

Reducing the threats to endangered reptiles from habitat loss and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) through enhanced biodiversity governance and strengthened bio-security in Barbados

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10942

Countries

Barbados

Project Name

Reducing the threats to endangered reptiles from habitat loss and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) through enhanced biodiversity governance and strengthened bio-security in Barbados

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

3/28/2022

Review completed by PM

6/2/2022

Program Manager

Sarah Wyatt

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

MSP

PIF

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

During PPG, please carefully follow the GEF strategy that does not support ex situ breeding or conservation efforts. GEF support should focus on research, education, KM, and financial sustainability for the PA.

4/12/2022

No, the GEF strategy on invasive species has a specific focus on prevention followed by control and management. While the latter activities are eligible, support should focus on long term sustainable solutions. The GEF does not support ex situ conservation or captive breeding and generally does not support single species projects.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

The guidance is well noted, and the project design during PPG will conform to the GEF Strategy. The needed adjustments to the PIF have been made in this regard to inform the full proposal development.

5/13/2022

Guidance noted. The proposal was crafted in the context of the relatively small amount GEF\$1 million grant hence the initial focus on the gecko. The language has been modified across the proposal to widen the context to endangered reptilian species rather than solely focus on the Lead-toed Gecko, in the context of the underlying driver of IAS as the leading threat. The captive breeding facility proposal has been modified a conservation education centre, that will better contribute to the longer-term vision of a sustainable conservation effort through a better (inter-generationally) informed public.

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

During PPG, it will be important to expand on the benefits of these efforts for other taxa (such as birds) that would benefit from predator exclusion and how the project will help support them. As important as reptiles are, it seems that they are unfortunately likely extinct. However, based on discussions with project proponents the project will benefit more species than those listed in the PIF and they should be included at CER.

4/12/2022

No, unfortunately component 2 needs to be revised to align with GEF strategies.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

The guidance is welcomed and the narrative under Section 1a has been updated to include additional biodiversity of conservation interest and this has been carried down through the narrative under Section 3 in terms of co-benefits to other taxa from the proposed intervention. The proponents, backed up by the experts who have worked in the country, maintain validity of the approach in emphasizing conservation priority of the reptilian species (noting for example the ongoing need for field investigations that

will contribute to addressing data deficits to establish population status), but acknowledge the benefits to other species, in line with the recommendations now incorporated. This will be elaborated more fully during PPG.

5/13/2022

The Component 2 narrative has been updated to better align with GEF strategies maintaining the strong linkage to the control of IAS as an underpinning of the project. Component 2 features the upscaling of ongoing efforts on IAS/predator exclusion approaches and best practices.

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/6/2022

No, on co-financing

? Ministry of Environment and National Beautification \$80,000 grant
o change ?recurrent expenditures? to ?Investment mobilized?
o in the Investment Mobilized description section, provide a brief summary of
this grant. If it?s cash contribution, provide this info

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

The contribution from the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification has been changed to ?Investment mobilized?. A brief explanation on the nature of the contribution is included in the Table footnote.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes, fully flexible.

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

During PPG, we expect to see further clarity on this information as well as whether any carbon benefits may be realized with this project.

4/12/2022

No, it is unclear the origin of the figure in indicator 4. In creating the predator-free zone, it would be expected that this would be part of a PA but this isn't shown in the core indicators. Please explain.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

This is noted. During the project design under the PPG phase a determination of potential carbon benefits will be made.

5/13/2022

The 6,000 ha was derived from the areas designated as cliffs under the Physical Development that are known favoured habitat for the Leaf-toed Gecko. The government intends to eventually designate these cliff areas under national parks that will be in alignment with the NBSAP in the context of specie recovery plans for gecko. This will have conservation co-benefits for the other engendered reptile species. This is now made clear in the narrative under Component 1. During the PPG further consideration will be given to whether Core Indicator 1 relating to the creation of terrestrial protected areas or improved management effectiveness will apply.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes, thank you it is not easy to read this information in the Portal.

4/12/2022

No, please include IAS.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

Noted.

5/13/2022

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) was already included in Table G

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

4/12/2022

No, please address the following:

- It would be good to understand what is being done to address the long term threats to the gecko and if this project is part of a larger picture. Rather than appearing as a stop-gap measure with benefits for other species while broader conservation and IAS issues are addressed, breeding and a tiny area with a predator exclusion fence appears to be the long term plan without adequate provisions for sustainability.

There are also a few minor issues to address:

- Forest cover data - is there nothing more recent than Carrington (1991)? It is referenced like a current figure.

- Last para on page 6 - 34 species of what?

Agency Response

5/13/2022

- Component 1 attempts to address the long-term sustainability in the context of the policy interventions and will be the underpinning of the investments in Component 2. The narrative now includes the short statements to emphasize this connection. Already, the Component 1 narrative states that the project will introduce a suite of policy recommendations to update the Policy for National Biodiversity Management, help build capacities of relevant policy and technical personnel in the associated agencies, produce drafting instructions that will upgrade the draft National Biodiversity Conservation Bill, propose an appropriate agency operational framework and identify the recurrent cost requirements. The description of how the targeted investments under Component 2 will be sustained is better elaborated. The National Conservation Commission is in fact already mandated for long-term maintenance for the Paragon site (gecko predator exclusion facility) and the Cabinet has committed funds for the management of the site. The narrative states explicitly that the NCC will be responsible and financed under this new project and post-project.

- The reference was from the NBSAP of 2002 was the last compilation that draws on work of Carrington. The NBSAP is now referenced as the primary source.

-it is 34 bird species; this has been clarified.

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

During PPG, we look forward to expanded connections of this initiative with others but can understand how developing those far in advance in the midst of COVID would be hard.

4/12/2022

No, while we know that there is previous GEF support for a similar approach the idea was to pilot the predator exclusion approach as has been done in a few other places, the effort was pitched as part of a larger IAS strategy and with benefits for multiple reptiles and possibly other native species.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

This is well noted and will be further explored during the PPG phase.

5/13/2022

- Noted, however the summary provided represents the current baseline as advised by the lead government agency and affiliates. The PPG phase however will explore and expand the baseline as relevant.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes, thank you for the additional information.

During PPG, we expect that the aspects highlighted below will be expanded upon. The visitor's center could also serve as educational for more environmentally friendly practices such as landscaping with native plants, renewable energy, and water harvesting and reuse.

4/12/2022

No, please address the following:

Component 1:

- Will the first goal of the policy recommendations be only improving landscape management for the gecko? What about other species, ecosystem services, or other goals?

- The focus on improved biosecurity is welcome.

Component 2:

- A number of the activities here are not eligible under the GEF biodiversity strategy as outlined above (captive breeding, single species conservation approaches, visitor's center). It would be helpful to discuss how this will serve to protect other species and how the threats will be reduced in the future.

- A visitor's center is an interesting idea, but is there any evidence that this would be able to provide financial sustainability suggested.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

The adjusted planned approach based on the guidance and recommendations during this PIF review will be elaborated during the PPG phase. Incorporation of green-tech into the visitors' centre will certainly be in-step with the country's ongoing efforts in advancing green economy/low-carbon approaches; the centre can certainly be one of the showcase examples. This has been incorporated in the narrative under Component 2.

5/13/2022

- The intention of policy directives will be overarching, so will not only target the gecko. Further, the overall project proposal is now adjusted so that it does not exclusively focus on the gecko as per guidance. However, given the status of the critically endangered terrestrial fauna; the gecko, threadsnake and the skink (now with small populations and restricted global range), the policy and actions will focus on safeguarding these species with priority. The narrative under Component 1 has been adjusted to recognize the benefits to other species and ecosystem services at the broader level.

- Non eligibility of some of the project actions are noted. The proposal is now widened beyond a single species focus in the scope of Component 2. The element of captive breeding is no longer considered; rather the investment will be a conservation education centre that will become a conservation focal point for the country. The centre will be the first of its kind in Barbados and will feature content on endangered species and biodiversity in the country. Co-benefits to be accrued from the investment on-site will include conservation of ground foraging birds, invertebrates and coastal shrubs. Long-range threat reduction to biodiversity is anticipated to result from successful execution of the proposed activities/outputs under Component 1.

- The management and operation of the proposed conservation education centre is now better defined, whereby the National Conservation Commission is now identified to play a lead role in long-term sustainable operation. This is based on already acquired

experience by the NCC in management of the Folkestone Marine Museum, a nature-based attraction from which the investment in this project will be modelled.

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

4/12/2022

No, see above.

Agency Response

5/13/2022

Refer to responses above and amendments to the proposal.

5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes, thank you for the edits.

4/12/2022

No, focusing on this might help to justify the project.

Agency Response

5/13/2022

The incremental cost analysis has been adjusted to reflect the revised scope of the proposal in line with the guidance that widen the conservation focus from solely the Leaf-toed Gecko.

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes.

At PPG, we look forward to greater clarity on the GEBs including possible carbon benefits as well as hectares.

4/12/2022

No, this project seems to be heavily focus on a single species.

Agency Response

6/8/2022

Noted; the GEBs including possible carbon benefits, areal extent of the intervention will be further detailed during the PPG phase.

5/13/2022

The proposal has been modified from a focus on the Leaf-toed Gecko to conservation of endangered reptiles, with specific reference on the Barbados Threadsnake with wider co-benefits. The Barbados Skink, that is critically endangered is also considered, although given the uncertainty of its status at PIF stage is not possible to elaborate further on more definitive actions. The PPG phase will allow for further evaluation of the species scope.

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

6/2/2022

Yes, the partnerships described are exciting in building the knowledge base and experience in these issues of predator management/control.

4/12/2022

No, we're concerned about the feasibility/likelihood of success of the sustainability and scaling up activities described.

Agency Response

5/13/2022

The narrative under the sustainability section has been further expanded, particularly related to the proposed investments under Component 2. The project will support in-country training on a range of related topics including reptile capture, handling, identification, measurement, relocation and population distribution; bio-secure fence construction, repair and maintenance through twinning capacity building activities with programmes run by Fauna and Flora International, Pacific Rim in Hawaii and the Christmas Island National Park.

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response
Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
4/12/2022

Yes. These are rather limited at this point, so we expect to see expanded descriptions at CEO Endorsement.

Agency Response
5/13/2022

Noted and this will be elaborated during the PPG design phase.

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response
Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed knowledge management (KM) approach in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response

Part III ? Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
4/12/2022

Yes.

Agency Response
Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
NA
Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
6/10/2022

Yes, thank you for the edits and already starting on the additions requested at CER.

6/6/2022

No, please address the co-financing question and strengthen the biodiversity GEB justification as discussed via skype.

4/12/2022

No. We would welcome a call to discuss this project with the country and the agency.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/12/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/6/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/10/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval