

ISLANDS - Indian Ocean Child Project

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10261

Countries

Regional (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles)

Project Name

ISLANDS - Indian Ocean Child Project

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

12/9/2020

Review completed by PM

10/25/2021

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Project Type

FSP

PIF ☐

CEO Endorsement ☐

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes, the project is aligned with the CW programming directions.

Agency Response

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes. The design follows the structure, components and outcomes and outcomes that were proposed at the PFD.

Agency Response

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description

of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please note that there are entries in Table D with no financial information. Please correct.

Oct 25, 2021 - Differences between the PFD's table D and the child project's table D remain, additionally please note that the budget has not been cut and past into the portal document.

Nov 2, 2021 - Comments Cleared.

Agency Response

There are two entries (Mauritius/mercury and Comoros/SAICM) with financial information 0 USD duly entered in the portal.

25 Oct 2021:

Response:

In UNDP's resubmission of the Child project, Table D was entered in accordance with the previous discussion and agreement with the GEF Secretariat, due to the particular situation of the Table D in this child project.

The response to the similar item on Table D in the Secretariat's previous round of comments is pasted again as reference as we believe they would address this new comment. We would wish to confirm the Table D breakdown as it was resubmitted on 25 October.

?Table D reflected in the parent programme ID 10185 is not correct. The GEF Sec recognized and indicated during a conference call between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP on Monday 27 September 2021) that the country-level breakdowns presented in Table D in the parent programme were not approved by the GEF Council decisions. The GEF council only approved regional level and global totals. Apparently, indicative budget figures were entered after the GEF Council approval (based on estimations made by the lead agency).

In light of this, UNDP has resubmitted Table D for the Indian Ocean Child Project which contains the correct country and POPs/Mercury/SAICM allocations and totals. These correspond to the breakdown that have been communicated by UNDP to the participating SIDS, the GEF and the lead agency since the start of the project preparation process.?

The correct entry follows:

Comoros	POPs	3,500,000
	Hg	500,000
	SAICM	0
	Subtotal	4,000,000
Seychelles	POPs	2,000,000
	Hg	250,000
	SAICM	250,000
	Subtotal	2,500,000
Maldives	POPs	1,500,000
	SAICM	500,000
	Hg	0

	Subtotal	2,000,000
Mauritius	POPs	3,000,000
	Hg	500,000
	SAICM	1,000,000
	Subtotal	4,500,000

With respect to missing budget table in Annex E: This is due to a technical problem in cutting and pasting the consolidated budget in the portal. Our team received an error message when trying to do so, possibly because of the size of the budget table itself. Our team is in contact with the Help Desk officer of the GEF Secretariat to resolve it for this resubmission, so that the budget table can be pasted in Annex E of the CEO Endorsement as required.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1. Please provide and estimate for marine litter under core indicator 5.
2. Core indicator 9 is significantly less than what was proposed at the PFD. Please clarify.
3. Sub-Indicator 9.6 cannot be less than the sum of sub-indicators 9.1 and 9.2.
4. Core Indicator 10 is significantly less than what proposed at the PFD. Please clarify.

5. Please provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics including justification where core indicator targets are not provided (in this core indicator 6).

Oct 25, 2021 - Comments cleared.

Comments cleared (Aug 18, 2021)

Agency Response

1. Somehow the figure for marine litter (*Indicator 5.3: Amount of Marine Litter Avoided*) was not provided in the CEO endorsement document. It has been added now.
2. Figures have been adjusted to more adequately reflect the situation on the ground. The CEO endorsement figure now reflect a higher than estimated level than at the PIF stage.
3. By mistake the total figure for Indicator 9.6 (quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products), contained a 'point' rather than a 'comma'. This correction has now been made. Furthermore, total calculations for sub-indicator 9.6 have been refined to more accurately reflect recalculations.
4. Figures have been adjusted to more adequately reflect the situation on the ground. The CEO endorsement figure is slightly higher than the estimated PIF figure.
5. The text box under the GEF Core indicators has now been filled out with an additional explanation on the targets, methodologies used, etc. With respect to potential GHG reductions (GEF Core Indicator 6), similar to the other child projects, it is at this point not yet possible to calculate in a somewhat reliable manner the potential GHG emission reductions that could be achieved by the project.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes

Agency Response

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please see comments in Part I (7) above.

Oct 25, 2021 - Comments cleared.

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Stakeholders

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?
Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so,

does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

YES all risks including Covid-19 risks have been identified and addressed.

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Child project to be returned to the Agency due to:

1. On Table D: the amounts allocated/country/programming of funds as stipulated in the Parent Program ID 10185. When comparing these numbers with the Table D of the Child Project ID 10261, several numbers do not match. Also some numbers are missing (i.e. Mercury / Mauritius ; SAICM/Comoros). Please double check that Table D from the Child project matches the information provided in the parent Program.

2. On the Budget:

a. Please include one consolidated Budget Table in the CEO Endorsement Form ?

Annex E. PPO will be able to provide comments only once a unified budget is presented in Portal.

b. As mentioned above, there are 5 excel sheets attached to the Portal. One for each of the 4 countries and one for regional coordination. This last regional budget stipulates that UNDP will be receiving funds to provide executing functions. However, note that there are no OFP letters to support. The checklist of Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives and Comoros indicate that no execution support services will apply to this project. However, there is a ?regional? checklist which indicates that ?the requirement of LOAs with Government does not apply as the Regional component is additional in the project design to the activities that are included in the four country components and will be executed by UNDP (DIM Modality). The GEF Secretariat has suggested to have a regional component for each child project in the PDF of the Global ISLANDS Programme?. As every Program, this Program has a Global coordination child project, the reasoning for a Regional component for each Child project. Should this as well as other child projects require an additional (Regional) component for the Implementing Agency to carry out executing functions, Letters of Support signed by the OFP are required (and the checklist for each project may need to be modified).

3. On Co-financing:

- a. Please change the source of co-financing from Donor Agency to GEF Agency for UNDP Comoros.
- b. Many co-financing letters were only provided in French. Please request the agency to provide translated copies to English for the following highlighted letters:
- c. Several co-financing items have been categorized as Grant when they should be categorized as in-kind.

4. On core indicators:

- The project results framework includes output indicators which do not have baseline or targets, as is required for all indicators and done for outcome indicators.
- Please consider making references to the Core Indicators used in Table B to demonstrate these are part of the project's logic of intervention. It can be done by just highlighting 'Core Indicator 6' next to the related indicator. Likewise, we recommend inserting the Core Indicators as part of project components, instead as separate, where it makes logical sense.
- Please ensure that the full project result framework and Monitoring Plan reflect all Core Indicators used, and related targets. It looks like few of the Core and sub-indicators are missing from the results framework.

Oct 25, 2021 - (i) Please clarify if UN Volunteers are UN staff, GEF funding can not cover GEF Agencies' staff costs:

(ii) Project Coordinator and Assistant has to be charged to the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC, not to project components:

(iii) Office supplies should be charged to PMC, not to project components.

Also please note that the expected implementation start will need to be changed.

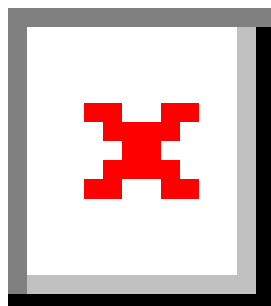
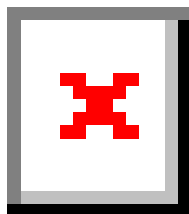
Nov 2, 2021 - All comments cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP Responses to GEF SEC Comments

No	GEF comment	UNDP Response
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- On Table D: Below you will be able to find, on the left, the amounts allocated/country/programming of funds as stipulated in the Parent Program ID 10185. When comparing these numbers with the Table D of the Child Project ID 10261, you will be able to see that all highlighted numbers do not match. Also some numbers are missing (i.e. Mercury / Mauritius; SAICM/Comoros). Please request the agency to double check that Table D from the Child project matches the information provided in the parent Program.



Response: Table D reflected in the parent programme ID 10185 is not correct. The GEF Sec recognized and indicated during a conference call between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP on Monday 27 September 2021) that the country-level breakdowns presented in Table D in the parent programme were not approved by the GEF Council decisions. The GEF council only approved regional level and global totals. Apparently, indicative budget figures were entered after the GEF Council approval (based on estimations made by the lead agency).

In light of this, UNDP has resubmitted Table D for the Indian Ocean Child Project which contains the correct country and POPs/Mercury/SAICM allocations and totals. These correspond to the breakdown that have been communicated by UNDP to the participating SIDS, the GEF and the lead agency since the start of the project preparation process.

The correct entry follows:

Comoros	POPs	3,500,0
	Hg	500,0
	SAICM	
	Subtotal	4,000,0
Seychelles	POPs	2,000,0
	Hg	250,0
	SAICM	250,0
	Subtotal	2,500,0
Maldives	POPs	1,500,0
	SAICM	500,0
	Hg	
	Subtotal	2,000,0

2a
.

Please request the Agency to include one consolidated Budget Table in the CEO Endorsement Form ? Annex E. PPO will be in a position to provide comments only once an unified budget is presented in Portal.

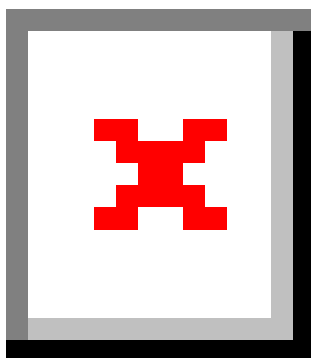


Response: As requested, one (1) consolidated budget table has been uploaded to the portal.

2b

As mentioned above, there are 5 excel sheets attached to the Portal. One for each of the 4 countries and one for Regional coordination. This last regional budget stipulates that UNDP will be receiving funds to provide executing functions. However, note that we could not find OFP letters to support this nor the PMs or Manager approval of these executions functions.

Actually the checklist of Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives and Comoros indicate that no execution support services will apply to this project.



However, there is a 'regional' checklist which indicates that 'the requirement of LOAs with Government does not apply as the Regional component is additional in the project design to the activities that are included in the four country components and will be executed by UNDP (DIM Modality). The GEF Secretariat has suggested to have a regional component for each child project in the PDF of the Global ISLANDS Programme'. As every Program, this Program has a Global coordination child project, the reasoning for a Regional component for each Child project. Should this as well as other child projects require an additional (Regional) component for the Implementing Agency to carry out executing functions, Letters of Support signed by the OFP are required (and the checklist for each project may need to be modified).

Response:

The clarifications related to the structure of the regional Indian Ocean ISLANDS child project have been provided and necessary support and justification documents obtained, and uploaded to the GEF Portal.

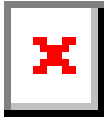
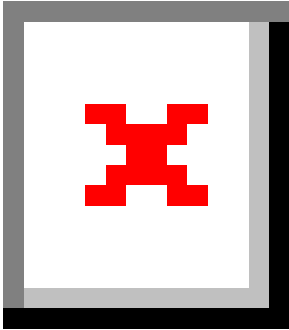
Four (4) Letters of Support signed by the OFPs of the 4 participating countries (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles) have been obtained and have been uploaded to the portal.

During a conference call between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP on Thursday 16 September 2021), it was agreed that 1 new check-list ? combining the checklists of the regional component and the 4 country components (to facilitate review by the GEF) ? would be prepared and signed off.

This checklist has been duly signed-off and has been uploaded to the portal.

The combined checklist accurately reflects that execution support services will be provided through the regional component (DIM executed by UNDP with the Indian Ocean Commission and Business Mauritius as Responsible Parties) as well as by the UNDP Country Office in Comoros to support implementation of the national Comoros component (it should be noted that related costs pertaining to execution support provided by UNDP Comoros will be entirely covered through UNDP cash track funding).

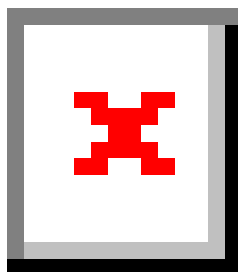
Regarding the management arrangement of the Regional component of the Indian Ocean child project, they are indicated in Section 6. 'Institutional Arrangement and Coordination' of the CEO Endorsement Document. The structure of the Project Board indicated for the regional component mentions that '1 representative from each of the 4 Governments (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles)' will be represented on the Project Board, in the category 'Beneficiary Representatives'.

<p>3a .</p>	<p>Please request the agency to change the source of co-financing from <u>Donor Agency</u> to <u>GEF Agency</u> for UNDP Comoros.</p> 	<p><i>Response:</i> The source of co-financing has been changed from <u>Donor Agency</u> to <u>GEF Agency</u> for the UNDP Comoros co-financing letter.</p>
<p>3b .</p>	<p>Many co-financing letters were only provided in French. Please request the agency to provide translated copies to English for the following highlighted letters:</p> 	<p><i>Response:</i> Six (6) co-financing letters originally provided in French have been translated into English. The French and English versions of the co-financing letters have been collated and have been uploaded to the portal.</p>

3c

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The following co-financing items have been categorized as Grant when they should be categorized as in-kind.



Response: Some of the co-financing letters for which the GEF SEC requested UNDP to categorize them as 'in-kind' instead of 'grant' are in reality truly grant co-financing contributions.

During a conference call between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP on Monday 27 September 2021, the GEF SEC indicated that common sense applies in these cases and requested UNDP to provide justifications for the co-financing letters that are to be categorized as 'grant'. This justification can be found below.

