



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/Inf.66  
25 September 2026

---

Adaptation Fund Board  
Project and Programme Review Committee  
Thirty-eighth Meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 19-23 October 2026

## **PROPOSAL FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SOLOMON ISLANDS**



ADAPTATION FUND

**ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT**  
**TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR**  
**"BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT TOURISM IN PAPUA**  
**NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT"**

|                     |                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Title       | Building Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands Project |
| Project ID          | AF00000537                                                                                                         |
| Category            | Regular size project (over \$1 million)                                                                            |
| Type                | Regional project                                                                                                   |
| Stage               | Pre-concept                                                                                                        |
| Country             | Regional (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands)                                                                       |
| Implementing Entity | SPREPWS                                                                                                            |
| Financing Requested | USD 28,270,277.00                                                                                                  |
| Reviewer            | Una May Gordon                                                                                                     |

## Co-reviewer(s)

### IE Contact Person

Filomena Nelson,Joeli Bili,Salome Tukuafu,Timoci Nakalevu

## Secretariat's Overall Comment

The project Building Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands Project aims to foster climate-smart tourism pathways by strengthening governance and institutional frameworks, improving access to climate information and early warning systems (CIEWS), promoting inclusive tourism enterprises, mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and restoring ecosystems through nature-based solutions (NbS). The initial technical review raises some issues related to strengthening the adaptation rationale, clarification on geographic prioritization, knowledge management, and initial gender assessment which are discussed in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) indicated below. The second technical review raises some issues related to strengthening the adaptation rationale, clarification on geographic prioritization, knowledge management, and initial gender assessment which are discussed in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) indicated below. Notably the project proponent responded to the comments and did not include some responses in the pre-concept note to strengthen it.

## Country Eligibility

### Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol, or the Paris Agreement?

**Response:** Yes

**Secretariat:** Yes.

### Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

**Response:** Yes

**Secretariat:** Yes. Both PNG and Solomon Islands are developing countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly as Pacific Small Island Developing States with high exposure and limited adaptive capacity. Their key vulnerabilities include rising temperatures, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, coral bleaching and biodiversity loss, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, all of which threaten tourism assets, infrastructure, livelihoods, and water and ecosystem stability

## Project Eligibility

**Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?**

**Response:** Yes

**Secretariat:** Yes. As per the Endorsement letters dated as follows for the participating countries: 3 December 2025 (Papua New Guinea) and 4 December 2025 (Solomon Islands).

**Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?**

**Response:** Cleared

**Secretariat:** Yes. The pre-concept provides necessary information on the problem at both regional and country levels. It highlights that climate change is increasingly undermining the tourism sector in PNG and the Solomon Islands through ecosystem degradation, infrastructure damage, and reduced livelihoods, while adaptive capacity remains limited. From a regional perspective, it demonstrates a shared problem where climate change is driving escalating risks -- while from a country perspective it provides some specific, differentiated evidence for each country.

**Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?**

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** Yes. However, some additional information is required. The project objectives, components, and financing are generally clear. The proposal outlines four components which aim to strengthen climate-smart planning and policy frameworks related to tourism, support resilient tourism-related livelihoods, and restore and sustainably manage natural assets underpinning tourism resilience. The pre-concept also provides defined outcomes and outputs, and an indicative budget allocation for each component, demonstrating a basic logical structure and alignment with the project objectives. CR1: Please provide some additional information on: 1. why these particular components were prioritized and; 2. how they are expected to deliver the overall objectives of the project.

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** CR1: Not Cleared. Please include one to two paragraphs on how the components were prioritised through stakeholder consultation etc within the body of the proposal and reference the stakeholder consultation report and how the components are expected to deliver the overall objectives. This should be added in Part I.

**Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how: - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability?**

