



Kunming Biodiversity Fund Direct Allocation Project Proposal

I. Basic Information				
Project Title	<i>Strengthening Implementation and Monitoring of Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.</i>			
Funding Priority	1. Monitoring and evaluation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 3. Assessment of capacity-building needs for the implementation of the three Conventions.			
Implementing Entity and Focal Point	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		Sofiane Mahjoub Regional Technical Advisor sofiane.mahjoub@undp.org	
	UNDP Samoa Multi Country Office		Aliona Niculita aliona.niculita@undp.org	
Geographical scope	Pacific Region – Samoa			
Beneficiary Country and Focal Point	Samoa Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown Reupena ceo@mnre.gov.ws			
Total Budget (USD)	KBF funding requested :	US\$200,000	Co-funding Sources (if applicable):	N/A
	Co-funding provided (if applicable):	N/A		
	Total	US\$200,000		
Delivery timeframe	8 months			
Date of Executive Council Approval	24 October 2024			
KBF: Doreen Lynn Robinson, Co-chair of the KBF Executive Council (Signature: [Redacted]) UNDP: Midori Paxton, Nature Hub Director (Signature: [Redacted])				
II. Introduction				
<p><i>Samoa has opportunities for improvement in effectively monitoring and reporting on its biodiversity and environmental targets, including those outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) as well as broader environmental objectives including the State of the Environment (SOE) Report and other country level commitments on biodiversity reporting. The country benefits from a core of highly qualified professionals although limited in number, and there is significant potential to further build and strengthen national capacity for biodiversity and environmental monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>This proposal seeks to enhance Samoa's ability to monitor a wide range of biodiversity and environmental targets by building on the expertise available, using a whole-of-government approach and developing institutional capacity to strengthening SOE Reporting mechanisms. The project will focus on improving data collection, validation, reporting systems and design of a Central Biodiversity Monitoring System, accelerating Samoa's progress towards achieving its</i></p>				



biodiversity and environmental goals at both national and international levels.

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III. Project Objective

The project aims to bring about transformational change by designing and operationalizing a Central Biodiversity Monitoring System, thus enhancing Samoa's capacity for monitoring, stocktaking, and reporting on biodiversity and environmental targets, with a focus on the integration of natural capital. Specifically, it will:

- *Strengthen national systems for monitoring biodiversity and environmental targets by building institutional capacity for data collection, validation, and reporting, ensuring that Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) aligns with the GBF's 2050 vision.*
- *Support the achievement of the GBF's long-term goals by improving Samoa's reporting capacity for biodiversity and environmental status and trends, directly contributing to the 23 action targets by 2030.*
- *Enhance Samoa's ability to assess progress towards its biodiversity and environmental goals and contribute to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its protocols.*

The proposed project will create opportunities to reverse biodiversity loss and address environmental challenges by improving decision-making processes, ensuring that policies and actions are informed by accurate and timely biodiversity and environmental data. This capacity-building initiative will foster stronger national implementation of the GBF and other relevant environmental frameworks, while supporting Samoa's alignment with regional and global biodiversity strategies.

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IV. Rationale for KBF Investment

Samoa's biodiversity and environment face significant challenges due to climate change, land use change, and limited capacity for effective monitoring and management of natural resources. To address these issues, there is a pressing need for improved data management systems and stronger institutional capabilities for tracking progress on environmental goals.

The launch of Samoa's 4th State of the Environment (SOE) report in October 2024 enhanced the country's environmental data inventory and informed the National Environmental Sector Plan (NESP 2023-2027). However, the current data reporting system is fragmented, lacking continuous monitoring and centralization. Previously, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) used the Data Knowledge Information Facility (DKIF) portal, but it is no longer operational, leading to isolated monitoring efforts across different agencies.

To address these gaps, if the project conducts a comprehensive capacity gap assessment and develop a Centralized Biodiversity Monitoring System; if it provides MNRE and Government partner agencies with tools to monitor biodiversity and environmental indicators; if it builds



capacity of officials and staff to use these tools to integrate data collection and perform analysis to reinforce environmental reporting.

Then by operationalizing these integrated tools, the KBF investment will support Samoa's long-term efforts to centralize data collection and reporting on its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), State of the Environment (SOE) reports, and the three UN Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD). This initiative will complement existing environmental programs and leverage UNDP's experience in Samoa to strengthen monitoring and reporting.

Ultimately, by strengthening biodiversity monitoring, this project will contribute to the Pathway for the Development of Samoa 2021-2026, helping maintain a safe environment and promoting sustainable natural resource use.

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V. Project alignment

This project complements previous and ongoing UNDP-supported initiatives, including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), various Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative for Samoa. It will specifically align with the GEF 7 Project "Safeguarding Samoa's Natural Resources" (GEF ID: 10410), ensuring synergies with existing efforts.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), UNDP is also implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support Programme, which includes assessing gaps in institutional monitoring and developing a monitoring action plan, to be finalized by February 2025 (GEF ID: 11031). This timeline coincides with the KBF project's roll-out.

Additionally, the KBF project will coordinate with two GEF umbrella programmes the NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (GEF ID: 11286), and the Biodiversity Finance Plans (GEF ID: 11054), both managed by UNDP and overseen by steering committees chaired by UNDP and coordinated by MNRE's Division of Environment and Conservation. This division is also responsible for updating the NBSAP, and key staff will participate in the KBF project.

Building on lessons from these initiatives, the KBF project will focus on enhancing data-driven approaches to biodiversity monitoring and reporting, creating synergies with regional environmental efforts.

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VI. Specific activities

Outcome 1: *Enhanced the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Samoa's biodiversity and natural capital.*

Output 1.1: *Comprehensive capacity gap assessment, and the development of a Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System for the implementation of the Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment (SOE) Reporting.*



- *Activity 1.1.1: Conduct a detailed assessment of capacity gaps within MNRE and other collaborating Ministries and agencies members of the National Environment Sector Steering Committee (NESSC) related to the implementation of the NBSAP, including monitoring, reporting, and data management to be used for the Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System.*
- *Activity 1.1.2: Establish a Central Biodiversity monitoring and evaluation system that streamline the effectiveness of the capacity-building activities and ensure continuous improvement in the context of NBSAP goals and the need for SOE reporting. .*
- *Activity 1.1.3: Merge biodiversity monitoring systems with other natural resources monitoring systems under a whole-of-government approach with enhanced means of verification methodologies, tools for data collection, monitoring, stocktaking, and reporting on the progress and target achievement for the Samoa's NBSAP and the SOE.*
- *Activity 1.1.4 Acquire monitoring tools and technology as per monitoring plan, such as sensors, data loggers and sampling devices, GIS, measuring instruments and establish data management system including software to store, process and visualise data.*
- *Activity 1.1.5. : Strengthen data analysis and visualisation techniques, including maps and info-graphics for effective communication of the progress and results related to the NBSAP and SOE.*

Output 1.2: Capacity building and operationalising the improved MNRE's methodologies and tools for monitoring and reporting of the Central Biodiversity System for the Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment Report (SOE). Operationalizing a monitoring system for the environment involves a series of coordinated activities under a whole-of-government approach to ensure that the system effectively tracks, analyzes, and reports on environmental conditions, as well as training of staff from all collaborating Government agencies in the full operation of the Monitoring System.

- *Activity 1.2.1 Develop guidelines/manuals on how to operate and use Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System and and reporting equipment and tools.*
- *Activity 1.2.2: Develop and implement targeted capacity-building plan with workshops and resources, based on the gap assessment findings and the need to support the development of natural capital accounts (to be developed under the incoming GEF Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme project for Samoa).*
- *Activity 1.2.3: Provide training to MNRE staff and other agencies responsible parties, on the use of strengthened methodologies, tools, techniques and reporting format and in the full operationalisation and utilization of the Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System.*
- *Activity 1.2.4 : Data collection by MNRE and collaborating agencies according to the monitoring plan and protocols and analysis of the data using statistical methods and software integrated in the Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring system.*
- *Activity 1.2.5 : Develop dashboard for regular reporting and ad-hoc updating reports on findings towards targets, trends, and anomalies and start regular reporting on NBSAP and SOE implementation.*



VII. Sustainability, replication and scale up

This project is designed with sustainability at its core by embedding capacity-building initiatives within MNRE and related agencies. The biodiversity monitoring system developed through the project will be institutionalised, ensuring long-term functionality beyond the project's duration. By integrating these systems into whole-of-government national reporting processes, particularly for the NBSAP, the project will ensure continuity and scalability.

The methodologies, tools, and data management systems introduced in this project can also be applied to other environmental conventions, such as the UNFCCC for Climate Change Adaptation and the UNCCD for Land Degradation and Desertification. The integration of marine and terrestrial resource monitoring systems will support natural capital accounting and improve information and knowledge management on ecosystem services, thereby enhancing their relevance to other natural resource sectors in Samoa.

Furthermore, this project's approach and lessons learned will be documented and shared for adaptation by other Pacific Island nations. The scalability of the biodiversity monitoring system aligns with broader regional environmental frameworks. For scaling up, the project will collaborate with regional organisations such as the SPREP's Environmental Governance Unit and SPC's Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Programme and sharing tools, manuals and systems for further dissemination across the Pacific region and SIDS.

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VIII. Gender

The project will ensure inclusion and equitable participation of men and women in all the activities, from the capacity-building activities to implementation of the monitoring systems. Gender-sensitive approaches will be integrated into biodiversity and environmental monitoring systems, ensuring data collection, analysis and reporting processes contribute to address that gender disparities in environmental management. The project will also promote leadership opportunities for women in biodiversity and environmental governance roles.

Training programs will include specific modules on gender inclusivity, enabling women to play a central role in data management and operationalising the monitoring system. This focus on gender equity will contribute to Samoa's broader goals of empowering women in environmental governance and ensuring that the benefits of biodiversity conservation are shared equally across genders.

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IX. Communications, Outreach and Learning

The project will implement a communications strategy that includes regular updates to stakeholders, knowledge-sharing workshops, and public awareness campaigns, and a quarterly progress report fully using mapping and infographics. This will raise awareness of Samoa's biodiversity and environmental efforts and promote the importance of accurate data in national planning.



Quarterly progress reports will leverage advanced data visualisation techniques, including maps and infographics, to effectively communicate the project's status and impact, particularly focusing on the outcomes of the capacity gap assessment and the subsequent training provided.

The project will produce communication materials to be shared, such as case studies, success stories, and briefs, to support advocacy efforts and increase the visibility of Samoa's progress in biodiversity and natural capital monitoring. The materials will be shared locally and regionally facilitating knowledge exchange and increasing the project's visibility and ensuring that Samoa's experience contributes to wider environmental and biodiversity efforts.

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昆明生物多样性基金
Kunming Biodiversity Fund

Annex:

1. Budget



Project Activities					
Outcome	Project Activities	Expenditure category	Description of expenditure	Estimated amount	% of Fund
Enhanced the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Samoa's biodiversity and natural capital.	<p>Output 1.1 – Comprehensive capacity gap assessment, and the development of a Centralized Biodiversity Monitoring System for the implementation of the Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment (SOE) Reporting.</p>	Consultants		15,000	7.5%
	<p>Activity 1.1.1: Conduct a detailed assessment of capacity gaps within MNRE related to the implementation of the NBSAP, including monitoring, reporting, and data management to be used for the Centralized Biodiversity Monitoring System.</p>				
	<p>Activity 1.1.2 Establish a Central Biodiversity monitoring and evaluation system that streamline the effectiveness of the capacity-building activities and ensure continuous improvement in the context of NBSAP goals and the need for SOE reporting.</p>	Contractual Services		32,000	16%



	<p><i>Activity 1.1.3: Merge biodiversity monitoring systems with other natural resources monitoring systems with enhanced means of verification methodologies, tools for data collection, monitoring, stocktaking, and reporting on the progress and target achievement for the Samoa' s NBSAP and the SOE.</i></p>	Contractual Services	15,000	7.5%
	<p><i>Activity 1.1.4 : Acquire monitoring tools and technology as per monitoring plan, such as sensors, data loggers and sampling devices, GIS, measuring instruments and establish data management system including software to store, process and visualize data.</i></p>	Equipment	15,000	7.5%



	<p><i>Activity 1.1.5. : Strengthen data analysis and visualisation techniques, including maps and info-graphics for effective communication of the progress and results related to the NBSAP and SOE.</i></p>	<p>Contractual Services</p>		<p>15, 000</p>	<p>7.5%</p>
<p><i>Output 1.2 : Capacity building and operationalizing the improved MNRE' s methodologies and tools for monitoring and reporting of the Central Biodiversity System for the Samoa' s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment Report (SOE)</i></p>	<p><i>Activity 1.2.1. : Development of guidelines/manuals on how to operate and use of the Centralized Biodiversity System, and monitoring and reporting equipment and tools.</i></p>	<p>Contractual Services</p>		<p>10, 000</p>	<p>12.5%</p>
	<p><i>Activity 1.2.2. : Develop and implement targeted capacity-building plan with workshops and resources based on the assessment</i></p>	<p>Contractual Services</p>		<p>10, 000</p>	<p>5%</p>



				<i>findings and the need to align with the natural capital accounts (to be developed under the GEF Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme project for Samoa).</i>		
			Contractual Services	<i>Activity 1.2.3 Provide training to MNRE staff and other agencies responsible parties, on the use of strengthened methodologies, tools, techniques and reporting format and in the full operationalization and utilization of the Centralized Biodiversity Monitoring System.</i>	20,000	10%
			Staff cost	<i>Activity 1.2.4 : Data collection by MNRE and agencies according to the monitoring plan and protocols and analysis of the data using statistical methods and software integrated in the Centralized Biodiversity Monitoring system.</i>	20,000	10%
			Contractual Services	<i>Activity 1.2.5 : Develop dashboard for regular</i>	20,000	10%



	<i>reporting and ad-hoc updating reports on findings towards targets, trends, and anomalies and start regular reporting on NBSAP and SOE implementation.</i>					
		Staff cost	14,916			7.5%
		Travel				
		Programme support cost	13,084			6.5%
Total Project management			USD\$ 28,000			14%
Project Total			USD\$ 200,000			100%



2. Implementation arrangement/Workplan

Project Activities	Timeline							
	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6 ¹	Month 7	Month 8
<p><i>Output 1.1: Comprehensive capacity gap assessment, and the development of a Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System for the implementation of the Samoa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment (SOE) Reporting.</i></p> <p><i>Activity 1.1.1: Conduct a detailed assessment of capacity gaps within MNRE related to the implementation of the NBSAP, including monitoring, reporting, and data management to be used for the Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System.</i></p>								
<p><i>Activity 1.1.2- Establish a Central Biodiversity monitoring and evaluation system that streamline the effectiveness of the capacity-building activities and ensure continuous improvement in the context of NBSAP goals and the need for SOE reporting.</i></p>								
<p><i>Activity 1.1.3: Merge biodiversity monitoring systems with other natural resources monitoring systems with enhanced</i></p>								

¹ It is expected that the assignment is completed within six months. If more time is required for exceptional circumstances, please add additional months to the table.



	<p><i>means of verification methodologies, tools for data collection, monitoring, stocktaking, and reporting on the progress and target achievement for the Samoa' s NBSAP and the SOE.</i></p>								
	<p><i>Activity 1.1.4: Acquire monitoring tools and technology as per monitoring plan, such as sensors, data loggers and sampling devices, GIS, measuring instruments and establish data management system including software to store, process and visualise data.</i></p>								
	<p><i>Activity 1.1.5. : Strengthen data analysis and visualisation techniques, including maps and infographics for effective communication of the progress and results related to the NBSAP and SOE.</i></p>								
<p><i>Output 1.2: Capacity building and operationalising the</i></p>	<p><i>Activity 1.2.1: Development of guidelines/manuals on how to operate and use of the</i></p>								



<p><i>improved MNRE' s methodologies and reporting of the Central Biodiversity System for the Samoa' s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and State of the Environment Report (SOE)</i></p>	<p><i>Centralised Biodiversity System, and monitoring and reporting equipment and tools.</i></p> <p><i>Activity 1.2.2. : Develop and implement targeted capacity-building plan with workshops and resources based on the assessment findings and the need to align with the natural capital accounts (to be developed under the GEF Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme project for Samoa).</i></p>			
	<p><i>Activity 1.2.3 Provide training to MNRE staff and other agencies responsible parties, on the use of strengthened methodologies, tools, techniques and reporting format and in the full operationalisation and utilization of the Centralised Biodiversity Monitoring System.</i></p>			
	<p><i>Activity 1.2.4: Data collection by MNRE and agencies according to the monitoring plan and protocols and analysis of the data using statistical methods and software integrated in the</i></p>			



3. Risk Management Framework

Please provide a brief description of the contextual, institutional, and programmatic risks that might hinder the effective delivery of the project outputs.

Risk category	Description	Probability	Mitigation action
<p>Contextual risks Risks related to conflicts, safety and political insecurity jeopardizing the delivery of the project outputs</p>	<p><i>Political instability due to unexpected political transitions or internal government conflicts could delay the delivery of project outputs.</i></p>	<p><i>Rare</i></p>	<p><i>Regular MNRE engagement and adaptive management practices for navigating and mitigating political and governance risks.</i></p>
	<p><i>There is a risk that natural disasters caused by climate change may affect/delay the implementation and results of project initiatives</i></p>	<p><i>Possible</i></p>	<p><i>Set in place a contingency plan for disruption of activities caused by natural disasters including communication and energy recovery plans and staff awareness programmes</i></p>
<p>Institutional risks Risks related to the beneficiary country's institutions participation in the project activities</p>	<p><i>There is a risk that environmental data contributing ministries and agencies have limitations in the project implementation and in the capacity to develop</i></p>	<p><i>Possible</i></p>	<p><i>Secure agencies senior management support through regular MNRE engagement. Prioritize investment in capacity-building initiatives, training</i></p>



	<i>monitoring modules and systems due to low staff numbers</i>		<i>programs, and knowledge exchange platforms to enhance the technical capabilities of institutional staff and stakeholders.</i>
<p>Project level risks Risks that may negatively affect the delivery of the project outputs.</p>	<i>Staff turnover and slow procurement within UNDP may impact the delivery of the project activities in a timely manner.</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Ensure that business continuity through a robust recruitment process and instituting a detailed assignment for interim deployment, and provide support for streamlining procurement processes.</i>