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# Concept Note

**The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is seeking high-quality projects or programmes.**

The Accredited Entity is encouraged to submit a concept note, in consultation with the National Designated Authority, to present a project or programme idea and receive early feedback and recommendation.

Project/Programme Title: Strengthening Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through Civil Society ('the Project')

Country(ies): Multiple (29) countries \_\_\_\_\_

National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA): Multiple \_\_\_\_\_

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): Agence Française de Développement (AFD) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first submission/  
version number: [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.0]

Date of current submission/  
version number: [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.0]

**Notes**

- The maximum number of pages should **not exceed 12 pages**, excluding annexes. Proposals exceeding the prescribed length will not be assessed within the indicative service standard time of 30 days.
- As per the Information Disclosure Policy, the concept note, and additional documents provided to the Secretariat can be disclosed unless marked by the Accredited Entity(ies) (or NDAs) as confidential.
- The relevant National Designated Authority(ies) will be informed by the Secretariat of the concept note upon receipt.
- NDA can also submit the concept note directly with or without an identified accredited entity at this stage. In this case, they can leave blank the section related to the accredited entity. The Secretariat will inform the accredited entity(ies) nominated by the NDA, if any.
- Accredited Entities and/or NDAs are encouraged to submit a Concept Note before making a request for project preparation support from the Project Preparation Facility (PPF).
- Further information on GCF concept note preparation can be found on GCF website [Funding Projects Fine Print](#).

A. Project / Programme Information (max. 1 page)			
<b>A.1. Project or programme</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<b>A.2. Public or private sector</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector
<b>A.3. Is the CN submitted in response to an RFP?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, specify the RFP: _____	<b>A.4. Confidentiality<sup>1</sup></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidential <input type="checkbox"/> Not confidential
<b>A.5. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme</b>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Reduced emissions from:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use <p><b>Adaptation:</b> Increased resilience of:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services		
<b>A.6. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO<sub>2</sub>eq over lifespan)</b>	not applicable	<b>A.7. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries and % of population)</b>	2.5M
<b>A.8. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)</b>	Amount: USD242M	<b>A.9. Indicative GCF funding requested</b>	Amount: USD80M
<b>A.10. Mark the type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursable grant <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantees <input type="checkbox"/> Equity <input type="checkbox"/> Subordinated loan <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify _____		
<b>A.11. Estimated duration of project/ programme:</b>	a) disbursement period: 2019-2028 b) repayment period: not applicable	<b>A.12. Estimated project/ Programme lifespan</b>	10 years
<b>A.13. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility requested?<sup>2</sup></b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other support received <input type="checkbox"/> If so, by who: _____	<b>A.14. ESS category<sup>3</sup></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> A or I-1 <input type="checkbox"/> B or I-2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C or I-3
<b>A.15. Is the CN aligned with your accreditation standard?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A.16. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>A.17. AMA signed (if submitted by AE)</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If no, specify the status of AMA negotiations and expected date of signing: _____	<b>A.18. Is the CN included in the Entity Work Programme?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>A.19. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)</b>	<p>Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Ecosystem-based adaptation is highly relevant to SIDS, with actions such as sustainable management of coastal ecosystems providing improved resilience against sea level rise and extreme weather events. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) supports Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to conserve critical ecosystems within biodiversity hotspots. AFD, a donor to CEPF, proposes this Project to expand from CEPF's current focus on ecosystem conservation to include ecosystem-based adaptation outcomes. The project targets four island-dominated biodiversity hotspots where CEPF already has existing CSO networks and is expected to benefit 2.5 million people.</p>		

<sup>1</sup> Concept notes (or sections of) not marked as confidential may be published in accordance with the Information Disclosure Policy ([Decision B.12/35](#)) and the Review of the Initial Proposal Approval Process ([Decision B.17/18](#)).

<sup>2</sup> See [here](#) for access to project preparation support request template and guidelines

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the Fund's environmental and social safeguards ([Decision B.07/02](#))

## B. Project / Programme details (max. 8 pages)

### B.1. Context and Baseline (max. 2 pages)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)<sup>4</sup> are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global climate change. Sea level rise and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events have significant and profound effects on island populations, agricultural lands and infrastructure, which tend to be concentrated in coastal zones. With one third of their population living on land less than 5m above sea level, the threat of sea level rise and destruction from storm surges means that significant parts of SIDS, and in some cases entire nations, may become uninhabitable<sup>5</sup>. These climate risks, combined with their particular socio-economic situations<sup>6</sup> make SIDS some of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

While their combined population of approximately 65 million people contributes less than 1 per cent of global GHG emissions<sup>7</sup>, SIDS are expected to suffer disproportionately from the damaging impacts of climate change. Despite the serious challenges, the SIDS have demonstrated global leadership on climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. For example, in November 2017, the UNFCCC COP 23 was chaired by a SIDS country, Fiji, for the first time. Various alliances of SIDS nations to address climate change have been created, SIDS countries have been specifically recognized in a number of UNFCCC decisions and various SIDS-focused climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives have been implemented. However, while there has been a focus on strengthening government programs to address climate change impacts, there has been less attention on harnessing the capacity of civil society to address these challenges.

Ecosystem-based adaptation solutions to climate change are particularly relevant for SIDS. Ecosystem-based adaptation integrates the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services<sup>8</sup> into broader climate change adaptation strategies. Ecosystem-based adaptation encourages conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide essential services that people need to adapt to climate variability. The aim is to maintain and increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people. Ecosystem-based adaptation can be inexpensive to implement relative to infrastructure-based adaptation, and can generate important social, economic, biodiversity conservation and cultural co-benefits. The UNFCCC has recognized the role that sustainable management of natural resources can play in building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems as part of climate change adaptation strategies. In addition, many ecosystem-based adaptation measures also bring climate change mitigation benefits. Nature-based solutions, such as conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, could provide as much as 30% of mitigation measures needed to limit global warming to 2°C<sup>9</sup>.

Both coastal and terrestrial ecosystems of SIDS are important for adaptation to climate threats. Coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass meadows play important roles in reducing coastal erosion, and provide a range of additional services such as supporting fisheries and tourism that are important to support local livelihoods. Coastal ecosystems stabilize shorelines by reducing wave energy, trapping sediments and filtering nutrients. When healthy, these ecosystems also keep up with sea level rise through soil accretion, thereby countering challenges such as saline intrusion and erosion. Healthy coastal ecosystems have also been credited with reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events such as cyclones since altered or degraded coastlines are more prone to significant impact<sup>10</sup>. Terrestrial ecosystems in SIDS also play an important role in delivering services that help people adapt to climate change. For example, forests can reduce the effects of flooding in catchment areas, protect sources of freshwater and facilitate replenishment of groundwater. Good watershed management is important for water retention, prevention of landslides and reduction of flash-flooding and protection of downstream infrastructure.

<sup>4</sup> SIDS are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of regional commissions. SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of countries with peculiar social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities at the 1992 Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro.

<sup>5</sup> UN-OHRLS, 2015. Small Island Developing States in Numbers.

<sup>6</sup> Despite their geographical and cultural diversity, SIDS share similar economic and sustainable development challenges including low availability of resources, small but rapidly growing populations, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, high dependence on international trade and vulnerability to global developments. They suffer lack of economies of scale, high transportation and communications costs and costly administration and infrastructure. Large parts of their populations rely directly on natural resources for their livelihoods.

<sup>7</sup> UN-OHRLS, 2013. Small Island Developing States Factsheet 2013

<sup>8</sup> Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from nature, such as flood regulation, storm protection, food, clean water, fuel, shelter, soil formation, nutrient cycling, recreational and spiritual benefits, etc.

<sup>9</sup> McKinsey & Company, 2009. Pathways to a low-carbon economy. McKinsey & Company

<sup>10</sup> Mclvor et al. 2012. Storm Surge Reduction by Mangroves. Natural Coastal Protection Series: Report 2. The Nature Conservancy & Wetlands International.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was established in 2000 as a mechanism to enable Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to support conservation of critical ecosystems<sup>11</sup> within biodiversity hotspots<sup>12</sup>. The CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. As of 2017, CEPF had granted more than USD 220 million to over 2,200 grantees in 24 biodiversity hotspots. These grants helped to establish some 14.5 million hectares of protected areas and strengthened the management of biodiversity in 6 million hectares of production landscapes. Since its inception in 2000, CEPF has supported projects that have benefited 32 SIDS<sup>13</sup>. It has supported 333 projects in SIDS, valued at more than USD30 million. To date, climate change has not been the main focus of CEPF, although a number of grant funded projects have addressed climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. There is clear potential to expand CEPF's remit by engaging and strengthening CSOs to address ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. AFD is approaching the Green Climate Fund on behalf of CEPF's Donor Council to explore the feasibility of adding a specific climate change component to CEPF's work through this Project to promote ecosystem-based adaptation interventions by CSOs in SIDS.

CEPF's experience is that CSOs are capable of offering useful and timely advice and support on biodiversity conservation to both governments and private sector decision makers. Local, regional, national and international groups can be extremely effective at: (i) bringing global experience and good practice to local contexts; (ii) transferring skills and knowledge to government agencies and the private sector, leading to better policy and business practices; (iii) catalyzing innovation, testing new approaches and responding to emerging challenges and opportunities; (iv) brokering partnerships among traditional and non-traditional conservation actors; and (v) ensuring that conservation programs are beneficial to local people, such as by protecting vital ecosystem services and providing sustainable livelihood options. AFD and CEPF believe that these same capabilities that have been so effective at achieving conservation outcomes can also be harnessed to contribute to climate-resilient sustainable development.

The proposed Project will focus on four biodiversity hotspots where CEPF has current or recent investments: the Caribbean islands, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands, the East Melanesian islands, and Polynesia-Micronesia. Table 1, below, provides further detail on current and recent investments by CEPF in each of the four biodiversity hotspots and a list of 29 countries<sup>14</sup> where investment is proposed under this Project. Ecosystem-based adaptation measures feature prominently in the national climate strategies, adaptation plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs/INDCs) of the countries in the hotspots.

Hotspot	Previous investment	Current investment	Countries included
Caribbean Islands	2010-2016 USD6.9 million	2018-2023 Amount to be determined	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	2001-2012 USD5.7 million	2015-2020 USD7.5 million (with possible extension of time and funds)	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles.
East Melanesian Islands	None	2013-2021 USD9 million	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu
Polynesia-Micronesia	2008-2013 USD7 million	To be scheduled	Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga

<sup>11</sup> This term is generally used to refer to remaining natural ecosystems within the hotspots

<sup>12</sup> Biodiversity Hotspots are the most biologically diverse yet threatened ecoregions in the world. More precisely, hotspots are distinguished by: (i) harboring at least 0.5% of all species of vascular plants, and (ii) containing 30% or less of their original primary vegetation.

<sup>13</sup> Excluding projects supported in French Polynesia

<sup>14</sup> The majority of the countries listed are SIDS, some are territories associated with other states (e.g. Cook Islands, Easter Island).

Madagascar is much larger than the other islands but its coastal areas and offshore islands share many of the same environmental and socio-economic features. Detailed decision on the eligibility of each of the countries listed here will be taken in consultation with relevant NDAs during development of the full proposal. See Appendix 2 for full list of 33 countries in the hotspots where CEPF has previously invested (including Overseas Territories) and noting SIDS, Least Developed Country and Low Income Economy status.

Despite their potential and capability to play an effective role in addressing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-based adaptation, CSOs are typically under-utilized, under-valued and under-financed by development actors. While donors are committed and engaged in ecosystem conservation and climate change issues, national governments remain the recipients of the majority of related funding. Meanwhile, the private sector is able to generate its own resources to engage in environmental protection. Civil society, despite its indispensable role in achieving ecosystem conservation and climate change goals, remains the least funded sector.

The goal of the proposed project is to harness the capabilities of CSOs to achieve ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in the small island biodiversity hotspots. Key barriers that are currently impeding the achievement of this goal include:

- Lack of costed long-term visions and strategies for ecosystem-based adaptation;
- Lack of financial resources for CSOs to engage in ecosystem-based adaptation;
- Limited institutional capacity and financial sustainability of multi-sector ecosystem-based adaptation programs;
- Limited track record of CSOs at influencing public policy or at establishing effective partnerships with private companies in sectors driving ecosystem degradation;
- Incomplete scientific knowledge on the best ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to use for some ecosystems and limited methodologies for measuring success;
- Limited knowledge, awareness or application/replication of successful approaches.

The proposed project is designed to address these barriers, all of which are similar to the barriers CEPF addresses to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes. The project will therefore benefit from CEPF's previous experience and well established networks of government and civil society partners in the biodiversity hotspots.

## **B.2. Project / Programme description (max. 3 pages)**

### *Project Components*

In each of the four biodiversity hotspots, the Project will address the key barriers noted in section B1. The Project will use tried-and-tested tools and methodologies that CEPF has used for strengthening and engaging civil society actors in ecosystem conservation. Under this Project, CEPF's model will be used to direct investments to geographical and thematic areas of highest priority for ecosystem-based adaptation. The project will work through CSOs, help to build their capacity and help them develop partnerships with the private and public sector to achieve ecosystem-based adaptation. The Project will also include a knowledge sharing component to encourage replication of best practice across the hotspots. The Project will include the following five components<sup>15</sup>:

- Component 1: Developing long-term visions, financing plans and associated strategies for ecosystem-based adaptation in the small island biodiversity hotspots, well aligned with national climate change strategies;
- Component 2: Supporting ecosystem-based adaptation activities in priority areas;
- Component 3: Ensuring the financial and institutional sustainability of multi-sector programs for ecosystem-based adaptation, including through enhanced public and private partnerships;
- Component 4: Quantifying ecosystem-based adaptation impacts through application of cutting-edge science;
- Component 5: Replicating success through knowledge products and tools for ecosystem-based adaptation.