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** Yes. However, some additional information is needed to strengthen the pre-concept. The project is relatively well justified, with concrete adaptation actions (e.g. ecosystem restoration, early warning systems), alignment with national and regional strategies, and evidence of regional added value (e.g. cross-country knowledge exchange, shared expertise, harmonized policy frameworks). The project contributes to the thematic focal area of “Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems”, as reflected in the focus of component 1 on climate information and early warning systems for the tourism sector. However, there is no information on why certain provinces have already been identified for the implementation of project activities. CR2: Please provide information on why these provinces are most appropriate, e.g. climate vulnerability, readiness, importance for the tourism sector, etc. CR3: The ecosystem-related activities under component 3 include a target (10,000 ha of mangroves, reefs, and coastal vegetation rehabilitated) without any explanation of how and why it was developed. Please give some details on the feasibility and expected value of this target for achieving the project’s climate adaptation goals for the tourism sector. CAR1: The climate adaptation relevance of some proposed activities under component 2 (Tourism) is unclear. 1. Please strengthen the Adaptation rationale i.e. how these interventions would reduce climate vulnerability and are not just more general approaches to tourism development and strengthening livelihoods. 3. Please link specifically to how the proposed actions are responsive to the National Adaptation plans for the two countries. For example it is noted that for PNG the NAP 2023-2030 identified priority sectors of agriculture, health, transport, and infrastructure while for Solomon Islands the priority sectors are identified as agriculture, coastal zone, food security and forestry. Focusing on supporting the highly climate sensitive tourism sector as a resilience strategy for the region is a risky approach that may increase vulnerability for some groups. Please provide some reflections on this issue CAR2: Gender-related objectives are referenced in the pre-concept, but without much context. Please provide preliminary gender analysis and/or plans for a gender assessment that would identify key issues related to the roles, needs, and vulnerabilities of women, men and other groups and the potentially differing impacts from the proposed activities on these groups. CAR3: Thank you for including a dedicated component around Knowledge Management and Policy Advocacy. However, the activities (knowledge products and hubs, policy briefs) seem modest given the proposed budget for this component. Please consider additional ideas. Also, please briefly specify how knowledge will be captured, shared, and disseminated; identify the responsible institution(s); and clarify if dedicated knowledge management and policy advocacy roles or focal points will be assigned CR4: Please provide some evidence to demonstrate cost-effectiveness.

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** CR2: Not Cleared Please include in Part I. project background, a sub-section on project location and communities and explain briefly why the provinces were selected i.e. based on climate vulnerability tourism importance, ecological significance, and implementation readiness. CR2.1 (NEW): Please note that Part II. Project/Programme Justification should elaborate on the Project Components, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities so the linkage is clear. Note a Theory of Change is not required at this stage but the narrative should be clear. CR3: Not Cleared Note the target is in the Project Components and Financing Table but it is not referenced in Part II. Please indicate the target of 10,000 ha of mangroves, coral reefs, and coastal vegetation is a preliminary estimate and its justification briefly under Part II Project Justification. Actions that will follow during the concept note or fully developed proposal stage can be reflected in the narrative of the pre-concept note. CR3.1 (NEW): Please number each paragraph in the pre-concept note and use sub-sections. This will assist with readability and reference for further reviews. CAR1: Not Cleared Not Cleared. As per paragraph 2 under Part II Project/Programme Justification, the pre-concept notes how interventions will reduce climate vulnerability of tourism dependent communities and enterprises. However, the adaptation relevance of some activities are not sufficiently clear as some could be interpreted as development interventions. In Part II, please strengthen the justification for activities. Please consider which climate risks the activities are addressing. Not Cleared. Please ensure the linkage to the National Tourism Policy 2025–2045 is well reflected in the proposal as it is a sectoral

document. CAR1.1 (NEW): Please use Part II to expand on the project components listed in the Project/Programme Components and Financing Table. CAR1.2 (NEW): It is also not clear how joint action across the two countries add value. Please specify what regional cooperation delivers that national projects cannot. CAR2: Not Cleared. A paragraph has been included on page 3 but is missing data points and references (in-text citations or footnotes). However, the proposal should indicate any previous consultation with stakeholders with a gender remit and how gender considerations will further be incorporated in the proposal. Please make it clear how gender considerations will be operationalised in the project design. Please indicate that gender analysis and action plan will inform gender-responsive measures. CAR3: Not Cleared. Component 4, dedicated to Knowledge Management and Learning, has been revised to include a digital knowledge platform and dashboard, case study documentation of EbA and NbS pilot sites and communities of practices. In the narrative in Part II, please also highlight: (i) how these approaches noting how information will be captured, stored and shared. (ii) indicate who will be responsible for knowledge sharing and coordination of this between the countries. As stated in the previous review, will a focal point be assigned or a Knowledge Management Specialist be assigned to that role? Finer details can be elaborated in the concept note. CR4: Not Cleared. A sentence has been added to paragraph 3 which reflects cost-efficiency. However, it does not adequately address the comment. i. Please briefly compare the proposed approach with credible alternatives (EbA vs hard infrastructure) or briefly highlight why this request would provide better results compared to previous investments. ii. Please ensure this section on cost-effectiveness reflects some initial thinking for comparison. Further comparison and studies can be undertaken in the concept note or full developed proposal stage

**Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?**

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** No. The pre-concept identifies the key organizations involved at the regional and national levels, including SPREP as the Implementing Entity and PNGTPA, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (SI), and SPTO as executing partners. However, the pre-concept does not explain how coordination will be structured and managed within and across countries. CR5: 1. Please briefly provide further details on coordination arrangements across regional and national levels, and clarify how national institutions will be engaged in project implementation 2. Please describe the proposed establishment of the Project Management Unit and key personnel/experts in a brief statement.

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** CR5: Not Cleared 1. Cleared. As per Part III, details on coordination arrangements have been clarified. At the regional level, there will be a Regional Project Management Unit established at SPREP for overall coordination across countries. While at the national level, there will be a National Project Coordination Unit embedded in the EE of each country, and National Steering Committees for strategic guidance in each country 2. Not Cleared. Part III highlights a Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) will be established at the SPREP. However, details of the key experts have not yet been included. Please indicate the key experts proposed who will work in the RPMU (e.g. Project Manager, Procurement and Finance Officer, Gender Specialist, E&S Specialist, Knowledge Management Specialist).

**Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?**

**Response:** Cleared

**Secretariat:** Yes. The requested funding of is USD 28,881,110.

**Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?**

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** No. The proposed implementing entity fee and execution costs appear to be at 10 per cent of the total project/programme cost. However, there are some inconsistencies in the total budget figures. CAR4: Please review and correct the total project cost which is currently presented as 26,255, 5555 but should be 26,155, 555. Please amend the fees if as necessary based on the amendment.

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** CAR4: Cleared. The Project/Programme Execution cost has been reduced, and the Total Project/Programme costs have been revised. The IE is now US\$2,214,722, which is 8.5% of the Total Programme Costs. Therefore, it is below the 10% threshold. The new total requested is US\$28,270,277.

## Eligibility of IE

**Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?**

**Response:** Pending

**Secretariat:** Yes. However, an amendment is required. As per Decision B.46/9. CAR5: Please ensure that the IE signature is included in the re-submission.

**Response:** Not Cleared

**Secretariat:** CAR5: Not cleared. Project proposal should be signed in the Implementing Entity certification section by the IE coordinator in our records: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/implementing-entities/>

## PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

### PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

**Title of Project/Programme:** Building Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands Project

**Countries:** Papua New Guinea, & the Solomon Islands

**Thematic Focal Area<sup>1</sup>:** Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

**Type of Implementing Entity:** Regional Implementing Entity

**Implementing Entity:** The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

**Executing Entities:** Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (PNGTPA) of Papua New Guinea (PNG); Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Solomon Islands (MCT); and the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)

**Amount of Financing Requested:** 28,270,277 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Project Formulation Grant Request:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Amount of Requested financing for PFG:** N/A (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries:** Yes ☒ No ☐

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>*

#### Stage of Submission:

- ☒ This pre-concept has been submitted before
- ☐ This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 6/24/2026

---

<sup>1</sup> Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

## Project/Programme Background and Context:

1. Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands (SI) are both located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, specifically within the Melanesia region, and are known for their exceptionally diverse cultures and rich biodiversity. PNG is recognized as one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse countries globally, with over 850 languages spoken and an estimated 1,000 cultural groups. Similarly, the SI boasts a rich and vibrant cultural landscape as it is home to a wide array of ethnic groups, that speak over 70 different languages. Both countries have strong tourism potential due to their rich cultural heritage, pristine natural environments, and unique niche offerings. PNG is globally recognized for its unique festivals, biodiversity rich dive sites like Kimbe Bay and Milne Bay, and World War II relics in provinces like East New Britain. Similarly, the SI offers pristine beaches, coral reefs, and one of the world's largest collections of World War II (WWII) relics, appealing to divers, history enthusiasts and eco-travelers.

2. In PNG, the sector currently accounts for about 1.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs approximately 25,000 people, with government aiming to increase tourism-related jobs to 310,000 by 2030. In SI, prior to the pandemic, tourism represented 10.5% of GDP and generated USD 132.8 million annually, serving as a key source of income diversification, particularly for remote and coastal communities. Climate change poses a significant threat to tourism in both PNG and SI, endangering the natural and cultural assets that attract visitors. Between 1900-2017, the average annual temperatures in PNG increased approximately 0.8-0.9°C, with a more pronounced warming trend observed since the 1970s<sup>2</sup>. Projections indicate that average land surface temperatures will rise by 1.5-2°C under the SSP5-8.5 scenario<sup>3</sup>, by 2050. Rising sea levels and coastal erosion jeopardize key sites like Milne Bay, renowned for their world-class dive sites. Coral bleaching and ocean acidification are degrading marine biodiversity, reducing the appeal of dive tourism.

