



SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10549

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT

NGI

Project Title

SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project

Countries

St. Vincent and Grenadines

Agency(ies)

World Bank

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Other Executing Partner(s)

Sustainable Development Unit, Economic Planning and Sustainable Development Division

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Certification -National Standards, Tourism, Fisheries, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Indigenous Peoples, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Awareness Raising, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

347,032

Submission Date

3/23/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Amount(\$) | Co-Fin Amount(\$) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| BD-1-1 | GET | 3,652,968 | 7,350,000 |
| | Total Project Cost (\$) | 3,652,968 | 7,350,000 |

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen the management of coastal and marine eco-systems of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Project Outcomes

The following key results are proposed for measuring achievement of the PDO:

- i. An integrated coastal and marine zone management framework to promote sustainable development in SVG
- ii. Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (ha).
- iii. Area of coastal and marine seascapes under improved management practices (ha)
- iv. Improved National Environmental Data and Information Platform for information sharing and decision-making on the conservation and use of coastal and marine resources
- v. Direct (those who receive direct economic benefit from project interventions) beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-beneficiaries.

Component 1. Institutionalization of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program

- A functional governance and coordination system established for facilitating integrated coastal and marine planning and decision-making;

- New and improved policy, regulations protocols and planning guidelines for facilitating the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems and for mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectoral (coastal infrastructure, tourism, fisheries, etc.) and into national and Parish level planning and decision-making in marine and coastal areas.
- A national system for permitting, monitoring, surveillance and compliance with laws and regulations related to the coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Capacity and training programs to related strengthening the capacity of key national agencies, Parish government and local administrators in coastal and marine planning and information management; and
- A long-term investment and revenue-generation strategy and plan for financing coastal and marine ecosystem management.

Component 2. Applying a participatory ecosystem-based framework to effectively plan, manage, finance and monitor compliance in target environmentally sensitive coastal and marine sites

- Shoreline Management Plans. Area-based participatory integrated spatial plan developed and implemented for the 3-4 priority areas aimed at conserving species and ecosystems and reducing threats;
- livelihood pilots: supporting development of livelihood opportunities that mainstream BD
- Lessons learned. Best practices for coastal and marine ecosystem management

- implementation of spatial management plan;
- Tourism Plan. Responsible local tourism plan developed for priority sites and activities piloted; and
- Local capacity building. Capacity, skills and protocols for permitting, surveillance, monitoring and enforcement trialed and evaluated for replicability.

Component 3. Knowledge and data management, gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, documentation and dissemination of best practices and replication

- Establishment of NEDIC. A national publicly accessible database to support effective decision-making on coastal and marine resources management;
- Communication Plans. Knowledge management and communication action plan will be prepared at the project outset and modified during the project implementation. These plans will ensure that (i) the project is well understood, accepted, and implemented effectively and equitably; (ii) the understanding of coastal and marine planning and management is increased; (iii) the implementation and upscaling of best practices is improved; (iv) the public develops an environmental ethic and increased awareness and understanding of conservation and threats; and (v) knowledge management products are shared and used;
- A detailed monitoring plan will specify the key indicators to monitor progress; and

- A range of knowledge management products.

In summary, the project will support the participatory approaches in the coastal and marine environment of St. Vincent and the Grenadines including (i) institutional and policy support, and capacity building for coordination, spatial and financial management, and monitoring of the coastal and marine environment; (ii) setting-up a publicly accessible national knowledge platform (environmental data and information center) for an improved information base for decision-making on the use and conservation of coastal and marine resources; and (iii) demonstrating the effectiveness of spatial planning approaches in selected pilot coastal and marine sites.

| Project Component | Financing Type | Trust Fund | GEF Amount(\$) | Co-Fin Amount(\$) |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Institutionalization of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program | Technical Assistance | GET | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Applying a participatory ecosystem-based framework to effectively plan, manage, finance and monitor compliance in target environmentally sensitive coastal and marine sites | Investment | GET | 1,876,049 | 3,050,000 |
| Knowledge and data management, gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, documentation and dissemination of best practices and replication | Technical Assistance | GET | 602,968 | 1,000,000 |
| Project Coordination and Management | Technical Assistance | GET | | 1,300,000 |
| | Sub Total (\$) | | 3,479,017 | 7,350,000 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | |
| | | GET | 173,951 | |

Project Management Cost (PMC)

Sub Total(\$)

173,951

0

Total Project Cost(\$)

3,652,968

7,350,000

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount(\$) |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| GEF Agency | World Bank | Loans | Investment mobilized | 6,350,000 |
| Government | Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 1,000,000 |
| Total Project Cost(\$) | | | | 7,350,000 |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

In addition to GEF funding, the project will be supported by the IDA financing and government in-kind contribution. The details will be worked out during the project preparation.

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount(\$) | Fee(\$) | Total(\$) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| World Bank | GET | St. Vincent and Grenadines | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 3,652,968 | 347,032 | 4,000,000 |
| Total GEF Resources(\$) | | | | | 3,652,968 | 347,032 | 4,000,000 |

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

| Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Amount(\$) | Fee(\$) | Total(\$) |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | | | | Total Project Costs(\$) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

| Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

| Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| Name of the Protected Area | WDPA ID | IUCN Category | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) | METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) | METT score (Achieved at MTR) | METT score (Achieved at TE) |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Akula National Park Tobago Cays Marine Park | 125689 31478 | Select National Park | 4,000.00 | | | | | | |

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 12,000.00 | | | |

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

| Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | |

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

| Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (achieved at MTR) | Number (achieved at TE) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

LME at PIF

LME at CEO Endorsement

LME at MTR

LME at TE

LME at PIF

LME at CEO Endorsement

LME at MTR

LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Fishery Details

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

| | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Female | 225 | | | |
| Male | 225 | | | |
| Total | 450 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Part II. Project Justification

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve or Turtle island

Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve, or Turtle Island, as it is called locally, is a small, uninhabited islet located approximately 183 m off Brighton beach. The 263 m long and 150 m wide islet covers a total land area of 2.4 hectares and has a maximum altitude of 30m. The island's coast is primarily rocky and inaccessible, with steep slopes occurring at the north-western, northern and eastern portions of the island. The southern and southeastern portions are more gently sloping; though loose boulders and eroded rocks along the coastline still present difficulties for access.

Milligan Cay is a Wildlife Reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act no. 16 of 1987. Critically endangered marine turtles recorded at Milligan Cay include: The Leatherback Sea Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* and the Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricate*. These of these species of turtles have international conservation status as per the IUCN Red List and are at extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Turtles, in particular, require beaches of specific slope and grain size for laying of their eggs.

This island is important for a variety of birds, including water, sea and terrestrial species. The island is known to be a 'significant staging habitat' for migratory waterfowl like ducks, mallards, terns and others.

Brighton and Diamond beaches

The principal driver of biodiversity and habitat loss in Brighton and Diamond is the removal of the dunes and coastal bluffs, followed by the direct impacts of the mining operations. As a result, sand dunes have been almost completely removed, and the shoreline has receded by nearly 50 meters (160 feet) in places. Erosion inland is currently threatening the stability of the forested woodland, the sanitary landfill, roads and residential properties. The process has resulted in the loss of coastal vegetation (including grasses, creeping succulents and coastal forests), which not only serve to stabilize coastal lands, but also provides a nesting place for resident and migratory sea birds, some of which may be endangered or of global significance. They also destroy the habitats of burrowing animals like crabs and nesting sites for critically endangered species of turtles such as the hawksbill, green and leatherback.