### **Component 1: Developing long-term visions, financing plans and associated strategies for ecosystem-based adaptation in the small island biodiversity hotspots, well aligned with national climate change strategies**

Under this component, long-term visions for ecosystem-based adaptation and biodiversity conservation will be developed in the four hotspots as a tool to enable long-term planning by donors. These strategic documents will explicitly identify the priority climate issues in each of the countries covered by the Project and will identify the specific ecosystem-based adaptation activities needed to address them. The funding available for CSOs under Component 2 will be for these priority activities. The vision documents will include consideration of the gender implications of climate change, including how men and women may be impacted in different ways, and how they can best be integrated into participating in ecosystem-based adaptation. These visions, covering multiple five-year investment periods, will be designed to guide support to the emergence of credible, effective and well-resourced civil societies, as well as to deliver ecosystem-based adaptation, improved biodiversity conservation, and greater alignment of conservation goals with public policy and private sector business practices. Long-term visions are based, in part, on the conclusion that CEPF should not be a permanent presence in each hotspot but, rather, should define and work towards an end point where local civil society transitions from CEPF support with sufficient capacity, access to resources and credibility to respond to future conservation challenges. Experience to date shows that, in most hotspots, reaching such a point will take more than five years. Thus, long-term visions will set clear transition targets that individual investment phases (typically of five years) will work towards, guided by detailed strategies set out in the 'Ecosystem Profiles', which will be renewed on a periodic basis (typically every five years). Visions will also include financing plans describing the funding requirements for their

<sup>15</sup> See Appendix 3 for the Theory of Change showing how the project components address the barriers to achieving the Project goal

implementation (i.e., the best estimate of the funding needed to achieve the transition targets). This Component of the project will be funded from co-finance from CEPF.

### **Component 2: Supporting ecosystem-based adaptation activities in priority areas**

Under this component, grants will be provided to CSOs to undertake ecosystem-based adaptation activities aligned with the priorities identified in the long-term vision documents and Ecosystem Profiles developed under Component 1. These activities are likely to include interventions to improve management of, and/or restore, critical ecosystems such as reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, forests or wetland areas. We anticipate that many of the activities will focus on near-shore coastal ecosystems given the nature of climate change threats to SIDS, but terrestrial-based activities will also be eligible when identified as priorities, and considering their critical role in supporting climate change resilient livelihoods and the delivery of essential ecosystem services, such as freshwater. This component will have an important emphasis on ensuring that proposed activities are gender sensitive and that women are engaged in the activities of CSOs. In addition, CSOs will need to demonstrate how vulnerable people (such as migrants and young adults with limited opportunities) are considered and integrated into project activities.

### **Component 3: Ensuring the financial and institutional sustainability of multi-sector programs for ecosystem-based adaptation, including through enhanced public and private partnerships**

This component aims to enable conservation-focused civil society sectors in biodiversity hotspots to achieve levels of capacity, credibility and resourcing sufficient to ensure that they remain effective agents of change not dependent on continued external funding support. This will guarantee they have both the capacities and access to resources necessary to respond to emerging challenges, continue to demonstrate effective ecosystem-based adaptation models, and become trusted, long-term advisors to government and private sector actors and catalysts for effective ecosystem-based adaptation. This component will also develop and implement models to more effectively mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation into public policy and private sector practices in selected biodiversity hotspots. This is an important part of CEPF's long term strategy to develop sustainability beyond the life of the Project. Under this component, a variety of public and private sector partnerships with civil society will be developed within the hotspots.

### **Component 4: Quantifying ecosystem-based adaptation impacts through cutting-edge science**

This component recognizes that work on the science underpinning ecosystem-based approaches is needed within the biodiversity hotspots, and it will be particularly relevant for associating academic institutions with the Project. Applied research activities will be supported to improve understanding of the role of specific ecosystems and to test the effectiveness of promising ecosystem-based adaptation techniques. The research will generate important information to guide policy decisions about ecosystem-based adaptation. This component will also include activities to ensure rigorous, science-based quantification and verification of the impacts of the Project.

### **Component 5: Replicating success through knowledge products and tools for ecosystem-based adaptation**

This component aims to facilitate wider replication of successful models and tools demonstrated in the hotspots under the first four components, including to other hotspots where CEPF is active. Mechanisms for dissemination of knowledge will include, but not be limited to: South-South exchanges; study visits between grantees; and audio-visual products, such as short films, webinars and websites. Knowledge products developed under this component will include at least one related to gender mainstreaming and at least one on the role of Indigenous People in ecosystem-based adaptation. The use of smart and effective communication tools will allow for additional replication in other hotspots where CEPF works, and beyond, enabling learning by organizations that may not be current partners of CEPF.

#### *Alignment with international and national priorities*

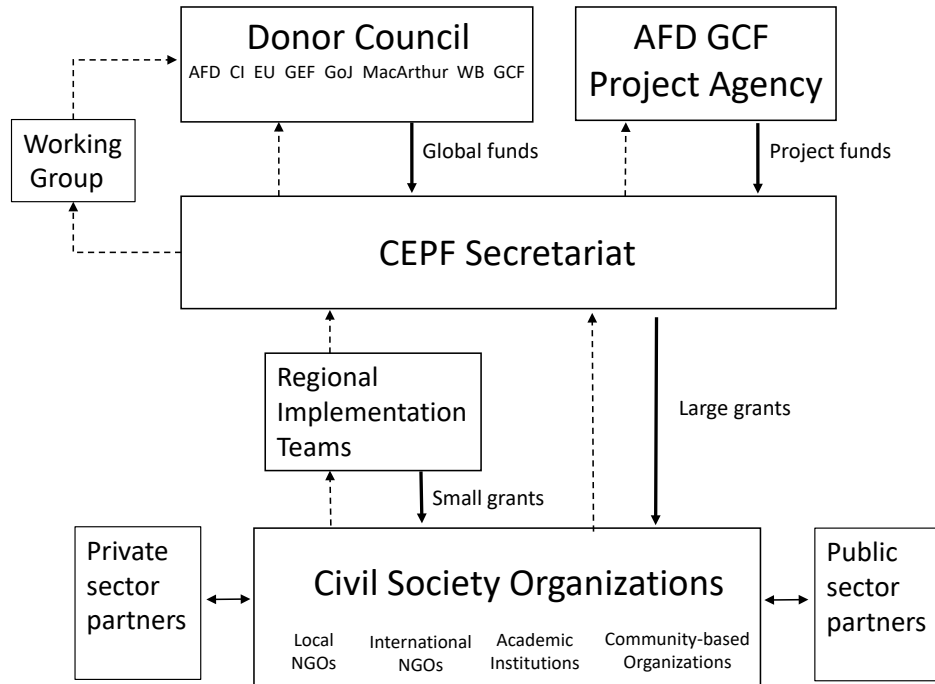
At the global scale, this project is fully aligned with the goals of the UNFCCC, which recognizes the high vulnerability of SIDS and the importance of using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. The Project is also fully aligned with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and other multilateral environmental agreements. Within the four targeted hotspots (which together cover 29 countries for proposed investment, including 6 Least Developed Countries) the Project is highly consistent with a range of national and regional strategies, including but not limited to National Adaptation Plans (e.g., NAPs), National Mitigation Plans (e.g., NAMAs), Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs/NDCs) to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

#### *Project Execution*

AFD, the GCF Accredited Entity and a long standing member of the CEPF Donor Council, will be responsible for implementing this Project. The Project will be executed through CEPF's well established modalities (summarized in Figure 1 below). The CEPF Secretariat will be responsible for project execution and will be accountable to the AFD GCF

Project Agency for the GCF funding it receives under the project, and also to the CEPF Donor Council<sup>16</sup>, for contributions from its global donor partners, which form the bulk of co-financing for the project, and which will enable biodiversity-conservation focused activities and replication of successful approaches demonstrated under the project in non-project hotspots. The Donor Council will function as the Project Steering Committee (PSC). It is the key governance mechanism for CEPF, with authority to select hotspots for investment, allocate budgets for grant making, and approve changes to CEPF's Operational Manual. Technical staff representing the global donors form the CEPF Working Group, which reports to the Donor Council and provides technical guidance to the CEPF Secretariat.

**Figure 1. Proposed governance structure for the Project showing the relationships between the different entities involved.**



**Reporting (dashed arrows), Governance (thin arrows), Funding (thick arrows) and Partnership (two-way arrows)**

The majority of project activities will be executed via grants to CSOs. To manage small grants to CSOs, a Regional Implementation Team (RIT) is selected, based on a tender process, for each of the hotspots. The RITs then become responsible for managing the grant-making process within the hotspot. Grants to CSOs are of three types. First, grants are used to contract the RIT for each hotspot. Next, two types of grant are made for implementation of projects consistent with the investment strategy set out in the Ecosystem Profile for the hotspot. 'Large grants' are awarded directly by the CEPF Secretariat<sup>17</sup>. 'Small grants' are awarded by the RIT, using funds provided and overseen by CEPF. Typically, large grants are used to engage international and larger, more established local CSOs, while small grants are used to engage local CSOs with less experience of receiving international donor funding, such as grassroots NGOs, community-based organizations and indigenous peoples groups.

CEPF will use its existing tools to manage the program: the ecosystem profiling process, the grants management procedures and the monitoring systems. These are useful in developing and promoting the strategies for hotspots, managing a large and dynamic pool of grants, and tracking progress in grant making and achieving goals. These tools enable the fund to focus on achieving conservation impacts on the ground.

CEPF already monitors its contribution to combating climate change through self-reporting by grantees at the end of their projects, coupled with analysis of GIS data and carbon maps to calculate the amount of carbon stored at CEPF-supported natural habitats. The following two indicators are currently used:

- Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change;
- Amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.

<sup>16</sup> The Donor Council consists of representatives from CEPF's donors: AFD, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. If this project is funded then GCF will be invited to join the Donor Council.

<sup>17</sup> Large grants refer to grants above a threshold amount, which is set according the operating context and needs of each hotspot. Threshold amounts range from USD20,000 to USD50,000. Grants below the threshold amount are referred to as small grants.



For this new Project, the monitoring indicators and methodologies relevant to climate change will be reviewed and updated under Component 4 to ensure that scientifically rigorous data on project impacts is collected.

CEPF carries out its mission through a gender equity lens. This means that staff of the CEPF Secretariat, Regional Implementation Teams and grantees will understand and take into account the different roles of men and women in CEPF-related activities at all scales (e.g., Regional Implementation Team training, proposal design, project implementation and reporting). Gender issues and considerations will be actively incorporated throughout the grant-making process and progress on gender-related outcomes will be monitored.

### **Risks**

Operational risks are relatively low for this project. The main risks come from the availability, capability, capacity and interest of CSOs and potential private partners to engage in the ecosystem-based adaptation activities that are identified as priorities. Since CEPF has already worked in all of the hotspots targeted by the Project, the capacity and capabilities of many CSOs is already known. During the project preparation phase, the Nationally Designated Authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the target countries will be consulted to ensure close alignment of project activities with National Adaptation Plans, National Adaptation Programs of Action and other national climate change strategies. Also, the project will provide targeted capacity building to CSOs to develop the necessary capacity and credibility to engage with government and private sector actors.

Financial risks are low for this project. CEPF has well established grant management and oversight procedures that mitigates this risk by ensuring that grantees have the necessary financial management skills before grants are provided, and by providing close support and monitoring of grantees to ensure compliance with financial policies and strengthen their financial management capacity.

Political risks are low for this project. Political changes in the target countries are likely over the life of the project. However, it is unlikely that there will be substantial policy changes that remove political support for ecosystem-based adaptation measures or for greater civil society engagement.

A formal environmental and social impact screening has not been undertaken at this stage. However, based on CEPF's previous experience with similar projects, it is not expected to cause, or otherwise enable, any major environmental or social impacts. Indeed CEPF's investments are designed to have overwhelmingly positive environmental and social impacts. CEPF has an extensive set of Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Best Practices and more than a decade's experience of applying them in SIDS and other developing country contexts. During full proposal development, further analysis and updating of these policies will be undertaken to ensure consistency with AFD's Environmental and Social Management Framework for GCF projects. The project will involve the award of grants to CSOs in the four hotspots, each of which will be screened, during the review stage, against CEPF's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Best Practices. Any grant found to trigger one or more safeguard policy will be required to prepare additional documentation, integrate additional activities into project design as necessary, and monitor and report on compliance.

### **B.3. Expected project results aligned with the GCF investment criteria (max. 3 pages)**

The Project is expected to make a significant contribution to the climate change strategies and sustainable development strategies of the countries where it will work. A more detailed assessment of the expected project results will be undertaken if GCF expresses interest in the concept. This assessment will include describing expected climate impacts within the specific countries and landscapes to be targeted so that the estimates of number of beneficiaries and areas of critical ecosystems where management will be improved can be refined.

#### *Paradigm Shift*

The Project focuses on ecosystem-based adaptation and it will contribute to GCF's paradigm-shift objective of increasing climate-resilient sustainable development in the countries within the four biodiversity hotspots. As outlined in section B1, the Project will work to harness the potential of civil society organizations to engage in climate change adaptation. CEPF's experience on biodiversity conservation projects demonstrates that the CSOs can make substantial contributions to achieving public policy goals, but that their capabilities have not yet been fully realized. This project seeks to unlock that potential by providing CSOs with the means to fully engage in ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives. While the Project is ambitious in its scale, and will include 29 countries, it will also generate knowledge and learning to enable wider replication. Longer term, the Project could also be replicated in other biodiversity hotspots where CEPF is active and has CSO networks. Although the primary focus of the Project is on adaptation, it will also contribute to mitigation through more sustainable land use resulting in GHG emissions reductions and increased CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. However, due to the scale of interventions in small island contexts, and the technical and cost implications of reliably measuring GHG emissions reductions, these will not be quantified as results for the Project.