3. Likewise, mean annual temperatures have risen by about 0.4°C from 1986-2005 baseline, and about 0.8°C from 2008-2020 period<sup>4</sup> in the SI. The country's tourism sector is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The SI<sup>5</sup> is also experiencing about 7-10mm sea level rise (SLR) per year, which is higher than the global average. Coastal resorts and small island destinations are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including SLR, saltwater intrusion, and intensified storm surges that damage accommodation facilities and reduce the appeal of pristine beaches. Coral reefs, which are central to the country's diving and marine tourism, are threatened by coral bleaching and declining fish stocks, undermining eco-tourism opportunities and livelihood. Additionally, increased rainfall variability and prolonged droughts disrupt water supplies that are essential for tourism operations. Frequent extreme weather events, such as cyclones, not only damage critical tourism infrastructure but also deter potential visitors due to heightened safety concerns.

4. Women play a critical role in the tourism sector across both countries but face persistent structural barriers to economic empowerment. For example, in PNG earn about 10-15% less than men<sup>6</sup>, while in SI only 37% of women employed compared with 70% of men<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, only 22% of tourism board chairs in the Pacific region are women<sup>8</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> UNEP, (2025). PNG Interactive Country Fiches. Accessed from: <https://dicf.unepgrid.ch/papua-new-guinea/climate-change#:~:text=Papua%20New%20Guinea%20is%20among,health%20and%20ecosystems%20%5B2%5D>.

<sup>3</sup> International Redcross, (2024). Climate Center PNG. Accessed from: [https://www.climatecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/RCCC-Country-profiles-PNG\\_2024\\_final.pdf](https://www.climatecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/RCCC-Country-profiles-PNG_2024_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> SPREP, (2021). 'NextGen' Projections for the Western Tropical Pacific: Current and Future Climate for Solomon Islands. Accessed from: <https://www.rccap.org/uploads/files/89fce47b-24f9-4d92-abdc-63d670fa45b8/Solomon%20Is%20Country%20Report%20Final.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Simon, A. Rising seas stealing back Solomon Islands communities. The University of Queensland. Accessed from: <https://stories.uq.edu.au/shorthand-uq/eait/ingenuity/rising-seas-stealing-back-solomon-islands-communities/>

<sup>6</sup> PNG Business Coalition for Women, (2024). Labour Market Survey: Earnings, Gender, and Ambitions. Accessed from: [https://mail.pngbcfw.org/media/pages/resources/case-studies/png-labour-market-survey-earnings-gender-and-ambitions-findings-analysis-and-policy-implications-november-2024/c6ff698d91-1732489770/bcfw-png-labour-market-survey-earnings-gender-and-ambitions\\_241125.pdf](https://mail.pngbcfw.org/media/pages/resources/case-studies/png-labour-market-survey-earnings-gender-and-ambitions-findings-analysis-and-policy-implications-november-2024/c6ff698d91-1732489770/bcfw-png-labour-market-survey-earnings-gender-and-ambitions_241125.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative, (2021). Leadership Matters: Benchmarking women in the business leadership in the Pacific. Accessed from: <https://www.pacificpsdi.org/assets/Uploads/PSDI-LeadershipMatters-Web3.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> The Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative, (2021). Leadership Matters: Benchmarking women in the business leadership in the Pacific. Accessed from: <https://www.pacificpsdi.org/assets/Uploads/PSDI-LeadershipMatters-Web3.pdf>

5.

Without targeted interventions addressing ecosystem degradation, climate information and early warning gaps, climate-vulnerable tourism enterprises, and gender inequalities, climate change will increasingly undermine tourism assets, livelihoods, and ecosystems in PNG and SI. The project provides an evidence-based adaptation response by reducing climate vulnerability, strengthening natural protection, improving climate-informed decision-making, and promoting inclusive, climate-resilient tourism. It will focus on Central, Western and Malaita Provinces in SI, and New Ireland, Milne Bay and East New Britain Provinces in PNG, selected based on climate vulnerability assessments, tourism importance, ecological significance, and readiness of provincial and local stakeholders to support implementation. The selected provinces and the proposed components were validated by government partners in both countries during consultation meeting held on 9 October 2025. The project will deliver concrete adaptation benefits by strengthening ecosystem resilience, reducing climate risks to tourism-dependent communities and assets, and expanding inclusive livelihood opportunities.

#### Project/Programme Objectives:

6. The project seeks to foster climate-smart tourism pathways by strengthening governance and institutional frameworks, improving access to climate information and early warning systems (CIEWS), promoting inclusive tourism enterprises, mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and restoring ecosystems through nature-based solutions (NbS). The specific objectives:

- Strengthen climate-smart institutional frameworks for tourism by integrating climate risks into policies, planning, coordination, and investment decisions at national and subnational levels.
- Promote inclusive and resilient tourism enterprises by supporting women-, youth-, and private sector-led initiatives, sustainable livelihoods, and climate-resilient waste management and resilient tourism infrastructures, .
- Enhance ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) by restoring and sustainably managing coral reefs, mangroves, coastal wetlands, and other critical ecosystems that reduce climate risks and support tourism and livelihoods.
- Strengthen knowledge management and policy advocacy to support climate-resilient tourism planning, learning, and replication.

#### Project/Programme Components and Financing:

| Project/<br>Programme<br>Components                                    | Expected<br>Outcomes                                                                                                                        | Expected Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Count<br>ries | Amount<br>(US\$) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Strengthening Climate-Smart Institutional and Governance Frameworks | 1.1 Climate risks systematically integrated into tourism governance, planning, and investment decisions at national and subnational levels. | 1.1.1 Multi-hazard early warning systems tailored for tourism sector established and maintained, including production and dissemination of climate information services (maps, brochures, etc)<br>1.1.2 Climate risk assessment tools for tourism investment developed and operationalized<br>1.1.3 Climate smart tourism guidelines developed and adopted<br>1.1.4 National and provincial tourism-climate risk taskforce established and operational<br>1.1.5 Climate resilience mainstreamed into national and provincial tourism masterplans      | PNG & SI      | 5,780,000        |
| 2. Scaling Inclusive and Resilient Tourism Enterprises                 | 2.1 Inclusive, climate-resilient tourism enterprises scaled up to increase income and jobs                                                  | 2.1.1. Women and youths trained in eco-tourism, digital marketing, intellectual property (IP) rights, sustainable value chain, climate resilience and adaptation planning, destination management<br>2.1.2. Women/youth-led enterprises supported in cultural and creative industries , agro-tourism, fisheries, and cultural tourism<br>2.1.3. Revolving funds established and operationalized to finance green tourism startups and expansion<br>2.1.4. Solar-powered cold storage units installed to support sustainable supply chains for tourism | PNG & SI      | 7,590,000        |

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 2.1.5. | Community-led waste collection/sorting facilities established to support sustainable supply chains for tourism                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |            |
| 3. Enhancing Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Tourism Sites                                    | 3.1 Critical natural assets underpinning tourism are restored and sustainably managed to buffer climate risks                         | 3.1.1  | 1,000 hectares of mangroves, reefs, and coastal vegetation at tourism sites rehabilitated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | PNG & SI | 7,690,000  |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 3.1.2  | Six pilot nature-based solution (NbS) tourism sites established and fully operational (mangrove board walks, reef eco-parks, and coastal cleanup/debris-removal programs)                                                                                                                                                |          |            |
| 4. Strengthening Knowledge Management and Policy Advocacy                                    | 4.1 Knowledge and evidence on climate-resilient tourism are shared and used to inform policies, practices, and regional collaboration | 4.1.1  | Knowledge products (policy briefs, technical guidelines, manuals, toolkits, visitor guidelines/resources etc) developed and disseminated to industry (for tourism operators), policymakers, development partners, private sector including SMEs, and civil society organizations on scaling up climate-resilient tourism | PNG & SI | 2,570,000  |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.2  | Digital knowledge platforms developed and operationalized to consolidate and share climate-resilient tourism data, tools, and learning resources across PNG and Solomon Islands.                                                                                                                                         |          |            |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.3  | Tourism climate resilience dashboard developed linking with current regional efforts in developing marketing and sustainable tourism indicators dashboard, to support real-time visualization of climate risks, adaptation interventions, and ecosystem status to inform decision-making.                                |          |            |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.4  | Case study documentation of EbA and NbS pilot sites developed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |            |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.5  | Structured communities of practice established, linking government, private sector, SMEs, and community stakeholders to strengthen knowledge exchange, peer learning, innovation, and collaboration on climate-resilient tourism development.                                                                            |          |            |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.6  | National and provincial knowledge hubs for climate resilient tourism established                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |            |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                       | 4.1.7  | Regional exchanges facilitated to promote learning, dialogue and coordination on ecosystems-based approaches for climate-resilient tourism, continuous learning, knowledge exchange, and replication of best practices.                                                                                                  |          |            |
| 6. Project/Programme Execution cost                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          | 2,425,555  |
| 7. Total Project/Programme Cost                                                              |                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          | 26,055,555 |
| 8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable) |                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          | 2,214,722  |
| Amount of Financing Requested                                                                |                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          | 28,270,277 |

**Project Duration: 5 years (60 months)**

## **PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION**

7. The proposed regional project adopts a multi-level approach comprising three core adaptation components and a cross-cutting component focused on knowledge management. While the four components are designed around a common regional framework to ensure consistency and coherence, their implementation will be tailored to the specific national contexts, priorities, institutional arrangements, and needs of PNG and the SI.

8. **Component 1: Strengthening Climate-Smart Institutional and Governance Frameworks (USD 5,780,000):** This component will strengthen institutional and information systems in PNG and SI to integrate climate risks into tourism governance, planning, and investment decisions. It will establish tourism-specific multi-hazard early warning systems and climate information services (Output 1.1.1), develop climate risk assessment tools for tourism investments (Output 1.1.2), develop and adopt climate-smart tourism guidelines (Output 1.1.3), establish national and provincial tourism-climate risk taskforces (Output 1.1.4), and mainstream climate resilience into national and provincial tourism masterplans (Output 1.1.5). Collectively, these interventions will contribute to Outcome 1.1 by strengthening the enabling conditions for climate-resilient and sustainable tourism development.

9. **Component 2: Scaling Inclusive and Resilient Tourism Enterprises (USD 7,590,000):** The objective of this component is to reduce the vulnerability of tourism-dependent communities and enterprises in PNG and SI to climate-related risks while strengthening resilient livelihoods and inclusive economic opportunities. It will contribute to Outcome 2.1 by increasing the capacity of women, youth, and community-led tourism enterprises to anticipate, withstand, and adapt to climate impacts while maintaining sustainable

incomes and employment. This will be achieved by providing training in eco-tourism, digital marketing, IP rights, sustainable value chains, climate resilience and adaptation planning, and destination management (Output 2.1.1); supporting women and youth-led enterprises in cultural and creative industries, agro-tourism, fisheries, and cultural tourism to adopt climate-resilient practices (Output 2.1.2); establish revolving funds to finance climate-resilient green tourism start-ups and enterprise adaptation and expansion (Output 2.1.3); install solar-powered cold storage units to reduce climate-related risks to tourism supply chains and livelihoods (Output 2.1.4); and establish community-led waste collection and sorting facilities to strengthen environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient tourism value chains (Output 2.1.5).

**10. Component 3: Enhancing Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Tourism Sites (USD 7,690,000):**

This component will reduce the vulnerability of tourism destinations and surrounding communities to climate-related hazards by conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing critical coastal and marine ecosystems that provide natural protection and underpin tourism livelihoods. It will contribute to Outcome 3.1 by strengthening the capacity of natural assets to buffer climate risks while maintaining the ecological and economic functions on which tourism depends. The component will conserve, restore, and rehabilitate 1,000 hectares of mangroves, reefs, and coastal vegetation at priority tourism sites to reduce exposure to coastal flooding, erosion, storm surges, and other climate impacts (Output 3.1.1); and establish and operationalize six pilot NbS tourism sites, including mangrove boardwalks, reef eco-parks, and coastal clean-up and debris-removal programmes, to demonstrate locally appropriate and scalable ecosystem-based adaptation approaches (Output 3.1.2). The 4,000 ha target is a preliminary estimate, based on initial stakeholder consultations, site visits, and available information, and will be further assessed and validated during the Concept Note (CN) and Funding Proposal (FP) stages through detailed site-level assessments.

**11. Component 4: Strengthening Knowledge Management and Policy Advocacy (USD 2,570,000):** This component aims to strengthen the generation, management, and use of evidence and knowledge to support climate-resilient tourism policy, investment, and practice in PNG and SI. This will be achieved by developing and disseminating knowledge products, including policy briefs, technical guidelines, manuals, toolkits, and visitor resources (Output 4.1.1); establishing digital knowledge platforms to consolidate and share climate-resilient tourism data, tools, and learning resources (Output 4.1.2); developing a tourism climate resilience dashboard linked to relevant regional tourism and sustainability initiatives to support evidence-based decision-making (Output 4.1.3); documenting lessons and case studies from EbA and NbS pilot sites (Output 4.1.4); establishing communities of practice linking government, private sector, SMEs, and communities (Output 4.1.5); establishing national and provincial knowledge hubs for climate-resilient tourism (Output 4.1.6); and facilitating regional exchanges to promote learning, coordination, replication, and scaling of effective ecosystem-based and other adaptation approaches (Output 4.1.7). Altogether, these interventions will ensure that knowledge and evidence on climate-resilient tourism are systematically generated, shared, and applied to inform policies, practices, and regional collaboration (Outcome 4.1)..

