



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Bahamas Pine Islands (BPI) – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros)		
Country(ies):	The Bahamas	GEF Project ID:	4847
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	00839
Other Executing Partner(s):	BEST Commission with Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC), Bahamas National G.I.S. Centre (BNGIS), Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Department of Lands & Surveys (DLS), Forestry Unit, Department of Physical Planning (DPP), and Town Planning Committee (TPC).	Resubmission Date:	August 18, 2015
GEF Focal Area (s):	BD, LD	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of parent programme (if applicable):	SFM	Agency Fee (US\$):	271,075

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
BD 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	GEF TF	800,032	1,964,000
BD 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation		200,000	984,794
LD 3.2: Integrated landscape management adopted by communities.	GEF TF	1,000,032	1,984,433
SFM 1.1: Enhanced enabling environment within the forest sector and across sectors	GEF TF	100,000	1,000,000
SFM 1.2: Good management practices applied in 15% Conservation Forests (191, 826 hectares)		466,688	891,572
SFM 1.3 Good management practices by relevant economic actors in 15% Conservation Forests (191, 826 hectares) hectares)		100,000	367,031
Project Management Costs 7%		186,673	503,428
Total project costs		2,853,425	7,695,258

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Integrate Biodiversity Considerations & Ecosystem Services into Forest Management and Land Use Planning (4 Pine Islands: Grand Bahamas, New Providence, Abaco and Andros)						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Institutional systemic support & associated capacity building and public education, and community awareness.	TA	<p>1.1 Enhanced enabling environment in support of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) with integration of Biodiversity into land use planning.</p> <p>1.2 Increased targeted public awareness of the importance and benefits of sustainably managing forest & mangrove biodiversity, ecosystems services and sustainable land management.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Assessment and monitoring system (GIS); database of forestry lands with biodiversity overlay, inc mangroves.</p> <p>1.1.2 Inter-agency system established and capacity built to enable trade off analyses for sustainable land management planning at the landscape levels in 2 sub-national plans.</p> <p>1.2.1 Tailored tools, methodologies, and training for integration of biodiversity into forest management/ land use management.</p> <p>1.2.2 Awareness building modules -- benefits of sustainable land use and forest management.</p>	GEFTF	962,345	2,874,580
2. Expansion and improved management of forest/mangrove sector		2. Improved management effectiveness of existing and new forest reserves.	<p>2.1 Establishment of National Forestry Estate inclusive of Conservation Forests.</p> <p>2.2 Community co-management of 2 Conservation forests (representing 15% of Conservation Forests).</p> <p>2.3 Restoration of Andros Davis Creek Mangrove system (50 ha) with CO2 savings up to 96,650 tCO2 eq.</p>	GEFTF	860,455	2,332,817
3. Models for SFM Sustainable		3. Effective provisioning of forest ecosystems	3.1 Pilot Model Sustainable Cultivation of Native Palms	GEFTF	844,125	1,984,433

livelihoods, agriculture, forestry & sustainable land management in coastal communities of the Pine Islands, and additional Family Islands in Central and SE Bahamas	underpinned by strengthened livelihoods people dependent on use of forest resources - increased use of sustainable land, agroforestry and forestry management practices among coastal communities.	3.2 Pilot Model Sustainable Cascarilla Cultivation and Processing			
Sub-Total				2,666,925	7,191,830
Project management costs (7%)			GEF TF	186,500	503,428
Total project costs				2,853,425	7,695,258

C. Indicative Co-financing for the project by source and by name if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing for baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
CASH			
Government	Forestry Unit, Ministry of Environment and Housing	Cash	150,000
Government	Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC)	Cash	400,000
Government	Department of Lands & Surveys (DLS)	Cash	20,000
Government	Department of Physical Planning (DPP)	Cash	20,000
IN KIND			
Government	Forestry Unit, Ministry of Environment and Housing	In Kind	2,161,140
Government	BEST Commission, Ministry of Environment and Housing	In Kind	651,118
Government	Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC)	In Kind	1,475,000
Government	Bahamas National G.I.S. Centre (BNGIS)	In Kind	657,500
Government	Department of Lands & Surveys (DLS)	In Kind	788,500
Government	Department of Physical Planning (DPP)	In Kind	732,000
Bilateral	USGS EROS Center	In Kind	200,000
NGO	International Conservation Corps (ICC)	In Kind	400,000
GEF Agency	UNEP		40,000
Grand Total			7,695,258

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	BD	The Bahamas	1,070,034	101,653	1,171,687
UNEP	GEF TF	LD	The Bahamas	1,070,034	101,653	1,171,687
UNEP	GEF TF	SFM	Global	713,357	67,769	781,126
Total Grant Resources				2,853,425	271,075	3,124,500

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Local consultants*	186,460	580,500	766,960
International consultants	0	600,000	600,000
Total	186,460	1,180,500	1,366,960

*Local consultants are from within the Caribbean region

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF

A1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc

NA

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

NA

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

NA

A4. Describe the project baseline and the problem(s) that the intervention seeks to address:

Over the course of a lengthy and participatory stakeholder consultation and preparation process, Component 2 was adjusted to focus most directly on the category of Conservation Forests.

A.5. Incremental / Additional cost reasoning:

The incremental/co-financing scenario has been adjusted upwards (from \$5.6 million in PIF, to \$7.7 million at CEO endorsement) reflecting the government's commitment incrementally building on Forestry Act 2010, the Forestry Act Amendment 2014, and the Planning and Subdivisions Act 2010, developing sustainable livelihood, whilst safeguarding ecosystem services and generating global environmental benefits. Whilst there have been shifts in financial support, the partnership landscape is intact with an emphasis on strong government support, and underpinned by NGO partnerships and implementation arrangements. The technical support of the International Conservation Corps (ICC) is also strongly welcomed.

The 2014 creation of the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) will slowly start to serve as a financial sustainability mechanism which also provides for Conservation Forest goals. The creation of the BPAF was supported under the soon to be completed GEF project "Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Areas Network for the Bahamas (Bahamas MPA Project)".

Project management costs are justified at 7% because of (i) the nature of the project components necessitating extensive consultative processes to be overseen, and (ii) the geographically dispersed spread of the project sites, in a country consisting of 700 islands and associated oversight travel costs. Specifically:

In component 1, sub national plans are envisioned for Andros and for New Providence. Andros is an archipelago within the Bahamas, the largest of the 26 inhabited Bahamian Islands. Politically considered a single island, Andros in total has an area greater than all the other 700 Bahamian islands combined. The land area of Andros consists of hundreds of small islets and cays connected by mangrove estuaries and tidal swamp lands, together with three major islands: North Andros, Mangrove Cay, and South Andros. The three main islands are separated by "bights", estuaries that trifurcate the island, connecting the island's east and west coasts. It is 104 miles (167 km) long by 40 miles (64 km) wide, at the widest point. New Providence is the most populous island in the Bahamas, containing more than 70% of the total population.¹ It also houses the national capital city, Nassau. Other settlements on New Providence include Grants Town, Bain Town, Fox Hill, Adelaide, Yamacraw, South Beach, Coral Harbour, Lyford Cay, Paradise Island, Sea Breeze, Centreville, The Grove (South) and The Grove (West Bay), Cable Beach, Deportee, Gambier and Love Beach.

In component 2, extensive consultative processes are foreseen for establishment of the forestry estate with an emphasis on Conservation Forests. Community co-management of Conservation Forests is foreseen in prioritized sites in Central Andros (see above) and in The Abaco Islands which lie in the northern Bahamas and comprise the main islands of Great Abaco and Little Abaco, along with smaller barrier cays. Administratively, the Abaco Islands constitute seven of the 31 Local Government Districts of the Bahamas: Grand Cay, North Abaco, Green Turtle Cay, Central Abaco, South Abaco, Moore's Island, and Hope Town.

In component 3, alternative livelihood schemes are foreseen in North Andros, Grand Bahama (see above) for palms; and in Acklins, Crooked and Cat Islands for Cascarilla. The Bight of Acklins, of which the largest are Crooked Island in the north and Acklins in the south-east, and the smaller are Long Cay

Consultation and travel costs are factored into the three components' costed design, but project oversight and monitoring costing has been factored into project management costs (PMC) of 7% as foreseen at the PIF stage. These PMC costs include the cost of travel such as boat, air and local per diem. Inter-islands flights are not daily, nor are they inexpensive and will require overnighting by project management team. Making arrangements by boat to project sites had proven to be costly as per the experience of two earlier GEF funded projects: *Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean (MTIASIC) – Bahamas component* and *Building a Sustainable National Marine Protected Area Network – The Bahamas*. These foreseen costs have been carefully calculated in details in keeping with actual air

and boat travel costs and local per diem and are available upon request. Project management of SIDs with dispersed islands (+700 islands in the case of The Bahamas) are known to be higher.



A6. Risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measure
Key Project partners, communities, farmers and hunters are not prepared to fully participate in the process, exchange information or materials;	H	Increased communication with all stakeholder levels throughout the project phases thus promoting trust, and sharing of information should follow; using open source software would assist in accessibility to data. Component 3 focused on alternative livelihoods designed to engender participation and support.
Adoption of land-use planning strategies may lead to resistance from Local Government	M	Mitigate temp. zoning requirements if a conflicting development occurs with a conservation; Using the participatory and interactive approach with

island Administrators which will lead to continued fragmented landscapes because of competing land-uses		island communities therefore reducing prejudice that all decisions are top-down approach; By integrating their needs and recommendations, this will increase ownership and acceptance of the process. New legislation for 2010 Subdivision Act encompasses substantive procedural consultative agreement processes.
Long-term monitoring system developed and implemented	M	Training to Town Planning Committees and Family Island Administrators to be provided under project and responsibilities clarified.
Land ownership and access within coastal communities	M	Community to having access to the land thru establish partnerships with agencies, formalize partnerships thru memorandum of understanding MOU with agency responsible for the land
Sustainable Livelihoods	M	Implementing a scientific review; conducting research to establish baseline values integration of gender and youth into livelihoods component; outreach and branding strategy; reducing the middle men; processing locally; adding value.
Forest fires	M	Mitigate with prescribed burns; increasing community training about how to mitigate burns and protect pilot sites through development of prescribed burn plans.

**Risk rating – H (High Risk), S (Substantial Risk), M (Modest Risk), and L (Low Risk)*

A7. Coordination with other GEF financed initiatives

See ProDoc Section 2.7 outlining coordination with related initiatives. The project’s National Coordinating Committee (NCC) will be responsible for guiding the execution of project activities, inclusive of reviewing and advising on the main outputs of the BPI FSP, ensuring that the environmental policy of the Government is fully reflected in the BPI FSP, ensuring effective communication and decision-making, and assisting with mobilization of expertise as needed for proper execution of the BPI FSP outputs. The NCC will consist of at least five members, and be comprised of representatives of key sector and institutions and will ensure the project fits within local, national, and international needs. The NCC will be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MEH (Chair) with representation to be drawn from existing NISP¹: BEST, DMR, TNC and BNT and to be determined from lead and co-executing stakeholders: BAIC, BNGIS, DLS, Forestry Unit, Department of Physical Planning, and Town Planning Committee. The NCC responsibilities will include oversight of project implementation, monitoring of project progress, strategic and policy guidance and to review and approve annual work plans and budgets. The inclusion of a NISP member on the NCC will serve to ensure coordination with other related initiatives. A complete list of responsibilities of the NCC can be found in Appendix 10.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE

B.1 How stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation

¹ The agencies which form the National Implementation Support Programme (NISP) include the core members of Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The NISP meets monthly to monitor and guide environmental projects under implementation.

The project depends on the active stakeholder participation selected key stakeholders who will drive the project. Additionally, various participatory stakeholders ranging from the community and other government agencies. During the Stakeholder Validation Workshop, the stakeholders indicated their level of participation for the execution of the project. The following table summarizes the stakeholder participation for the duration of the project.

Stakeholder participation and management arrangements

Component	Lead Stakeholder = Responsible for overall delivery and oversight	Co-Executing Stakeholder = Key for delivery of activities	Participatory Stakeholder = Key consultative and participatory role in delivery of activities
1	FU; DPP	BNGISC; DLS; BEST	BNT; TNC; WSC
2	BEST; FU	DPP; BNGISC; DLS	BNT; TNC; WSC; BREEF
3	BAIC	DLG; FU; WSC	BNT; TNC

The Forestry Unit and the Department of Physical Planning will be the co-lead agencies for Component 1, as they will each be the lead for their respective outputs. The Forestry Unit will lead the activities to achieve outputs 1.1, 1.2.1 and DPP will lead the activities to achieve output 1.1.2; and they will co-lead for output 1.2.2.

In component 2: the entire component will be led by the Forestry Unit with support from government agencies either in a collaborative format or participatory format, specifically Dept. of Lands & Surveys, Dept. of Physical Planning and Bahamas National GIS Centre. The two conservation forest areas, Abaco Blue Hole Conservation Forest and Andros Maiden Hair Conservation Forest, have active community organizations that are influential in the implementation of the community forestry management.

Lastly, in Component 3, this component will be lead entirely by Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) with support from government agencies either in a collaborative format or participatory format, specifically the Forestry Unit, Water & Sewerage Corporation, and the Department of Local Government (DLG). The local community organizations will play an essential role in this component, notably the Bahamas handicraft associations who are active in each of the settlements identified for the pilot sites.

Communities around the forest estate and proposed sub-national plans under the project will play a key role. The Forestry Regulations of 2014, Sections 19(2) and 19(3) Forest Management Plans assure consultative processes as well as public notification processes including a posting and written commentary phase.

http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2014/2014-0038/ForestryRegulations2014_1.pdf

The Planning and Subdivision Act of 2010, Sections 17(1), 17(2), 17(4). 17(5) and 17(6) – Preparation of Land Use Plan also assures and extensive consultation, as well as public opportunities to review, inclusive of public meetings and several notification processes and opportunities for representation.

B2. Socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.":

The Project has been designed to have positive environmental and social impacts through the establishment of the national forestry estate, the creation of sustainable conservation forest areas, reducing land degradation through promotion of sustainable harvesting methods within forest dependent communities thru various pilot demonstration projects designed to ensure equitable gender participation and benefits. The enhancement of sustainable livelihoods will also provide a necessary boost of interest into the trades of handicraft that will be reflected throughout the island.

B3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

Current land use planning and implementation continues to undervalue biodiversity and ecosystem services, resulting in the degradation of land, biodiversity, priority forest areas. The current effort will couple informed land use planning and sustainable livelihoods, including agroforestry and non-timber forest products to relieve pressure on forest resources while providing opportunities for generation of income in the Family Islands of The Bahamas.

To ensure cost effective use of GEF funds the synergistic components of this project comprise:

- Formalizing the National Forestry Estate thru identification of boundaries, a complete assessment inventory and monitoring of all three ecosystems (pine, coppice and mangroves);
- Enhancing the practical functions of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices through the development of 2 sub-national land-use plans that integrates Sustainable Forest Management for islands of Andros and New Providence
- Piloting SFM in Conservation Forests with formalized community management promoting the biodiversity conservation at all levels of society;
- Developing, implementing and replicating SFM and community forestry approaches to sustainable livelihoods

C. BUDGETED M&E PLAN

UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process. The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools.

The National Coordinating Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget. A costed M & E Plan is provided at Appendix 7 of the Project Document

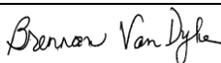
The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix 15. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Philip Weech	GEF Focal Point	BEST Commission	02/23/2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Van Dyke GEF Executive Coordinator United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Nairobi, Kenya		August 18, 2015	Kristin Mclaughlin Task Manager	+1-202-974-1312	Kristin.mclaughlin@unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Strategy	Indicators	Baseline	Mid Term Targets ²	End of Project Targets	Sources of Verification	Risk and Assumptions
Project Objective: Integrate Biodiversity Considerations & Ecosystem Services into Forest Management and Land Use Planning (4 Pine Islands: Grand Bahamas, New Providence, Abaco and Andros)						
COMPONENT 1. Institutional systemic support & associated capacity building and public education, and community awareness.						
OUTCOME 1.1 Enhanced enabling environment in support of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) with integration of Biodiversity into land use planning	2 sub national plans integrate BD and SFM	Implementation of Pine Islands land use plans does not integrate of sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services, and biodiversity values. Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool Score: 140 SFM Tracking Tool Score: 4 LD-3 Tracking Tools Score: 5	Draft of the 2 sub-national land use plans that integrate BD and SFM Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool Score: SFM Tracking Tool Score: LD-3 Tracking Tools Score:	Town Planning Committee implementation of Land Use Plans integrates sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services considerations, and biodiversity values. Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool Score:259 SFM Tracking Tool Score:6 LD-3 Tracking Tools Score: 8	Published approval on official website of the Government of The Bahamas Technical Reports verifying activities by the Town Planning Committee	Risks: Viewed as extra red-tape policy Assumptions: Decision makers want progressive sustainable development of communities

² To be agreed at Project Inception Workshop

<p>Output 1.1.1 Assessment and monitoring system (GIS); database of forestry lands with biodiversity overlay, inc mangroves.</p>	<p>Establishment of Carbon and Forestry monitoring systems</p>	<p>No open access to forestry, biodiversity or ecosystem services resources data.</p> <p>No established monitoring systems.</p>	<p>Available data collected, consolidated and collated.</p> <p>Draft framework available for review.</p> <p>Conducted Remote Sensing to determine carbon values</p>	<p>Open source framework accessible to all agencies of forest resources which integrates ecosystem services and biodiversity data.</p> <p>Developed GIS datasets using Remote Sensing analysis</p>	<p>Forestry Maps that other agencies ;</p> <p>Reports of Carbon sequestration monitoring for pine, coppice and mangroves</p>	<p>Risk: Availability of cloud free data; GIS data sets not having the required resolution to differentiate forest types</p> <p>Assumptions: Data already developed is available</p>
<p>Output 1.1.2 Inter-agency system established and capacity built to enable trade off analyses for sustainable land management planning at the landscape levels in 2 sub-national plans</p>	<p>An Integrated GIS framework for all agencies in regards to Forestry Resources</p> <p>Sub national land-use plans for Andros and New Providence</p> <p>Enhance capacity</p>	<p>No Forestry in existing GIS framework</p> <p>No comprehensive land-use plans that incorporate biodiversity and conservation areas exist for Andros or New Providence</p> <p>Limited technical capacity</p>	<p>Data collection completed</p> <p>Draft of the 2 sub-national land use plans that integrate BD and SFM</p> <p>Capacity needs assessment carried out</p>	<p>Developed an open-source framework for all agencies to have access to Forestry data and Land-Use plans</p> <p>Town Planning Committee implementation of Land Use Plans integrates sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services considerations, and biodiversity values.</p> <p>75% of the Town Planning</p>	<p>Published approval on official website of the Government of The Bahamas</p> <p>Technical Reports verifying activities by the Town Planning Committee and Family Island Administrators</p>	<p>Risks: Viewed as extra red-tape policy; lack of interest of Town planning committee; flawed local board of works election process</p> <p>Assumptions: Decision makers want progressive sustainable development of communities</p>

				Committee and Family Island Administrators received training		
Outcome 1.2 Increased targeted public awareness of the importance and benefits of sustainably managing forest & mangrove biodiversity, ecosystems services and sustainable land management	Public Awareness	Community awareness of basis decision making limited	Tools and training modules developed Baseline awareness Surveys completed	Public awareness activities Local Island Administrators on Andros and Abaco increased by 50% over baseline.	Surveys with gender disaggregated data	
Output 1.2.1 Tailored tools, methodologies, and training for integration of biodiversity into forest management/ land use management	Tools and Training for capacity enhancement in the areas of sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services, and biodiversity values.	No tools or training modules in the areas of sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services, and biodiversity values.	Capacity needs assessment conducted Developed training modules workshop With Planning Consultant/DPP, FU, BEST BNGIS, and DLS	Public awareness activities Local Island Administrators on Andros and Abaco increased by 50% over baseline.	Surveys with gender disaggregated data	Risks: Change of administration focus due to Local Govt. election in 2017 Assumptions: Compliance to partake in training
Output 1.2.2. Awareness building modules -- benefits of sustainable land use and forest management.	Awareness built of benefits of sustainable land use, forest ecosystem services and biodiversity values.	Low awareness and no communication strategy	Conduct baseline surveys within communities Development of communication strategy and action plan	30% Increased Awareness in Targeted Communities based on Surveys	Surveys with gender disaggregated data	Assumptions: Participating stakeholders in communities
COMPONENT 2. Expansion and improved management of forest/mangrove sector						
OUTCOME 2 Improved management effectiveness	BD-Tracking Tool	Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool	Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool	Consolidated BD-1 Tracking Tool	Technical Reports	Risks: (i) damages to forest by natural

<p>of existing and new forest reserves</p>	<p>SFM Tracking Tool</p>	<p>Score: 140 SFM Tracking Tool Score: 4</p>	<p>Score SFM Tracking Tool Score</p>	<p>Score:259 SFM Tracking Tool Score:6</p>	<p>Government records/Cabinet Decisions. Tracking tools</p>	<p>disasters, forest fires, storm surges; lack of community support Assumptions: (ii) No major natural disaster (hurricane, wildfires) upsets implementation and forest regeneration; (i) Adequate community buy-in and internal control mechanisms are created; (iii) Improved regulatory framework can be enforced where internal control does not apply (e.g. external squatters)</p>
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<p>Output 2.1: Establishment of National Forestry Estate inclusive of Conservation & Protected Forests.</p>	<p>Establishment of National Forestry Estate inclusive of Conservation & Protected Forests</p>	<p>The Forestry Act 2010 speaks to these designations.</p> <p>Cabinet conclusion directing Forest Department to gazette national forestry estate</p>	<p>Draft boundaries for estimated total of <u>283,750.2 ha</u> (Conservation Forests = 149396.99 ha (52.65% of forestry Estate) & Protected Forests= 37810.58 ha) (13.33%) for Forestry Estate</p>	<p>Gazettal of National Forestry Estate (GEF supports Conservation & Protected Forests and GOB supports Forest Reserves)</p> <p>Vesting of Forestry lands into Ministry of Environment and Housing</p>	<p>Boundaries declared and published on Government website</p> <p>SFM Tracking Tool</p>	<p>Delays in public consultation process and Cabinet Decisions.</p> <p>Cooperation of government agencies on usage of land for Forestry designations</p>
<p>Output 2.2 - Community co-management of 2 Conservation forests (representing 15% of Conservation Forests)</p> <p>Abaco: Blue Hole Conservation Forest, 8,094 ha</p> <p>Central Andros: Maiden Hair Conservation Forest, 14,316 ha</p> <p>Estimated CO2 savings up to 5,661,077 tCO2-eq for 30 years</p>	<p>Management Plans developed and implemented taking into account balanced gender roles and opportunities</p>	<p>No Community management plans</p> <p>Baseline COeq</p>	<p>Gazettal of target Forest areas (Blue Hole Conservation Abaco and Maiden Hair, Andros) & community consultations underway</p> <p>EXACT figure CO2eq in 2 yrs</p>	<p>Forest Conservation Plans signed, adopted and implemented by Communities.</p> <p>EXACT figure CO2eq in 4yrs</p>	<p>Technical reports</p> <p>Tracking Tools</p> <p>New Carbon Sequestration monitoring reports</p>	<p>Risks: Delays in gazzettelement process. Encroachment of squatters in Conservation areas</p> <p>Assumptions: Appreciation/Respect of Conservation areas from community</p>

Output 2.3: Restoration of Andros Davis Creek Mangrove system (50 ha) with CO2savings up to 14,563 tCO2 eq	The area and condition of mangrove forests	Degraded mangrove system, limited ecosystem services provisioning Baseline CO2eq	Culverts cleaned out. Invasive species removed. Establishment of nursery EXACT fig CO2eq in 2 yrs	50 hectares of degraded mangrove restored. Carbon stock increase of up to 14,563 tCO2 eq. EXACT fig CO2eq in 4yrs	Technical reports on survey in sample plots incorporating carbon sequestration rates. Surveys of water quality and fish counts. Tracking Tools	Disregard for importance of mangroves Assumptions: Business partnerships to clean up creek tidal way
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COMPONENT 3. Models for SFM Sustainable livelihoods, agriculture, forestry & sustainable land management in coastal communities of the Pine Islands, and additional Family Islands in Central and SE Bahamas

Outcome 3. Effective provisioning of forest ecosystems underpinned by strengthened livelihoods people dependent on use of forest resources - increased use of sustainable land, agroforestry and forestry management practices among coastal communities.	Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities taking into account balanced gender roles and opportunities.	Unsustainable and uninformed harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).	Data and guidelines for sustainable models of NTFPs developed	Sustainable practices adopted in 2 Pine Island communities	Technical reports	Risks: (i) aging communities unable to take advantage of training and opportunities; Assumptions: (i) Cooperative communities engage actively in process and see the benefit of market penetration and diversity of products offered
Output 3.1 Pilot Model	Application of	Unsustainable	Sustainable	Joint	Technical	Risk: aging family

<p>Sustainable Cultivation of Native Palms</p>	<p>sustainable practices in forest communities of the Pine Islands taking into account balanced gender roles and opportunities.</p>	<p>harvesting of palm hearts is damaging productivity</p>	<p>model of harvesting developed on the basis on gathered data.</p> <p>Gender disaggregated socio economic survey for surrounding communities</p>	<p>community/for estry unit monitoring of 40.5 ha in Andros and 40.5 ha in Grand Bahama</p> <p>35% Increase in persons engaged in NTFPs and community level income (gender disaggregated)</p>	<p>reports (database, map of palms, resources assessment inventory)</p> <p>Resource monitoring reports (at baseline, mid and end of project)</p> <p>Surveys with gender disaggregated data</p>	<p>island harvesters and decline income from expanded opportunities in other communities</p> <p>Assumptions: market exist for products offered; products command a price to offset cost of development and market diversification</p>
<p>Output 3.2 Pilot Model Sustainable Cascarilla Cultivation and Processing</p>	<p>Application of sustainable practices in forest communities of the Pine Islands taking into account balanced gender roles and opportunities.</p> <p>10 ha in Acklins and 10 ha in Crooked Island</p>	<p>Unsustainable harvesting of cascarilla bark prohibits regeneration and limiting productivity.</p> <p>No baseline data.</p>	<p>Sustainable model of harvesting developed on the basis on gathered data.</p> <p>Gender disaggregated socio economic survey for surrounding communities</p>	<p>Joint community/for estry unit monitoring of 20 ha in Acklins and 20 ha in Crooked Island</p> <p>35% Increase in persons engaged in NTFPs and community level income (gender disaggregated)</p>	<p>Technical Reports (database, map of cascarilla, resources assessment inventory)</p> <p>Resource monitoring reports (at baseline, mid and end of project)</p> <p>Survey reports</p>	<p>Risk: aging family island harvesters and decline income from expanded opportunities in other communities</p> <p>Assumptions: market exist for products offered; products command a price to offset cost of development and market diversification</p>

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Response to GEFSEC Reviews of Pine Islands - Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros)	
GEFSEC COMMENT	IA/EA RESPONSE
<p>6.</p> <p>July 21, 2015</p> <p>Overall grant request is as at PIF stage. Please check the following data issues ERROR in CEO: CEO FASF and Finance Overview total cofinance amounts differ ERROR in CEO: FASF and Project Framework total cofinance amounts differ ERROR in CEO: FASF and Project Objective Cofin Amounts by Trust Funds Differ. ERROR in CEO: Finance Breakdown and Finance Overview GEF Project Grants / Fees differ ERROR in CEO: The sum of the cofinance as given per source differs from FASF's total cofinance</p>	<p>July 2015 IA/EA response</p> <p>Corrected.</p>
<p>March 19, 2012</p> <p>7. Please amend Table A to make sure that each Outcome is on a separate row with its own Indicate Grant Amount and Indicative Cofinance.</p>	<p>March 19, 2012</p> <p>Each Outcome is now in a separate row.</p>
<p>March 19, 2012</p> <p>10. Technical capacity is identified as a key limiting factor in B.1. Component 1 text includes technical capacity development in governmental staff and CSOs. Please include this specifically In Table B, which mentions only the intra-agency capacity building (Output 2) and not nongovernmental bodies, and</p>	<p>March 19, 2012</p> <p>Table B output 2 now mentions government and CSO capacity building Output 4 notes the roll out of training modules for targeted user groups (government staff, NGO staff, community stakeholders) will be in classroom settings and on site practical exercises and will draw from regional expertise (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica Cuba and French West Indies) and tentatively the International Program of the US Forest Service. Forest management technical skills to be strengthened at inclusion of a forestry area of focus into the BSc in Small Island Sustainability (SIS) offered by the College of the Bahamas.</p>

<p>clarify how the awareness building modules (Output 4) are to be rolled-out to user groups. Also the Component 1 text mentions technical skills 'to be strengthened at local technical training institutes' please explain what this involves</p>	<p>Update May 2015: Output 1.2.1 of Component 1 features a suite of tools, methodologies and training programs to be used for the integration of biodiversity values, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management into local government and town planning committee decision making.</p>
<p>March 19, 2012 11. The baseline project based on the GoB projected spending on the Forestry Act and the Department of Physical Planning is very modest.</p>	<p>March 19, 2012 The Bahamas features 700 islands and a population of The Bahamas is 342,877. As you can imagine the budgetary challenges are very real. The entire budget of the Forest Department is considered as is 25% that of Physical Planning given the priority of the Pine Islands for planning. To an outsider the baseline might appear modest but in fact it reflects a serious priority accorded to the Pine Islands. The drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and land degradation (expanding settlements, subdivisions, roadside clearance, some agriculture), are further broken out in section B.1. but largely can be summarized under the heading of weak land use planning and forest management (inclusive of forest research, fire management, promotion of conservation, sustainable use – which would be addressed through the development and implementation of forest management plans). The rate of forest loss is estimated to be 0.5 % per annum -- however is site specifically highly variable with respect to coastal forest/mangrove areas (pressure from development), vicinity to settlements, roads. Estimates will be refined during project preparation through satellite imagery analysis. With no monitoring system in place to track ecosystem changes over time, even the lack of knowledge becomes a driver. Species mentioned in B.1 are impacted by habitat loss, which is compounded by the small size of the island habitats. SIDS have limited ability to access REDD funds, and the SFM incentive funds afford The Bahamas and the GEF the opportunity to demonstrate GEBs that can be generated by SIDS with prospects for sharing and replication in the region and SIDS networks (eg. GLISPA).</p> <p>Update May 2015: Baseline/Co-financing has been increased from \$5.6 Million to \$7.7 Million</p>
<p>13. This will benefit from clearer description of the baseline project, however the key elements are improved enabling conditions, methodologies and tools for BD and LD planning; identification of new PA and improved management; and pilot PES.</p>	<p>The baseline approach of the Government of the Bahamas is outlined on pages 7-8. Perhaps what needs to be underlined is the priority accorded to the Pine Islands with respect to both integrated land use planning and forest sector conservation and sustainable use planning and implementation, and on the ground models for sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Update May 2015: Project Documents provides much additional detail on the baseline situation.</p>
<p>14. a) Please check the figures for consistency in outputs in the</p>	<p>Please note discussion of GEBs on page 12 of the PIF. a) Subsequent to the preparation of this PIF, on March 12, the Government of The Bahamas</p>

Tables and the text. For example what is the area of new PAs that will be created 415,000 ha or 384,000 ha? b) SFM/REDD+ projects should show some carbon benefits. Please provide an estimate of the carbon benefit likely to accrue from the project, in comparison to a baseline (carbon accrual expected without the project). Using Tier 1 estimates are acceptable at this stage. c) Please give an estimate of the extent of Component 3, how it will be executed on the ground, and clarify the GEBs that are expected from the piloting of the PES. Also please explain how STAP guidance on PES will be incorporated. d) In Component 2 Protected Forests are mentioned. Given that these are non-permanent forest that can be converted to other land uses in the future please explain the sustainability of interventions in these areas and the GEBs expected. e) Component 2 Output 4 Little Abaco Mangrove, please explain the GEBs expected. e) Component 2 Output 4 Little Abaco Mangrove, please explain the GEBs expected.

April 2, 2012 UA:

Clarification requests (a) to (e) have been adequately addressed. HOWEVER; f) Estimated carbon benefits have not been entered into Table B, only into the text, see p. 13. Please include into the table B. Also please include in the text (or as an appendix) the calculations on which the estimate was based. g) Outputs under component 3: it is unclear what is meant by "3 of the 5 following" - does it mean that the

declared a significant expansion of the Andros Westside National Park, under its National Parks system which effectively removed some of the potential hectares for forest conservation under the Forest Act. This is an irrespective win for conservation, but has changed the estimated figures of the forest domain in the four pine islands targeted by this project. These are now estimated prospectively at: Forest Reserve (128,865 ha), Protected Forest (25,537 ha) and Conservation Forest (191,826 ha) and have been altered in project text accordingly. In consideration of Review Comment 24 on the modest availability of resources, the project framework has been reformulated to support development of two (2) sustainable forest management plans in 15% of total forest area – which can be used as replicable templates for other sites under the same category/designations. Under the 4 year time span of project, gazettement will be higher than 15%, but absorptive capacity and modest availability of resources dictate that achievable goals for specific sustainable forest management planning be considered. The overarching goal of integrating forest management concerns into the land use planning process in all four Pine Islands stands. b) Integration of forest considerations in land use planning will generate benefits across an overall area of 346,228 hectares of the forest domain. This includes integration of biodiversity concerns in to the land use planning process for 100%, management plans for a minimum of 15%, and targeted mangrove restoration within a 500ha area. Project intervention areas comprise the 346,228 hectare of pine forests, and a mixture of coppice, wetlands, mangroves wash and “other” (blue holes for instance). Annual carbon savings by benefit of the project through integration of forest domain into land use planning, improved forest management and avoided deforestation together with mangrove rehabilitation efforts estimate up to 381,151 tCO₂ eq avoided and potential carbon stock of up to 51,150 tCO₂ eq through targeted pilot rehabilitation of mangrove areas. Please note that the lack of data is one of the significant barriers to be addressed by the proposed project and that the methodologies of the Blue Forests project to be financed by GEF are expected to be a boon in these calculations. This is reflected in the GEB section, end of B.2., page 13. c) Please see additional language in Component 3 clarifying that the models for SFM will be selected on the basis of the SFM related GEBs to be generated. Each of the 3 models to be selected during project preparation features a champion agency in place (eg. IICA, the Forest Department, BAIC) in partnership with the targeted community associated with the Pine Island forests. SFM models outlined in component 3 are put forth to promote good management practices in community and small holder forest, generating GEBs through support of increased ecological connectivity (agroforestry); reduction of pressure on species habitat (market incentives/alternative livelihoods); and strengthening SIDS technical and institutional capacity to monitor and reduce GHG emissions (reduced deforestation/land degradation and restoration of mangrove habitat). STAP guidance and indeed GEFSEC staff guidance is integrated in so far as PES specific models are to be supported only if a contractual arrangement whereby GEBs/ecosystem services generated. For example,

<p>Mangrove model might not be implemented? h) Please also include a brief outline on how to assess feasibility of alternative livelihood options in the PIF as GEF support for alternative livelihoods is usually only provided based on a thorough social and economic analysis of its feasibility.</p>	<p>the proposed Nassau Straw Market model would seek commitment for sourcing Pine Islands certified non timber forest products. d) Protected Forests represent approximately 7% of the targeted forest areas for gazettement. Land tenure is acknowledged to be on a 10 year timeline, therefore less potential for sustainable interventions. Valuation of the ecosystem services in these designated Protected Forests will be taken into account in the land use planning process. Direct GEF supported project interventions will target Conservation Forests and Forest Reserves which comprise the bulk of the forest domain in the Pine Islands forests. e) Rehabilitation of the Little Abaco Mangrove has been shifted to Component 3 as one of the possible (and high priority).</p> <p>SFM models to generate GEBs which is further detailed. f) Carbon benefits have been entered into Table B. Project Framework and calculations provided to GEFSEC in a separate file. g) Mangrove restoration activity has been shifted out of alternative income Component, to the more appropriate Component 2, as part of improved management of the forest/mangrove sector. Budget has been shifted accordingly. h) Component 3 will comprise 2 of the 4 short listed pilots. These will be selected during the project preparation process and their selection based on Global Environment Benefit criteria -- as well as social and economic analysis of their feasibility. The latter is now also stipulated in the PIF text</p> <p>Update May 2015: Hectares figures have been updated, variance is small.</p>
<p>16. The focus on women in 2 of the 4 PES pilots is welcome however some additional detail is warranted. Please explain how the activities in Component 3 are being developed in order to support GEB delivery after the project's life.</p> <p>April 2, 2012 UA: Addressed. But only in the Response Matrix and not sufficiently in the PIF. Please incorporate the key details into the PIF text.</p> <p>July 21, 2015 Socio-economic benefits and gender are weakly addressed. Please provide a clear description of how the project will promote socio-economic benefits and</p>	<p>Both the Nassau Straw Market and the suggested non timber products targeted (eg. thatch) are dominated by women. Gendered impacts of increased income generation will be tracked as part of the M & E system. The lessons learned, marketing and innovative successes of the Components 3 will be shared at regularly inter-island venues to engender replication. Inter-island venues are a mainstay of Pine Islands culture and will continue beyond the life of the project. Arrangements to be negotiated under the auspices of the Nassau Straw Market Authority are intended be long term.</p> <p>Details regarding components 3's focus on women and the intent of gathering disaggregated gender analysis M & E data has been added to Section B.3.</p> <p>Update May 2015: Based on Stakeholder and Partner consultations, pilots selected are cultivation of palm and cascarilla cultivation and processing. Gender implications are summarized in Section 3.11.</p> <p>July 2015 IA/EA response</p> <p>The Project has been designed to have positive environmental, economic and social impacts through the establishment of the national forestry estate, the creation of sustainable conservation forest areas, reducing land degradation through promotion of sustainable harvesting methods within</p>

<p>address gender issues, and explain how these contribute to the achievement of incremental benefits.</p>	<p>forest dependent communities thru various pilot demonstration projects <u>designed to ensure equitable gender participation and benefits</u>. The enhancement of sustainable livelihoods will also provide a necessary boost of interest into the trades of handicraft that will be reflected throughout the island.</p> <p>Component 3, costed at \$2.8 million of which GEF resources \$844,125 is designed entirely around providing socio-economic benefits through alternative livelihoods supported through development of sectors and markets for sustainable non timber forest products. End of project targets include: 35% Increase in persons engaged in NTFPs and community level income (gender disaggregated)</p> <p>Component 1 furthermore substantiates the socio-economic benefits afforded through valuation and integration of ecosystem services in land use planning. In accordance with UNEP requirements, the checklist for Environmental and Social Issues has been completed. With respect to gender considerations, specific activities will be developed and rolled out taking into full consideration gender roles and ensuring equitable participation (note Outputs 1.2, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2).</p>
<p>17. CSOs and local communities are included in all components. How are local communities involved in the PA selection process and developing the PES pilots.</p> <p>April 2, 2012 UA: Addressed. But only in the Response Matrix and not sufficiently in the PIF. Please incorporate the key details into the PIF text.</p>	<p>The Forest Act of 2010, Forestry Regulations of 2011 and the Planning and Subdivision Bill of 2010 all feature explicit consultative processes and transparency in the formulation of land use plans and forest management plans (which apply to all three typologies of forests). The SFM models will be designed through a consultative process on site, at the community level. Added language in Component 2 notes “will integrate the consultative process to which the Forest Department must adhere to in the development of Forest Management Plans (Part V of the Forestry Regulations 2011). This process comprises consultations with relevant government, agencies, non government agencies and other relevant groups as well as a public notification and comment system.” Added language to Component 3 notes that the alternative livelihood models will be designed through a consultative process on site, at the community level.</p>
<p>20. Project is led by the Forest Department and co-executed by the Department of Physical Planning. Please provide explanation of the roles in Component 3 but in particular of the private sector, CSOs and NGOs in the development and Staffing of the Forest Department and the Department of Physical Planning is extremely limited. As such, partnerships are key in</p>	<p>20. Project is led by the Forest Department and co-executed by the Department of Physical Planning. Please provide explanation of the roles in Component 3 but in particular of the private sector, CSOs and NGOs in the development and Staffing of the Forest Department and the Department of Physical Planning is extremely limited. As such, partnerships are key in delivering on the ground. Each of the models currently under consideration feature “champions” (eg. BAIC, Nassau Straw Market Authority = private sector co-financiers), who would work in partnership with CSOs and NGOs at the community level in both the development of these during the PPG phase and furthermore defining substantive implementation roles. The project cannot be effectively executed without these cooperative partnerships. Component 2 likewise is</p>

<p>delivering on the ground. Each of the models currently under consideration feature “champions” (eg. BAIC, Nassau Straw Market Authority = private sector co implementation of the PES.</p> <p>April 2, 2012 UA: Addressed. But only in the Response Matrix and not sufficiently in the PIF. Please incorporate the key details into the PIF text.</p>	<p>delivered through prospective partnerships between the Forest Department and community organizations such as Friends of the Environment Abaco and The Andros Conservancy and Trust (AnCAT) Bahamas.”</p> <p>New paragraph below Stakeholder Table in Section B.5 outlines the above details in the PIF.</p> <p>Update May 2015: Section 4 of the Project Document outlines updated partnership and implementation arrangements.</p>
<p>23. PMC is at 10% but for projects over \$2 million this should be no more than 5%.</p> <p>April 2, 2012 UA: The justification for 9% PMC is not considered appropriate. Please adjust and cover PMC out of co-financing.</p> <p>July 21, 2015 PMC remains at 7%. Please provide the information that was noted would be necessary at CEO Endorsement in the PIF review on 04/19/12, also give justification for grant PMC at 7% and co-finance at 5%.</p>	<p>Please review three paras on page 12 of PIF, as required by GEF, for justification of 9% PMC. Please note that the current and past GEF Council Member for the Caribbean Constituency have previously made Council level interventions regarding this matter. Please take into account how thinly stretched SIDs governance and partner structures are, and the absolute need to appropriately resource management costs of GEF projects – particularly noting in this project, the cost of working across and in remote island communities, and through several partnerships.</p> <p>PMC costs have been amended to 7% of the overall budget. Budget has been adjusted to also anticipate the new RBM guidelines for M & E systems, which will be an important part of Component 1.</p> <p>July 2015 IA/EA Response</p> <p>Project management costs co-financing has been balanced out at 7%. This was possible as substantive BEST and Forest Department co-financing was foreseen for technical staff under components 1 and 2, who will necessarily be contributing to project management and oversight.</p> <p>Project management costs are justified at 7% because of (i) the nature of the project components necessitating extensive consultative processes to be overseen, and (ii) the geographically dispersed spread of the project sites, in a country consisting of 700 islands and associated oversight travel costs.</p> <p>Four additional paras and a map have been added to pages 5-6 of the CEO Endorsement template outlining justification of PMC costs at 7%. Further breakdowns of specific costs have been estimated in minute detail by the executing agency and are available if required.</p>
<p>24. Resources for Components 2 and 3 seem modest. Please provide some additional detail to justify this level of expense.</p>	<p>Agreed, and additional peer review comments noted same. Component 2 has been scaled back to a goal of 2 management plans being developed for 15 percent of the targeted gazettements during life of project. Component 3 will feature a maximum of 3 SFM models including a shifting of the mangrove restoration pilot to component 3. Consideration of additional</p>

<p>April 2, 2012 UA: Addressed. But please see comments to #25 below.</p>	<p>co-financing to be identified by championing partners will be duly considered.</p>
<p>25. Co-finance id 1:1.27 which is extremely low and significantly more co-finance is expected. Two bilateral agencies and TNC are identified but no co-finance is detailed for them.</p> <p>April 2, 2012 UA: Discussed in the response matrix. The difficulties are acknowledged. However, as the country is requesting additional resources out of SFM/REDD+ on top of the STAR allocation, we have to insist that every effort be made to increase the ratio of indicative co-financing.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 Thank you for the explanation of land valuation in Bahamas. Co-finance, as described in Council Document GEF/C.20/6/Rev.1, is cash or in-kind resources that are committed as part of the financial package for the GEF project. The opportunity cost of income foregone from alternative development options, including land valuation, is not admissible as co-finance for GEF-funded projects. Please remove the opportunity cost-based cofinance from the National Government and seek alternative co-finance. In Table C cofinance amounts indicated from Spain and TNC remain unspecified.</p>	<p>Given the prioritization of the Pine Islands by the Government of the Bahamas, government agency cofinancing is maximized in that the entire budget of the Forest Department and 25% of the Department of Physical Planning is integrated over the 4 years of the project. Prospective bilateral agencies approached have targeted different countries or regional initiatives, and show no further promise. TNC is prioritizing marine ecosystems interventions for The Bahamas and will provide some additional modest cofinancing for mangrove related activities, to be elucidated during project preparation. The GEF request was scaled back from an originally larger figure to reflect both absorptive capacity and the difficulty in securing co-financing. The project is the highest priority for the Government of the Bahamas as per the NPDF submitted to the GEF Secretariat. Please note that the Bahamas investment of \$6.5 million for a new bridge which will restore tidal flows to the Little Abaco Mangrove ecosystem has not been reflected, in strict respect to GEF definitions of co-, versus associated financing, however will be further explored.</p> <p>Co-financing has been re-calibrated to take into account significant co-financing which is relevant to the underpinning of this effort, including the estimated value of the Crown Lands proposed for gazettelement as part of the project. The Government of Bahamas has committed to co-finance the programme with gazetting 191,826 hectares of Conservation Forest, foregoing of the opportunity cost from any alternative land use. The market value of the land, for which this project will develop and implement conservation management planning amounts to 15% of conservation Forests to be gazetted (28,773 hectares). Using the lowest possible Crown Land valuation of \$2,470/ha, this results in a present market value of USD\$71,071,533—the most modest calculation value of the contribution of the Government of the Bahamas to this project. To note, using total hectares of planned gazettelement of Forest Reserves and Conservation Forests (320,691 hectares) and an average nominal value of \$7,410.00/ha as conveyed by the Department of Lands and Survey, would translate to a total present value USD\$2.4 billion. This is reflected in Table C, and explained as above before Part II. Co-finance. Opportunity cost foregone has been removed, and co-finance has been revised and increased from the initial submission.</p> <p>Update may 2015: Co-financing commitment has been increased from \$5.6 Million to \$7.7 Million.</p>
<p>26. UNEP is contributing \$474,000 please clarify if this is in grant or in-kind form.</p> <p>July 21, 2015</p>	<p>At this time \$200,000 is confirmed as grant and a further estimated \$474,00 of co-financing is estimated through in-kind cooperative arrangements with UNEP-WCMC, UNEP’s Caribbean Environment Programme, etc</p> <p>Updated July 2015 IA/EA Response:</p>

Co-finance from UNEP has been reduced from \$400,000 in-kind and \$200,000 cash to \$40,000 in-kind. Please expand on the UNEP regional activities mentioned in the review responses attached to the CEO Endorsement Request and how these contribute.

UNEP DEPI Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (TEU) to provide in kind support to underpin the outcomes of the GEF project, *The Bahamas: Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros)*. The in kind co-financing to be provided by the DEPI TEU is estimated at \$40,000 over four years of project implementation (2016-2019). This will entail, but not necessarily be limited to, cooperative support and DEPI TEU staff time to review project technical outputs and foster linkages and cross-fertilization with other UNEP initiatives and south-south cooperation programmes of UNEP on Integrated Landscape Management, as well as sharing of relevant guidelines, publications, tools and methodologies being developed through the UNEP project 312.1 '*ecosystem management of productive landscapes*'. UNEP additional indirect support is outlined below with specifics of delivery:

The sum of \$200,000 of technical assistance co-financing from the International Conservation Corps and United States Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center was as a direct result of the strong relationship between EROS, USGS and UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) which assisted in the identification and detailing this arrangement.

Through UNEP's relationship with the International Conservation Corps (CC) in other UNEP supported projects, an additional \$400,000 in specific technical support has been confirmed.

UNEP continues to maintain a strong relationship with the Bahamas through its Jamaica based Regional Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) which serves as the Secretariat to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) or Cartagena Convention. The Bahamas recently ratified the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) of the Cartagena Convention. While resources particular to the Bahamas through the SPAW Protocol programme of activities are not specifically quantifiable at this time, The Bahamas will be included in foreseen regional activities.

The Bahamas: Pine Islands – Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration (Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco and Andros) will specifically benefit from UNEP co-financing of \$475,000 offered by UNEP CEP in support of the GEF project: "Implementing Land, Water and Ecosystem Management (IWECO) in The Bahamas" will specifically benefit from **Component 4. Enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement in natural resource management** which will provide for improved engagement and information access for stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing initiatives and the Regional IWECO Clearing House Mechanism. Knowledge shared amongst project partners will be made available to other stakeholders, including decision makers

	<p>and neighboring communities, through partner websites. Knowledge shared will highlight the rich biodiversity of the area, ecosystem services it provides and employment opportunities available through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</p>
<p>29.</p> <p>July 21, 2015</p> <p>1. Addressed</p> <p>2. Addressed. Estimates made using Ex-Act, with follow up with project on Blue Carbon accounting.</p> <p>3. Addressed. Davis Creek selected.</p> <p>4. Addressed. Commitment to use METT.</p> <p>5. Please comment on how the model selection was carried out.</p> <p>6. Addressed.</p>	<p>The following explanation has been added as an introduction to Outcome 3, so as to introduce the criteria used for the selection of model sites.</p> <p>Pilots were selected on the basis of several criteria, including consultative stakeholder process at all levels, review of previous and existing initiatives, baseline review of available data and current political administrative objectives. Based on these, the final two project areas selected are Palm Cultivation on Andros and Grand Bahama and Sustainable Cascarilla Cultivation on Acklins and Crooked Island. The following criteria were applied in selecting these pilot projects:</p> <p>Mitigation against Deforestation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After review of the potential projects, stakeholders indicated that there is great need to prevent deforestation due to unsustainable harvesting practices currently used by communities in the islands, as they have noticed the reduction of available resources of silver top palm and cascarilla. ▪ ensuring sustainability of the natural resource, with management and proper harvesting practices, this will lead to a reduction of deforestation preventing increased emissions of carbon and secure soil security. ▪ The project will help adopt the new methodologies in harvesting practices. <p>Stakeholder selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings were held with government agencies, (i.e. island administrators), local community organizations, NGO's and surrounding communities, indicated the projects of importance preserving livelihoods and cultural importance. ▪ Primary Stakeholder BAIC indicated that these areas compliment their current mandates for providing economic opportunities for these communities in the family islands. <p>Political Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complimentary initiatives supported by BAIC and the IDB who's renewed focus on Andros has created a hub for resources and projects, such as <u>Ecosystem-based Development for Andros Island</u> and <u>Revitalization of the Bahamas Sponging Industry</u>. ▪ Ministerial support for the Acklins and Crooked Island project which is seen to boost socio-economic base of these islands by enabling them sustainable source of the resource. <p>Biodiversity conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These projects will help preserve the unique and high value of biodiversity of these specific sites through sustainable forestry management practices i.e. community forestry management, sustainable harvesting practices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without this intervention, the risk of biodiversity loss is high.
<p>STAP Review Comments</p>	
<p>1. STAP welcomes this concept for support to strengthen the management of pine island forest ecosystems of the Bahamas. However, further development of the project should take into account the following recommendations for improvement.</p>	
<p>2. STAP notes that in the Project Overview section the PIF cites natural resource descriptions and baseline information taken from the NBSAP dated 1999, i.e. at least 13 years out of date, without cautioning about the reliability of the baseline description. There is also very little contextual information presented in the PIF regarding biodiversity and forest resources. Please update the descriptions accordingly or identify means to develop a more recent baseline.</p>	<p>Project Documents provides updated information regarding natural resource descriptions and baseline information, particularly biodiversity and forestry resources. Please see Sections 2.1-2.4 of the Project Document.</p>
<p>3. Component 1 focuses upon capacity building and strengthening, there is also in the narrative text mention of calculating blue carbon using biomass data. This sub-component is not mentioned in the project framework. STAP considers that this work could be difficult to deliver beyond superficial estimates of above ground carbon mass vs. mangrove coverage. However, the proponents are aware that the majority of blue carbon is sediment based and although associated with mangrove cover (and seagrasses, etc.) which may be estimated using remote sensing / aerial photography, is not necessarily spatially coincident. The PIF already cites the UNEP GEF project "Standardized Methodologies for Carbon Accounting and Ecosystem Services Valuation of Blue Forests" (GEFID 4452), advice from which should be built into any proposed survey action.</p>	<p>Per GEFSEC Guidance, baseline carbon calculations have been made and will be monitored using the Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-Act).</p> <p>The UNEP GEF project "Standardized Methodologies for Carbon Accounting and Ecosystem Services Valuation of Blue Forests" (GEFID 4452) has only recently been launched. <i>A detailed communication and dissemination strategy will be developed within six months of the project start-up and will then be updated regularly. The strategy will include the identification of the most appropriate media outlets and identify appropriate communications materials. A communication and outreach expert will assist the small-scale interventions, to help guide how communication materials are developed in order to have the best impact. Guidance from this project will be taken up as available. Task manager has requested to be on circulation list and will add designated National Project Coordinator when appointed.</i></p>
<p>4. In Component 2 regarding the re-establishment of the Little Abaco Mangrove Ecosystem and its use as a generic demonstrator site, there are a number of variables that need to be taken into account unique to that site. According to the PIF the site has been cut off from tidal movement and presumably also sediment flows for a number of years. Merely restoring tidal movement would be expected to lead eventually to mangrove recolonization, but the value of the site as a demonstrator would be limited to those other sites</p>	<p>Pursuant to the consultative project preparation process, the pilot site has been changed to Restoration of Davis Creek, Central Andros Mangrove system (50 ha) with a projected annual 96,650 tons CO2 savings. The island of Andros has the highest density of mangrove ecosystems for the country and it has been validated that it is largest wetland ecosystem for the Western hemisphere. The findings of the proved that creek fragmentation on the eastern side of Andros due to human development</p>

<p>that had been similarly cut off from tidal flows. Choice of site as a replanting demonstrator should aim to reduce the number of variables impacting the substrate; therefore STAP regards the choice of the Little Abaco site as unrepresentative, and advises that an alternative more typical site which has been subject to deforestation be selected.</p>	<p>has severely impacted the ecosystem functioning of the mangroves. One such example is Davis Creek, Central Andros. The connectivity and flow have been greatly reduced due to clearing, sedimentation and encroaching invasive species. The creek is bisected by three roads that have the minimal amount of culverts which does not meet the needs of the creek, and thus has been digressing in productivity over the last decades. The mangrove restoration and rehabilitation is aimed at enhancing connectivity of up to 50 ha to increase the potential total carbon benefit of 96,650 tons CO2 at the end of the project. The proposed site will be the areas immediately adjacent to Small Hope Bay Lodge area allowing for excellent demonstration value. Please see Output 2.3 of the Project Document for additional details.</p>
<p>5. Also in Component 2 improved management effectiveness is an expected outcome of the project, however the PIF does not outline how this will be measured. STAP suggests that clear targets and appropriate indicators are detailed in 2 the full project brief together with an explanation of whether the GEF's existing Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) is being used.</p>	<p>Component 2 will be tracking gazettement of new Forest Conservation areas and using the entire range of GEF recommended tracking tools, including the SFM Tracking Tool, and the METT Assessment Score.</p>
<p>6. Component 3 proposes a range of models to divert exploitation pressure away from conserved forests, implying that the incentives to be applied are both sufficient and sustainable. Selection criteria advanced in the PIF include: a) potential to prevent the generation of carbon through reduced deforestation or rehabilitation (e.g. mangroves); b) potential for measurably improved ecosystem services generated through the intervention; and c) feasibility based on a social and economic analysis STAP cautions that suitable and robust indicators would need to be selected to enable particularly b) and c) to be tested, at present the PIF is vague about sources of expertise regarding selection, and particularly about the role of the ~champions' cited for each of the four model options, in advising on selection. Regarding ecosystem services, is it the intention of the project to directly measure change in nutrient and water flows, as appears to be implied in the section on global environmental benefits? If so then the project document should detail how this would be done including over what period and its sustainability. Alternatively what other proxies for assessing delivery of ecosystem services are being proposed?</p>	<p>The traditional activities within the family islands are threatened by dying with the older generations who still practice them, as they have failed to attract the younger generations. Through the Pine Islands project, the pilot projects will be targeted in communities that are dependent on the NTFPs with the multi-pronged approach of improving their livelihoods while ensuring the sustainability of the resources and the trade/craft itself (see Table 6 of the Project document). The models which were selected are cultivation of native palm species and Sustainable Cascarilla Cultivation and Processing, see Outputs 3.1 and 3.2</p>

7. Finally, during preparation of the application for a Project Preparation Grant, clearly defined outputs with measurable indicators and timelines should be presented.	Please see Annex 4 – Results Framework of the Project Document.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 100,000 USD			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)100,000</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed*</i>
PPG Coordinator/Forestry Specialist	36,000	33,080	0
Stakeholder Consultations/Workshops	2,000	1,094	0
Institutional Specialist	12,000	0	0
Marketing and Livelihood Specialists	30,000	0	0
UNEP DEWA	20,000	11,178	0
Total	100,000	45,352	

*The following activities are to be budgeted with the balance of PPG funds: Project Inception Workshop, Gender disaggregated socio-economic surveys in pilot sites, biodiversity surveys at alternative livelihood sites, further detailing of agreement between USGS and Forestry Unit (UNEP DEWA). Fortuitously Component 3 was able to be developed in its entirety through ongoing BAIC initiatives.