Union Island and Tobago Cays marine Park

Union Island is one of the southern-most islands of SVG. It is in the southern Grenadines and is approximately 3 miles long and 1 mile wide and has around 2,500 residents living in two main villages: Clifton and Ashton. It has white sand beaches commonly associated with tourism, the main revenue earner on the island and the country. The island especially Big sands area is being very heavily eroded. Needs additional studies on longshore drift and wave action so that appropriate interventions can be planned. Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) is made up of a 50 sq. km sand-bottomed lagoon which encompasses a series of beaches surrounding the uninhabited islands of the Cays. Around the windward sides of Mayreau, Union Island and the Cays exists the most extensive and well-developed coral reef complexes in SVG. The systems of coral reefs found in the TCMP contain many of the species native to this part of the Caribbean biogeographic region. Sea turtles, conchs, lobsters, and iguanas all take refuge in the protected area. However, Coral cover has decreased in recent years. Conservation on remaining coral reefs could support larger fish populations.

Biabou

Biabou is a town in eastern Saint Vincent. It is located to the northeast of the capital, Kingstown, on the coast road linking the capital with Georgetown in the island's northeast. Biabou lies to the north of Peruvian Vale and south of North Union. Baibou especially Shipping Bay has been struggling to deal with unusually large amount of saragassum seaweed. The influx of Sargassum has accelerated loss of the beach sand and the sea is now encroaching on the main road. Unfortunately, there is very little knowledge of the ecological impacts of invasive seaweeds on the ecosystem in general which needs to be assessed. The assumption, however, is that massive influx of Sargassum seaweed has resulted in potential disturbance of marine life living in the coastal zone (dead fish and sea turtles have been found when Sargassum washes onto the shore in massive quantities, showing the potential correlation), beach fouling, and coastal dead zones. The accumulation and decay of large amounts of Sargassum in the water can result in anoxia and the release of poisonous hydrogen sulfide, potentially causing the death of marine life.

The geographical coordinates of the areas:

| Intervention Areas | Geographical Coordinates |
|--|--------------------------|
| Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve or Turtle island | To be provided |
| Brighton | 13°07'57"N 061°08'18"W |
| Diamond | 13°14'N 061°08'W |
| Clifton, Union Island | 12°35'45"N 061°25'07"W |
| Ashton, Union Island | 12°35'41"N 061°26'05"W |
| Tobago Cays | To be provided |
| Biabou | 13°11'52"N 061°08'18"W |



2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations No

Private Sector Entities No

If none of the above, please explain why: Yes

There was a mission plan to SVG in early March 2020 to conduct further assessment of the pilot sites and conduct stakeholders meeting. Due to COVID-19 situation, the mission was postponed. Detailed stakeholders meetings will be conducted during the project preparation.

A stakeholders meeting was organized in May 2019 with different government agencies. St Vincent and the Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association and National Fisherfolk Organization were invited to the meeting, however, these two private sector organizations did not attend due to other commitments. Brief of this meeting and list of participants are uploaded in the GEF portal.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The client will carry out consultations with key stakeholders, beneficiaries, and affected people during project preparation with a view to developing a robust strategy of community engagement. The process will ensure that these stakeholders have an active inputs into project design to ensure their commitment, reduce risks and uncertainties, and foster the sustainability of the interventions. Furthermore, the project plans to identify and work through existing community level organizations that can serve as catalyzers and mobilizers to encourage close engagement with community associations will provide key inputs for the project design. Together with the findings of the preliminary Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA), they will help identifying project impacts and benefits as well as proposed measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate adverse impacts and maximize positive impacts. Women's representation will be promoted. For indigenous peoples, separate consultation events will be held.

SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project

List of Possible Stakeholders

| STAKEHOLDER | EXPECTED ROLE/CONTRIBUTION IN PROJECT PREPARATION |
|---|---|
| Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) Ministry of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labor | Environmental Management is part of the Economic Planning and Sustainable Development Unit (formerly part of the Ministry of Health and Environment) and is tasked with managing compliance with the country’s international environmental commitments. The GEF Focal point and provides overall coordination of stakeholders for project preparation design. SDU will be responsible for the project implementation in coordination. |
| National Ocean Coordinating Committee (NOCC) | A National Oceans Coordinating Committee (NOCC) has been appointed by Cabinet to advise the Government on the implementation of the NOP and broader aspects of ocean governance in SVG. The necessary administrative provisions have been made to enable the Sustainable Development Unit in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology to serve as the Secretariat to the NOCC. The PIU will coordinate with NOCC in the areas for coastal and marine ecosystem management issues. |
| Physical Planning Unit, Ministry of Housing, Informal Human settlements, Lands & Surveys and Physical Planning | The Physical Planning Unit is responsible for the implementation of the Town and Country Planning Act and its various regulations. The act seeks to ensure orderly and progressive physical development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Unit is also responsible for EIAs. The Unit houses the GIS Division, the newest section of Physical Planning and may host the central biodiversity and land use database supported by this project and will serve a key counterpart to devise actions and deliverables related during the PPG phase consultations. The project will work closely with Physical Planning Unit for the spatial planning of coastal and marine areas. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries and Industry (MARTFFI) | Responsible for ensuring that the policy and legal framework are in place for effective management of natural resources, specifically BD and ecosystems services, and will have overall responsibility for implementation of the project. This ministry, throughout its multiple divisions as outlined below, will have the key responsibility of providing technical inputs into the preparation of the full proposal to both the institutional and ground level aspects of the project. |
| Fisheries Division, MARTFFI | Fisheries Division is directly responsible for conservation and management of seashore stocks, fisheries, habitats and marine protected areas (overlap with NPA). The PIU will work closely with the Fisheries Division for promotion of sustainable fisheries approaches and their involvement in different components including the piloting. They can contribute to education awareness on conservation management issues. |
| St. Vincent and The Grenadines Tourism Authority (SVGTA) | The SVGTA is the national agency entrusted with the responsibility of promoting the country as a tourist destination, developing standards and regulating the quality of the local tourism service providers. It is also required by law to assist in the development of the varied tourism products on offer. Its' mission is to develop, coordinate and implement strategic and innovative marketing ventures driven by progressive market research, aimed at fostering a profitable and sustainable tourism industry, while seeking to provide rich visitor experiences far exceeding the internationally recognized minimum standards. The POU will closely work with the SVGTA. |
| Tourism Units, Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture | There are two units under the Tourism Units. These are: (i) Product Development Unit - Facilitates the development of products (e.g., sites) along with processing duty free concessions under the Hotels Aid Act/1988. Additionally, makes recommendations to the Ministry of Finance on other concessions for tourism operators and hoteliers; and (ii) Communications Unit – responsible for Concerned with advertising through local media and tourism education, training and public awareness delivered via workshops, visits to schools and consultations. The PIU will work closely with the Ministry and its two units. |
| National Parks Rivers and Beaches Authority, Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture | The National Parks Authority is an independent statutory body with a Board of Directors, attached to the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture. The Authority is responsible for the overall protected areas system management; can contribute to education awareness on PA management issues and will be providing technical and institutional inputs on all PA management related components and outputs during full proposal formulation. |
| Maritime Administration, The Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development | The Department of Maritime Administration is managed by a Commission which is comprised representative of agencies which have interests in maritime affairs and the principal officers of the Administration. The focus of the Maritime Administration is to effectively implement and discharge Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' (SVG's) maritime obligations in keeping with international law, with multilateral instruments to which SVG is party and the Shipping Act. The project will closely coordinate with Maritime Administration to strengthen the management of the marine ecosystem. The project will work with different private sectors including SVGCF to maintain and sustain the quality of the marine and coastal resources and the ecosystem services they provide. |
| Central Water Service Authority (CWSA) | The Central Water and Sewage Authority (Ministry of Public Works) has responsibility for the conservation, control apportionment and use of water resources in SVG authority, and will be consulted in relation with water use in agriculture sector, PES and for broader watershed management process questions during proposal formulation |

| | |
|--|--|
| The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF) | SVGCF is established as a 'Not for Profit Company' and it is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Founder Member Directors, Affiliated Directors, and Non-Affiliated Directors representing government and non-government sectors. It works in partnership with communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, government agencies and the private sector. |
| SVG Chamber of Industry and Commerce | SVG's oldest and largest non-governmental non-profit private-sector organization in the country, representing the interest of approximately 120 businesses in all sectors. Their key purpose is to enable enterprise development and integration nationally and regionally, with the objective of promoting and ensuring the livelihood of those businesses. They will provide inputs esp. to the formulation of livelihood and small business support deliverables for the full proposal |
| Parish Authorities | There are six Parish in SVG. The project will work the Parish to develop their capacity in coastal and marine ecosystem management and sensitizing the communities towards implement coastal and marine spatial plan. |
| Local Communities (fishers, tourism dependents, etc.) | <p>Communities will be the main actor as well as the main beneficiary of this project. Their active involvement since the identification/formulation to evaluation of processes and results will be crucial for the success of this project. They will receive capacity development support and join the pilot demonstration.</p> <p>Women will be specially empowered to be active members/actors of change within their communities, while ensuring that all members of community (women, men, boys and girls) are benefited by this intervention.</p> |
| National and International NGOs | During preparation stage NGOs mapping will be conducted, a pre-selection of some of them as potential responsible parties for the implementation/support of on-the-ground activities will be also carried out. |
| St Vincent and the Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association | The SVG Hotel and Tourism Association is the association of private entities involved in the hotel and tourism sector. The association focus on training & human resource development, advocacy, product development, and marketing & promotion. The association will be one of the key stakeholders for the project and the project will start dialogue with the association for their active participation in the project. They can contribute in scale-up of piloting activities of the project. |
| National Fisherfolk Organization in SVG | The organization is aimed to educating and empowering the fisherfolks for future livelihood. The project will initiate dialogue with the organization for their cooperation and participation in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. |

Other GEF Agencies and Project

The Project will establish linkage to the GEF-6 funded project “Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach”. This US\$ 3.7m project supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the objective to enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services conservation through an expanded and strengthened protected area system and with sustainable land management measures integrated in a ridge to reef (R2R) approach. It includes several components that are complementary to ICZM including the development of a national enabling environment.

The project will also establish linkage to the GEF-5 funded project “Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco)”, supported by the UN Environment (UNEP) as the lead Implementing Agency. The IWEco aimed to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for small island developing states through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change. The project intends to formalize partnerships at regional level in five areas: Governance; Public Awareness/Education; Research; Private Sector, and; Resource Mobilization. The project will coordinate with IWEco Project to learn the knowledge and best practices developed on ecosystems management. The project will also coordinate with other similar GEF funded projects in the region.

In addition, the project will consult with other government stakeholders such as SVG Port Authority, Ministry of Transport and Works, Environmental Health Division, Forest Division, Agriculture Division etc.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

The project will address gender inequalities in fisheries, tourism and related sector that impinge in the coastal and marine sectors. The Social Assessment (SA) will unpack the nuances of women participation in these sectors and identify respective opportunities with extensive participation of women. The SA will also provide recommendations on how to design project activities with a gender lens to promote strategies and approaches to strengthen the role and participation of women in the relevant coastal and marine productivity sectors. This would include, for example, strengthening of mechanisms such as Capacity building and training to be provided by the project will also be designed in a gender sensitive manner. Project preparation will ensure that gender consideration becomes an integral part of the proposed project strategy. During the project inception the gender marking will be applied, and the following indicators will be applied to ensure effective and informed participation of women, namely: (i) total number of full-time project staff that are women; (ii) total number of Project Committee members that are women; and (iii) total number of beneficiaries that are women. In order to ensure equality, these criteria will be integrated into the project design

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

TBD

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The project will foster involvement of the private sector through creating appropriate policy and regulatory environment, promoting public-private partnership, private sector incentive mechanisms, revenue generation through sustainable production systems (e.g. ecotourism, fisheries value chains, incentives for wastewater management, etc.) and government budgetary mechanisms, aimed at exploring long-term financial mechanisms and revenue generation streams. Potential for scaling up lies with incorporating the coastal and seascape approach to management to all future coastal and marine systems in SVG.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

| Name | Position | Ministry | Date |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Ms. Janeel Miller-Findlay | OFP | Ministry of Finance, Economic planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology | |

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve or Turtle island

Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve, or Turtle Island, as it is called locally, is a small, uninhabited islet located approximately 183 m off Brighton beach. The 263 m long and 150 m wide islet covers a total land area of 2.4 hectares and has a maximum altitude of 30m. The island's coast is primarily rocky and inaccessible, with steep slopes occurring at the north-western, northern and eastern portions of the island. The southern and southeastern portions are more gently sloping; though loose boulders and eroded rocks along the coastline still present difficulties for access.

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This island is important for a variety of birds, including water, sea and terrestrial species. The island is known to be a 'significant staging habitat' for migratory waterfowl like ducks, mallards, terns and others.

Brighton and Diamond beaches

The principal driver of biodiversity and habitat loss in Brighton and Diamond is the removal of the dunes and coastal bluffs, followed by the direct impacts of the mining operations. As a result, sand dunes have been almost completely removed, and the shoreline has receded by nearly 50 meters (160 feet) in places. Erosion inland is currently threatening the stability of the forested woodland, the sanitary landfill, roads and residential properties. The process has resulted in the loss of coastal vegetation (including grasses, creeping succulents and coastal forests), which not only serve to stabilize coastal lands, but also provides a nesting place for resident and migratory sea birds, some of which may be endangered or of global significance. They also destroy the habitats of burrowing animals like crabs and nesting sites for critically endangered species of turtles such as the hawksbill, green and leatherback.

Union Island and Tobago Cays marine Park

Union Island is one of the southern-most islands of SVG. It is in the southern Grenadines and is approximately 3 miles long and 1 mile wide and has around 2,500 residents living in two main villages: Clifton and Ashton. It has white sand beaches commonly associated with tourism, the main revenue earner on the island and the country. The island especially Big sands area is being very heavily eroded. Needs additional studies on longshore drift and wave action so that appropriate interventions can be planned. Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) is made up of a 50 sq. km sand-bottomed lagoon which encompasses a series of beaches surrounding the uninhabited islands of the Cays. Around the windward sides of Mayreau, Union Island and the Cays exists the most extensive and well-developed coral reef complexes in SVG. The systems of coral reefs found in the TCMP contain many of the species native to this part of the Caribbean biogeographic region. Sea turtles, conchs, lobsters, and iguanas all take refuge in the protected area. However, Coral cover has decreased in recent years. Conservation on remaining coral reefs could support larger fish populations.

Biabou

Biabou is a town in eastern Saint Vincent. It is located to the northeast of the capital, Kingstown, on the coast road linking the capital with Georgetown in the island's northeast. Biabou lies to the north of Peruvian Vale and south of North Union. Biabou especially Shipping Bay has been struggling to deal with unusually large amount of saragassum seaweed. The influx of Sargassum has accelerated loss of the beach sand and the sea is now encroaching on the main road. Unfortunately, there is very little knowledge of the ecological impacts of invasive seaweeds on the ecosystem in general which needs to be assessed. The assumption, however, is that massive influx of Sargassum seaweed has resulted in potential disturbance of marine life living in the coastal zone (dead fish and sea turtles have been found when Sargassum washes onto the shore in massive quantities,

showing the potential correlation), beach fouling, and coastal dead zones. The accumulation and decay of large amounts of Sargassum in the water can result in anoxia and the release of poisonous hydrogen sulfide, potentially causing the death of marine life.

The geographical coordinates of the areas:

| Intervention Areas | Geographical Coordinates |
|--|--------------------------|
| Milligan Cay Wildlife Reserve or Turtle island | To be provided |
| Brighton | 13°07'57"N 061°08'18"W |
| Diamond | 13°14'N 061°08'W |
| Clifton, Union Island | 12°35'45"N 061°25'07"W |
| Ashton, Union Island | 12°35'41"N 061°26'05"W |
| Tobago Cays | To be provided |
| Biabou | 13°11'52"N 061°08'18"W |

Map to be provided later.