**12. Project Justification:** The project responds to climate risks affecting tourism-dependent communities, enterprises, infrastructure, and coastal ecosystems in PNG and SI, including sea-level rise, flooding, erosion, storm surges, drought, changing rainfall, and extreme weather. These hazards damage tourism assets, disrupt livelihoods and supply chains, degrade protective ecosystems, and increase vulnerability. The project will address these risks through targeted adaptation measures outlined above. Collectively, the interventions will reduce climate vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of tourism assets, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

**13. Cost-effectiveness:** This will be maximized by pooling resources across PNG and SI, leveraging regional expertise, building on existing institutions and investments, and prioritizing EbA and NbS. In PNG, seawall construction costs approximately US\$1.7 million/km, plus US\$25,000/km/year maintenance<sup>11</sup>, compared with US\$50,000-500,000 per hectare for mangrove restoration, with annual mangrove conservation and monitoring costs estimated at US\$5,000-50,000 per hectare, demonstrating the potential for EbA to provide a more cost-efficient option at appropriate sites<sup>12</sup>. Component 3 will support the conservation, restoration, and protection of approximately 1,000ha of mangroves, coral reefs, and coastal

---

<sup>11</sup> Adaptation Fund, (2011). Proposal for PNG. Accessible on: [https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AFB.PPRC\\_5.12%20Proposal%20for%20PNG.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AFB.PPRC_5.12%20Proposal%20for%20PNG.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>12</sup> Government of Papua New Guinea. (2025). Technology Needs Assessment - Adaptation. UNFCCC Technology Needs Assessment Project

vegetation, together with six pilot NbS tourism sites. These interventions will reduce exposure to coastal flooding, erosion, and storm surges while generating complementary ecosystem, livelihood, and tourism benefits. The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 120,000 people and indirectly benefit 800,000 people across PNG and SI. Detailed site-level costing, cost per hectare and beneficiary, and comparison of EbA/NbS with hard infrastructure and hybrid approaches will be undertaken during the CN/FP stages.

14. The **regional approach** is key to addressing the shared and transboundary climate change challenges affecting tourism-dependent communities and ecosystems in PNG and the SI, which are currently addressed primarily through separate national interventions. Addressing these challenges regionally will strengthen long-term and sustainable adaptive capacity and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of adaptation investments. Both countries have developed complementary experience in areas such as climate-smart tourism, ecosystem-based adaptation, climate information and early warning systems, sustainable natural resource management, and community-based tourism. The regional approach will enable PNG and SI to learn from each other, share knowledge and technical strengths, and develop common solutions that can be adapted and scaled across both countries. The approach is further supported by the close geographic, cultural and people-to-people ties between PNG and SI, as well as their shared membership in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), providing a strong foundation for sustained regional cooperation and coordinated climate change adaptation action.

15. The **project aligned** is fully consistent with PNG's national development and climate policy frameworks, including National Tourism Policy (2025-2045) which provides the sectoral framework for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism development, Vision 2050, Medium-Term Development Plan IV, and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023-2030). In SI, the project responds to the National Sustainable Tourism Policy (2025-2030), National Development Strategy 2016-2035 and National Climate Change Policy 2023-2032. Regionally, it aligns with the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017-2030), the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework Goal 4, the Pacific Tourism Climate Change Action Plan currently under development and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Although tourism is not explicitly identified as a standalone priority sector within the NAPs, the project is designed to operationalize adaptation priorities in closely related sectors such as coastal zone management, agriculture, forestry, food security, and climate-resilient infrastructure, thereby using tourism as an entry point to strengthen broader ecosystem- and community-based resilience rather than as an isolated economic activity. In doing so, it aligns with national adaptation priorities of both PNG and the SI as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1, 2, 5, 11, 13, & 14) and the global Mangrove Breakthrough initiative.

16. **Knowledge management and learning** will be central to the project, with national and provincial knowledge hubs, digital knowledge platforms, and tourism climate resilience dashboards established to capture, store, analyze, and share project data, lessons, and case studies from EbA and NbS pilot sites. Knowledge products, communities of practice, and regional exchanges will support peer learning, policy uptake, and replication of climate-resilient tourism approaches across PNG and SI. The Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) will support regional learning, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of lessons and good practices through relevant Pacific tourism, climate, environment, and resilience networks, platforms, and regional events. Knowledge Management focal points in PNG and SI will coordinate country-level knowledge capture and dissemination, with regional coordination through the project management structure. Detailed roles and responsibilities, including the engagement of SPTO and SPREP, will be further defined during the CN/FP Stages.

17. **Gender-responsiveness and other vulnerable groups:** a consultative process will guide project preparation and implementation of the project, ensuring the voices of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, are incorporated in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. Initial consultations undertaken in June - July 2026 with women's groups, SMEs, and other vulnerable groups in both countries helped identify gender and social inclusion considerations for the project design. A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan, to be developed during the CN/FP stages, will further inform gender-responsive measures, targets, indicators, stakeholder engagement, and resource allocation. The Pacific Gender and Inclusive Tourism Action Plan 2026-2030 currently in final stage of development will also support and guide project interventions in the two countries.

18. The project will meet relevant **national technical standards** for environmental and social safeguards, infrastructure, and land-use management, while actively avoiding or mitigating potential negative impacts.

19. **Sustainability** is embedded in the project design through the integration of climate-smart practices into national and subnational tourism frameworks, ecosystem restoration with high natural regeneration potential, and the establishment of financially viable enterprises that continue to deliver benefits beyond the project's lifespan. With a clear focus on adaptation reasoning and full cost justification, the project ensures that interventions are not only transformative for PNG and the SI but also provide a model for climate-resilient tourism across the Pacific. Lastly, the regional work by SPTO through the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework and the Pacific Tourism Climate Change Action Plan (under development) will also support national efforts of the 2 countries post project.

### PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

20. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), will serve as the Implementing Entity (IE), providing overall project oversight, fiduciary management, technical quality assurance, and coordination across both countries. With support of the Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), SPREP will facilitate the coordination between the countries, while SPTO will serve as a co-Executing Entity (co-EE) supporting regional knowledge exchange, policy advocacy, and harmonization of tourism-climate resilience approaches under component 4. At the national level, Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (PNGTPA) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) of SI will serve as co-EEs, responsible for day-to-day implementation, national and provincial coordination, and engagement with relevant line agencies, provincial governments, private sector, civil society, and local communities. National Steering Committees (NSC) will be established in each country, comprising key government ministries, private sector players, and civil society actors to provide strategic guidance and ensure alignment with national priorities. A Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) will be established within SPREP to provide overall regional coordination, fiduciary management, M&E, technical oversight, and cross-country learning. The RPMU will comprise a Regional Project Manager, Procurement and Finance Officer, Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist, and Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist. National Project Coordination Units (NPCUs), embedded within PNGTPA and MCT, will support national implementation, coordination, monitoring, reporting, and engagement with local stakeholders, under the overall oversight of the RPMU and respective NSCs

### PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

#### A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government<sup>13</sup>

|                                                                                                                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Debra Sungi, Acting Managing Director, Climate Change & Development Authority/Adaptation Fund Designated Authority, Papua New Guinea           | Date: 01/29/2026 |
| David Hiba Hiriasia<br>Permanent Secretary<br>Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,<br>Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands | Date: 01/29/2026 |

#### B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the*

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (Medium-Term Development Plan IV, and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023-2030) of PNG and National Development Strategy (2016-2035) of SI) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

*Name & Signature*



Salome Tukuafu  
Strategic Partnership and Donor Relations Adviser

Date: 09/22/2026

Tel. and email: [salomet@sprep.org](mailto:salomet@sprep.org)

Project Contact Person: Filomena Nelson, Climate Change Adaptation Adviser

Tel. And Email: +685-2919, [filomenan@sprep.org](mailto:filomenan@sprep.org)

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



## OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Enchi Building, Ground Flr, Fig Street, Wards Road Hohola, Port Moresby  
P O Box 4017, Boroko 111, National Capital District,  
Papua New Guinea



Telephone: (+675) 3414286 | Mobile: (+675) 77007851 or 77007955 | Email: [garau.podi@ccda.gov.pg](mailto:garau.podi@ccda.gov.pg) | Website: [www.ccda.gov.pg](http://www.ccda.gov.pg)

Date: 3rd December 2025  
Ref: AMD\_AFB01/2025  
A/O: DS

### The Adaptation Fund Board

c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: [Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org](mailto:Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org)  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Dear Secretariat,

### SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE "BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT TOURISM IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS" PROJECT

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Papua New Guinea, I confirm that the above regional grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Papua New Guinea.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and executed by the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Government of Solomon Islands.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Debra Sungi', written over a circular official stamp.

**DEBRA SUNGI (MS)**

Acting Managing Director  
Government of Papua New Guinea





**Solomon Islands  
Government**

Ministry of Environment,  
Climate Change, Disaster  
Management & Meteorology



P.O Box 21,  
Honiara,  
Solomon Islands.



Fax:

(677) 28054

Phone:

(677) 23031 / 23032



[www.mecdm.gov.sb](http://www.mecdm.gov.sb)

4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**To: The Adaptation Fund Board**  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: [Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org](mailto:Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org)  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

**Subject: Endorsement for the “Building Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands” Project**

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Solomon Islands, I confirm that the above regional grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Solomon Islands.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and executed by the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Government of Solomon Islands.

Sincerely,

David Hiriaka (Mr)  
Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology**