#### *Expected Results*

High level impacts of the Project are expected to be:

- Benefit at least 2.5 million people through increased climate change resilience, access to ecosystem services and income;
- Restore or improve management of at least 3.6 million hectares of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems that play a critical role in climate change adaptation in 4 biodiversity hotspots;
- Leverage USD162 million of funding from biodiversity conservation sources towards climate change adaptation and create synergy with nature conservation initiatives;
- Build the capacity of at least 100 CSOs, thereby enabling them to make further contributions to ecosystem based adaptation and biodiversity conservation.

The Project will contribute to the following GCF performance measures:

*Impacts:*

- Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions;
- Increased resilience of health and well-being, and food and water security;
- Improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

*Outcomes:*

- Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development;
- Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making;
- Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks.

*Sustainable development goals*

CEPF specifically targets biodiversity hotspots in developing and transitional countries and helps governments meet targets related to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). There is a strong overlap between the CEPF hotspots and concentrations of rural poverty, suggesting that those projects supporting alternative livelihoods are likely to be benefiting the poorest of the poor, many of whom also depend directly on the services provided by the same ecosystems that CEPF is helping to conserve. CEPF projects promote a range of activities that strengthen the resilience to climate change of local communities and their natural support systems, including watershed management, promoting traditional stewardship practices, improved management of natural resources, discouraging destructive and unsustainable practices, gathering baseline data for improved management, establishing zoning for sustainability, and creating jobs and alternative livelihoods.

Examples of sustainable development indicators to which this project will contribute are:

*Economic co-benefits*

- Number of jobs created

*Environmental co-benefits*

- Improved soil quality
- Improved biodiversity

*Gender-sensitive development impact*

- Proportion of men and women in jobs created

*Needs of recipients and Country ownership*

Engagement with stakeholders is fundamental throughout all stages of investment in a hotspot. If the Project concept is positively received by the GCF secretariat, AFD and CEPF will engage through their existing stakeholder networks, including with the relevant Nationally Designated Authorities, to refine the project design. Once the project starts, there will be a phase of intensive engagement during preparation of an ecosystem profile and investment strategy, through a series of local, national and regional consultations. A wide range of stakeholders is involved, including national and international experts, research institutions, NGOs, government agencies, indigenous peoples, women and women's groups, community groups and private sector representatives.

*Efficiency and effectiveness*

The biodiversity hotspots concept was developed by scientists and adopted by conservation practitioners in recognition of the need to prioritize expenditure in a context of scarce conservation finance. By focusing attention and effort on large-scale areas where levels of biodiversity and threats are both high, the concept helps to channel expenditure into investments that will have a high long-term level of cost effectiveness. SIDS are recognized to be disproportionately impacted by climate change and therefore focusing investments in SIDS that are also within biodiversity hotspots is an

efficient way to achieve climate change adaptation goals in relation to vulnerable people and communities; food and water security; and biodiversity and ecosystem services.

At the outset of its investment phase in a hotspot, CEPF identifies the geographical and thematic priorities and captures these in a longer term "Vision" and a shorter term 'Ecosystem Profile' that guide subsequent investment. Currently, as part of the process to develop an Ecosystem Profile, CEPF identifies 'Key Biodiversity Areas' (KBA) that represent internationally important areas for biodiversity conservation. In this Project the KBA concept will be extended further to identify areas of high potential for ecosystem-based adaptation. This will be an important tool for ensuring that investment is directed to the ecosystems that can best contribute to climate change adaptation objectives.

Many of the approaches needed to achieve ecosystem-based adaptation are the same, or can be modified, from best practice in biodiversity conservation. The Project will therefore benefit from the knowledge of the existing network of CSOs that CEPF works with. The emphasis on sharing best practice in Component 5 of the Project will also help to replicate success across the four hotspots and beyond.

CEPF is currently piloting approaches to develop and support partnerships between CSOs and the private and public sectors. This work is also accompanied by an increased emphasis on strengthening the role of CSOs in contributing to the development of public policy. This proposed Project will benefit from these pilots and approaches to support partnerships will be integrated into the work in the four hotspots through Component 3. Development of strong partnerships with the private and public sector is also important for contributing to sustainability CSO's work beyond the life of the Project.

### C. Indicative financing / Cost information (max. 3 pages)

#### C.1. Financing by components (max ½ page)

Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and disaggregate by source of financing.

Component	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF financing		Co-financing		
		Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1. Strategy Development	2M	0		2M	Grant	CEPF
Component 2. Ecosystem-based adaptation grants to CSOs	110M	50M	Grant	60M	Grant	CEPF
Component 3. Financial and institutional sustainability	38M	18M	Grant	20M	Grant	CEPF
Component 4. Science, monitoring and verification	8M	8M	Grant	0		CEPF
Component 5. Replicating success	84M	4M	Grant	80M <sup>18</sup>	Grant	CEPF
<b>Indicative total cost (USD)</b>		80M		162M		

The indicative cost figures provided above imply that approximately USD20M of GCF's financing will be allocated to each of the four biodiversity hotspots.

The above figures assume that project management costs are spread proportionally among components.

#### C.2. Justification of GCF funding request (max 1 page)

CEPF is funded from public and private sector grants and targets high biodiversity countries where there are inadequate financial resources to effectively address environmental issues. The past work of CEPF has been focused on biodiversity outcomes and has depended on funding from bilateral donors and private foundations that has been earmarked for biodiversity conservation. AFD and the other donors to the CEPF program believe there is an opportunity to strengthen the climate outcomes of CEPF's work by partnering with GCF. The proposed project provides GCF an opportunity to leverage existing networks of civil society partners within SIDS to address climate risks and to create synergies with environmental actions primarily designed to address biodiversity loss.

<sup>18</sup> This figure includes funding to replicate effective ecosystem-based approaches in other hotspots where CEPF is active.

The Project targets SIDS, including 5 Least Developed Countries, where it is difficult for CSOs to access finance for ecosystem-based adaptation activities. The ultimate beneficiaries of the funding in the proposed Project are CSOs who will be engaged in not-for-profit activities and therefore grant funding is appropriate. As described in section B2, CEPF will use grant-making to finance the on-the-ground ecosystem-based adaptation activities of the CSOs. The grant instrument being requested by AFD will therefore be passed on to CEPF and ultimately to the CSOs.

Other than GCF, there are no alternative funding options for the Project that would allow CEPF to use its tried-and-tested model to address ecosystem-based adaptation at such a large scale as that proposed in this Concept Note.

### **C.3. Sustainability and replicability of the project (exit strategy) (max. 1 page)**

Sustainability of the project is integral to the proposed components. The challenges to achieving sustainability are two-fold: first, lack of effective models for mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation into public policy and private sector practices; and, second, lack of appropriate resource mobilization to support ecosystem-based adaptation and the actions of civil society towards that goal. Building on the recommendations of previous evaluations of CEPF's work, and current pilot approaches, the Project proposes to overcome these two challenges by creating a more favorable enabling environment by leveling the field for CSOs, so that they can more effectively advise, support and innovate with government agencies and private sector companies, resulting in policies and business practices that more effectively mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation and biodiversity conservation. The development of public-private partnerships engrained in long-term visions of sustainability will allow civil society to play the role of innovator, influencer and adviser to government agencies and private sector companies, facilitating the emergence of more sustainable economies in areas that harbor globally significant biodiversity and critical ecosystems.

In terms of financial resources, the project proposes to develop long-term funding plans that identify traditional and non-traditional sources of funding, and to test models of non-conventional funding mechanisms that can be amplified within the hotspots. The result of this will be greater availability of financial resources to continue to conserve critical ecosystems and ensure the provision of goods and services for human well-being.

A key question facing donors wishing to support the emergence of civil society as a strong partner in sustainable development to government and the private sector is how to determine when the long-term goal has been met within a given hotspot. A framework adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2014 responded to this question by proposing five target conditions, which would need to be met before civil society in a hotspot could be considered to have transitioned from the fund's support. These are:

- Global conservation priorities and best practices for their management are documented, disseminated and used by public and private sector, civil society and donor agencies to guide their support for conservation in the hotspot;
- Local civil society groups dedicated to global conservation priorities collectively possess sufficient organizational and technical capacity to be effective advocates for, and agents of, conservation and sustainable development, while being equal partners of private sector and government agencies influencing decision making in favor of sustainable societies and economies;
- Adequate and continual financial resources are available to address conservation of global priorities;
- Public policies, the capacity to implement them, and private sector business practices are supportive of the conservation of global biodiversity;
- Mechanisms exist to identify and respond to emerging conservation challenges.

### **C.4 Engagement among the NDA, AE, and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country (max ½ page)**

CEPF has current or recent programs in all the countries included in this proposed project. CEPF and its regional partners have strong relationships with the ministries responsible for environmental issues in each of the countries. As such, CEPF is confident that there is widespread support within relevant government departments and among civil society stakeholders for expanding the current/recent biodiversity focused programs to address climate change outcomes. However, at this stage AFD and CEPF have not approached the relevant Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) as we first want to get GCF's reaction to the proposed project concept. Approaching the NDAs at this stage is premature and could lead to disappointment and confusion among stakeholder countries and organizations. We recognize the importance that GCF puts on national ownership of its projects and fully support this approach. However the proposed project will work in 29 countries and therefore we believe that it is important for AFD and GCF to have a common understanding of how this proposed project could be structured and accomplished prior to approaching the NDAs (and other government and non-government stakeholders).

### **D. Supporting documents submitted (OPTIONAL)**

- Map indicating the location of the project/programme
- Diagram of the theory of change
- Financial Model
- Pre-feasibility Study
- Evaluation Report of previous project

#### Self-awareness check boxes

Are you aware that the full Funding Proposal and Annexes will require these documents? Yes  No

- Feasibility Study
- Environmental and social impact assessment or environmental and social management framework
- Stakeholder consultations at national and project level implementation including with indigenous people if relevant
- Gender assessment and action plan
- Operations and maintenance plan if relevant
- Loan or grant operation manual as appropriate
- Co-financing commitment letters

Are you aware that a funding proposal from an accredited entity without a signed AMA will be reviewed but not sent to the Board for consideration? Yes  No

## Appendix 1. Description<sup>1</sup> and Maps of the Biodiversity Hotspots targeted by the Project

### East Melanesian Islands

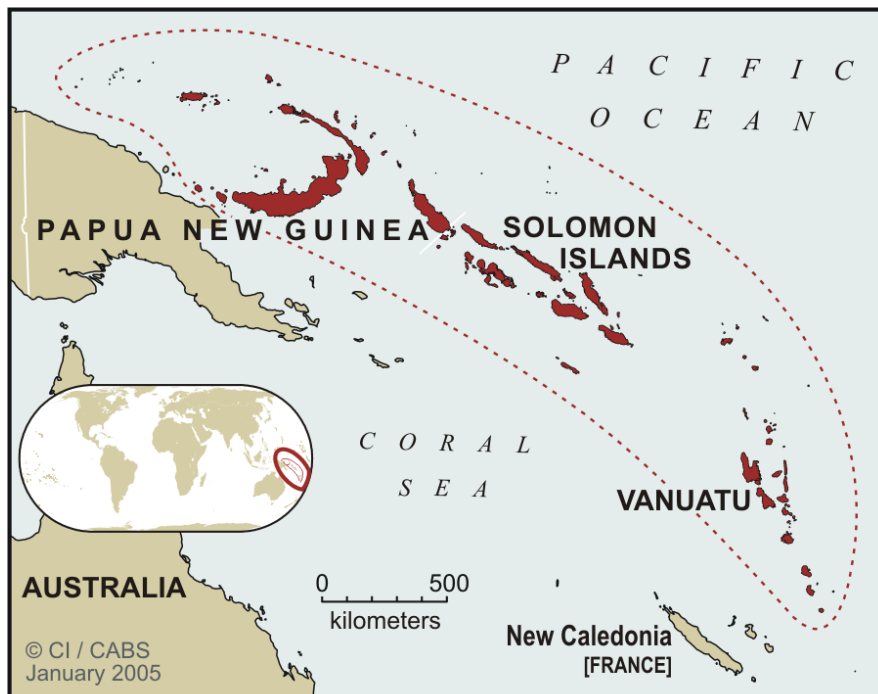
The East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot consists of the island nations of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, as well as the islands region of Papua New Guinea (PNG), which includes the provinces of Manus, New Ireland, East New Britain and West New Britain plus the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

These islands qualify as a biodiversity hotspot due to their high levels of endemism and accelerating levels of habitat loss, caused chiefly by widespread commercial logging and mining, expansion of subsistence and plantation agriculture, population increase, and the impacts of climate change and variability.

Notable endemic species include the majestic Solomons sea eagle (*Haliaeetus sanfordi*) and many species of flying fox. The East Melanesian Islands also harbor a diverse and unique group of flora and fauna including 3,000 endemic vascular plant species, 41 endemic mammals, 148 endemic birds, 54 endemic reptiles, 45 endemic amphibians and three endemic freshwater fishes. The hotspot is a terrestrial conservation priority, and habitats include coastal vegetation, mangrove forests, freshwater swamp forests, lowland rainforests, seasonally dry forests and grasslands, and montane rainforests.

The hotspot also holds exceptional cultural and linguistic diversity. Vanuatu, for example, has 108 living languages: more per unit area than any other country. The Solomon Islands, with 74 languages, are only slightly less diverse. Because many languages are spoken by only a few hundred people, they are dying out or mixing into pidgin-Austronesian creoles, leading to a rapid erosion of traditional knowledge and practice. This is highly significant in a region where most land and resources are under customary ownership, and local people are true stewards of biodiversity.

Figure A1.1. Map of the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot



### East Melanesian Islands Hotspot

<sup>1</sup> Detailed descriptions of each of the Biodiversity Hotspots are available in the Ecosystem Profile documents that are available at [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net)

## Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

Located about 400 kilometers from the east coast of Africa, the island of Madagascar boasts plant and animal species that have evolved long in isolation from other land masses. In addition to Madagascar, the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot includes the independent nations of Seychelles, the Comoros and Mauritius.

Our support focuses on maintaining the natural wealth of Madagascar, which includes tropical rain forest in the east, dry deciduous forests in the west and a unique spiny desert in the south. The island also hosts high mountain ecosystems characterized by forest with moss and lichens.

These critical ecosystems shelter at least 12,000 species of plants, 90 percent of which are found nowhere else. Often considered a mini-continent, Madagascar is famous for its diversity of chameleons and more than 50 different kinds of lemurs—unique primates found only here. New species are also being discovered at a rapid rate: 22 new mammal species and subspecies have been described in just the past 15 years.

While sheltering extraordinary concentrations of biological diversity, Madagascar has lost as much as 80 percent of its original forest cover. Slash-and-burn agriculture, mining and logging are among the main causes. Wetlands, including lakes, rivers and marshes, are also under threat from transformation to rice fields.

**Figure A1.2. Map of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**



## Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

## Caribbean Islands

The biologically and culturally diverse Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot is a complex region composed of 12 independent nations and several British, Dutch, French and U.S. overseas territories. As a result of its geography and climate, it is one of the world's greatest centers of unique biodiversity.

This archipelago sustains an exceptional array of ecosystems ranging from montane cloud forests to cactus scrublands, and hosts dozens of highly threatened species, including two species of solenodon (giant shrews) and the Cuban crocodile.

The combination of a high population growth rate and high population densities, massive seasonal influxes, increasing urbanization of the population, monetary inequity and poverty, and the increasing cost of major import goods has led to unsustainable demand for land and natural resources to the detriment of the hotspot's biodiversity and ecosystems.

Our support will focus on six biodiversity conservation corridors and the highest priority sites for conservation; many of which are coastal and dependent on the health and resilience of the adjacent marine environment.

With the majority of Caribbean people living close to the shoreline, coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, beaches, lagoons and cays, are essential not only for biodiversity, but for buffering coastal communities from the effects of storms, providing a basis for recreational and tourism industries, as well as nursery habitat for commercial species.

CEPF is profiling for its second investment in this region.

Figure A1.3. Map of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot



## Caribbean Islands Hotspot



## Polynesia-Micronesia

The 4,500 islands of this biodiversity hotspot include Micronesia, tropical Polynesia and Fiji, and are home to more than 3 million people in 20 different countries and territories. Despite its expansive ocean coverage, the land area of the hotspot covers only 46,315 square kilometers or about the size of Switzerland.

The varied lands of this unique region include rain forests, temperate forests, wetlands and savannas. These fragile areas host 476 globally threatened species that are crucial to the natural processes and sustainability of critical ecosystems, as well as the livelihoods of the Pacific islanders.

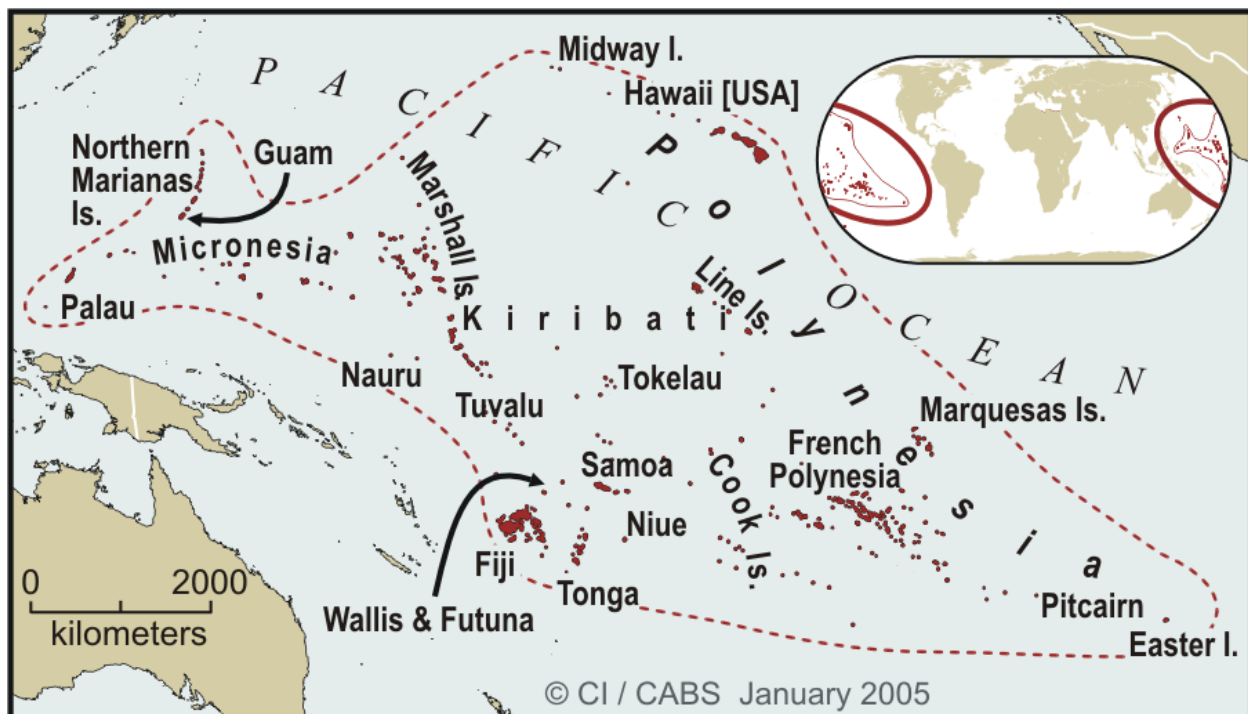
The natural assets of the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot are among the most threatened in the world, with just 21 percent of the original vegetation remaining intact. About three-fourths of the endangered species in the hotspot are threatened by invasive animal and plant species.

Socioeconomic changes and population growth in the region have meant more dependence on cash-crop production, increased deforestation, over-harvesting of resources and the use of destructive harvesting techniques. These practices have significantly reduced and degraded existing habitats. The limited land area exacerbates these threats. To date there have been more recorded bird extinctions in this hotspot than any other. In the future, climate change is likely to become a major threat especially for low-lying islands and atolls that could disappear completely.

Our support focuses on conservation initiatives in Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, and Wallis and Futuna.

CEPF is not currently active in this biodiversity hotspot.

Figure A1.4. Map of the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot



## Polynesia - Micronesia Hotspot

**Appendix 2. Island territories and states in the four proposed hotspots, including Small Island Developing State, Least Developed Country and Low Income Economy status**

Hotspot	Previous investment	Current investment	Countries	SIDS	LDC	LIE
Caribbean Islands	2010-2015 \$6.9 million	2017-2022 Amount tbd	Antigua and Barbuda	Y	N	N
			Bahamas	Y	N	N
			Barbados	Y		N
			Cuba	Y	N	N
			Dominica	Y	N	N
			Dominican Republic	Y	N	N
			Grenada	Y	N	N
			Haiti	Y	Y	Y
			Jamaica	Y	N	N
			St. Kitts and Nevis	Y	N	N
			St. Lucia	Y	N	N
			St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Y	N	N
			Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	2001-1012 \$5.7 million	2015-2020 \$7.5 million (with possible extension of time and funds)	Comoros
Madagascar	N	Y				Y
Mauritius	Y	N				N
Seychelles	Y	N				N
East Melanesian Islands	None	2013-2021 \$9 million	Papua New Guinea	Y	N	N
			Solomon Islands	Y	Y	N
			Vanuatu	Y	Y	N
Polynesia-Micronesia	2008-2013 \$7 million	Not currently planned	Cook Islands	Y	N	N
			Easter Island	Chile	N	N
			Federated States of Micronesia	Y	N	N
			Fiji	Y	N	N
			French Polynesia	France	N	N
			Kiribati	Y	Y	N
			Marshall Islands	Y	N	N
			Niue	Y	N	N
			Palau	Y	N	N
			Pitcairn Islands	British Overseas Territory	N	N
			Samoa	Y	N	N
			Tokelau	Dependent territory of New Zealand	N	N
Tonga	Y	N	N			
Wallis and Futuna	French Overseas Collectivity	N	N			

SIDS: Small Island Developing State; LDC: Least Developed Country; LIE: Low-Income Economy

### Appendix 3. Theory of Change for the Project

**Goal:**

To achieve ecosystem-based adaptation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through action by Civil Society Organizations

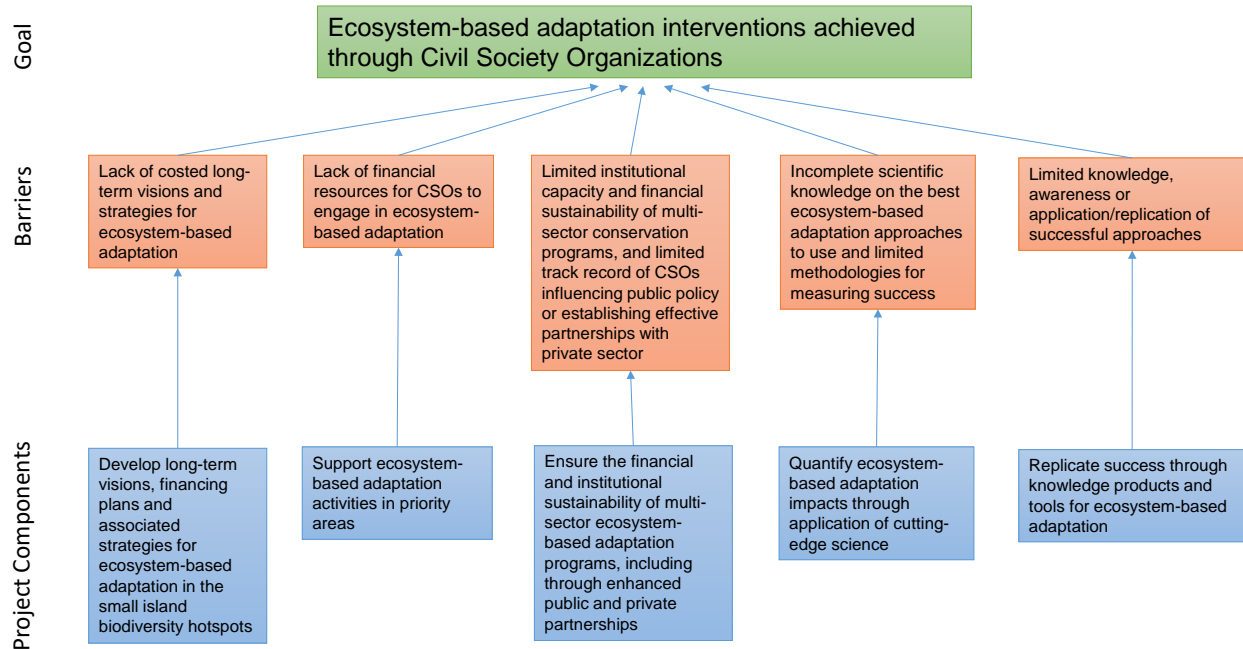
**Key Barriers:**

- Lack of costed long-term visions and strategies for ecosystem-based adaptation;
- Lack of financial resources for CSOs to engage in ecosystem-based adaptation;
- Limited institutional capacity and financial sustainability of multi-sector conservation programs;
- Limited track record of CSOs at influencing public policy or at establishing effective partnerships with private companies in sectors driving ecosystem degradation;
- Limited knowledge, awareness or application/replication of successful approaches.

**Interventions/Components to address the barriers:**

- Component 1: Developing long-term visions, financing plans and associated strategies for ecosystem-based adaptation in the small island biodiversity hotspots, well aligned with national climate change strategies;
- Component 2: Supporting ecosystem-based adaptation activities in priority areas;
- Component 3: Ensuring the financial and institutional sustainability of multi-sector programs for ecosystem-based adaptation, including through enhanced public and private partnerships;
- Component 4: Quantifying ecosystem-based adaptation impacts through application of cutting-edge science;
- Component 5: Replicating success through knowledge products and tools for ecosystem-based adaptation.

**Figure summarizing the Theory of Change and showing the relationship between the Project goal, barriers and Project Components**



### **Assumptions behind the Theory of Change:**

- 1) The main drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation operate at local, national and regional scales and can be influenced by conservation<sup>2</sup> interventions at these different scales.
- 2) Civil society organizations are present and willing to engage in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-based adaptation, to partner with unfamiliar actors from other sectors, and to adopt innovative approaches.
- 3) The capacity of civil society organizations can be augmented and translated into more effective local conservation movements.
- 4) Short-term grant funding can make significant contributions to overcoming the resource constraints facing civil society organizations.
- 5) Increasing the capacity and credibility of local civil society organizations is likely to open political space for these organizations as they become recognized as trusted advisors (rather than causing them to be viewed as threats to vested interests).
- 6) Some government and private sector/corporate actors are receptive to innovative conservation models demonstrated by CEPF projects and have incentives to adopt these for wider replication.
- 7) National academic institutions produce graduates with the skills and perspective to respond to local conservation challenges by working with or within civil society organizations.
- 8) Raised local public awareness that results from the participation of these organizations in conservation issues has the potential to change attitudes and, ultimately, behavior towards the consumption of energy and natural resources.

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<sup>2</sup> As used in this document, the term 'conservation' includes strategies such as sustainable management and restoration that are important for achieving ecosystem-based adaptation.