Tonga

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Environmental sustainability and sustainable energy are mainstreamed into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes.

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Tonga

Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): **Sustainable Land Management mainstreamed into national development policies, strategies, programmes and projects.**

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment

Other Partners: UNDP, SPREP, SPC

Programme Period: 2008-2011 Programme Component: Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development Project Title: LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management Award / Project IDs: 00038792 / 00043217 Project Duration: 4 years Management Arrangement: NEX	Total Budget: 1,037,493.36 Preparation Phase: US\$25,000 GEF US\$475,000 Allocated resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GoT in-kind: US\$335,000• SPC : US\$124,493.36• SPREP : US\$78,000
---	---

Agreed by Executing Partner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

_____ **Date** _____

Agreed by Implementing Partner (Ministry of Environment):

_____ **Date** _____

Agreed by GEF Implementing Agency (UNDP):

_____ **Date** _____

SIGNATURE PAGE

Country: Tonga

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Environmental sustainability and sustainable energy are mainstreamed into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes.

Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator(s): Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Tonga

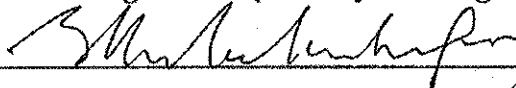
Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s): Sustainable Land Management mainstreamed into national development policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment

Other Partners: UNDP, SPREP, SPC

Programme Period: 2008-2011 Programme Component: Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development Project Title: LDC-SIDS Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management Award / Project IDs: 00038792 / 00043217 Project Duration: 4 years Management Arrangement: NEX	Total Budget: 1,037,493.36 Preparation Phase: US\$25,000 GEF US\$475,000 Allocated resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GoT in-kind: US\$335,000• SPC : US\$124,493.36• SPREP : US\$78,000
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Agreed by Executing Partner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):


Date 26/03/08

Agreed by Implementing Partner (Ministry of Environment):


Date 25/03/08

Agreed by GEF Implementing Agency (UNDP):


Date 10/03/08