Furthermore, the GEF SEC requested UNDP to highlight in the section below the co-financing table how investments were mobilized as well as additional useful information. This has been added as well.

3c.1 Maldives ? 34,500 USD

Response: Following the GEF comment the co-financing letter has been categorized as in-kind.

3c.2 Maldives ? 88.5 million USD

Response: The text of the co-financing letter states in-kind but in reality, the co-financing provided is a grant, as apparent from the description of the co-financing. This grant co-financing contribution is made up of three large projects implemented by the Ministry of Environment, which include i) The Maldives Clean Environment Project (20,500,000 USD) funded by the World Bank; ii) The Greater Male' Environmental Improvement and Waste Management Project (USD 40,000,000) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and, iii) The Addu City Regional Waste Management Project (28,000,000 USD) funded by the Maldives Green Fund. These Investments mobilized are confirmed grants which have been secured and will be operating during the lifetime of the project.

Note: A comment to this regard has been added in the section below the co-financing table (Table C) contained in the CEO Endorsement document.

3c.3 Mauritius ? 28.75 million USD

Response: The co-financing letter includes 1)

4.	<p>On core indicators:</p> <p>4a. The project results framework includes output indicators which do not have baseline or targets, as is required for all indicators and done for outcome indicators.</p>	<p><i>Response:</i> In July 2022, the UNDP Prodoc template changed, which required PRFs contained in UNDP Project Documents to contain both outcome indicators but also outputs. However, it was specifically stated that these outputs should not be linked to any baseline or targets in the PRF.</p> <p>As this particular GEF SEC comment pertains to the CEO Endorsement document and the PRF contained in its Annex, it was decided that a simplified solution (which also simplifies PIR reporting and monitoring) would be to remove the outputs that were reflected in the PRF.</p> <p>However, outputs will continue to be reflected in the PRFs of the national and regional UNDP Project Documents as this is required for internal reporting and monitoring.</p>
	<p>4b. Please consider making references to the Core Indicators used in Table B to demonstrate these are part of the project's logic of intervention. It can be done by just highlighting 'Core Indicator 6' next to the related indicator. Likewise, we recommend inserting the Core Indicators as part of project components, instead as separate, where it makes logical sense.</p>	<p><i>Response:</i> As suggested by the GEF SEC, reference has been made to core indicators used in Table B, by highlighting 'Core Indicator X' next to a related indicator. Core Indicators ? where it made logical sense ? have also been inserted as part of project components.</p>
	<p>4c. Please ensure that the full project result framework and Monitoring Plan reflect all Core Indicators used, and related targets. It looks like few of the Core and sub-indicators are missing from the results framework.</p>	<p><i>Response:</i> As suggested by the GEF SEC, all Core Indicators, sub-indicators and related targets have now been reflected in the full Project Result Framework and Monitoring Plan.</p>

AFD: The Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) and the Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) finance a regional project (2020 - 2024), including Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles which is entitled "Expedition Plastique Oc?an Indien (ExPLOI)" and is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The project aims to tackle plastic pollution by i) Encouraging better use of plastics by supporting plastic reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives including from the private sector; ii) Developing research on plastic industry; and iii) Promoting Sensitization campaigns in the Indian Ocean. The co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

UNDP Comoros: The Comoros UNDP Country Office will provide in cash co-financing in the amount of 400,000 USD to the project, using UNDP Core TRAC resources allocated to the Country Office. The co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

Maldives 'Ministry of Environment': The text of the co-financing letter states *?in-kind?* but in reality, the co-financing provided is a *grant*, as is apparent from the description of the co-financing. This grant co-financing contribution is made up of three large projects implemented by the Ministry of Environment, which include i) The Maldives Clean Environment Project (20,500,000 USD) funded by the World Bank; ii) The Greater Male' Environmental Improvement and Waste Management Project (USD 40,000,000) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB); and, iii) The Addu City Regional Waste Management Project (28,000,000 USD) funded by the Maldives Green Fund. These Investments mobilized are confirmed grants which have been secured and will be operating during the lifetime of the project. This co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

Mauritius 'Ministry of Health and Wellness': This grant co-financing contribution (375,000 USD) is a mobilized investment from the Mauritius' Ministry of Health and Wellness to the project. The mobilized investment will be applied as Capital Investment for the construction of the Centralized Healthcare Waste Treatment Facility for the country. The co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures. This grant has been mobilized specifically for the implementation of the GEF ISLANDS project. This mobilized investment is a confirmed grant and will be used during the lifetime of the project.

Mauritius 'Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security': This cash co-financing contribution (375,000 USD) from the Mauritius' Ministry of Health and Wellness to the project will be applied as Capital Investment for the construction of a Centralized Healthcare Waste Treatment Facility for the country. The co-financing is considered

investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

Seychelles 'Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change': The cash co-financing provided by the Seychelles' Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change to the project (24,642,857 USD) are the tax levies collected by Customs on imported glass bottles, plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Collected funds are managed by the Waste Management Trust Fund and applied towards the collection and recycling of packaging waste over the duration of the project. The co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

Seychelles 'Landscape and Waste Management Agency': The cash co-financing provided by the Seychelles' Landscape and Waste Management Agency (LWMA) in the amount of 2,658,009.98 USD is intended for the i) Expansion of the La Digue landfill and ii) The Providence 2, Unit 2 sanitary landfill. The co-financing is considered investment mobilized as it excludes recurrent expenditures.

25 Oct 2021:

Expected Implementation Start Date: This has been corrected in the resubmitted package. The expected implementation start date is 1 February 2022 and the Expected Completion date 31 January 2027.

UN Volunteers: This activity is included in the Comoros component and concerns Project staff. The UNVs mentioned are Community UNVs (see the description here: https://www.unv.org/sites/default/files/UN%20Community%20Volunteers_2%20pager_final.pdf). Community UNVs are dedicated to project activities. They are only employed part-time, typically for a few hours per week, and remain based in their local community ? this is precisely what we wanted to promote in Comoros for the efficient delivery of the project activities.

UN Volunteers are NOT UN employees. Their legal status is indicated in this reference document, the ?Unified Conditions of Service for UN Volunteers? on page 6, about their Legal Status: *?UN Volunteers are not UN staff members. They are subject to neither the UN Staff Regulations and Staff Rules nor to the pay, benefits, or other conditions contained therein. They are nevertheless UN personnel and are governed by this document [Conditions of Service mentioned above], including any amendments that may result from the revision of the COS in the future. The terms of service are defined in the Description of Assignment and UN Volunteer Contract issued in each case.?*

As they are not UN Staff and will be dedicated to the project as project staff, we are leaving this section unchanged in our resubmitted package

Project Coordinator and Assistant: In this regard, UNDP based its budgeting of project staff on the following guidance of the GEF Secretariat:

We refer specifically to the rule in the [2020 GEF guidelines on Project and Program cycle](#) and more precisely in Annex 7, section II-4, page 42):

?If project staff are charged to both PMC and project components (i.e., not only to PMC), clear Terms of Reference describing unique outputs linked to the respective components are required at the time of CEO Endorsement/Approval, for review by the Secretariat. Project staff refers to the following: i) personnel of the Executing Entity carrying out long-lasting tasks funded with GEF resources; ii) GEF Agency staff funded with GEF resources when the GEF Agency is also acting as an Executing Entity?.

For each of the project staff, including Project coordinators and assistants, specific detailed ToRs have been developed and included in Annex 7 of the respective project documents. They highlight specifically which activity delivery this project staff will be assigned and expected to deliver on, i.e., ?unique outputs linked to the respective components? as indicated in the GEF Secretariat?s guidance. This highlights the technical nature of the tasks that Project Coordinator and Project Assistants will be responsible for throughout the project, and which outputs in project components they contribute to. Also, budget notes provide this level of details for each project staff.

We hope this justification responds to the comment of the Secretariat.

Office Supplies: None of the budget line ?Office Supplies? in project components relate specifically to PMC expenditures. These are not office supplies that are meant to be used for the Project Management Unit. Rather, they are all attached to specific activities in that component, be it workshops, trainings, or specific report publication etc. To make this link clearer, we have reorganized the budgets of the project components to attach and include these supplies to the specific project activities they relate to. Thus, there is no longer Office supplies budget lines in any of the project components, except in the PMC component. We hope this satisfactorily addresses the comment of the Secretariat. The modified budget is included in the resubmitted package.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes comments have been addressed.

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes comments have been addressed.

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request None recieved.

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request None received.

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request None received.

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request The status has been submitted and well utilized.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please resubmit and include the Checklist for CEO Endorsement Template duly filled out for this project.

June 3, 2021 (AS) - please respond the comments in the review sheet.

Aug 25, 2021 (AS) - Please see PPO comments under the section on GEF SEC comments.

Oct 25, 2021 - Please address outstanding comments.

Nov 2, 2021 - All comments addressed. Project is recommended for CEO Endorsement.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	6/3/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	8/18/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	8/25/2021	

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

10/25/2021

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

10/28/2021

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations