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## Strengthening biodiversity governance systems for the sustainable management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde

### Basic Information

**GEF ID**

10871

**Countries**

Cabo Verde

**Project Title**

Strengthening biodiversity governance systems for the sustainable management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde

**GEF Agency(ies)**

UNDP

**Agency ID**

UNDP: 6370

**GEF Focal Area(s)**

Biodiversity

**Program Manager**

Sarah Wyatt

# PIF

## Part I – Project Informatic

### 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

9/23/2021

Yes.

Agency Response

### 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

10/22/2021

Yes, thank you for the revisions.

During PPG, we would encourage project proponents to consider continuing to streamline the outputs and components. In the case of the debt-for-nature swap, it might be good for the language to allow for reasons outside the control of the project that might mean that it won't

happen.

9/23/2021

No, we're concerned that this project is attempting to take on too many and disparate activities relative to the resources available for this project. As an example, 1.2 commits to a number of activities that on their own could each be their own project. While we understand that there may be many different interests trying to address their many challenges, we think that it would probably better serve the country to do a few things well.

### **Agency Response**

#### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The project design has been modified to include fewer activities and concentrate more on the implementation of existing legislation and plans. Co-management has been given more emphasis. The possibility of negotiating a Dept-for-Nature Swap, based on ongoing studies by the Ministry of Finance, has been included as an Output. For more detail see below our responses under Part II section 3.

### **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**

10/22/2021

Yes, thank you for the revisions.

9/23/2021

No, please try to make the GEF portion of the PMC more proportional. Also, for the Environment Fund and the National Directorate of the Environment, can you please clarify what these are? In the co-financing

It could help to understand if the financing from GoL is flexible and will be managed as part of this project.

### **Agency Response**

#### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

Co-finance to PMC has been increased by re-allocating some co-finance from Component 3.

Environment Fund and National Directorate of the Environment are both under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. We have now inserted the Ministry as the provider of the co-funding.

The co-finance from the Government of Luxemburg will not be managed as part of this project but as parallel investment. Negotiations about its management arrangements are still ongoing.

### **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**

9/23/2021

Yes. However, we note that according to our records Cabo Verde has resources remaining in their STAR. We would like to ensure that these are fully spent and this project may provide that opportunity

### **Agency Response**

#### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The OFP has re-confirmed to us that STAR resources are fully allocated.

**The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

9/23/2021

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**The focal area allocation?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

9/23/2021

Yes.

**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**

9/23/2021

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**

10/22/2021

Yes, thank you for the clarifications. During PPG, it would be good to include uploading information to the WDPA. Also, please provide CO2 benefits figures for the activities.

9/23/2021

No, please address the following:

- Include WDPA IDs where they exist

We're surprised that the population gender ratio seems rather skewed. Is there an explanation for this?

## Agency Response

Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

- 1) The WDPA website lists 7 PAs for CV based on old data ([https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/search-areas?filters%5Blocation%5D%5Btype%5D=country&filters%5Blocation%5D%5Boptions%5D%5B%5D=Cabo+Verde&filters%5Biucn\\_category%5D%5B%5D=Not+Reported](https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/search-areas?filters%5Blocation%5D%5Btype%5D=country&filters%5Blocation%5D%5Boptions%5D%5B%5D=Cabo+Verde&filters%5Biucn_category%5D%5B%5D=Not+Reported)), but does not provide ID numbers.
- 2) The population data are from the 2021 Government census and are correct as stated. The higher number of males than females on the islands is a consequence of women migrating to the capital for work.

## 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

9/23/2021

Yes.

Agency Response

art 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

9/23/2021

Yes. The background provided is very thorough. We were going to suggest looking to Palau's governance system for potential learning, but clearly the project team is already aware.

### Agency Response

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

### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

10/22/2021

Yes, thank you for the information.

During PPG, please include further information on how the ozone project is aligned with this.

9/23/2021

No, it would be helpful to understand specifically which projects, initiatives, etc this project will build upon to achieve its ambitious goals.

### Agency Response

#### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The section on Baseline Scenario and associated Baseline Projects has been revised and the following paragraph has been added:

The project will collaborate with and build on other baseline projects, as summarized in the table at the end of this section. The Government of Luxembourg (GoL) through its Decentralization Fund is supporting the decentralized government structures at municipal level (\$5,000,000), thereby building an important basis for the local government support to biodiversity conservation that is a focus of this GEF-7 project. The GoL is also currently negotiating a \$12 million grant to the country for strengthening its climate policies and NDC implementation which will create significant synergies with the current project, especially in the fields of environmental planning, decentralized governance, nature-based climate solutions, and sustainable environmental finance. UNDP is supporting several interlinked projects targeting the strengthening of the policy and planning framework for advancing the SDGs and sustainable planning and financing within a framework of the Blue-Green Economy and addressing the impacts of the COVID pandemic. These projects will provide important

synergies with the sustainable financing of biodiversity component of the current GEF-7 project (collectively \$9,469,780). Important baseline activities are being implemented by the Government of Cabo Verde itself, especially through its Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – National Directorate for Environment (DNA). With support from its Environment Fund, the Ministry is currently implementing the projects

“Management and Conservation of Spaces and Natural Resources” that will help improve the management of several protected areas throughout the country, and “Improvement of the supervision of the Reserve of Santa Luzia and islets” that supports PA management on that island. The same Ministry is also investing own resources into the development and implementation of a national system of Environmental Inspection that will provide synergies with the M&E component of the current GEF-7 project. Further Government funded projects address the regeneration of degraded beaches; improving waste management including plastic pollution; restoration of degraded land areas and areas with invasive plants with native trees for the purpose of soil and water conservation; as well as measures to reduce the vulnerability of the country and its people to disasters (total amount \$6,592,178). Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has been leading a study on the feasibility of dept-for-nature swaps to reduce the country’s dept burden while increasing the sustainability of its natural resources, on which this project will build. Other important baseline projects include an investment by the MAVA Foundation to support sea bird conservation in the country and a further project on the conservation of seagrass beds (\$250,219); UNEP’s ongoing support to update the biodiversity profile of the country for the CBD which will provide important data including for the expansion of conservation efforts beyond protected areas in the present project, as well as its support to the country under the Montreal protocol to conserve the ozone layer (\$278,026).

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

#### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

10/22/2021

Yes.

9/23/2021

No, as noted previously we are concerned about the number and variety of activities proposed. We will note that SIDS have often commented that they can find the administration of such projects particularly cumbersome. Therefore, we suggest a reconsideration of the breadth of this project.

Overall, the project seems heavy on plans and we also wonder if there will be sufficient resources to implement them. The GEF regularly is asked to support updating plans that we funded in the past but then were not implemented. We would like to avoid things that just sit on the shelf.

Please address:

- 1.1 – Please discuss how this project will support the actual passage of these numerous pieces of legislation. Too often things are drafted but not passed.
- 1.1.4 – It seems like a national conservation plan would fit between with Output 2.1.1.
- 1.2.4 – This seems like a whole other project. It would be important that if this is done, it is incorporated into accounting and decision making, which also requires focused resources not shown here.
- 2.1.1 – What is the scope of the redesign envisioned? What is the likelihood that it would be accepted? How will the project ensure that this is not a loss of protected areas but rather strategic additions to the PA network?
- 2.2.1 – While we appreciate the desire to work with international best practice, we note based on previous experiences in SIDS that long, complicated PA management plans can be impossible to implement with limited human and financial resources.
- 3.1.3 – We very much welcome a focus on co-management. However, we are concerned that there may not be sufficient attention paid on this issue with so many sites and the importance of consultation, discussion, and technical support particularly in the early years of these agreements.
- Theory of Change – We would suggest that the project team look to the guidance on Theory of Change from Foundations of Success as the project logic and activities are fully fleshed out. A strong ToC and/or results chain would help in understanding how all the pieces fit together or what might be able to be omitted.

During PPG,

- 2.2.1 – There may be opportunities to collaborate with the International Conservation Corps to provide technical support and capacity building for this and other activities.

## **Agency Response**

### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The project design has been revised in response to the comments. We have reduced the creation of new policies and plans and have emphasized the implementation of existing legislation and policies. Specifically:

- we have removed the former outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and replaced them with a new output 1.1.1 on the creation of regulations for the implementation of existing conservation legislation – specifically legislation on the management model of the national protected areas system in Cabo Verde that is currently being drafted with support of the GEF-5 Biotur project and will be approved by the time this project starts. For its implementation, it will require site specific regulationsthat is currently under approval and will be approved by the time this project will start

project will start.

- 1.1.3 has been changed to revise this existing strategy to revise the existing national PA strategy to include environmental conservation in areas outside PAs. This Output remains in Component 1 since Component 2 is exclusively concerned with PAs.
- We have added an Output on capacity building of govt officials in understanding and implementation of the new and existing legislation, at explicit request of the Government
- We have omitted the old 1.2.4 and instead added an Output to create a Dept for Nature Swap, for which preliminary studies are already in progress by the Ministry of Finance that this project will build on.
- We have changed 2.1.1 into an Output building on the existing analysis of the current PA system that was conducted with GEF support in 2015 and to review and implement its key recommendations especially in the area of PA governance.
- We have revised Output 2.2.1 to emphasize the development of compact and implementable management plans in line with local capacities and adapted to the SIDS environment. This will build on an approach already piloted in the GEF-5 Biotur project. The possibility of collaboration with the International Conservation Corps will be explored during the PPG.
- Under Component 3, we have elevated the development and implementation of co-management agreements to an Outcome (3.2) and have specified that the project will do this for a manageable 2 protected areas, one terrestrial and one marine.
- We have revised the ToC according to the changes made. A more elaborate ToC will be developed during the PPG.

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

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

9/23/2021

Yes.

**Agency Response**

#### **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

9/23/2021

No, it would be helpful to understand the specific ongoing or planned initiatives that this project will build upon.

### Agency Response

#### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The ongoing or planned initiatives that this project will build upon have been described in an expanded section on Baseline Scenario and associated Baseline Projects, as indicated above under question II 2. The following paragraph specifically summarizing the initiatives that the project will build on has been added:

The project will collaborate with and build on other baseline projects, as summarized in the table at the end of this section. The Government of Luxemburg (GoL) through its Decentralization Fund is supporting the decentralized government structures at municipal level (\$5,000,000), thereby building an important basis for the local government support to biodiversity conservation that is a focus of this GEF-7 project. The GoL is also currently negotiating a \$12 million grant to the country for strengthening its climate policies and NDC implementation which will create significant synergies with the current project, especially in the fields of environmental planning, decentralized governance, nature-based climate solutions, and sustainable environmental finance. UNDP is supporting several interlinked projects targeting the strengthening of the policy and planning framework for advancing the SDGs and sustainable planning and financing within a framework of the Blue-Green Economy and addressing the impacts of the COVID pandemic. These projects will provide important synergies with the sustainable financing of biodiversity component of the current GEF-7 project (collectively \$9,469,780). Important baseline activities are being implemented by the Government of Cabo Verde itself, especially through its Ministry of Agriculture and Environment – National Directorate for Environment (DNA). With support from its Environment Fund, the Ministry is currently implementing the projects “Management and Conservation of Spaces and Natural Resources” that will help improve the management of several protected areas throughout the country, and “Improvement of the supervision of the Reserve of Santa Luzia and islets” that supports PA management on that island. The same Ministry is also investing own resources into the development and implementation of a national system of Environmental Inspection that will provide synergies with the M&E component of the current GEF-7 project. Further Government funded projects address the regeneration of degraded beaches; improving waste management including plastic pollution; restoration of degraded land areas and areas with invasive plants with native trees for the purpose of soil and water conservation; as well as measures to reduce the vulnerability of the country and its people to disasters (total amount \$6,592,178). Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has been leading a study on the feasibility of dept-for-nature swaps to reduce the country’s dept burden while increasing the sustainability of its natural resources, on which this project will build. Other important baseline projects include an investment by the MAVA Foundation to support sea bird conservation in the country and a further project on the conservation of seagrass beds (\$250,219); UNEP’s ongoing support to update the biodiversity profile of the country for the CBD which will provide important data including for the expansion of conservation efforts beyond protected areas in the present project, as well as its support to the country under the Montreal protocol to conserve the ozone layer (\$278,026).

**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

9/23/2021

Yes. However, we would consider whether it would be more effective to limit the scope.

## Agency Response

Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

We have revised the design of the project, please see above under section 3.

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

### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

10/22/2021

Yes, thank you for the additions.

9/23/2021

No, please address the following:

- Innovation – The principle case for innovation seems to rest on the idea of blue bonds which aren't actually mentioned in the main description of the project. However, the introduction highlighted the heavy and increasing debt burden that already exists for Cabo Verde. Perhaps if the idea were to undertake a Debt for Nature swap perhaps there could be a benefit of also reducing debt, then maybe there would be a possibility of better traction. We'll note that innovation does not necessarily mean more technology or bells and whistles. Innovation can also come in the form of co-management or ways of working with local communities differently. Innovation could also be about a paradigm shift for Cabo Verde.

Scaling up – Please discuss how this project will set the stage for scaling up.

## Agency Response

### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

1) Innovation: the section on innovation has been revised to include the negotiation of a debt-for-nature swap which is already under study by the Ministry of Finance and the innovative (for Cabo Verde) element of the participatory approach to conservation piloted by this project including the co-management of two protected areas (one terrestrial and one marine) are emphasized. The innovation section now reads as follows (new sections in yellow):

The project seeks to facilitate the brokerage of **innovative** funding mechanisms necessary to support biodiversity conservation efforts which are currently dependent on short to medium-term donor funding which is not sustainable. Also, in the light of the country's short- to medium term incapacity to support conservation, such innovations in funding will play an essential role. There is no generally accepted standard for 'blue' bonds or other 'blue' sustainable finance instruments yet. Cabo Verde will be a perfect laboratory to test and demonstrate their impact on the environment, thus setting the stage for innovative forms of impact measurement of sustainable finance based on objective, scientific criteria and observations derived from PAs that could be applied through scaling up to other SIDS. The 'debt for nature swap' approach currently being explored by the Ministry of Finance will be piloted by this project as an additional innovation towards securing sustainable sources of funding for biodiversity conservation.

Given that participatory approaches to biodiversity conservation management have not been largely applied in Cabo Verde to date, the overall application of this approach, both within and outside of PAs, will be an innovation for the pilot sites, which may then be scaled up for application throughout the country. Particular emphasis in this sense will be put on the piloting of two co-management agreements for one terrestrial and one marine protected area as a form of introducing a more local and participatory approach to natural resource governance, for subsequent replication in other protected areas in the country.

This project also represents a great opportunity to promote new technologies applied to the area of biodiversity conservation. Some pilot initiatives are being developed with drones, in control and inspection, ecological monitoring, assessment of ecosystems, conservation activities of sea turtles, birds, forests and agriculture; especially in areas of difficult access or with limited human and financial resources. There is enormous untapped potential in the use of up-to-date high tech solutions to monitor, manage and protect natural resources. Digital solutions have already proven to be extremely useful in monitoring biodiversity and the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation activities going forward, technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of things can further improve the data management needed for monitoring, evaluation, decision-making and law enforcement. Digitalization can be a key enabler for greater sustainability and more effective conservation management.

2) Scalability: the section has been strengthened by adding the following section:

The entire design of the project is aimed at enhancing the scalability of all biodiversity conservation efforts in the country. Differently from earlier UNDP-GEF projects in the country that focused more at the protected area scale, this project has a major focus at biodiversity governance and sustainable finance, thereby automatically targeting the national scale. Improved regulations to implement national policies and strategies will benefit the whole country, as will sustainable finance mechanisms such as blue and green bonds. The negotiation of a

debt-for-nature swap, building on research work currently underway by the Ministry of Finance, will benefit the whole country by reducing its debt burden, thereby also freeing resources for environmental conservation. The mechanisms of sustainable finance will also be replicable in other SIDS in Africa and globally. At a second level, pilot interventions are designed to be subsequently scaled up as they prove to be successful. This is especially the case for the two co-management agreements (one for a terrestrial, one for a marine protected area) that will be developed and implemented under this project, for subsequent upscaling to other suitable protected areas in the country. Although not all 23 of the country's PAs will be suitable for co-management (e.g. some are local monuments), the principle of co-management and community participation are clearly scalable and will find wide application in the country based on the learning and demonstration of benefits from this project. In addition to this and through the involvement of NGOs, CBOs and the private sector, it will be possible that project initiatives are implemented outside of the project scope as these entities are involved and engaged in broader strategy and action plan formulation.

## **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**

10/22/2021

Yes.

9/23/2021

No, please include a map of the proposed protected areas for work and highlighting any case study islands/sites.

### **Agency Response**

[Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments](#)

New, improved maps have been created highlighting the islands and protected areas where site level project interventions will focus (see Annex A of the PIF).

## 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

9/23/2021

Yes. Thank you for the detailed information and clearly consultations were undertaken despite COVID challenges. We understand that it may not have been appropriate or strategic to consult communities pre-PIF but we look forward to information about these consultations or their plans at CEO Endorsement.

**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

10/22/2021

Yes.

9/23/2021

No, some indicative information should be provided in terms of gender dimensions as related to the project objective. In addition, some further indicative information should be provided in terms of how the project intends to contributing to address gender gaps or promote

further indicative information should be provided in terms of how the project intends to contribute to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment as indicated, including (i) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources and (ii) improving women's participation and decision-making.

## **Agency Response**

### Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The section on gender has been strengthened. Specifically, the following section addressing the questions of closing gender gaps and improving women's participation have been added:

With regard to the objective of closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, the project will put particular emphasis on the empowerment of women in co-management structures to be created or facilitated by the project. This will include the inclusion of women in all consultations processes, separate consultation processes for women where this seems appropriate, emphasizing women's concerns in natural resource management in those consultations (e.g. women tend to play a small role than men in fishing but a larger role in the processing and trading of fish), and full representation of women in committees engaged in the co-management of protected areas and other natural resources. Women will also be fully represented and empowered in any discussions and impact assessments of sustainable funding mechanisms, such as blue and green bonds and debt-for-nature swaps, to ensure that benefits are equally shared by men and women and that no inadvertent negative impacts, e.g. of debt-for-nature swaps, affect women. The project will work with government to increase the role of women in the administration and oversight bodies of protected areas and any stakeholder committees, and that women are fully represented in decisions about income generating and benefit sharing mechanisms and investments.

The afore-mentioned measures will also help to improve women's participation and decision-making in the project and in all project-supported activities and programs. The PMU will engage a gender officer to ensure that women are fully involved and empowered in all decision-making processes supported by the project, and that women participation and empowerment is also promoted in government and non-government partners and stakeholders of the project. This includes local governments, co-management committees and any other decision-making or consultative bodies in the field of natural resource management that the project will support or engage with.

## **Private Sector Engagement**

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

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

9/23/2021

Yes. This is rather limited. With the COVID downturn in tourism, we can understand that it has been difficult to elaborate ideas with the private sector. We hope that they can be involved with the development of specifics. The language of the PIF is about sensitization, but we

think it would be important to have some involvement in design as well to try to design something that will work for them as well and, therefore, leverage them as a partner.

### **Agency Response**

Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

The private sector will be fully engaged during the PPG stage.

### **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

9/23/2021

Yes.

**Agency Response**

### **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

9/23/2021

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

9/23/2021

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**

10/22/2021

Yes.

9/23/2021

No, We note that the project will carry out the project strategy on knowledge sharing and strategic communication and information management under Component 4. At PIF stage, please request information about: 1) how existing lessons informed the project concept and plan, 2) plans to learn from ongoing relevant projects and initiatives, and 3) a discussion on how knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability.

**Agency Response**

Response to 23 Sept 2021 comments

This section has been strengthened by adding the following paragraphs:

The project builds on existing lessons that informed its concept and plan. It particularly builds on learning from previous GEF funded projects in the country, on other UNDP work supporting sustainable financing strategies in Cabo Verde and elsewhere, and on existing and new government strategies, plans and policies in the fields of natural resource governance and finance. While previous GEF funded projects focused on the country's protected areas system, the generation of revenue through sustainable tourism (GEF-5) and the expansion of the protected areas system into the marine area (GEF-6), the current project focuses specifically on biodiversity governance and finance, as well as the implementation of strategies and plans developed under previous projects. This includes the implementation of the National Protected Areas Strategy and specifically its recommendations for protected areas governance, the development and implementation of protected areas management plans that are simple, practical and adapted to the local environment building on experiences of the GEF-5 project and international best practices emphasizing the local adaptation of management plans especially under SIDS conditions with limited funding and local capacities, the importance of community buy-in and participation in natural resource governance, as well as – in the area of development finance – ongoing work by the Ministry of Finance on the possibility of dept-for-nature swaps as well as work by UNDP in partnership with government and private sector to develop green and blue bonds with clearly defined and measurable impact indicators.

The project will learn from and exchange knowledge and experiences with relevant ongoing projects and initiatives, including other SIDS supported by UNDP-GEF projects in Africa and elsewhere. This knowledge exchange will be facilitated by UNDP's regional and global advisors and networks. It will also build on and exchange knowledge with UNDP's global work on sustainable conservation (e.g. BIOFIN) and

green development finance. Furthermore, it will keep close contact with sustainable finance initiatives elsewhere, including in Luxemburg whose government provides co-funding to this project.

Knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability by ensuring that the project builds on previous work in the country, including earlier UNDP-GEF projects that have highlighted the importance of local governance and community engagement for the sustainability of conservation strategies and investments, as well as the importance of drafting plans and strategies in a manner that is participatory and adapted to the local capacities for their implementation. This participatory approach rooted in local governance will particularly reflect in this project's objective of piloting co-management agreements for two of the country's protected areas (one terrestrial, one marine). The co-management approach can subsequently be scaled up and replicated in other protected areas to increase the overall sustainability of the country's PA network. International knowledge and learning in sustainable development finance (e.g. green and blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps) will also be applied and adapted to the specific conditions of Cabo Verde as a way of ensuring adequate finance for conservation and natural resource governance in the future

## **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**

9/23/2021

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**art 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

9/23/2021

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

EFSEC 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

10/22/2021

Yes.

9/23/2021

No, please revise and resubmit.

**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	9/23/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/22/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

Additional Review (as necessary)

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval