



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) ¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation of Blue Forests		
Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID: ²	4452
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	00659
Other Executing Partner(s):	GRID-Arendal, WCMC, CI, WWF, IOC/UNESCO, Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, IUCN, Blue Ventures, University of Cape Town	Submission Date: Re -submission Date: Re- submission Date: Re-submission Date: Re-submission Date: Re-submission Date:	02 February 2011 18 March 2011 28 March 2011 06 May 2011 22 July 2011 25 August 2011 13 September 2011
GEF Focal Area (s):	International Waters	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>		Agency Fee:	450,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Indicative Financing from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
IW-3 (select)	Outcome 3.2: On-the-ground modest actions implemented in water quality, quantity, fisheries, and coastal habitat demonstrations for “blue forests” to protect carbon [USD 3,675,000 from compt 2&3] Outcome 3.3: IW portfolio performance enhanced from active learning/KM/experience sharing [USD500,000 from Compt 1 &4]	Demo-scale local action implemented, to restore/protect coastal “blue forests” Active experience/sharing/ learning practiced in the IW portfolio	4,175,000 [USD 3,675,000 for outcome 3.2. USD500,000 for outcome 3.3]	17,490,000 [USD 13,367,500 for outcome 3.2] [USD 4,122,500 for outcome 3.3]
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¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

(select) (select)				
(select) (select)	Others		100000	100000
Project management cost ⁴			225,000	1,000,000
Total project costs			4,500,000	18,590,000

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To develop methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation in blue forests to be recognized and used by the international community and the GEF.					
Project Component	Grant Type (TA/IN V)	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from relevant TF (GEF/LDCF/SCCF) (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
1. Development of standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and valuation of ecosystem services for blue forest ecosystems.	TA	<p>1) Improved knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystem managers and stakeholders in selected regions on carbon sequestration, storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions as well as ecosystem services in blue forest ecosystems and on possible policy/economic instruments that may be applied to sustainable coastal habitat management.</p> <p>2) Use of standardized carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation methodologies for blue forest ecosystems in GEF and non GEF International Waters projects and national settings.</p> <p>3) Carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation methodologies and related data-sets gathered through the project disseminated through the</p>	<p>1) 3 Working Groups of experts meeting twice a year for years 1 and 2 of the project to reach a consensus for best practice carbon accounting and ecosystem service valuation methodologies and to explore their application in ecosystem management. 1 working group will focus on science related to carbon sequestration, storage, emission and fluxes. 1 working group will focus on ecosystem services valuations. 1 working group will focus on economy and policy options for blue forests in global climate change mitigation frameworks and markets.</p> <p>2) Published standardized methodologies for at least 3 coastal ecosystems with user friendly guidance book for their use by GEF and non GEF IW projects - by year 3 of the project as to ensure standardised estimate of carbon</p>	100,000	3,477,500

		IW:LEARN and other GEF knowledge management activities.	related benefits and ecosystem valuation of goods and services and convince governments to conserve blue forest.		
2. Application of the developed methodologies through small-scale interventions.	TA	<p>1) Improved understanding of ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, storage, avoided emissions and management in at least 3 ecosystem types (mangroves, seagrass, saltmarsh) in 5 sites (including 2 GEF-IW project sites) covering at least 200,000ha.</p> <p>2) Improved ecosystem management as a result of the application of methodologies developed under Component 1 in the same 5 sites (including 2 GEF-IW project sites) covering at least 200,000ha.</p> <p>3) Approaches, experiences and recommendations are available for the replication and up-scaling of interventions</p>	<p>Five (5) documented small-scale interventions (achievement reports) where methodologies developed in component 1 are applied and with at least 2 interventions using current GEF-IW project sites, and focussing on both C sequestration and on ecosystem services valuation at every site - By year 4 of the project.</p> <p>Documented report on carbon storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions and ecosystem services valuation for improved management of carbon sinks and ecosystem services.</p>	2,475,000	8,380,000
3. Filling gaps in knowledge	TA	1) Improved understanding of ecosystem services and carbon storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration and fluxes for blue	1) 1 Global synthesis of Blue Forest carbon storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration, fluxes and ecosystem services knowledge.	1,200,000	4,987,500

		forest ecosystems through targeted research and peer-reviewed literature.	<p>Collation of methodologies, and analysis of knowledge gaps prepared by year 2.</p> <p>2) At least 3 research programmes supported by year 4 of the project in order to fill key identified gaps in knowledge for blue forest ecosystem services and carbon storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration and fluxes identified by the global synthesis.</p> <p>3) At least 6 papers with equal attention to C sequestration and ecosystem services valuation submitted for peer review in high impact scientific journals by year 4.</p> <p>4) At least 1 special session on Blue Forests at a high profile international science symposium and at the GEF International Waters science conference by year 4 of the project.</p>		
4. Exploration of the adoption of methodologies by the international community	TA	1) Improved acceptance of developed methodologies through independent and internationally-recognized institutions responsible for	1) Documented process for international and independent approval for methodologies developed under component 1 for carbon accounting and ecosystem	400,000	645,000

		<p>ensuring quality standards for international climate frameworks, such as the IPCC, UNFCCC and LULUCF/AFOLU processes.</p> <p>2) Increased awareness of stakeholders of the ecosystem services and carbon values of Blue Forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>services valuation for at least 3 Blue Forest ecosystems. By year 4.</p> <p>2) Policy briefs, media communications materials and strategies, report launches and interviews targeted to strategic media outlets, international fora and major international conferences at least once per year.</p>		
5. Project monitoring, networking and information sharing	TA	<p>1) Effective project coordination and management.</p> <p>2) Improved access to and sharing of information in cooperation with IW:LEARN in integration of climate change adaptation and climate resilience into IW projects, as well as capacities to facilitate knowledge exchange</p> <p>3) Improved knowledge management with compiled knowledge and experiences about the project shared with other GEF projects and GEF Sec. and accessible on IW:LEARN</p> <p>4) Improved project execution from IW</p>	<p>1) Reports and reviews of project performance.</p> <p>2) Dedicated project website connected with IW:LEARN and other GEF knowledge management systems (within 6 months).</p> <p>Documented cooperation and knowledge exchange with (i) IW:LEARN including at least one functioning CoP as well as (ii) with STAP in support of its climate resilience work.</p> <p>3) At least 2 experience notes prepared and shared through IW:LEARN by the end of the project</p> <p>4) Participation at the International Waters conferences; at</p>	100,000	100,000

		Conference participation and the use of the GEF5 IW indicator tracking system.	least 3 experiences notes and tracked project progress reported using the GEF5 IW tracking tool.		
	(select)				
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Project management Cost ⁵				225,000	1,000,000
Total project costs				4,500,000	18,590,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing for baseline project	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	Grant	735,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	IOC-UNESCO	In-kind	200,000
Others	IUCN	Grant	500,000
Others	Blue Ventures	Grant	425,000
Others	Research institutes	Grant	1,200,000
Others	Cape Town University	In-kind	100,000
National Government	Governments of countries where small-scale interventions are made as well as Norway	In-kind	2,000,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	11,850,000
Others	WWF	In-kind	300,000
Others	CI	In-kind	200,000
Others	GRID-Arendal	Grant	880,000
Others	WCMC	Grant	200,000
Total Cofinancing			18,590,000

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

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

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	International Waters	Global	4500000	450000	4950000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				4500000	450000	4950000

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

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.2. FOR PROJECTS FUNDED FROM LDCF/SCCF: THE LDCF/SCCF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES: Not applicable

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, ETC.:

This project is a direct response to an urgent priority identified in the Global Environmental Facility 5 Programming Document under the International Waters Focal Area which states that “*stopping the loss of the ocean’s —blue forests (which some studies show exceed carbon absorption of the land) is an urgent priority for coastal management to protect these important carbon sinks*’. Objective 3 under the International Water programme a core output is identified as ‘*demo-scale local action implemented... to restore/protect coastal —blue forests*’. There is a clear need to fill our gaps in knowledge concerning the carbon fluxes, storage, possible greenhouse gas emissions from habitat degradation and ecosystem service values of these ecosystems, to develop standardized methodologies to measure these values consistently, to advise international policy in order to create international mechanisms for protecting these values and to ensure that GEF International Waters projects have tools available for understanding the values of coastal ecosystems. This presents a new opportunity for evaluation of carbon storage and sequestration as well as wider ecosystem services that is consistent with the priorities of the GEF International Waters Focal Area.

The project will build on the commitments of countries to meet their obligations under the UNEP Regional Seas conventions and action plans, as well as the UNEP Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and provide tools for them to attain regional marine conservation targets.

It also speaks to the decisions and targets of major international conventions such as the Convention for Biological Diversity concerning coastal ecosystem services and the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention Cancun Agreement concerning climate change mitigation targets. The CBD, along with the UNFCCC, the UNCCD, the Ramsar Convention and CMS recognize the findings of the Millenium Ecosystem Assessments and promote the evaluation and protection of coastal ecosystem services by member states. Furthermore, mangrove ecosystems are eligible for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries) financing, and many countries are currently looking for support to develop their REDD+ readiness plans to cover mangroves.

The Manado Oceans Declaration, signed by countries in 2009 and supported by the GEF International Waters Focal Area, also recognizes “*that healthy and productive coastal ecosystems, already increasingly stressed by land-based and sea-based sources of pollution, coastal development, and habitat destruction, have a growing role in mitigating the effects of climate change on coastal communities and economies in the near term and invites scientific community/institutions to continue developing reliable scientific information on the roles of coastal wetlands, mangrove, algae, sea-grass and coral reef ecosystems in reducing the effects of climate change*” and stresses ‘*the need for national strategies for sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, in particular mangrove, wetland, seagrass, estuary and coral reef, as protective and productive buffer zones that deliver valuable ecosystem goods and services that have significant potential for*

addressing the adverse effects of climate change’, clearly stating the need for international action on blue forests for their valuable ecosystem services.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS

The importance of carbon storage and ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems was established through the publication in 2009 of two reports by UNEP and IUCN that presented the baseline science, identified the major problems that need to be addressed and identified gaps in knowledge and policy. These reports (Nellemann et al, 2009; Grimsditch and Laffoley, 2009) stressed that 55% of atmospheric carbon captured by living organisms is captured by marine organisms, and of this, between 50-71% is captured by marine vegetated habitats (e.g. mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses and seaweed), so-called blue forests, which cover less than 0.5% of the seabed. Coastal vegetated habitats sequester between 114 and 328 Teragrams of carbon per year, yet the rate of loss of these marine and coastal ecosystems is among the highest of any ecosystem on the planet, with currently between 2-7% lost annually. The reports, however, highlighted the considerable uncertainty surrounding estimates and the level of understanding of carbon storage in these ecosystems, including the emissions of greenhouse gases from degraded habitats. The reports further highlighted a) the sparse knowledge of the carbon sequestration and ecosystem services potential of blue forest ecosystems, b) the lack of internationally standardized and independently approved protocols for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation for blue forest ecosystems as well as c) the lack of adequate and appropriate management actions as critical impediments in moving forward.

The UNEP Blue Forest Initiative has been developed with the aim of addressing the gaps in knowledge and policy and halting the decline of coastal ecosystems, thus protecting the valuable ecosystem services they provide to coastal communities as well as their potential for climate change mitigation. The 3 major components of the UNEP initiative are as follows:

1. International policy support

In order to address the current gaps in international policy for protecting blue forests for their ecosystem services and climate change mitigation values, UNEP is coordinating a Blue Carbon Policy Forum for national governments which will bring together national government representatives and UNFCCC negotiators from countries with interests in Blue Forests (e.g. at least one country from each region that has high cover of mangroves, seagrass, saltmarsh). The aim is to raise the awareness of national governments and the UNFCCC of the latest science and policy recommendations made by the international blue forest community. The UNEP Forum will thus fulfill a crucial role liaising between NGOs and national governments in order to promote Blue Forest recommendations at the international policy level.

2. Pilot projects for coastal ecosystems, carbon, and ecosystem services

In order to address the lack of scientific knowledge and standardized methodologies for measuring carbon and ecosystem services in blue forest ecosystems, UNEP is coordinating a number of projects around the world focusing on measuring and protecting carbon and ecosystem services in blue forest ecosystems.

- Carbon and ecosystem services assessments in Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo) in order to make recommendations

for the inclusion of mangroves in national REDD+ plans as well as pilot projects in the region;

- The GEF Carbon Benefits Project which focuses on the development of standardised tools for quantification and assessment of carbon, including carbon accounting and greenhouse gas benefits, in terrestrial soil types;
- Lifeweb and Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem projects on mangrove conservation incorporating economic valuation of ecosystem services including carbon in Guinea Bissau.
- Economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem services in the Southeast Pacific supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA);
- Ecosystem services valuation of mangrove ecosystems, in some cases including carbon values, in the completed GEF-funded South China Sea and WIO-Lab (Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean) projects;
- The GEF-funded ProEcoServe project which pilots the bundling of ecosystem services and the integration of ecosystem services approaches in resource management and decision-making;
- The Millennium Development Goal-funded 'Development of Ecotaxation Scheme' which contributes to the reduction of poverty through a sustainable management of forest ecosystems services by ensuring a better knowledge of their Total Economic Value, and setting up a participative model of equitable management and valorization of forest ecosystem services through the design of eco-taxation schemes;
- A Spanish-funded project supporting integrated coastal management with special emphasis on the sustainable management of mangrove forests in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and;
- An EU-funded Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project, which includes an important component on coastal rehabilitation, including mangrove restoration in Jamaica.

3. Communications and raising awareness

To raise awareness of the wider community of blue forest issues, science and methodologies, UNEP has developed several information resources. For example, in collaboration with UN-REDD and GRID-Arendal, UNEP is developing an iPhone Application that informs users of blue forest issues and allows users to calculate their greenhouse gas emissions from travel in the equivalent area of hectares of blue forest ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, saltmarsh). Furthermore, UNEP has developed factsheets on blue forest ecosystems and distributed throughout the Regional Seas Programme. UNEP has also developed a guidance manual for the valuation of regulating services which aims to assist policy-makers and practitioners to identify and evaluate different methodologies for valuing regulating services in economic terms, and provide guidance on the application of methodologies to the valuation of regulating services and the scope for incorporating these values into decision-making processes.

These separate components of the UNEP Blue Forest Initiative and other partners need collaboration and gaps in knowledge filled if progress is to be made in protection. A global partnership needs to be developed to advance policies for sound management of coastal and marine ecosystems and fill gaps so as to ensure that their carbon sequestration, storage and other ecosystem functions and services are maintained.

The GEF increment would help fill knowledge gaps and develop a collaborative partnership among other baseline programs, such as:

- the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on mapping of blue forests
- GRID-Arendal on capacity-building to operationalize blue forest methodologies and products as well as develop blue forest projects on the ground. GRID-Arendal is creating regional networks of Blue Forest experts and practitioners in Asia-Pacific, West African and Arabian Peninsula regions. GRID-Arendal is also raising awareness of blue forest issues globally through an online community of practice, the Blue Carbon Portal.
- Conservation International-IUCN-IOC International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group to develop standardized methodologies for measuring sequestration and storage of carbon by coastal marine ecosystems and emissions arising from ecosystem degradation and destruction, and define the steps to payment for this ecosystem service. Initial products of the group will include first drafts of standardized methodologies for measuring carbon, but more support is necessary for this process and to explore standardization of methodologies for valuating ecosystem services in coastal ecosystems.
- IUCN on international policy groups and scientific research projects
- Blue Ventures on REDD+ mangrove sites for standardised protocol measuring, monitoring and verifying carbon sequestration in mangrove ecosystems.
- WWF to explore the feasibility of mangroves under REDD+ and measure carbon sequestration and ecosystem services values in mangroves in East Africa.
- The Indonesian Government on preparing national REDD+ readiness plans.
- The Katoomba Group, an international network of individuals which serves as a forum, together with the MARES Program working for exchange of ideas and strategic information about ecosystem service transactions and markets and collaboration between practitioners on Payment for Ecosystem Services projects and programs.
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)'s Marine Conservation Agreements toolkit where parties commit to delivering economic incentives in exchange for actions to achieve conservation goals.

However, while the activities described above address many aspects of blue forest research, management, policy and financing, there is no overarching framework to bring the strands together. There is a lack of coordination in the international community and a lack of knowledge of the value of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration. This has held back the development of standardised global protocols for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation for blue forests.

GEF incremental support is needed to:

- (1) Reaching a consensus for globally-standardized and independently-approved methodologies for measuring, verifying, reporting and monitoring carbon as well as for economic valuation of ecosystem services for coastal blue forest ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass meadows or saltmarshes.
- (2) Filling gaps in our knowledge of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration and fluxes in blue forest ecosystems so that methodologies can be tested.
- (3) Testing and further refining the methodologies through a range of small-scale interventions in GEF International Waters and other projects. The methodologies would be applied to all future GE IW projects to estimate carbon-related benefits and ecosystem valuation of goods and services – two key parameters for convincing governments to conserve blue forests.
- (4) Exploring the adoption of the developed methodologies by international community in order to influence international climate frameworks and create incentives for protection of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration provided by blue forests.

These objectives can be achieved by combining the UNEP baseline, financial and technical support from partners, closer coordination of UNEP activities with the wider blue forest community, and the GEF elements with agreed incremental costs.

2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADDITIONAL (LDCF/SCCF) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF/LDCF/SCCF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ASSOCIATED ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF) TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:

BASELINE

Recently, great international interest in the Blue Forest concept and carbon sequestration in coastal ecosystems has been catalyzed by the publication of two seminal reports by UNEP (Nellemann et al, 2009) and IUCN (Laffoley and Grimsditch, 2009). This is also reflected by the GEF-5 International Waters Focal Area strategy focus on blue forests. As mentioned in section B1, the UNEP and IUCN reports identified the current baseline as being – a) sparse knowledge of the carbon sequestration and ecosystem services potential of blue forest ecosystems, b) a lack of internationally standardized and independently approved protocols for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation for blue forest ecosystems and c) lack of adequate and appropriate management actions. This has led to activities within many big international non-governmental organizations to explore the feasibility and potential of blue forest ecosystems for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation as described in sections B1 and B6. However, the ongoing blue forest initiatives are relatively uncoordinated and there is a need to fill the gaps in knowledge and bring the various methodology development and small-scale interventions together in order to achieve the standardization necessary for influencing international fora such as the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) or UNFCCC (United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention) and for use by national governments around the world. On-going efforts also have to be more closely developed in conjunction with scientists and governments from developing countries, as current efforts are often concentrating on the knowledge generated by scientists from industrialized nations. Furthermore, the methodologies developed need to be applicable to GEF International Waters and other projects in order to provide global environmental benefits.

BUSINESS AS USUAL SCENARIO

Without the proposed GEF intervention, blue forest ecosystem stakeholders and GEF projects would not have standardized and internationally-recognized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation. The existing blue forest research, methodology development and small-scale interventions would continue but these are not orchestrated to produce standardized methodologies for estimating changes in carbon stocks and ecosystem services in blue forest ecosystems. Without proper and standardized protocol for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation in these ecosystems, blue forest stakeholders would continue to be unable to access carbon or ecosystem services-related international financing. Furthermore, protocols and methodologies need to be approved by independent and internationally-recognized institutions, for example the Verified Carbon Standard, in order to enable possible financing and influence international climate frameworks such as the UNFCCC and the IPCC. Without GEF intervention, the uncoordinated approach would remain and standardized methodologies would not be submitted for international approval. Critical gaps in our knowledge of carbon sequestration and the economic value of ecosystem services would remain and the methodologies would not be implemented in GEF projects as well as by national governments.

INCREMENTAL REASONING

As described in B1, with the GEF increment, the Blue Forest project, will bring the other ongoing initiatives together in a coherent coordinated “Blue Forests Initiative” and provide the needed information for the IW Focal Area to use in future coastal projects to estimate with some rigor carbon as well as monetary benefits of goods and services. Specifically, the project seeks to fulfill four important functions:

1. To reach a consensus for globally-standardized and independently-approved methodologies for measuring, verifying, reporting and monitoring carbon as well as for economic valuation of ecosystem services for coastal blue forest ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass or saltmarsh.
2. To utilize the methodologies through a range of small-scale interventions in GEF International Waters and other projects, creating additional value to the existing activities in the project sites. Cost-effectiveness will be ensured by using co-financing from partners at each site as well as to test methodologies by small-scale interventions before upscaling to larger interventions. Existing activities in the sites will constitute the baseline for small-scale interventions but they do not cover the activities proposed in this project. Furthermore, this component will cover activities from on-the-ground application of methodologies, to stakeholder participation, to capacity-building of local communities, to capacity-building for replication at larger scales and mainstreaming results into national policy frameworks.
3. To fill gaps in our knowledge of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration and fluxes in blue forest ecosystems.
4. To explore the adoption of the developed methodologies by international community in order to influence international climate frameworks and create incentives for protection of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration provided by blue forests.

Building on the baseline as described above the first component will be the development of standardised carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation methodologies by working groups of experts who will work to reach a consensus working from existing methodologies. The second component will implement the methodologies developed through at least 5 small-scale interventions, including at least 2 GEF International Waters projects. The third component of the project will fill in critical gaps in our knowledge of ecosystem services and carbon sequestration, storage and possible greenhouse gas emissions from habitat degradation. The fourth component will be the exploration of the adoption of the developed methodologies by the international community and international financing schemes. Through the existing GEF knowledge management activities, such as IW:LEARN and KM-Land, it is expected that more GEF funded project will adopt the developed methodologies and policy instruments in their project implementation so that the projects can accrue enhanced global environmental benefits, particularly in relation to climate change mitigation and payments for ecosystem services. Furthermore, if the methodologies and protocols are approved by independent bodies (e.g. the Voluntary Carbon Standard) then they can have a major role in influencing international climate frameworks such as the IPCC and the UNFCCC, thus possibly influencing National Inventory Submissions and greenhouse gas reporting under the LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) or AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) processes. Furthermore, GEF intervention through UNEP will also ensure that scientists and governments from developing countries form an active part of the process in developing, standardizing and applying the methodologies for measuring, verifying and reporting carbon in blue forest ecosystems, thus ensuring the sustainability and universal applicability of these methodologies.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

A major benefit delivered by this project is the development and agreement of a consensus for standardized methodologies to properly assess carbon sequestration as well as ecosystem services provided by blue forest ecosystems that can be applied across a wide range of International Waters GEF projects, international conventions and frameworks (UNFCCC, IPCC) and by national governments around the world. If appropriate, the standardized methodologies could be used to access international financing mechanisms. Furthermore, because many blue forest ecosystems are transboundary ecosystems, developing and applying tools for evaluating their value will also lead to transboundary benefits. The global environmental benefits of the development and application of these tools would be their application in the protection of blue forest ecosystems and their value for climate change mitigation as well as other valuable ecosystem services. Such an approach would add additional global environmental benefits to the ongoing GEF projects dealing with blue forest ecosystems.

With this GEF project, the Blue Forest concept would become a major global driver of marine ecosystem protection and management. It would also provide the global community with an innovative, important and hitherto overlooked tool with which to combat climate change and mitigate atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions, while protecting valuable ecosystem services important for climate change adaptation (coastal protection), food security (fisheries) and revenue (tourism, fisheries) of some of the most vulnerable and valuable ecosystems in the world. However the potential of this concept has not been robustly established, and the GEF Blue Forest project is an indispensable step in beginning to realize the potential. The proposed methodology development directly addresses this issue and will guide decisions on the development and implementation of any system of incentives based on the ecosystem services and carbon values for marine and coastal ecosystem management.

B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS(GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS A BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ [MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF.](#):

The proposed project would have various immediate socio-economic benefits for local communities. Sustaining blue carbon sinks will be crucial for ecosystem-based adaptation strategies that reduce vulnerability of human coastal communities to climate change. Halting the decline of ocean and coastal ecosystems would also secure and generate economic revenue, food security and improve livelihoods in the coastal zone. It would also provide major economic and development opportunities for coastal communities around the world, and the ecosystem service valuations carried out through small-scale interventions would provide economic arguments for the management of the values of blue forests ecosystems. Specifically, project activities would facilitate the possible access of funding from international climate frameworks as well as payment for ecosystem services schemes for local communities and stakeholders. This would facilitate the injection of revenue into developing economies in local communities that need it most, while protecting valuable ecosystem services that are useful for long-term sustainable development. Local communities and women groups would be involved in the designing and implementation of small-scale interventions to ensure their equitability and sustainability. Regionally, this project would provide the methodologies and basis for nations to evaluate the value of their coastal ecosystems and to incorporate these results into the management of their natural resources and coastal development plans. Furthermore, national

governments could potentially also use the tools developed to access international carbon funding, if found to be feasible.

Coastal waters account for just 7% of the total area of the ocean. However the productivity of ecosystems such as coral reefs and blue forest ecosystems mean that this small area forms the basis of the world’s primary fishing grounds, supplying an estimated 50% of the world’s fisheries. They provide vital nutrition for close to 3 billion people, as well as 50% of animal protein and minerals to 400 million people of the least developed countries in the world. The coastal zones, of which these blue forest ecosystems are central for productivity, deliver a wide range of benefits to human society: filtering water, reducing effects of coastal pollution, nutrient loading, sedimentation, protecting the coast from erosion and buffering the effects of extreme weather events. Coastal ecosystem services have been estimated to be worth over US\$25 trillion annually, ranking among the most economically valuable of all ecosystems. Much of the degradation of these ecosystems not only comes from unsustainable natural resource use practices, but also from poor watershed management, poor coastal development practices and poor waste management. The protection and restoration of coastal zones, through coordinated integrated management would also have significant and multiple benefits for health, labor productivity and food security of communities in these areas. The project, particularly socio-economic related activities, will seek to build on existing information on the actual benefits women and disadvantage communities can withdraw from the blue forest ecosystems. This project therefore aims to ensure that blue forest ecosystems continue to provide economic benefits within the global sustainable development framework.

B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:

Risk Statement	Risk Level	Risk Mitigation Strategy
Standardized methodologies are not agreed upon by scientists	Low	Transparent and all-inclusive methodology process. Strong leadership by Executing Agency to make executive decisions in order to expedite consensus processes. Appropriate feedback and decision-making processes will be set up with the target audiences as (e.g. IPCC) in order to ensure quality and consensus as well.
Political elements may come in in the process of developing the methodologies based on the scientific results	Low	The scientific results of the project should be critically reviewed by peer scientists without political interference. UNEP’s science-to-policy platforms such as IPBES will also be instrumental in ensuring that political risks are minimised.
Working group may not be able to have as broad representation as desired because of the need to keep the group small and highly	Medium	UNEP in consultation with executing partners, international carbon networks and the private sector will establish a broadly

technical		representative advisory group to provide input to the core technical working groups and ensure diversity of perspectives
The international community does not accept the methodologies developed by the projects	Low	The project explores alternative schemes for payment for ecosystem services that do not rely solely on international climate frameworks

B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:

Key stakeholders for this project include research institutions that will be involved in the development of methodologies, national governments and non-governmental organizations that will be involved in developing demonstration projects in collaboration, and local communities that will be involved in carrying out demonstration projects.

GRID-Arendal, IUCN, CI, IOC-UNESCO and UNEP will work together and through the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group, to define the expert working groups tasked with developing and testing globally standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation. GRID-Arendal, Blue Ventures, WWF, UNEP, the Indonesian Government, and other partners will also work to test and implement the methodologies developed through small-scale interventions. GRID-Arendal, IUCN, CI and IOC-UNESCO will work closely with UNEP in order to communicate the project and its results through, reports, press launches and interviews, to inform and advise relevant institutions such as the IPCC, UNFCCC and LULUFC/AFOLU. Further, they will take up the local interventions' experiences and recommendations in order to allow replication and up-scaling of activities.. Smaller NGOs such as Forest Trends and the private sector will also be involved as advisors to the activities of the working groups in the project in order to establish credibility for possible financial markets and as partners for small-scale interventions. Methodologies developed through this project will be submitted for review and vetting by an established, independent third party such as the Voluntary Carbon Standard double approval process. National governments will then use the methodologies to implement in projects in order to fulfill their marine conservation requirements.

Furthermore, local stakeholders that benefit from ecosystem services such tourism, fisheries or coastal protection will also be involved in the designing and implementing of small-scale interventions. For example, local artisanal fishing communities or tourism enterprises (among other stakeholders) that will be directly affected by activities, should be actively in involved in small-scale projects.

The details of the execution modalities and arrangement will be developed in the course of the PPG.

B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The Blue Forest concept has recently received a lot of international interest and gained momentum in scientific, non-governmental and governmental circles. The recent IUCN round-tables and the UNEP-IOC-IUCN workshop in Paris brought together many of the main actors who are pushing the agenda forward, and allowed for coordination between the various actors. UNEP aims to develop a global partnership to advance sound management of coastal and marine ecosystems so as to ensure that their carbon sequestration and storage functions are maintained, and to ensure that coastal and marine ecosystem-based management is appropriately incorporated into global climate change mitigation discussions and financing schemes.

As previously mentioned in this document, the Blue Forest proposal is coordinating with a range of other international initiatives to address the issue of carbon sequestration in coastal ecosystems. The initiatives are described below in more detail, and synergies with the proposed GEF Blue Forest project are described.

The IUCN project “Development of methodologies to support the production of a Global Synthesis Map on Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks” in partnership with Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd. and other partners, will develop and test a broad classification for the future mapping of natural coastal carbon sinks. This will provide approaches for estimating coastal carbon sink distribution, size, carbon released due to conversion or loss of coastal carbon sinks, and carbon burial rates within soils in a pre-human disturbance landscape. It will also provide scaling metrics for coastal carbon sink vulnerability to sea level rise and to human impacts, as well as for restoration potential. This project can provide information useful to the Blue Forest project. It provides a foundation for further refining approaches, tools and methods developed as a key contribution to the outcomes of the GEF project. With such further refinement it can provide an effective and dynamic tool for synthesizing and communicating findings for a variety of audiences and on a variety of geographic and time scales, contributing to GEF project outcomes.

The IUCN project entitled “Nature-based climate change mitigation through management and restoration of seagrass meadows: Quantifying the Potential” has numerous complementarities with elements under component 1 of the UNEP GEF proposal but also in relation to management and policy outreach. This includes quantification of carbon flux in seagrass meadow under different stress regimes and time scales; establishing the potential of financing seagrass management through carbon trade; and increasing knowledge of the potential global contribution of seagrasses in mitigation. These results can be used directly by the working groups in order to develop standardized methodologies for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration in seagrass ecosystems.

IUCN, together with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, is implementing the “Wet Carbon” programme, aiming to restore and preserve wetland ecosystems that are crucial to the carbon cycle. The programme will explore options for developing and accrediting carbon accounting methodologies, with particular attention to mangroves; promote development and initiation of pilot field projects, in addition to a mangrove restoration project implemented in Senegal with Danone; and develop a communication strategy. These activities can contribute directly to defining the strategy of the GEF Blue Forest project, as well as providing guidance for small-scale interventions.

Mangroves are currently being planned as pilot ecosystems for REDD+ by several countries working with UNEP as well as non-governmental organizations. For example, the Canary

Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project funded by the GEF will be working with Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal and The Gambia to explore the establishment of mangrove sites protected for carbon sequestration. UN-REDD is working with Nigeria to do the same, and Blue Ventures is working in Madagascar to explore setting up REDD+ mangrove sites as well as to develop a standardised protocol for measuring, monitoring and verifying carbon sequestration in mangrove ecosystems.

UNEP-WCMC is developing a new, partnership-based approach to developing the necessary standards and tools to support more consistent monitoring and reporting of key ecosystem datasets, including blue forest ecosystems. This approach will first be piloted with Mangroves in 2011, to build i) an inclusive network of Partners, to exchange knowledge and needs, develop standards and protocols, build data communities, strengthen local capacity, and improve and make freely available peer-review data; ii) High quality, robust marine ecological data for critical marine and coastal ecosystems and iii) Participatory web-based tools, to facilitate data updates, validation, exchange, accessibility, integration, and interoperability and allow; customised services for delivery of locally-specific data packages and analysis.

UNEP/GRID-Arendal commenced a collaborative project, the Blue Carbon Project, in late 2010 to develop and implement a regional Blue Forest strategy. Regions of interest include the Asia-Pacific, West Africa, and Arabian Peninsula. The effort aims to provide information, awareness raising and capacity building services to support coastal communities and small island developing states in protecting and managing their blue forest ecosystems and provide a connection with global initiatives underway in this area, including creating an interface between local agents, the science community and political decision makers. The ultimate outcome being sought from the project is to mainstream a Blue Forest agenda into regional, national and community climate change initiatives while enhancing local capacity to manage Blue Forest ecosystems. The initiative has established an Asia-Pacific regional Blue Forests expert working group to provide regional support and direction that will interact with the global working groups developed in this project. GRID-Arendal is contracted by AGEDI (Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative) to establish a scientific working group for the Arabian Peninsula region, and is exploring similar for West Africa. GRID-Arendal is currently exploring a role for the UNEP network to serve as a mechanism for outreach between regional small-scale interventions and the Blue Carbon International Scientific Working Group. Furthermore, GRID-Arendal has created an online community resource and professional networking tool, The Blue Carbon Portal, to increase access to information and discussion on blue carbon and the role of oceans as carbon sinks. The portal aims to support the rapidly expanding blue carbon community, especially those in developing states and small island developing states, in keeping abreast of blue forest initiatives, policy developments, scientific results and upcoming events. It is also a resource for the global scientific working group and regional projects. GRID-Arendal also manages the Blue Carbon Blog, an online resource for Blue Forest related news and events, which has received over 26,000 page visits since its creation (from October 2009 to July 2011).

The GEF funded UNEP Carbon Benefits project is currently developing methodologies for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration in different soil types in several countries. The GEF-funded ProEcoServe project is developing methodologies for bundling the evaluation of ecosystem services in a variety of terrestrial ecosystems. UNEP is also working on valuating ecosystem services in a project in Southeast Pacific countries and through the MDG-funded 'development of ecotaxation scheme' which focuses on forests in Senegal. Lessons learnt from these projects can also be transferred to the Blue Forest project. Other on-going GEF funded

projects such as CCLME, Nairobi Convention or GCLME (Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem) provide opportunities for sites for small-scale interventions and implementing the methodologies developed by the Blue Forest project.

CI working with IOC and IUCN organized working group meetings in February 2011 for identifying and quantifying longterm sequestration of anthropogenic carbon by coastal marine ecosystems and defining the steps to payment for these ecosystem services. The working group aims to 1.) Evaluate the carbon storage and sequestration capacity of coastal marine systems, including the global contribution of those systems to carbon sequestration and the geographic distribution of marine carbon sequestration and 2.) Assess the viability of potential payment for ecosystem services schemes for ocean carbon storage and sequestration and describe the needed steps for development and implementation of such schemes. Objectives of the CI working groups are well-aligned with the objectives this GEF proposal and the working groups will provide critical results for the Blue Forest project. However the working groups are made up of mostly of scientists from industrialized nations and UNEP and GRID-Arendal will ensure that developing countries are an active part of the process. The UNEP Blue Forest project will build on the CI-IUCN-IOC/UNESCO working groups to ensure that methodologies are developed in collaboration with and are applicable in developing countries.

The described initiatives will provide important technical and policy support to the Blue Forest project, and UNEP will play a pivotal role in consolidating the various strands of research and methodology development in order to provide coordinated input into the international and national policy spheres.

At the moment there is communication between the different initiatives, but no over-arching body with the resources necessary to ensure standardization of methodology development and its inclusion into international climate frameworks. GEF intervention is crucial in achieving this important step.

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

Bridging the science-policy gap. UNEP has unparalleled access to national governments who are UN member states through global platforms such as the Regional Seas Programme (access to 186 governments through conventions and action plans) or the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (the only intergovernmental initiative directly addressing the link between watersheds, coastal waters and the open ocean). UNEP also has a wide range of expertise and partners ranging from scientific and technical know-how to policy expertise and a history of working on market-based carbon credit schemes with various branches, divisions and centres dedicated to advising governments on market-based tools (including UN-REDD and the UNEP-Riso Centre, among others). UNEP has access to high quality and detailed Blue Forest data-sets through the Division of Early Warning and Assessment as well as the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center, an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence committed to the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions.

Experience with REDD, mangroves and carbon sequestration projects. UNEP is currently working on mangrove conservation projects in West Africa (Guinea Bissau) using Lifeweb and CCLME funding to develop standardised protocols for carbon accounting in mangrove ecosystems under REDD. UNEP is also coordinating the Carbon Benefits project, a GEF-funded project on developing standardised protocols for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration in different terrestrial soil types. Lessons from this research and methodology development could be carried across to blue forest ecosystems.

A strong programmatic baseline on blue forests. UNEP created a strong programmatic baseline by publishing the report 'Blue Carbon' in collaboration with partners, as well as contributing to the IUCN publication 'The management of coastal carbon sinks'. As a follow up to the reports, UNEP (in collaboration with IOC-UNESCO and IUCN) organized a workshop in Paris bringing together experts in the field of blue forests in order to discuss possible research agendas and gaps in our current knowledge of blue forests. A major output from this workshop is a special edition of the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management* dedicated to blue forest science, economics and policy which UNEP is currently coordinating. The current UNEP Carbon Benefits project also highlights UNEP's capacity for developing standardized methodologies for measuring, reporting, verifying and monitoring carbon sequestration.

Through its multiple partners and programs, UNEP is thus globally recognized as a source of credible science and policy advice. Furthermore, UNEP (in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and maintains close ties to date. UNEP's previous work on Blue Forests (Blue Carbon and IUCN reports, expert workshop in Paris, special edition of 'Ocean and Coastal Management'), convening power, technical expertise, international credibility, global influence and clout with national governments thus makes it the ideal institution for coordinating the Blue Forest project, consolidating global methodology development, analysis and policy efforts, and making results readily available for informing international and national policy decisions.

UNEP also brings expertise in bridging science to policy through its science-to-policy platforms such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) whose purpose is to provide a scientifically sound, uniform and consistent framework to enable emerging scientific knowledge to be translated into policy action at the appropriate levels as to contribute to more effective and sustainable decision-making that secures human well-being. To do so, the platform harnesses existing networks of scientific experts as well as policy communities. The platform remains scientifically independent and credibility, relevance and legitimacy are core objectives but also provides knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services for collaboration and coordination for common and shared knowledge bases.

C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT: UNEP co-financing is realized through its UNEP Blue Carbon Initiative, which totals US\$12,585,000 US\$.

This consists of convening and attendance of expert workshops (160,000 US\$ grant), the UNEP Lifeweb project in Guinea Bissau on mangrove conservation (770,000 US\$ in-kind), SIDA funding for carbon and ecosystem services evaluation work in the Southeast Pacific (210,000 US\$ grant), REDD funding for carbon and ecosystem services valuation work in Central Africa (120,000 US\$ grant), SIDA funding for the creation of a Blue Forests policy group (45,000 US\$ grant), Blue Carbon Initiative staff time (200,000 US\$ grant), MDG funding for a ecosystem

services economic valuation project on the development of an ecotaxation scheme for forests in Senegal (1,400,000 US\$ in-kind), a guidance manual for the valuation of regulating services (80,000 US\$ in-kind), and a series of working papers on ecosystem services economics (50,000 US\$ in-kind) as well as through a Spanish-funded project supporting integrated coastal management in the Caribbean with special emphasis on the sustainable management of mangrove forests in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (7,800,000 US\$ in-kind) and the EU-funded Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project, which includes an important component on coastal rehabilitation, including mangrove restoration in Jamaica (1,750,000 US\$ in-kind).

C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

The project fits into UNEP's Programme of Work sub-programmes 1 (Climate Change) and 3 (Ecosystem Management) through the following UNEP expected accomplishments:

Expected accomplishment 1(a) Adaptation, planning, financing and cost-effective preventive actions are increasingly incorporated into national development processes that are supported by scientific information, integrated climate impact assessments and local climate data.

Expected accomplishment 1 (d) Increased carbon sequestration occurs through improved land use, reduced deforestation and reduced land degradation.

Expected accomplishment 3 (c) The capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services is strengthened.

The objectives of this project are also well aligned with the following expected outcome of the UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy: 'Enhanced understanding and awareness of the role of marine and coastal ecosystem services for human well-being and climate change regulation.' The UNEP Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch recognizes Ecosystem Management and Climate Change and cross-cutting issues that are priorities to address, and this project addresses the intersection of these two priorities.

This project builds on UNEP's strong programmatic baseline in Blue Forest work already described in this document and which is highly relevant to the objectives of this project, including the publication of the 'Blue Carbon' and 'Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks' reports, the Manado Declaration, a strong REDD programme, the Paris Blue Carbon workshop, the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group, and the Carbon Benefits project. Furthermore, there is staff employed by the UNEP Marine Ecosystems Unit whose time is dedicated to the Blue Carbon Initiative.

Institutional sustainability for the project will be achieved by embedding activities on ecosystem services and carbon valuation for Blue Forest ecosystems into the UNEP Marine and Coastal Strategy and the UNEP Program of Work for 2012-2013 and in future Programs of Work beyond 2013. Executing partners to the project will also embed Blue Forest activities in their respective programs of work in order to ensure follow-up activities beyond the timeframe of the project.

International sustainability will be achieved through uptake of the results and methodologies of this project by international and inter-governmental bodies such as the UNFCCC and the IPCC, for example in reporting for National Inventory Submissions. UNEP will continue to support nations in applying the methods in order to report to the UNFCCC, as well as to potentially access international carbon funds.


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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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