

# Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

9979

**Countries**

Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia)

**Project Name**

Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean

**Agenices**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

6/20/2019

**Review completed by PM**

8/28/2019

**Program Manager**

Sarah Wyatt

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

MSP

**PIF**

**CEO Endorsement**

**Project Design and Financing**

**1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/1/2019

Yes. However, the project title needs to be changed in the Portal to match the revision as well as changing the project objective.

7/29/2019

Thank you for working with our team to revise the title but the project objective still needs to be revised.

8/15/2019

Yes, thank you.

## **Response to Secretariat comments**

7/15/2019

The title has been revised in the Portal.

7/31/2019

Project objective is updated in portal.

### **2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?**

## **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

No, please address the following issues:

- Stakeholders: Have all the individual stakeholders listed been consulted and are interested in participating in the project? Naming individual hotels or dive shops is probably not a good idea unless they have committed to participating or at least expressed interest. This is different than naming an Association. Some of the hotels listed have been criticized for their locations within PAs that likely shouldn't have been built. How will the project address this? During the life of the project, it would also be good to record the co-financing provided by such partners even if it's relatively small.

- Training and capacity building - The activities undertaken in component 2 need to ensure a long term vision towards sustainability and implementation. There needs to be attention paid to how the project will build the capacity of national park staff and others to undertake similar activities in other places and be able to implement the plans developed. Unfortunately, plans too often remain just plans if insufficient attention is given to implementation particularly in these resource constrained environments and the plan itself needs to reflect the realities of implementation.

7/29/2019

Yes. Thank you for the revisions.

## **Response to Secretariat comments**

7/15/2019

- **Stakeholders:** During the missions to the countries in January 2019 there were consultations with the primary or priority stakeholders that provided the critical context for the project design. While desirous to have detailed engagements, it was not possible to reach all the stakeholders during the on-site consultations, although there were follow-up consultations via online means. The stakeholder engagement process will be further expanded during the inception phase and over the initial period of implementation. This process has been made clearer with additional text under section A3 (following the stakeholder table) and Section 5 of the UNEP ProDoc.

The naming of specific private sector stakeholders (specifically the Kempinski Resort and Spa and Moroccan Hotel at Cabrits in Dominica) was initially intended to convey the key roles that they will have in project implementation and their recognized importance/potential contribution related to business opportunity linked to the strengthening of economic sustainability of the protected areas under Component 2. It is accepted that naming individual business interests in the proposal may be too direct, in light of the fact that no specific commitments by way of co-financing or other support have been secured. In this regard, reference to these private stakeholders have been included as a more generic narrative in the table in A3 of the CEO-ER.

In the case of the two “controversial” hotel properties in Dominica, the project will seek active engagement as it will with other private sector interests to seek out opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interest to strengthen financial sustainability of the protected areas and play a role in supporting advocacy. The text in section A1-3 and the table in Section A3 have been edited to make this clearer.

The capture of co-financing contributions from the private sector will be done as prescribed in section 7.2 of the UNEP ProDoc.

- **Training and capacity building:** There is agreement with the comment related to ensuring sustainability for Component 2. The outcomes themselves are meant to be formalized plans that are complementary to existing legislation and enabling activities that will support sustainable management for protected areas. Additionally, activities within Component 2 include training workshops for relevant staff in the designated protected areas to build capacity as outlined in the project outputs and activities timeline. The project intends to apply the approach of enhancing parliamentary influence and engagement into the process of protected area management and involve private sector and other operators in more concrete roles in the scope of the management plans to be prepared under the project to carry the plans through to

implementation. It should be noted that the project intends to rely heavily on, and augment existing in-country capacity building efforts through the stakeholder engagement process toward long-term sustainability. This has been made clearer in inclusions in the narrative under section A1 under Component 2 description of the CEO-ER document and the UNEP ProDoc in section 3.3.

**3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/1/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments NA**

**4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/1/2019

No, the issues around land tenure and ensuring the protection of local community rights in Barbuda is not appropriately addressed in the risk table or project activities. It is highly important that the activities of this project not be used to undermine local land rights but instead to reinforce sustainable land management systems. Please also include the significant risk presented by hurricanes to disrupt and delay plans both at the park level as well as for the caucuses and including climate risks in the various component 2 plans.

7/29/2019

No, the risk presented in Barbuda is not to the protected area but that the protected area could be used to infringe on traditional or community rights. Please provide information on the safeguards or other strategies used to ensure that this does not occur.

8/15/2019

Yes, thank you for the revisions. The project will need to keep such concerns in mind throughout and ensure proper consultations are undertaken.

## Response to Secretariat comments

7/15/2019

**Land tenure issues:** It is underscored that the project will not contribute to undermining local access rights based on the nature of prevailing land tenure rights in the countries. Additional text has been added to the risk matrix (table 5) to better explain the land tenure challenge and address the comment on land tenure and local community rights in Barbuda. The project will be cognisant of the sensitivities associated with land tenure issues, having been discussed during validation workshops with the attending parties, who assured the CCN experts that the risk is low in Barbuda specifically, and not a significant threat to the project goal in Saint Lucia. The mitigation strategy to address this particular risk has been further clarified with updated text in Table 5 of the CEO-ER document and in section 3.5 of the Project Document.

**Hurricane risk issues:** Hurricane occurrence is a significant issue for Caribbean countries and the suggestion of including consideration for disaster risk reduction in the management plans is well-noted and included in the narrative under the Component 2 in the CEO-ER document. Risk mitigation associated with potential hurricane strikes and project implementation disruption has been added in the CEO ER document under table 5, and in the Project Document in Section 3.5.

7/31/2019

**Land tenure issues:** While the concerns are duly noted regarding potential infringement on traditional or community rights, it is the opinion of UNEP and CCN that given the strong governance influence of the Barbuda Council in maintaining custodianship over land assets of the island and by extension the protected area, an outcome that traditional access rights could be compromised as a result of the project is unlikely. To clarify further, the issue of land tenure on the island had to do with a general reform being proposed at the central government level to facilitate investment in the post-Hurricane Irma circumstance. This ongoing debate had indeed sparked concerns among residents in Barbuda over future land tenure, which is the reason this consideration is elaborated in the risk management strategy. In advancing the project these considerations will have to be under the guide Barbuda Council. Further clarity has been provided in the CEO ER document (Table 5) and the ProDoc (section 3.5) where it is emphasized that the project does not seek to create a new management regime; rather, it will develop an implementation plan for the existing management plan that has been in place since 2009, that was accepted by the local residents, with no issue pertaining to land use rights. Nonetheless, the project implementation process will be cognisant of any sensitivities associated with land tenure. These issues were discussed during PPG-phase validation

workshops with the attending parties, who assured the CCN experts that the risk is low in Barbuda. The process will involve increased consultations with Barbuda stakeholders, as well as purposeful caucus-building to build relationships and mitigate trust-related issues that pertain to conservation.

**5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

**6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

No, please include a value for the core indicator for number of beneficiaries. This could be the number of legislators and people participating directly in the project. It can be a small number.

7/29/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

7/15/2019

This has been addressed in the CEO ER document - the target number of legislators, as well as local stakeholders directly involved in core roles across the four countries is anticipated to be at least 25.

**7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

NA

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

**8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Yes. However, it would be good to consider how this project can support the successor to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. While two countries aren't currently members that does not mean they can't become members, some are members of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (the financial mechanism). Please also provide information about coordination with the GEF-6 project in Grenada with UNDP.

7/29/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

7/15/2019

Through the project, the members of each legislative caucus will be exposed to the activities of other members in other participating countries under the guide of the communications strategy that will entail disseminating videos of briefings, conferences, facilitating lessons learned interactions, etc. As with other relevant initiatives, the project will indirectly promote the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) by exposing non-members to the activities of members that are related to CCI. This linkage has been made clearer with the inclusion of additional narrative under the 'Regional Baseline Programs' under section A1 of the CEO-ER document.



The CEO ER text has been modified to include information and opportunities for alignment/coordination with the GEF-6 project in Grenada with UNDP. The project intends to create effective communication between the relevant project coordinators in Grenada to ensure that there is no overlap between the two project activities and to ensure that the project goals are mutually compatible.

**9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments NA**

**10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments NA**

**Agency Responses**

**11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:**

**GEFSEC**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

**STAP**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

NA

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

**GEF Council**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** NA

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

**Convention Secretariat**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** NA

**Response to Secretariat comments** NA

## **Recommendation**

### **12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

7/3/2019

Not at this time. Please revise and resubmit.

7/29/2019

Thank you for the revisions. Please address the few remaining issues and resubmit.

8/15/2019

Not at this time. Please revise the budget to move expenses to PMC as discussed via email.

8/28/2019

Not at this time. Please revise the budget and job descriptions based on discussions.

#### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**08/26/2019**

Adjustment made in the budget to move expenses to PMC.

#### **Response 9/06/2019**

Based on discussions and guidance, the budget has been revised; more expenses associated with administration functions by designated team members have been shifted to PMC. The job descriptions have been made more explicit to better define the technical contributions to the project by the team members. These changes are reflected in the UNEP ProDoc, specifically in the summary tables in Section 7: Project Financing and Budget, Appendix 7: Costed M&E plan, Appendix 11: Terms of Reference - Overview of Staff and Appendix 13: Draft Procurement Plan.

**Review Dates**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat comments**

<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The Caribbean is a biodiversity hotspot with 10% of the world's coral reefs and over 11,000 species of plants on a very small land area. Islands are particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and extinction. Island countries have limited land and sea that make planning and zoning even more important. Typically, much of their economy is dependent on a few natural resource dependent sectors such as tourism, fisheries and agriculture, making sustainable natural resource management crucial to development. These countries also have limited capacity in many areas with government officials pulled in many directions. Adequate legislative frameworks and regulations are often cited as barriers to sustainable and effective natural resource management.

This project has two components. Building on ICCF's experience in building parliamentary caucuses in Africa and Latin America, the project will seek to build a virtual regional caucus among four Eastern Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and St Lucia). These caucuses will build awareness of environmental issues among parliamentarians and create a cross-party interest group to support effective environmental legislation. They will also engage the private sector and NGOs to support better environmental management. At the same time, the project will support capacity building of the protected area authorities and improved protected area management by working with the Conservation Corps, which brings retired protected areas staff from the US and Canada who volunteer their

time, who will work to identify and address the gaps in protected area management capacity. They will also use this work to highlight the on-the-ground concerns with parliamentarians.

**Innovation, Sustainability and Scaling-up:** This project will build connections between legislators in small countries. They will also work to engage the private sector, which can be a challenge in the Caribbean. The project will provide targeted capacity building for the protected area system with a focus on implementation after the end of the project. For the caucuses, the involvement of a varied set of constituencies can help build sustainability of the activities. The project will target one protected area within each country with the idea to create capacity and models that can then support the improved management of all the protected areas within that country.