



ADAPTATION FUND

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 Area¹: 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); Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Solomon Islands; and the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)

Amount of Financing Requested: 28,881,110 (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: N/A

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

Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

Project/Programme Background and Context:

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. Several coastal provinces in PNG also house a litany of relics left behind during World War II. East New Britain Province features well known Bitapaka War Cemetery, Japanese Yamamoto bunkers and a WW2 Museum. Adventure and eco-tourism activities such as, trekking the Kokoda Track, birdwatching, surfing offer strong opportunities for growth through community-based initiatives provide pathways for inclusive rural development. 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

In PNG, the sector currently accounts for about 1.9% of GDP and employs approximately 25,000 people, with government aiming to increase tourism-related jobs to 310,000 by 2030. In the 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 the 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 1970s². Projections indicate that average land surface temperatures will rise by 1.5-2°C under the SSP5-8.5 scenario³, 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. Extreme weather events damage infrastructure and disrupt travel, while land-based attractions, such as Kokoda Track, face increased risks from landslides, flooding, and trail degradation, limiting access and reducing the quality of visitor experiences.

Similarly, mean annual temperatures have risen by about 0.4°C from 1986-2005 baseline, and about 0.8°C from 2008-2020 period⁴ in the SI. The country's tourism sector is increasingly

² 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>.

³ International Redcross, (2024). Climate Center PNG. Accessed from: https://www.climatecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/RCCC-Country-profiles-PNG_2024_final.pdf

⁴ 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>

vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The SI⁵ 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. 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.

The tourism sectors in both countries face imminent and escalating disruption due to climate change, threatening not only vital natural capital and national economies but the stability of local livelihoods. Without targeted interventions in ecosystem-based adaptation, climate information and early warning systems, and gender sensitive and socially inclusive green tourism development, this will undermine economic viability and further exacerbate vulnerabilities in both countries. These disruptions further erode the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, who are often excluded from decision making and value chain opportunities. This project is strategically designed as an urgent, evidence-based response to these compounding threats. By focusing development interventions in Central, Isabel and Malaita Provinces in the SI, alongside New Ireland, Milne Bay and East New Britain Provinces in PNG, the project aims to directly promoting climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable tourism pathways that protect natural assets and strengthen local livelihoods and enhance long-term community resilience.

Project/Programme Objectives:

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, and restoring ecosystems through nature-based solutions (NbS).

The specific objectives:

- Strengthen climate-smart institutional frameworks for tourism by enhancing governance, coordination, and regulatory mechanisms at national, provincial, and local levels to integrate climate risks into tourism policies, planning, and decision-making
- Promote inclusive and resilient tourism enterprises by scaling up women, youth, and private sector-led initiatives that generate sustainable livelihoods, diversify income opportunities, and drive innovation in green and climate-resilient tourism models.
- Enhance ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) for tourism sites through the restoration and sustainable management of coral reefs, mangroves, coastal wetlands, and other critical

⁵ 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/>

ecosystems that underpin tourism services while providing natural protection against climate risks.

- Strengthen knowledge management and policy advocacy for resilient tourism

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Project/ Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (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) 1.1.2 Climate risk assessment tools for tourism investment developed and operationalized 1.1.3 Climate smart tourism guidelines developed and adopted 1.1.4 National and provincial tourism-climate risk taskforce established and operational 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, and sustainable value chain 2.1.2. Women/youth-led enterprises supported in handicrafts, agro-tourism, fisheries, and cultural tourism 2.1.3. Revolving funds established and operationalized to finance green tourism startups and expansion 2.1.4. Solar-powered cold storage units installed to support sustainable supply chains for tourism	PNG & SI	7,590,000
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 10,000 hectares of mangroves, reefs, and coastal vegetation at tourism sites rehabilitated 3.1.2 Six pilot nature-based solution (NbS) tourism sites established and fully operational (mangrove board walks, reef eco-parks)	PNG & SI	7,690,000
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 developed and disseminated to policymakers, development partners, private sector including SMEs, and civil society organizations on scaling up climate-resilient tourism 4.1.2 National and provincial knowledge hubs for climate resilient tourism established 4.1.3 Regional exchanges facilitated to promote learning, dialogue and coordination on ecosystems-based approaches for climate-resilient tourism	PNG & SI	2,570,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost				2,625,555
7. Total Project/Programme Cost				26,255,555
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				2,625,255
Amount of Financing Requested				28,881,110

Project Duration: 5 years (60 months)

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

The proposed regional project seeks to integrate climate change adaptation into the tourism sector through concrete, gender responsive and community-driven measures. Project components include strengthening institutional frameworks to mainstream climate risk into national and provincial tourism planning; supporting women and youth-led climate-resilient enterprises; rehabilitating critical ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and wetlands that underpin nature-based tourism and provide natural buffers against climate hazards; and knowledge management. The project will create added value through cross-country knowledge exchange, shared expertise, and harmonized policy frameworks, delivering broader and more cost-effective outcomes than isolated country-level initiatives.

The project will also promote innovation by introducing ecosystem-based adaptation models within tourism sector, digital platforms to market climate-smart tourism products, and revolving green funds to support local enterprises. These measures, combined with tailored climate information and early warning systems for tourism operators, represent new and scalable approaches to climate adaptation. Cost-effectiveness will be achieved by pooling resources, leveraging regional expertise, and developing replicable NbS pilots that reduce duplication and generate economies of scale. The project is consistent with national strategies, including PNG's Vision 2050, Medium-Term Development Plan IV, and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 2023-2030). In SI' the project responds National Development Strategy 2016-2035, and NCCP 2023-2032, while also aligning with the regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017-2030). aligns with national adaptation priorities of both PNG and the SI; several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1, 2, 5, 11, 13, & 14); the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle which is a commitment made by United Nations (UN) Member States to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and end discrimination; the global Mangrove Breakthrough which is a call for accelerate action and investment from governments, the private sector, and non-state actor.

Knowledge management and learning will be central to the project, with national and regional hubs established to capture, document, and disseminate lessons learned. Regular exchanges, policy briefs, and regional dialogues will enable scaling of successful practices across the Pacific. A gender-responsive consultative process will guide project preparation and implementation, 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. 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.

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. The project will generate strong economic, social, and environmental co-benefits for vulnerable communities by diversifying livelihoods, enhancing ecosystem services, and strengthening resilience against climate-induced risks. 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.

ART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The implementing entity is SPREP. The project will prioritize strengthening existing national and sub-national coordination mechanisms in both PNG and SI to ensure strong government ownership, coherence with national strategies, and inclusive stakeholder participation. In PNG, the proposed project will be executed by the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (PNGTPA). In the SI, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT) will serve as the primary executing entity for the project. The Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) will also contribute to project execution, focusing on regional aspects such as knowledge management and advocacy.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁶

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

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

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.	
<i>Name & Signature</i> Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General	
Date: 01/29/2026	Tel. and email: sefanaian@sprep.org
Project Contact Person: Filomena Nelson, Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	
Tel. And Email: +685-2919, filomenan@sprep.org	

⁶ 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

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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
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,


DEBRA SUNGI (MS)
Acting Managing Director
Government of Papua New Guinea



4th December 2025



**Solomon Islands
Government**

Ministry of Environment,
Climate Change, Disaster
Management & Meteorology



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To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: 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 Hinaia (Mr)
Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology