



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10865

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS

Countries

Regional, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles

Agency(ies)

UNDP-6528

Other Executing Partner(s)

Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA)

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Sector

Enabling Activity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Integrated Programs, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Communications, Education, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, International Waters, Learning, Fisheries, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Sea Grasses, Coastal, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Marine Protected Area, Mangrove, Seagrasses, Pollution, Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater, Large Marine Ecosystems, Aquaculture, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Income Generating Activities, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Innovation, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

No Contribution 0

Land Degradation

Significant Objective 1

Submission Date

3/10/2023

Expected Implementation Start

10/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

3/31/2028

Duration

42In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

855,365.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1		GET	3,045,401.00	9,883,664.00
IW-1-2		GET	2,537,834.00	5,166,202.00
IW-1-3		GET	1,522,701.00	2,966,835.00
LD-1-1		GET	1,520,400.00	4,450,716.00
LD-2-5		GET	377,511.00	775,820.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			9,003,847.00	23,243,237.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
COMPONENT 1: Sustainable Blue Economy and Land Degradation Neutrality enabling conditions - improved governance frameworks	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1. Evidence-based instruments (strategies, plans), and financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality in the participating SIDS	<p>1.1. National Blue Economy-supporting/enabling instruments (e.g. assessments/strategies/policies/plans) developed and/or updated</p> <p>1.2. Regional and National Coordination Platforms supporting the development of the Blue Economy strengthened</p> <p>1.3. Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles-based Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality target implementation fostering private sector investment developed</p> <p>1.4. Capacity developed, and awareness raised in the African SIDS on topics of key relevance for transformation of the regional and national Blue Economies. The private sector engagement framework will also be mainstreamed in the implementation of the proposed pilots under Component 2 to explore opportunities for engaging with private in actions on the ground. The framework will also focus on addressing issues of gender inequalities in the implementation of blue economy local actions.</p>	GE T	1,747,215.00	3,305,006.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
COMPONENT 2: On-the-ground national demonstrations of Sustainable investment addressing 1) unsustainable ocean/coastal use and/or ?new and additional? sustainable Blue Economy opportunities, and 2) Integrated land management and restoration of degraded production landscapes with positive impacts on Blue Economy assets	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2. Sustainable Blue Economy and Sustainable Land Management best practices and diversification models with strong social, economic and sustainability elements developed, tested, and ready for upscaling among African SIDS	<p>2.1. Cabo Verde Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).</p> <p>2.2. Comoros Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate</p> <p>2.3. Guinea-Bissau Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices</p> <p>2.4. Mauritius Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-</p>	GE T	5,739,758.00	15,008,898.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			<p>addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius</p>			
			<p>2.5. Sao Tome & Principe Integrated Sustainable Blue Economy + Land Management/Land Degradation Neutrality demonstration: Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe in support of blue-green development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation and improved management of marine and coastal natural capital</p>			
			<p>2.6. Seychelles Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
COMPONENT 3: Knowledge management and upscaling	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3. Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and upscaled across African SIDS and beyond	<p>3.1. Communication and knowledge management (project results, innovative solutions, best practices and lessons learned) from the six sustainable Blue Economy/Sustainable Land Management demonstrations developed and disseminated at national and regional level</p> <p>Output 3.2: Innovative solutions and best practices from other projects, other SIDS and other regional initiatives identified and disseminated at national and regional levels</p> <p>Output 3.3: Strategic contributions to a data/information/knowledge exchange network/infrastructure that supports BE/LDN development in the African SIDS.</p>	GE T	818,007.00	2,930,308.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
COMPONENT 4: Timely Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to inform adaptive management for successful delivery of project results.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4: Project-level monitoring and evaluation, in compliance with UNDP and mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements	<p>Output 4.1 Coordination of the project working closely with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, the RECs and LME coordinating mechanisms, through mechanisms that would enhance the collaboration and cooperation among African SIDS</p> <p>Output 4.2 Conducting the Inception Workshop and the development of the Inception Report</p> <p>Output 4.3: Annual GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR), and M&E of GEF core Indicators, Gender Plan, Safeguards Frameworks and Action Plans; Monitoring and Evaluation; Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation</p>	GET	270,114.00	892,204.00
Sub Total (\$)					8,575,094.00	22,136,416.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET	428,753.00	1,106,821.00	
			Sub Total(\$)	428,753.00	1,106,821.00	
			Total Project Cost(\$)	9,003,847.00	23,243,237.00	

Please provide justification

C. 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(\$)
Civil Society Organization	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC), Comoros	Grant	Investment mobilized	25,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC), Comoros	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	75,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Lantuna NGO, Cabo Verde	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	221,662.00
Civil Society Organization	NGO Biosfera 1, Cabo Verde	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	130,719.00
Civil Society Organization	Association d'Intervention pour le D?veloppement et l'Environnement Mavouna, Moroni Comores (AIDE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Ulanga ngazidja, Comoros	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Oikos Cooperac??o e Desenvolvimento, Sao Tom? e Pr?ncipe	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	760,972.00
Civil Society Organization	Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Mauritius- Seychelles	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,456,944.00
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Cabo Verde	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Comoros	Grant	Investment mobilized	60,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Guinea-Bissau	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - S?o Tome and Principe	Grant	Investment mobilized	50,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - S?o Tome and Principe	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Comoros	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Mauritius	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	249,769.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Cabo Verde	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Donor Agency	World Food Programme	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Other	Jean Piaget University, Cabo Verde	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	48,973.00
Other	BioGuinea Foundation, Guinea-Bissau	Grant	Investment mobilized	300,000.00
Other	Camara Municipal of Ribeira Grande Santiago, Cabo Verde	Grant	Investment mobilized	812,528.00
Other	Camara Municipal de Santa Catarina, Cabo Verde	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,187,191.00
Other	Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini, Comoros	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	290,000.00
Other	Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini, Comoros	Grant	Investment mobilized	300,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,024,479.00
Recipient Country Government	National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros	Grant	Investment mobilized	450,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,100,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				23,243,237.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

All the investment mobilized resources were identified in coordination with UNDP Country Offices, Responsible Parties and Regional bodies consulted during the PPG process. Co-financing for the Project which were identified as investment mobilized (Grants) include non-recurring expenditures associated with projects and initiatives in recipient country governments, UN agencies, regional organizations, academic, research and other civil society organizations. This co-financing is directly related to/aligned with the outcomes/outputs and/or objective of the African SIDS Project, as summarized below. More details on the specific alignment of the co-financing activities classified as "grant" and the African SIDS Project can be found in Table 9.

- Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC): Work on building the technical capacity of non-state actors, including CSOs, small-scale fisher associations and the private sector to engage in relevant fisheries processes, including policy reform in the project area.
- European Union: Work on the project: "Supporting the Economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius"
- UNDP Mauritius-Seychelles: Work on the project: "Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future"
- UNDP CO - Cabo Verde: Work on conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde.

? UNDP CO - Guinea-Bissau: Work on strengthening the development and realisation of sustainable blue economies in African SIDS through improved governance, blue economy demonstrations and knowledge management. ? UNDP CO - S?o Tome and Principe: Work on the development of an ecosystem of organic bio-input manufacturers to produce organic vegetables, supported by the SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility. ? Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores : Work on strengthening systemic, institutional, technical and operational capacities to manage natural resources in PAs, Increased protection of important species and habitats through improved management effectiveness, Strengthening value chain capacities, private enterprises and local communities to generate new sources of income based on the sustainable valuation of ecosystem goods and services within PAs and provide increased opportunities for women and people living with disabilities (PLWD) to benefit from ecosystem goods and services in PAs and to integrate into nature-based value chains ? BioGuinea Foundation: Work on Community resilience, in particular community depending on mangrove resources and ecosystem services, and protected areas management efficiency regarding the Casheu Park. ? Oikos Cooperativa e Desenvolvimento: Work on Sustainable Land Management and development of agricultural Value Chains in S?o Tom? and Principe. ? National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros: Work on conservation of the natural resources of marine protected areas and blue economy of Cabo Verde. ? Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini: Work on contributing to the development of the legal and institutional framework governing aquaculture and in the restoration of coastal ecosystems ? Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores: Work in strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks and capacities for effective management of marine and coastal resources, improving the livelihoods of communities within the national PA network and ensure knowledge management, gender equity and empowerment of PLHIV. ? Maldives Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture: Work on introducing Blue Economy livelihoods opportunities ? UNDP CO - Comoros: Work on the project "Vulnerable populations, in particular, youth, women, and people living with disability are enabled to access and benefit from the positive impacts of the development of the green blue and circular and digital economies". ? UNDP: Maldives: Parallel work on the ?Maldives Resilient Reef Ecosystem and Economy for the Futures? project that aims to demonstrate models for protected area management, develop proof of concept business models for blue economy and strengthen capacities on R&D and monitoring in the sector. UNDP CO will also provide project oversight for the Maldives national demonstration. ? Camara Municipal of Ribeira Grande Santiago, Cabo Verde: Co-financing will contribute to the following: construction of a fisherman's house, infrastructure improvements and rehabilitation of bathing beaches, rehabilitation program and planning for Porto Mosquito, purchase of fish aggregation device, purchase of ice machine, acquisition of fridge container for storing fish, construction of fish market, acquisition of fishing equipment and accessories and navigation accessories, boat haulers, and urban rehabilitation.

D. 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(\$)
UNDP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	7,105,936	675,064	7,781,000.00
UNDP	GET	Sao Tome and Principe	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,897,911	180,301	2,078,212.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					9,003,847.00	855,365.00	9,859,212.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments?**No**

Includes reflow to GEF?**No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	200,000	19,000	219,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
74,384.00	112,025.00	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	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
74,384.00	112,025.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
55562 6105	2	National Park		88,615.00					

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
555697862	6	National Park		2,314.00					
Cacheu Natural Mangrove Park (Guinea-Bissau)	33046		54,400.00						
N/A	2	National Park		21,096.00					
Natural Park of Ba?ado Inferno and Monte Angra (Cabo Verde)			17,470.00						
Parc national Mitsamihoul-Indroud? (Comoros)	555697862		2,314.00						

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
S?o Tom?e Pr?ncipe (tbd)			200.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00	400.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	200.00	400.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00	800.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	400.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00	400.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title Submitted

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)
Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations			
Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
1	0		

Type/name of the third-party certification

At the PIF phase, the third party certification was expected to be determined during PPG (sustainable aquaculture in Comoros) but none was identified

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
1	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE
<u>Guinea Current</u>			

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Agulhas Current, Canary Current	Agulhas Current, Canary Current, Guinea Current		
Count	2	3	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Agulhas Current	1	1		
Canary Current	1	1		
Guinea Current		1		

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Agulhas Current	1	1		
Canary Current	1	1		
Guinea Current		1		

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)
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Fishery Details

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	9,393	129,493		
Male	13,785	194,240		
Total	23178	323733	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The end-of-project targets for the Core Indicators, as expected at CEO endorsement, were determined as follows: The cumulative value of 112,025 hectares for Core Indicator 2 on Marine Protected Areas was obtained by considering that the project will support the enhancement of the management effectiveness in the following existing MPA's: Parque Natural dos Tarafes do Rio Cacheu (PNTC) in Guinea Bissau, Parc National Mitsamiouli-Ndroude in Comoros and Parque Natural da Baía do Inferno e do Monte Angra (PNBIMA) in Cabo Verde. Values of the extension of the target areas under this indicator were provided by the corresponding government entities in both countries (See METT in Annex 13 of the Prodoc). The number of hectares is based on the maps of the areas given that these protected areas have been demarcated. The value for Core Indicator 3 on Area of land restored and Core Indicator 4 on Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) was obtained from local authorities in Sao Tome. This is the agricultural land to be restored under the Sao Tome national demonstration. The use of bio fertilizers and bio-pesticides will be promoted which is meant to enhance sustainable land practices and restore the quality of the soil for farmers and producers that will apply the bio-inputs to their crops. Core Indicator 5.2: Guinea Current LME (ST&P demo) was indicated at the PIF stage given planned interventions to reduce land degradation using the ridge to reef approach. However, although the planned activities may reduce marine pollution and hypoxia, it would be difficult to set targets under this indicator given the 3 year period of this project and there are no activities planned on pollution monitoring and Sao Tome has no marine pollution monitoring system in the area of this project intervention. The value for Core Indicator 7 is 3 LMEs: Under this project, the Canary Current LME covers Cabo Verde and

Guinea-Bissau; the Guinea Current LME covers Sao Tome and Principe and the Agulhas Current LME covers Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles. Although some of the African SIDS made different efforts to create inter-sectoral platforms to bring together different players in the blue economy, it is reported that they are not operational and there is no inter-sectoral platform specific for SIDS at regional level to engage and learn from each other. Also, none of the SIDS has an active website in line with IW:LEARN guidance. The target values of 129,493 female and 194,240 male and thus a total of 323,733 direct project beneficiaries (Core Indicator 11) at CEO endorsement provide a rough first (conservative) estimate based on a desktop exercise that considers the scope of the different project activities and outputs. The conservative numbers included reflect the sum of the estimated beneficiaries from the main outputs of the project under each component. The following table provides the list of the estimated beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and the rationale used. It should be noted that the ratio of male and female beneficiaries used was 60% male and 40% female considering the existing gender inequalities that were identified in the Gender Analysis.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

The table below shows the changes made while addressing the first round of the GEF comments:

Text from PIF	Revised text while addressing the first round of GEF Sec comments	Explanation for the change
The project was planned to be implemented in 7 African SIDS. Thus, the text across the CEO ER and annexes indicating ?7 Atlantic and Indian (AIO) Ocean SIDS? and co-financing from Maldives	The text changed to ?African SIDS? and co-financing from Maldives has been dropped.	Maldives decided to withdraw from the project
UNOPS was suggested as the project Implementing Partner	The new Implementing Partner is GWP-SA	Agreement with the GEF Agency
Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation, knowledge management and upscaling	This component was split into 2 components: Component 3: Knowledge management and upscaling; and component 4: Timely Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to inform adaptive management for successful delivery of project results	Clearer and more details on interventions under M&E

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description); 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects; 3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project; 4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies; 5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

1a. Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Geopolitical, environmental and socio-economic development context, and global significance

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a **distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members** of United Nations regional commissions. The three geographical regions in which SIDS are located are: **(a) the Caribbean, (b) the Pacific, and (c) the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.** SIDS are widely recognized as a special case both for their environment and development. The Rio de Janeiro UN conference of 1992 described SIDS as "low-lying coastal countries that share similar sustainable development challenges, including population, limited resources, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and extensive dependence on international trade"[1]. Article 8 of the Paris Agreement acknowledges that climate change threatens SIDS of specific "loss and damage". This project targets 6 African SIDS from the Atlantic and Indian Ocean (African) namely Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tom e Prncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Globally, the aggregate population of all SIDS is 65 million, slightly less than 1% of the world's population, yet this group faces such unique social, economic, and environmental challenges and vulnerabilities, that it deserves special/extraordinary attention. The aggregate population of the 6 African SIDS is 5.06 million (2021 value).

In terms of economic development, several SIDS are considered as being among some of the world's poorest countries, with eight SIDS appearing on the list of Least Developed Countries (LDC). African SIDS, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe appear on the list of LDCs. Cabo Verde, Mauritius and Seychelles are emerging countries with low poverty levels.

Table 2: Selected geographic and development statistics for the African SIDS[2]

Country	Human Development Index (HDI) / Rank amongst African SIDS	Least Developed Country (as of 21 Nov 2021)	Land Area (Km ²)	% of pop living in 10km from coastline	Total Population (2021)
Cabo Verde	0.662 / 4	No	4,030	96	587,925
Comoros	0.558 / 6	Yes	1,861	100	821,625
Guinea Bissau	0.483 / 7	Yes	28,120	41	2,060,721
Mauritius	0.802 / 1	No	2,030	72	1,266,060
Sao Tome and Principe	0.618 / 5	Yes	960	97	223,107

Country	Human Development Index (HDI) / Rank amongst African SIDS	Least Developed Country (as of 21 Nov 2021)	Land Area (Km ²)	% of pop living in 10km from coastline	Total Population (2021)
Seychelles	0.785 / 2	No	460	100	99,258

Fisheries, tourism and agriculture are important sectors to African SIDS for livelihood, employment, food security and foreign exchange. Thus, sustainable management of land and marine natural capital is very important for Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Table 3: Contribution of tourism and fisheries to the GDP of the African SIDS

Country	Inbound tourism expenditure (%GDP)	Fisheries (%GDP)
Cabo Verde	28.6	3.7
Comoros	6.1	5.4
Guinea-Bissau	5.2	3.3
Mauritius	14.3	1
Sao Tomé e Príncipe	10.4	6
Seychelles	36.4	4.1
Average	16.83	3.92

The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of SIDS is, on average, 28 times the country's land mass and it is the main source of the natural resources for livelihoods and national economy. In the particular case of the African SIDS, this ratio is generally even higher, and may in specific cases be as high as nearly 3,000 (see the example of Seychelles in Table 3). Because of their small size, SIDS often rely on external markets for many goods and, on their own, they are challenged in terms of their ability to create economies of scale due to high import and export costs as well as irregular international traffic volumes. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) presents opportunities for improved economic integration of SIDS.

African SIDS highly depend on traditional agriculture. Land degradation has huge effects on these countries such as significant structural constraints for human development, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. SIDS have issues of high competition of land use options (agriculture, mining, settlement, forestry, protected areas, etc.) due to their small size, topography, diverse soil types, climatic variation, poor land management and low level of human resource development. This results in land and ocean pollution from sediments, agricultural nutrients, wastewater and chemicals from

industries. Ocean pollution is harmful to marine and coastal biodiversity including fish, coral reefs and seagrass.

SIDS are home to an important proportion of the world's biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine, and very often characterized by high levels of endemism. Island landscapes and the marine and coastal environments, hold aesthetic and spiritual value for many island communities. For centuries, these communities have drawn benefits from these natural capital assets in the form of food supply, clean water, reduced beach erosion, soil and sand formation, and protection from storm surges. However, factors like small land size, small population size, remoteness from international markets, high transportation costs, vulnerability to exogenous economic shocks and fragile land and marine ecosystems make SIDS particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss, land degradation, loss of marine ecosystem goods and services, and climate change.

African SIDS have their marine space (or part of it) in one of the following Large Marine Ecosystems (LME?s): Canary Current LME (CCLME), Guinea Current LME (GCLME) and the Agulhas-Somali Current LME (ASCLME) (with the LME concept having been developed by US NOAA and adopted by the GEF as a meaningful spatial unit for ecosystem-based ocean management). The LMEs represent international waters that need transboundary cooperation due to their global environmental benefits.

The Canary Current LME (which covers Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau) encapsulates one of the world?s Eastern Boundary Upwelling Systems (EBUS) and is renowned for its high biological productivity. While the region only covers 2 to 3 percent of the global ocean surface area, it supports 8 percent of the global surface primary productivity. supports important fish populations of small pelagic, demersal and tuna resources, which together constitute around 20 to 30 percent of the world fisheries production. Annual production ranges from 2 to 3 million tons, the highest fisheries production of any African LME. The Cabo Verde Islands, situated 570 km off the coast of Senegal, have the largest EEZ of all these countries. Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the LME and has some of the main mangroves covering 2039km² and extensive seagrass areas covering 14559 km². These habitats together with the high productivity support a globally significant diversity of species, which includes a high proportion of endemic and migratory species such as birds, sea turtles and cetaceans. The TDA study (2016) further notes that economic valuation of the ecosystem goods and services indicates that the CCLME generates a yearly economic value of around US\$11.7 billion. One hectare of mangroves alone provides ecosystem services valued at US\$2 235 per year[3]. Overfishing has been identified as one of the most immediate threats for example on the sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*) is fully exploited in Guinea-Bissau ? some of the underlying causes is weak management including weak monitoring, control and surveillance and insufficient scientific and technical capacity for management and poor stakeholder participation in management decisions.

The Guinea Current LME (covering Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe in the Atlantic Ocean SIDS) ? Guinea Bissau sits on the Sherbro sub-system which is the largest continental shelf in West Africa and is an important hydrographic system responsible for thermal stability. SaoTome sits on the Central Gulf of Guinea sub-system and largely depends on nutrient input from land drainage, river flood and turbulent diffusion for its productivity. The GCLME TDA (2006) [4] identified coastal erosion in the southern part of Sao Tome as alarming ? and threatening infrastructure like roads and houses. Beach sand mining was identified a cause of concern as it posed an ecological threat to mangroves and estuaries ecosystems. The TDA notes that the widespread poverty in countries like Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome persists due to environmental linkages and socio-political issues which include the exclusion of women. The environment-poverty linkages include land degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution, erosion, landslides, and climate change.

The GCLME TDA (2006) identified four major perceived problems and issues : (i) decline in GCLME fish stocks and non-optimal harvesting of living resources; (ii) loss of ecosystem integrity (changes in community composition, vulnerable species, and biodiversity, introduction of alien species) and yields in a highly variable environment including effects of global climate change; (iii) deterioration in water quality (chronic and catastrophic) from land and sea-based activities, eutrophication, and harmful algal blooms; and (iv) habitat destruction and alteration including modification of seabed and coastal zone, degradation of coastscapes, and coastline erosion. The GCLME TDA study (2006) also notes that GCLME is home to biologically and socio-economically significant resources. It is one of the world's most productive marine and coastal areas, with valuable wetlands and mangroves (including several Ramsar sites), rich fisheries, oil and gas reserves, precious minerals, and high coastal tourism potential. The total economic value of the GCLME coastal and marine ecosystems was estimated at about US\$17 billion per year[5]; the most valuable services being related to fisheries, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity. For example, Gulf of Guinea is an important annual bird migration route with a number of seabirds breeding between Angola and Guinea-Bissau this includes the gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) and the white-tailed tropic birds (*Phaeton lepturus*). These migratory and endemic species are affected by loss of ecosystem integrity and land-based activities impacting breeding grounds. With regards to fisheries, the region exports more than 5% of the annual catch from both marine and inland species. Any possible contamination of fishery products in the Guinea Current system is a transboundary issue that will have far reaching effects to Europe, America, and other parts of Africa.

The Western Indian Ocean (covers the area with the Agulhas and Somali Current LME (ASCLME)) which is managed under the Convention for the Protection, management and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment in the Eastern Africa Region (Nairobi Convention) covers three SIDS in the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles) - the region is rich and the WIOLaB TDA Study (2008) notes that ecosystem value of the coral reefs is greater than USD 7 billion. The region has a huge coastal tourism sector attracting more than 20 million tourists every year. With regards to the transboundary problems identified in the TDA Comoros faces issues related to degradation of coral reefs, degradation of coastal forests and shoreline changes; in Mauritius degradation of seagrass, coral reefs and coastal forests are the main issues; and in Seychelles degradation of coastal forests and shoreline damages where highlighted[6]. Marine litter is one of the foci of national action in all the WIO small island states in the region with hotspots in Anjouan Port and Famboni Port (in Comoros), Belle Mare/Plamar (in Mauritius)[7].

In recognition of the challenges and opportunities SIDS share, the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) was adopted in 1992 to provide a high-level platform for all SIDS, globally, to more strategically engage from a collective position. Key processes associated with the BPOA include: the 2005 Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), the 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), and the special recognition of SIDS in the 2012 UN Rio+20 Future We Want, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for the further implementation of the Programme Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/70/472/add.2). Notwithstanding this, substantive room remains -as well as an urgent need- for further upscaling the collective role of the SIDS' coastal environment in their national sustainable, climate-resilient development agenda.

This project will support land restoration in Sao Tom and Principe. This country is challenged by the increasing competing demands for food, energy, and urban space. Sloping land on steep mountains have been deforested over time for fuelwood, timber and agriculture expansion and intensification mainly for vegetables given that lowlands are mainly occupied by cash crops (cocoa and coffee). This horticultural production is very demanding in terms of nutrients, has shorter production cycles and is dramatically affected by pests, particularly exacerbated by the impact of climate change, hence significant agricultural inputs (agrochemicals such as nitrogen-based fertilizers and strong pesticides) are required. Additionally, it has been proven that agrochemicals enter the country without the proper sanitary controls and are

administered by poorly trained farmers, provoking long term unknown effects on human health and on the environment.

At the continent level, the African Union Commission (AUC) plays a critical role in supporting the SIDS. The Africa Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) was established in 2016 to advocate for firmer unified actions to address the issue of climate change and biodiversity challenges. The AISCC supported by AUC plays a critical role in providing a platform for SIDS to collaborate towards protecting people, economies, and the environment. In 2023, the AUC created the Blue Economy division under the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture (DREA) to coordinate the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy and its implementation plan developed in 2020. The project will work closely with the AUC during the implantation of this project to ensure policy alignment.

Environmental problems and root causes - globally and in (African) SIDS

The environmental problem and its associated socio-economic impact

Overview

Oceans play a crucial role in sustaining life on earth. They are considered to have absorbed 30 per cent of industrial CO₂ emissions until the mid-1990 as well as more than 90 per cent of the excess heat of the planet between 1971 and 2010. In addition, the oceans provided 96.4 million tons of seafood in 2018. The global economic output of the world's oceans, excluding intangible (non-market) benefits is estimated to US\$2.4-2.6 trillion per year. The African SIDS manage vast ocean territories as they have water bodies and wetlands of strategic importance to the continent providing opportunities for fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, coastal tourisms, offshore oil and gas energy mobilisation and other blue economy related activities. However, they are increasingly facing a number of challenges that impact them from realizing the full benefits from the various sectors of the blue economy[8]. The threats and their underlying causes to the socio-economic services in the African SIDS can be summarized as follows:

Increasing unsustainable use of ocean and coastal areas exacerbated by climate change

Over the past decades, pressures on the natural resources have grown significantly, globally and also in the African SIDS. The cumulative impacts of anthropogenic activities are increasingly affecting the land and the surrounding oceans and the services they provide, with annual socio-economic costs of e.g. unsustainable ocean use now approaching \$1 trillion per year (UNDP estimate). Those pressures have **negatively impacted** the capacity of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems to provide the goods and services that are critical to human well-being, and thus, the **opportunities to support livelihoods and socio-economic development**. Examples include overfishing in Guinea-Bissau; degradation of coral reefs, coastal forests and shoreline changes in Comoros; degradation of seagrass, coral reefs and coastal forests in Mauritius; and degradation of coastal forests and shoreline damages in Seychelles[9].

The impacts of unsustainable use of ocean and land resources in African SIDS are increasingly being further **aggravated by climate change**. As growing demand and technological advances allow the exploitation of even more - and new - marine resources, oceans are being recognized as a new frontier for economic development. The rush of public and private sectors to harness this potential holds the inherent risk of further exacerbating the damage done to marine ecosystems, with cascading effects on economies, and on people who depend upon them.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report highlights several climate change impacts of concern for Africa's Blue Economy. For example, African sea levels are currently rising slightly faster than the global average. By 2100, sea-level rise can reach 0.4 to 0.5 meters under low-warming scenarios and 0.8 to 0.9 meters under high-warming scenarios. The rise of sea levels, combined with more intense and frequent rainstorms, will change the current 1-in-100-year coastal flooding events to a return period of only 10 to 20 years by 2050. By 2100, this return period reduces to between 5 years to annually, even under moderate warming. The implications of this trend for urban and rural populations of coastal Africa are enormous. The rising temperature of sea water is projected to have significant impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity. For example, primary production by phytoplankton, and also fish distribution and abundance, are projected to be significantly affected.

For African SIDS, their surrounding ocean or sea are both an asset and a liability. The long coastlines of SIDS make them vulnerable to a range of climate change impacts, and their economies are often heavily dependent on natural resource. In the long term, rising sea levels pose the greatest threat to African SIDS. Moreover, ocean acidification is already having a significant impact on coral reefs, which, in turn is adversely affecting tourism and threatening livelihoods dependent on marine species[10]. The IPCC AR6 notes that as sea surface temperatures increase, it is also likely that storm surges will become more intense and frequent[11]. Many SIDS are situated in a tropical cyclone belt that extends between 5 and 20 degrees north and south of the equator. Increased cyclone activity will degrade coral reefs, destroy crops, damage infrastructure and other physical assets, resulting in a loss of both lives and livelihoods, impact key industries such as tourism and, in some cases, may induce the permanent relocation of certain communities[12]. Climate change is projected to worsen water insecurity and frequency of droughts in African SIDS[13]. African SIDS of the Western Indian Ocean have been impacted by several cyclones that have caused major loss and damages. For instance, Cyclone Freddy in 2023 was recorded as both the longest-lasting and highest-Accumulated Cyclone Energy-producing tropical cyclone. In 2022 Cyclone Batsirai left more than a thousand households without power in Mauritius.[14]

Land Degradation

Due to the small size of most SIDS, the areas available for urban settlement, agriculture, mining, commercial forestry, tourism and other infrastructure is often very limited. Coupled with a complex set of land tenure systems, soil types, relief and climatic variation, proper planning and use of land resources is essential in SIDS, not only to ensure the sustainability of terrestrial natural resources and agricultural systems, but also to preserve the country's coastal and marine natural assets, due to the strong interlinkages between processes on land and the sea (in particular the coastal areas).

Considering the reduced land mass and proximity of the coastlines, for SIDS, land planning will often be intrinsically linked with the integrated management and protection of the coastal zone, and consideration of source-to-sea/ridge-to-reef (S2S/R2R) connections may be key to sustainable island development. SIDS are also continuously under threat from the effects of land degradation which can undermine their economic potential by exacerbating the environmental vulnerabilities unique to SIDS, such as climate change, flash floods, soil erosion, lagoon siltation, coastal erosion, and sea level rise, in a context of limited available land[15]. Addressing land degradation has been set as a priority by all the African SIDS and is seen as a means to complement the implementation of the **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme**, the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. Since land degradation has both poverty and global environment dimensions, integrated solutions are required to support interventions that address both dimensions.

An opportunity will be provided to pilot a Source to Sea/Ridge to Reef (S2S/R2R) approach by this project in the case of Sao Tom and Principe, through an allocation of part of the country's GEF7 LD STAR allocation. While Sao Tom and Principe is the only African SIDS counting with Land Degradation financial support resources under this project, other African SIDS will still stand to benefit from the Sao Tom and Principe activities through the exchange of good practices and lessons learned. Sao Tom and

Príncipe submitted a LDN Report to the UNCCD in February 2023 which showed that 26,900 hectares were considered degraded covering about 29% of the country.[16] Land degradation in São Tomé e Príncipe is mainly caused by commercial logging, unsustainable agriculture and rapid human population growth. Steep mountain slopes have been deforested over time to expand crop production with approximately one-third of natural forests converted into shade plantations and agro-forestry systems. Also, fuelwood consumption is very high, and wood is still used as main commodity in the local construction sector. Most of the remaining forested areas are found in inaccessible mountains and remote valleys covering 28 per cent of the country with 44 per cent of them classified as primary forests.

Land-Based Sources of Pollution

Land-based sources of pollution, such as sewage and wastewater, persistent organic pollutants (including pesticides), heavy metals, oils, nutrients, and sediments that flow downstream into coastal habitats, pose a threat to the health of coastal and marine ecosystems, and in turn can limit the possibilities of developing the blue economy. In São Tomé and Príncipe, horticulture is quickly expanding. Its production is very demanding in terms of nutrients and pesticides. The application of these agro-chemicals has negative impact on coastal and ocean biodiversity as they end up in surface waterways and groundwater layers that outlet into the sea. This has negative implications on local food and nutrition security. Vulnerable families living in rural and coastal areas are the most affected due to the consequent decline of fish stocks. Applying a ridge-to-reef approach in São Tomé e Príncipe, by adopting measures to reduce environmental degradation in the uplands ("ridge") as well as in coastal ecosystems ("reef") will help support healthy ecosystems. Applying integrated approaches to land, water, forest, biodiversity, and coastal resource management is important to help reduce poverty, improve livelihoods and enhance climate resilience.

Duly restoring and protecting and harnessing the African SIDS' (marine and coastal) natural capital to underpin recovery and resilience-building efforts is therefore both critical and urgent. Threats to the oceans and coasts, and their contributing watersheds, are to be addressed in a thorough and comprehensive way. Key and inter-connected areas of particular concern remain: (i) degradation of land and marine habitats; (ii) unsustainable fishing; (iii) marine pollution, and the (iv) cross-cutting concern of climate change.

The main issues for the participating countries with regard to blue economy have been identified in **Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA's)** for the corresponding Large Marine Ecosystems (LME's), produced with the support of the GEF [financing](#).[17]

Environment-poverty linkages

In several of the African SIDS, decades of political turmoil and low human development indices, combined with the added shocks from natural disasters, have not allowed the aforementioned trend of marine environmental degradation to be stopped. Together with the often-pronounced levels of land degradation, this constitutes a severe decline of the overall resource base available to help support sustainable development.

In addition to this and more recently, the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have further complicated socio-economic conditions in many SIDS. The socio-economic downturn triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the vulnerabilities faced by SIDS. While virus incidence has been relatively moderate, the pandemic has laid bare their fragility, with social and economic impacts that persist beyond the health crisis. SIDS experience economic impacts through the reduction of remittance flows, disappearing tourism demand, reduced fishing, and limited borrowing options for foreign currency. The shock to international tourism caused by global travel restrictions has had devastating

impacts on economies as a whole, and particularly on communities and livelihoods dependent on this sector. But while SIDS have struggled with these development constraints, they possess potential for innovation to turn their challenges into opportunities for recovery that will allow them to build back better. In fact, African SIDS may be well placed to become innovation incubators for nature-based solutions and new sustainable Blue Economy sectors that may be replicated and scaled up. Today, however, as in many places of the world, also in the African SIDS countries, the economic recovery and national aspirations for the development of resilient blue economies are set against a baseline of 3 interlinked trends: (i) growing ocean-based activities with the associated risk of increasing and accumulating environmental stressors/impacts; (ii) increasing impacts from natural disasters, and (iii) an overall decline in natural (ocean) resources and (marine) ecosystem health.

Root causes of environmental degradation

In the Western Indian Ocean Region (covering Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles) the main threats identified to the critical coastal and marine ecosystems in the TDA were physical alteration and destruction of habitats; water and sediment quality deterioration due to pollution; and the alteration of freshwater flows and sediment loads[18]. For the Canary Current LME (covering Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde) the transboundary problems identified are the decline of living marine resources, loss of biodiversity (disappearance of mangroves, modification of seabed habitats, degradation of wetlands), and the deterioration of water quality (due to alien invasive species, salinity changes and pollution)[19]. For the Guinea Current (covering Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe) the major perceived transboundary problems and issues were decline in fish stocks due to unsustainable practices, loss of ecosystem integrity, deterioration in water quality for land and sea-based activities, habitat destruction due to modification of seabed and coastal zones[20].

A review of the TDAs developed for the LMEs covering the African African SIDS, other documents reviewed and consultations done highlight the following cross-cutting root causes of the aforementioned persistent threats to the marine/natural environment:

(1) Limited human and financial resources: African SIDS do not have financial resources, whether in absolute terms or through inadequate priority setting, for effective management of the coastal and marine environment. The capacity in terms of human resources is also limited.

(2) Inadequate (access to) data and information: In most SIDS, there is a lack of baseline information for understanding the complex interplay between and within natural and human systems in small islands. Consequently, most SIDS have not been able to undertake in-depth, nationwide assessments to support the blue economy growth[21].

(3) Inadequate knowledge, awareness and involvement of public/private sector: this includes limited understanding and consideration of: (a) how a healthy and well-protected biosphere is key to sustainable development, and, related to this and more specifically: (b) the (opportunity) value of ecosystem goods and services; gaps in the knowledge base and inadequate awareness of the value of ecosystem goods and services provided by a healthy coastal and marine environment are a major cause of management inefficiencies by coastal communities and policy makers.[22]

(5) Population and cultural pressures: Rapid population growth and associated urbanization has increased the generation of waste and concentration of waste streams. Also, population growth has led to increased demand for ecosystem goods and services. This

(6) Climate change and natural variability: Climate change and variability in the African SIDS is already influencing rainfall patterns, evidenced by the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events,

changing the flow patterns of rivers (causing floods and impacting on floodplains, deltas, and coastal ecosystems) and other events such as the bleaching of corals[23].

(7) Trade and external dependencies: SIDS face dual challenge of limited land resources and ever-increasing development pressures due to globalization. Economic diversification to create greater economic independence and resilience is critical to SIDS, but this is a significant challenge given the narrow resource base and relatively limited number of economic activities[24].

(8) Inequality and high poverty levels: The environment-poverty linkage has been identified in all the TDAs as this will result in increased reliance on the exploitation of natural resources. The consequent lack of financial resources has led to problems such as inadequate sanitation infrastructure, and institutions and regulatory bodies lacking capacity[25].

Critically important, however, in this context, is the acknowledgment of the **main, overarching root cause: weak national, transboundary and/or regional governance frameworks**, hampering the deployment of the integrated approaches required to enable sustainable and climate-resilient socio-economic development. **There exists a weakness in policy, legal instruments, institutional structures and building blocks for effective management of the coastal and marine environment.**

Tackling the aforementioned root causes will be very difficult, if not impossible, without the adoption of the following proposed, more mobilizing paradigm shift: from a ?problem-focused? approach to the environmental crisis, to a more aspirational outlook which, while fully acknowledging the aforementioned challenges, also and especially recognizes the opportunities provided by the African SIDS marine and coastal (and terrestrial) natural capital, and their potential to support positive change.

Such paradigm shift, which is very much aligned with the concept of the Blue Economy, will provide an enabler for bringing together the wider array of societal actors (public, private, civil society, academia), and will be key to progressively putting the African SIDS on the path towards dealing with the aforementioned root causes in a more holistic, integrated way.

Barriers to be addressed

Barriers that will have to be removed in order to successfully tackle the above root causes include:

Weak governance and limited institutional development (barrier #1): an assessment conducted by the Global Climate Adaptation Centre (GCA) as of June 2022 shows that African SIDS have drafted and published official Blue Economy strategies, and Seychelles, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Cabo Verde have drafted action plans for their strategies. However, **no country has a holistic policy, with regulatory tools for Blue Economy development over the long term, passed into law.** The assessment also shows that the island nations of the Seychelles and Mauritius are the most advanced in their institutional approach to the Blue Economy, given its significant role in their economies overall. Both nations have an active Blue Economy coordinating unit (the Seychellois Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy, and the Mauritian Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping)[26]. This project presents an opportunity for other SIDS to learn from them.

Sectoral fragmentation and inadequate institutional arrangements among key stakeholders involved in the ocean economy (barrier #2) constitutes a critical barrier. Limited collaboration as noted in the TDAs due to lack of coordination of administrative decisions affecting the development and/or exploitation of the coastal and marine natural resources makes it difficult, for example, to optimize the use of limited human and financial resources (root cause 1) through better coordination. To address the transboundary problems identified, adequate access to data and information (root cause 2) is needed across sectors. Cooperation across ocean-using sectors is therefore critical in order to facilitate 'win-wins'; at the regional level, collaboration among countries needs to be strengthened to implement the identified actions in the regional Strategic Action Plans for the LMEs and key documents like the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and its action plan, and deployment of more integrated approaches to ocean/natural resources governance (over-arching root cause).

Lack of business models that work for both public and private sector and wide-ranging societal partnerships that successfully engage key ocean and land users (barrier # 3). There is an absence of a paradigm shift from a 'problem'-focused approach on ocean degradation towards a more balanced focus on 'challenges and opportunities' (which would instead highlight the socio-economic opportunities to be provided and/or enabled through enhanced ocean and land conservation and restoration) is another important barrier: a failure to more explicitly link of the ocean, and its protection and restoration, to land use and socio-economic development would contribute to a perpetuation of lack of coordination amongst different ocean and land stakeholder groups, in particular those advocating for ocean protection and conservation, and those seeking to exploit and use marine and coastal resources (i.e. feedback loop with barrier # 1) and negatively impact efforts to remove/resolve several of the root causes, including root causes on inadequate public awareness and involvement, inadequate consideration of the value of ecosystem goods and services and population and cultural pressures; it would hence also jeopardize the **creation of partnerships** in the development and implementation of the new SAPs.

We refer in the context of barriers #1-2 to the highly relevant concept of interactive (ocean) governance, which can be defined as 'the whole of interactions among all sectors of society (governments, civil society, private/productive sectors, and academia) (i.e. also embracing the science-policy interface), to resolve (ocean-related) societal problems and to create (ocean-based) societal opportunities, with successful (integrated, interactive) ocean/ridge-to-reef/source-to-sea governance demanding concerted and complementary action from all sectors of society. Failure to strengthen the ocean governance issues would lead to a perpetuation of the overarching root cause of weak governance. The land degradation demonstration project in Sao Tome and Principe is well linked to this barrier among others.

Limited technical capacity for mainstreaming of sustainable blue economy in decision-making, management actions and investments (barrier # 4) constitute an important barrier to the selection of actions, and the prioritization of decisions and investments that are most prone to lead to sustainable solutions.

With African SIDS being particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, in addition to having been severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the pressure to deploy and fully focus on short-term emergency measures will often remain high. In this context, **limited data, information, and knowledge on blue economy and inadequate understanding of potential impacts of future development activities in SIDS (barrier # 5)** in favor of short-term gains becomes a real threat. Now, more than ever, does the introduction, exploration and implementation of the concept of sustainable ocean-based economies, or 'blue economies' provide a singular opportunity.

For Sao Tome and Principe there are **high rates of land and coastline erosion that exacerbate the threat to the country's resources as well as infrastructure.** Because of their location on a volcanic

chain of islands, the country's population and economic activities are mainly located along the coastline. Plains and steep slopes are mainly used for intensified agriculture that uses large amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Because the lion's share of the economic activity and population lies along the coast, a large part of the national road network also hugs the shoreline, but stronger and increasingly unpredictable spring storm surges, combined with extensive illegal sand mining for construction, have led to high rates of coastline erosion of about 0.2-1.2 meters a year[27], which exacerbates the threat to STP's coastal resources as well as infrastructure. Tourism has so far been associated with these coastal areas and remains an important source of revenue for the national economy. These coastal roads and increased tourism activity along them exacerbate the damage done by coastal erosion and increase the economic costs from loss.

Furthermore, in Sao Tome and Principe the overexploitation of sand for construction is a clear example in which the full costs to the ocean economy are not well understood. The low price of sand illegally extracted from the beach allows for affordable construction, which does not consider the cost of increased coastal erosion from sand mining and beach destruction. These activities impose on other oceanic sectors, leading to loss of natural capital and potentially lost revenue. Assessments on the impact on the blue economy sectors need to be conducted[28].

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The inventory of stakeholders and relevant sister projects, initiated during the PPG and to be continued during the project, and the preliminary identification of third-party success stories and initiatives - an effort that will also continue during the project - will also allow to further explore and forge additional strategic alliances partnership that will allow to bundle and scale efforts, to pursue synergies as well as sustainability (e.g. by engaging with partners with relevant long-term mandates and sustainable funding).

Considering that all 6 participating countries are SIDS, in particular, partnering and joint activities with SIDS-supporting, or SIDS-driven, well established organizations and initiatives will also be considered/sought with the SDG Small Island Developing States Partnership.

The national Responsible Parties for demonstration projects would bring different angels to the implementation and a clear multi sector approach such as i) Fisheries, Marine and shipping, ii) Biodiversity, Climate Change and Agriculture, and iii) Infrastructure and Natural Resources. The national governmental stakeholders are Cabo Verde Ministry of the Sea with the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mauritius Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. The Comoros' Environment with General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF); Sao Tome and Principe Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN) with the General Directorate of Environment (DGA); Guinea-Bissau Institute of Biodiversity and Protected areas (IBAP); and Seychelles Ministry of Agriculture, climate Change and environment (MACCE).

The project also has foreseen to involve other stakeholders and relevant projects and look for synergies, complementarities that would lead to forge additional strategic alliances and partnerships, as well as to identify third party success stories and initiatives.

Given the rather wide geographic scope and array of thematic matters that will be covered by the African SIDS Project, the number of stakeholders and of third-party projects, programmes and initiatives to

which African SIDS can relate (and vice versa) in terms of shared development challenges is undoubtedly very large. Acknowledging the associated persistent risk of duplication of efforts, the development of an inventory of such third-party projects, programmes and initiatives has been initiated during the PPG. The project will seek to continue to expand and actively manage this database in the pursuit of further synergies, collaboration, and complementarity.

In acknowledging the existence of this wider range of initiatives, the African SIDS Project, in its aims to achieve its objective, will clearly not have to start from scratch and/or deliver on the project outcomes in isolation from other related efforts in the African SIDS and/or in individual participating SIDS. The project will instead be able to build on and harvest important contributions from the existing baseline. Many of these baseline elements and parallel contributions are/will be the results from previous, currently ongoing, and newly planned investments, including other projects (co-) financed by the GEF, both in this region and beyond.

Projects and initiatives that can be linked to the African SIDS Project Objective are presented below. Prioritization and/or scoping for additional/newly emerging partnership opportunities, while paying due attention to existing constraints, e.g. in terms of the African SIDS Responsible Parties capacity to engage with such wide variety of agents, will be an ongoing task during project implementation under an adaptive project management approach.

Regional baseline

African Union: All participating countries are part of the African Union and are active in driving the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy. The countries are part of the Islands States Commission which is chaired by the Seychelles. The countries also subscribe to the Agenda 2063 which promotes the Blue Economy. The project will work closely with the Blue Economy Division in the AU Commission and facilitate a Technical Advisor role to build the linkages and synergies. The project will also report its outcomes to the AU Summit through the Specialized Technical Committee overseeing the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy. The Moroni Declaration signed in 2023 acknowledges the unique characteristics of African Island States and the imperative to leverage the tremendous advantages of blue economy development for sustainable production, value addition, investments, and trade towards intra-African and global markets.

AUDA-NEPAD Agency: The Agency has developed a programme to support the implementation of the Blue Economy Strategy in Africa. The development of a cohesive Blue Economy programme at the Agency is targeted at adding the value and supporting African Union Member States. The impact areas of the programme will be on wealth creation, inclusive prosperity, transformative capacities, and environmental sustainability. The technical capacities within AUDA NEPAD will be critical in driving the project forward. The Agency is also implementing a private sector framework to support economic growth in Africa and is exploring the establishment of a Blue Economy Fund for Africa. The Agency will support implementation of Component 1 - on developing instruments and private sector engagement and also Component 2 at the local level.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area: All five target countries have signed the AfCFTA and deposit the instrument of ratification, Cabo Verde (05/02/2022), The Comoros (19/02/2023), Guinea-Bissau (27/09/2022), Mauritius (07/10/2019), Sao Tome & Principe (27/06/2019), and Seychelles (15/09/2021). Thus, the AfCFTA could be a great opportunity to provide the negotiations of phase I - Trade in goods and services and dispute settlement? and phase II - Intellectual property rights, investment and competition policy? are concluded.

UNECA: Through its Cluster on Sub-Regional Initiatives, provides policy and technical support to governments and regional organizations working towards a thriving and sustainable Blue Economy in Eastern Africa. In 2016, SRO-EA led the production of the Blue Economy Policy Handbook for Africa, an essential tool for developing strategic policy frameworks for the sustainable use and management of aquatic resources. The Handbook's methodology has been leveraged for the Blue Economy strategies in

Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, and regionally by the Indian Ocean Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the African Union. Most recently, SRO-EA's support has focused on valuing the full socio-economic and ecological potential of the African Blue Economy. This includes developing a Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK)[29]. These tools will be instrumental in taking Component 1 forward.

Nairobi Convention: Administered by UNEP, provides a platform for governments, civil society, and the private sector to work together for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It covers the countries in the West Indian Ocean ? the Convention has also developed a number of tools and supported the 3 SIDS in the Indian Ocean within the ASCLME.

Abidjan Convention: Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal environment of the West and Central African Region covering all the 3 SIDS in the Atlantic Ocean but have not ratified the convention. The Convention covers the Canary Current LME and the Guinea Current LME.

The Indian Ocean Commission: promotes diversified cooperation for the sustainable development of the Indian Ocean region: integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, environmental education, health, governance, maritime safety, agroecology, culture ? and the 3 SIDS in the Indian Ocean are part of the commission. The project will build synergies with the IOC ? in order to promote learning under Component 3.

Regional Economic Communities: SADC and ECCAS ? are key in driving the blue economy in Southern Africa and Central Africa respectively and have developed Strategic Frameworks. Cooperation with the RECs will be critical in rolling out the Blue Governance Framework in Africa and also for reporting to regional ministerial meetings. Doing so will facilitate the achievement of common/shared and/or complementary objectives and goals, by fostering better coordination, programming and collaboration, by achieving complementarity and/or pooling of resources, through the creation of synergies and economies of scale participating countries getting together under the umbrella of a single GEF Project, with both national-level and regional-level Components, by itself also already creates a partnership for joint and mutually supportive action towards the development of sustainable, climate resilient national blue economies.

Regional GEF projects

- ? FAO/GEF project (ID 9940) ?Towards Sustainable Management of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) ? Initial Support to SAP Implementation? ? which is aimed at creating enabling conditions for the effective implementation of the CCLME SAP. The proposed project will align and build on the outputs of this project in Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau.
- ? FAO/UNEP/GEF project (ID 1909) ?Protection of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem? supported countries in addressing priority transboundary concerns on declining fisheries, associated biodiversity, and water quality through governance reforms. Lessons from the project will be built on in supporting the SIDS in the CCLME.
- ? World Bank/GEF project (Project ID 9906) ?West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project? is a regional project covering Sao Tome and Principe in the Guinea Current LME. In Sao Tome and Principe, the activities include review of policy, legal and institutional frameworks related to coastal erosion and floods; harmonize the existing policy and actions linked to coastal risks. These will be an important building block in the implementation of the

pilot project on sustainable land management which will reinforce the Sao Tome and Principe's commitment to their LDN Targets.

? The Nairobi Convention has implemented a number of projects that will provide a base for the proposed project. The UNEP/GEF Project (ID 1247) ?Addressing Land-based activities in the West Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB) - which focused on understanding the transboundary environmental problems and developed a TDA and SAP. A follow-up UNEP/GEF project (ID 4940) ?Implementation of the SAP for the protection of the West Indian Ocean from Land Based Sources and Activities (WIO-SAP)? ? provide an incremental basis for the proposed project. Cooperation with the West Indian Ocean Marine Association (WIOMSA), a regional knowledge and scientific institution, will also be facilitated to build a science-knowledge base.

? Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) a UNDP/GEF project (ID 5513) ? aims to achieve effective Long-Term Ecosystem Management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in Line with the Strategic Action Programme as Endorsed by the Participating Countries - the project will also build on this initiative to enhance ocean governance.

? This project will also create synergies with the GEF-8 Integrated Programme on Blue and Green Islands led by UNDP that seeks to facilitate nature-positive development and reduce ecosystem degradation in SIDS by valuing nature and applying nature-based solutions with specific application to the food, tourism, and urban sectors. The program includes 15 SIDS across the globe with Cape Verde and Mauritius (FAO-led), Seychelles and Comoros (UNDP-led) under this project.

? UNDP project ?Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemicals Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)? recently started in Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles with focus to prevent the future build-up of materials and chemicals entering SIDS that contain POPs and mercury and other harmful chemicals; to safely manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals, products and materials currently present in those SIDS; and to ensure the safe management of products continuing to enter SIDS by closing materials and product loops. The ultimate objective of the project is to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

? WB project ?First South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish)? implemented in Comoros, Mozambique and Tanzania to to improve the management effectiveness of selected priority fisheries at regional, national and community levels.

? FAO project ?Delivering Sustainable Environmental, Social and Economic Benefits in West Africa through Good Governance, Correct Incentives and Innovation? implemented in Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal to strengthen fisheries governance, management and value chains, through the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries, of relevant international instruments and of innovative governance partnerships in three countries in West Africa.

? UNEP project ?Implementing Sustainable and Low Income Non-Chemicals Development in Atlantic SIDS (ISLANDS addendum)? implemented in Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe to prevent the build-up in the environment of material and chemicals that contain POPs and mercury and other harmful chemicals and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals stocks in SIDS.

- ? WB project ?West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project? implemented in Benin, S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe, Togo to improve management of shared natural and man-made risks, including climate change, affecting targeted coastal communities and areas in the West Africa region.

Regional Non-GEF Projects

- ? In 2021 ?WIOMSA and UN Habitat commissioned the preparation of a Status Report for Coastal Cities of the WIO Region and the Blue Economy. The report highlights the critical role of coastal cities in the Western Indian Ocean Region for the Blue Economy, emphasizing their significance as hubs of trade, tourism, and marine resource management. The report identifies challenges such as unplanned urban growth, climate change impacts, and the need for sustainable management practices. It suggests that addressing these challenges through integrated planning, investment in sustainable infrastructure, and enhanced governance can support Blue Economy growth. In 2023 WIOMSA launched a programme titled ?Sustainable Blue Future in the Western Indian Ocean ? Institutional Strengthening through Science, Capacity, and Assimilation for a Sustainable Blue Future ? SCALABLE? (2023-2026)?. The SCALABLE programme focuses on the theme of "Ocean Science and Policy for Sustainable Development," which aims to make the best science and policy available in its broadest sense, including social and economic aspects, to assist societies in the WIO in restoring and protecting biodiversity, ensuring food security in the face of climate change, and ultimately leading to a resilient, sustainable, productive and inclusive blue economy. These findings are pertinent to the African SIDS project, offering insights into sustainable coastal urban development, economic diversification, and environmental conservation strategies.

- ? WB project ?Sustainable and Resilient Tourism in Small Islands and Coastal Destinations? implemented in S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe, Gambia, and Cabo Verde to promote Blue Economy, improving the knowledge of how small developing coastal and island states can increase their competitiveness, in the midst of COVID-19.

- ? UNDP project ?restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future? implemented in Mauritius and Seychelles to reduce the impact of climate change on local communities and coral reef-dependent economic sectors in the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles by implementing coral reef restoration with thermal tolerant corals as adaptation to climate change.

National baseline

The national baseline is reviewed considering the following aspects of the Blue Economy in each country (i) BE Policy/ Law(s) (ii) BE Action and/or Investment Plans (iii) the institutional framework and status of national intersectoral ocean coordination mechanisms (iv) Blue Economy Scoping Assessments (v) blue economy financing instruments (vi) Natural Capital Accounting/ Ecosystem Services Assessment (vii) Status of Marine Environment Reporting (viii) Marine Spatial Planning (ix) programmes/initiatives the proposed project will build on

Cabo Verde

The OECD made an assessment report on the "Sustainable Ocean Economy Country Diagnostics of Cabo Verde" in 2022. The report presents new data on, and a comprehensive, cross-sectoral analysis of the ocean economy. It examines economic and sustainability trends, assesses the country's ocean

governance architecture, and explores policies and financing instruments for a more sustainable ocean economy [30].

The Cabo Verde's Stock Exchange has established a sustainable finance platform Blue-X created for listing and trading sustainable and inclusive financial instruments for the development of the green and social economy. As of 2023 ? Blue-X has raised over US\$26 million in the capital markets through the issuance of green, social, sustainability-linked, and blue bonds. In 2023, the platform listed a US\$3.5 million blue bond ? which will supply affordable loans to microentrepreneurs and startups in coastal communities, investing in small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the maritime and fisheries sectors[31]. The project also will seek alignment with the strengthening of the financial instruments in Cabo Verde ? the aim will be to build on these SME driven projects through the implementation of pilot projects.

With regards to the status of Marine Environment Reporting Cape Verde has an established system for marine environment reporting, with regular updates like the National Report on the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the State of the Marine Environment Report (2018).and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as the development is in its early stages. The country is also working on strengthening Marine Spatial Planning working with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries who have adopted a Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide (MSRoadmap).

There are a number of programmes/initiatives that the proposed project will build on to ensure incremental support. Cabo Verde has placed a strong emphasis on the Blue Economy as a cornerstone of its development agenda, actively fostering a transition towards the Blue Economy under the national "Promotion of the Blue Economy Program" with support from FAO and the African Development Bank Group. This initiative builds on prior milestones such as the adoption of a Charter on Blue Growth in 2015. The World Bank initiated the "Resilient Tourism and Blue Economy Development in Cabo Verde" project in 2022. With the aim of unleashing the potential of the blue economy, the Joint SDG Fund supported the country in creating the enabling framework for financing solutions in the country's sustainable finance landscape. Alignment with the UNDP/GEF project, "Managing multiple sector threats on marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable blue growth" aimed at strengthening systemic and institutional capacity for reducing multiple threats to globally significant marine ecosystems and achieve sustainable blue growth, will be ensured.

The following organizations/institutions provided grant co-financing for synergies and complementarity with this project in Cabo Verde:

- ? UNDP Cabo Verde: conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde.
- ? Camara Municipal of Ribeira Grande Santiago, Cabo Verde: conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde.
- ? National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros: conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde
- ? Camara Municipal of Ribeira Grande Santiago, Cabo Verde: conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde.

Comoros

There isn't a comprehensive assessment of the Comoros blue economy yet. However, several ongoing initiatives and reports shed light on different aspects of its potential and challenges. The World Bank Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) published in 2023, this analysis assesses the Comoros' natural capital, including its marine resources, and provides recommendations for sustainable management. This

is the first CEA for Comoros and, as such, it constitutes an unprecedented opportunity to open avenues for effective natural resource management[32]. Another assessment conducted is the Nairobi Convention Secretariat Comoros-Ocean Economy Profile it provides an overview of the Comoros' ocean economy sectors, highlighting their contributions to GDP and employment. The status of marine environment reporting is scattered in these reports ? the project will support efforts to develop a comprehensive State of the Marine Environment to support informed decision making.

The World Bank CEA recognises the importance of natural capital accounting for informed decision-making and sustainable development in Comoros. The CEA recommends initiatives to strengthen data collection, improve valuation methods and develop a basic natural accounting framework for the country.

The project will build on initiatives that have been supporting the ocean economy in Comoros such as the UNDP/GEF Strengthening of Multisector and Decentralised Environmental Management and Coordination to Achieve the Objectives of the Rio Conventions in the Union of Comoros? which ended in June 2023 ? and supported the strengthening of capacities for multi-sectoral, coordinated, and decentralised management of the environment to achieve the Rio Conventions. Comoros was also part of the Improving management of coral reefs and fisheries funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by FAO ? the project was focused on supporting local fishers on mitigating the threats to and conservation of coral reefs. The project will build on the lessons learned from the project in implementing the pilot project in Comoros.

The following organizations/institutions provided grant co-financing for synergies and complementarity with this project in Comoros:

- ? Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC), Comoros: building the technical capacity of non-state actors, including CSOs, small-scale fisher associations and the private sector to engage in relevant fisheries processes, including policy reform in the project area.
- ? UNDP CO ? Comoros: vulnerable populations, in particular, youth, women, and people living with disability are enabled to access and benefit from the positive impacts of the development of the green blue and circular and digital economies.
- ? Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini, Comoros : Work on contributing to the development of the legal and institutional framework governing aquaculture and in the restoration of coastal ecosystems
- ? National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros: conservation of the natural resources of marine protected area and blue economy of Cabo Verde
- ? Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores : Work on strengthening systemic, institutional, technical and operational capacities to manage natural resources in PAs, Increased protection of important species and habitats through improved management effectiveness, Strengthening value chain capacities, private enterprises and local communities to generate new sources of income based on the sustainable valuation of ecosystem goods and services within PAs and provide increased opportunities for women and people living with disabilities (PLWD) to benefit from ecosystem goods and services in PAs and to integrate into nature-based value chains
- ? Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores : strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks and capacities for effective management of marine and coastal resources, improving the livelihoods of communities within the national PA network and ensure knowledge management, gender equity and empowerment of PLHIV.

Guinea-Bissau

In Guinea-Bissau, assessments have been done at sector level ? like fisheries, transport, and trade. There is no single comprehensive assessment of the ocean economy that has been developed to give an overview. There is also not a fully established and implemented system of natural capital accounting to support decision-making in a blue economy. There is an opportunity to learn from other countries in the proposed project like Mauritius. Guinea-Bissau is a party to several international conventions related to marine conservation and pollution, including the MARPOL Convention, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment in West and Central Africa. These conventions require regular reporting on specific aspects of the marine environment, such as pollution levels, fisheries management, and protected areas. With regards to MSPs there is potential for strengthening capacities in Guinea-Bissau ? the MAMI WATA project supporting the Abidjan Convention in the region has been providing training on MSP tools. This project will build on this work to support the MSP efforts planned in Guinea-Bissau.

The following organizations/institutions provided grant co-financing for synergies and complementarity with this project in Guinea-Bissau:

- ? UNDP CO - Guinea-Bissau: strengthening the development and realisation of sustainable blue economies in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS through improved governance, blue economy demonstrations and knowledge management.
- ? BioGuinea Foundation, Guinea-Bissau: Community resilience, in particular community depending on mangrove resources and ecosystem services, and protected areas management efficiency regarding the Casheu Park.

Mauritius

In Mauritius, the proposed project will build on the initiatives being driven by the Ministry of Blue Economy which is driving the implementation of the Ocean Economy Roadmap. Other key projects that the project will build on is the UNDP supported ?Demonstrating Innovative Ocean Governance Mechanisms and Delivering Best Practices and Lessons for Extended Continental Shelf Management Within the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem?. The UNDP project undertook an environmental baseline assessment of the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems, to fill information gaps needed to improve management decision-making. Another initiative that this proposed project will be incremental to is the UNDP/GEF project (ID 5514) ?Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius? focused on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in coastal zone management.

UNDP provided grant co-financing for synergies and complementarity with this project in Mauritius in the area of restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future.

S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe

In Sao Tome and Principe, the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Assessment led by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA) examined the effectiveness of the country?s public financial management (PFM) systems in supporting blue economy initiatives. The assessment highlights areas where financial resources can be allocated more strategically for impactful blue economy development. The Hand-in-Hand initiative has also carried out assessments of the economic and environmental impacts of various investment projects related to blue economy development. However, a sing comprehensive Blue Economy Assessment needs to be conducted in order

to have a better understanding of sectors ? in order to maximise their economic value in a sustainable manner.

Efforts include creating conditions for implementing coastal-marine spatial planning with a focus on coastal areas and strengthening financing for area-based marine conservation measures. This involves planning for the regulated use of coastal-marine space, advancing national development targets, and developing management plans for Marine Protected Areas, including financing strategies??. Sao Tome and Principe has conducted various assessments reporting to the UN Conventions. The capacity to develop natural capital accounts needs to be developed ? there are ongoing processes supported by OECD and working with Portugal and Cabo Verde to promote Blue Economy Satellite Accounting. These efforts to promote natural capital accounting are being led by the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE).

The GCF Readiness project implemented by the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy called ?Enhance capacities of Sao Tome and Principe in addressing the effects of climate change in key sectors of the Blue Economy? is a key activity that this proposed GEF support will engage with. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Hand-in-Hand Initiative: this initiative supports STP's transition to the blue economy, particularly in the fishing and aquaculture sectors. It involves assessments of the economic and environmental impacts of various investment projects related to blue economy development.

The following set a baseline for the African SIDS project component on Land degradation:

? The UNDP/GEF project (ID 10007) ?Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management? supports the UNCCD agenda by enhancing capacities and frameworks for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The proposed project will be incremental to the support ? through piloting approaches to address land degradation. It focuses on sustainable land management practices, particularly in organic vegetable production in S?o Tom?'s highlands, and strengthens regulatory frameworks and monitoring capacities for agrochemical use. This approach integrates environmental sustainability crucial for combating land degradation and supporting the country's commitment to the UNCCD objectives??.

? Another project supporting the LDN targets is the ?Landscape Restoration for Ecosystem Functionality and Climate Change Mitigation in the Republic of S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe? and is part of the framework programme of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) implemented by FAO, IUCN and UNEP with the objective of promoting the restoration and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

The following organizations/institutions provided grant co-financing for synergies and complementarity with this project in Sao Tome and Principe:

? Oikos Cooperativa e Desenvolvimento, Sao Tom e Principe: Sustainable Land Management and development of agricultural Value Chains in Sao Tom and Principe.

? UNDP CO- Mauritius-Seychelles: Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future.

? UNDP CO - Sao Tome and Principe: development of an ecosystem of organic bio-input manufacturers to produce organic vegetables, supported by the SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility

? World Food Programme: This project aligns closely with the project work on Sustainable Land Management and development of agricultural Value Chains in Sao Tom and Principe, supported by the Country Strategic Plan, activity 2 ?Provide capacity strengthening and coordination support to the Government in providing incentives for sustainable and equitable local food value chains and stimulating smallholder agricultural markets?. This co-financing will be oriented towards Component 1 of the demo project in STP on ?Enhancing capacities and frameworks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Target and NDC goal on agrochemicals?.

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Seychelles

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Seychelles is a global leader in the Blue Economy. The country has been working towards promoting intersectoral cooperation in promoting and implementing the Blue Economy strategy. A National Stakeholder Consultation Forum (Blue Economy Forum) in 2014 was the first step toward building an inclusive process for the development of a blue economy strategy. The Forum brought together national and international participants to explore the opportunities a blue economy could bring to Seychelles (e.g., fisheries value adding, biotechnology, renewable energy, aquaculture, tourism, oil and gas, and infrastructure). The Blue Economy Forum, however, needs to be strengthened through bringing private sector on board to participate. The government established a Blue Economy Ministerial Council in 2019 chaired by the Vice President, to provide strategic leadership and oversight, and a Multi-Stakeholder Forum as a platform for dialogue and advice to the Ministerial Council on cross-sectoral implementation of blue economy. These structures have faced their challenges in their operations and at some times have not functioned ? with issues of duplication, relationships to other mechanisms, collaboration between blue economy institutions, and lack of continuity of high-level oversight and meaningful participation of stakeholders[33].

A Socio-economic and ecological evaluation of the Blue Economy in Seychelles was conducted with support from UNECA in 2021. This analytical report presents the results of a refined assessment of Seychelles' Blue Economy using the UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK) framework. report provides sound context relating to the Blue Economy in Seychelles, as well as the findings of the analysis relating to the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of the Blue Economy. The economy dimension of Seychelles Blue Economy used national accounting data held by the National Bureau of Statistics. The social dimension used several different indices to return its result, which took the form of

both a positive and a negative composite social indicator score[34]. Key recommendations from the evaluation note that there is a need for adoption of ocean and natural capital accounts by the country. This will assist with centralising data regarding natural stocks and flows; and national collaborations specifically between government departments, as well as government and NGOs and the private sector should be enhanced. High volumes of natural capital data are available in Seychelles. However, due to the number of independent organisations obtaining data is difficult, and it is not stored in a standardised format.

Seychelles has also conducted an EEZ-wide Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). This commitment is evidenced by over 30% of its EEZ already under protection. Additionally, The Nature Conservancy's Mapping Ocean Wealth team, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) and the World Bank's SWIOFish3 programme, conducted a study on the ecosystem services of Seychelles' marine protected areas. Key findings highlight the significant protection provided by coral reefs to shorelines, the substantial blue carbon storage within protected areas, and the economic value generated from coral reefs and natural beaches, underlining the importance of these ecosystems to Seychelles' environmental sustainability and tourism economy. By emphasizing marine spatial planning, ecosystem service assessment, and the efficient use of natural resources, the project supports Seychelles' goals of sustainable economic growth, environmental conservation, and climate change mitigation. The focus on harnessing the economic potential of marine resources while preserving their ecological integrity dovetails with Seychelles' initiatives, such as the sovereign blue bond and the comprehensive approach to managing its marine protected areas.

Seychelles has led in pioneering the launch of the world's first sovereign blue bond. Seychelles has achieved international visibility, thanks to a successful debt swap for conservation and climate change adaptation in 2015 and the issuing of the first blue bond for transitioning to sustainable fisheries in 2018 both of which contributing to the implementation of Seychelles blue economy roadmap. The United Nations Development Program's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) conducted a series of investigations in Seychelles with a view to assist with implementing biodiversity financing, BIOFIN identified a series of possibilities for financing biodiversity protection and management. The Seychelles Biodiversity Finance Plan presents a coherent and comprehensive national approach to biodiversity finance, including a mix of finance solutions, by engaging the public sector, private sector, and civil society, in support of the implementation of the current and future NBSAPs.

There are a number of initiatives that the proposed project will build on. The UNDP/GEF (ID 5485) Protected Area Finance project aimed at improving the financial sustainability and strategic cohesion of the protected systems whilst dealing with threats and risks to the biodiversity has critical outcomes to build on. Also, UNDP/GEF (ID 9431) Ridge to Reef approach for the Integrated Management of Marine Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in Seychelles implements SLM projects on the ground. The UNDP/GEF (ID 10535) project Prioritizing Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles Blue Economy is implementing nature-based solutions in the expanded MPAs and this proposed project will play an incremental role to its implementation.

UNDP Mauritius-Seychelles provided a grant co-financing to this project. The focus of interventions is on restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future.

The African SIDS Project: the way forward

The proposed African SIDS project, to be financed by GEF, would not be successful without the baseline investments and political commitments made at global, continental, regional and national levels as described above. Building upon the baseline investments, this GEF project aims to address the aforementioned root causes and barriers to accelerate a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy

transformation in African SIDS, as to turn their (often neglected and endangered) marine and coastal (and terrestrial) natural capital into development opportunities.

This will require reforming and improving existing Blue Economy sectors and identifying and pilot-testing new activities that can foster diversification while consolidating the Blue Economy enabling environment.

In Sao Tome and Principe, the project will also address issues related to land degradation using the source to sea/ridge to reef approach.

The African SIDS Project will also contribute to the implementation of the national Blue Economy Strategies and Plans, and associated governance frameworks, in the participating countries.

In doing so, the Project will also help African SIDS advance towards meeting their objectives under various of the above listed international and regional agreements and associated national strategies, and support countries with making progress on several key international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

The African SIDS project is therefore fully consistent and aligned with relevant national, sub-regional and regional plans, reports, assessments and agreements. The project will help African SIDS countries meet their objectives under the various agreements and associated national strategies, including the regional SAPs and those regional and national action plans (NAPs) guided by SAP recommendations.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

Strategy

A sustainable ocean economy is critical for the growth and integration of the African SIDS into realizing the aspirations of the Agenda 2063. The Blue Economy (BE) aims to promote the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic diversification and growth, improved livelihoods and job creation, and inclusion, with a focus on the preservation and restoration of the health of ocean ecosystems. BE is seen as the pathway to unlock new, sustainable economic opportunities, kickstart green recovery, cultivate diversification and build resilience to future shocks. It is an opportunity to achieve the triple bottom line of sustainable development ? economic, social, and environmental impacts. Blue Economy can cover a broad spectrum of activities including established sectors (e.g., shipping, fisheries, coastal tourism), emerging sectors (e.g., marine renewable energies, marine biotechnologies, aquaculture), and crosscutting enabling sectors (e.g., marine conservation, research and education, financial tools for marine activities, etc.). Interventions proposed to be financed by the GEF will cover the incremental costs of the actions required to foster collective efforts by the African SIDS through stronger cooperation on promoting the Blue Economy, targeted to realize various Blue Economy benefits, building upon the baseline activities to be carried out by SIDS individually or sometimes collectively, or through initiatives financed by other partners.

A strong interest in Ocean Sustainability and the concept of the Blue Economy has increased over the past 10 years, globally and also in the African SIDS, including an increasing appreciation of the role of healthy ocean ecosystems for the sustainability of economic activities. This has been reflected in target 14.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ?By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small

Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.? Unlocking the full potential of the sustainable Blue Economy can assist countries in achieving SDG 14 and indeed have ripple effects on other goals, including SDGs 1 (poverty), 5 (gender), 8 (growth/work), 13 (Climate), and 15 (life on land). The project will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The GEF International Waters focal area has supported the development of LMEs and improved marine governance within and across nations. Through the development of TDAs and SAPs for the LMEs? GEF funding has catalyzed investments in healthy oceans. Initiatives to provide the strategic thrust for the Blue Economy in all six countries have also been supported by different countries with facilitation from the AUC. The proposed project will undertake a suite of activities designed to support the delivery of blue economy benefits and contribute to strengthening of collective management and planning capacity and practices at all levels, facilitated by UNDP and AUC, with support from GWP SA (the executing agency). The activities include developing instruments that will drive the implementation of the Blue Economic strategic framework; enhancing sustainable financing mechanism for blue economy funding; strengthening regional and national intersectoral coordination platforms; implementation of pilot projects aimed at implementing the BE frameworks and reducing the impacts on BE resources; and promoting knowledge management and learning.

The project aims to address the aforementioned root causes and barriers to accelerate a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy transformation in African SIDS, as to turn their (often neglected and endangered) marine and coastal (and terrestrial) natural capital into development opportunities. This will require reforming and improving existing Blue Economy sectors and identifying and pilot-testing new activities that can foster diversification while consolidating the Blue Economy enabling environment. The African SIDS Project will distinctively contribute to the implementation (and, where relevant, the enhancement/updating) of the national Blue Economy Strategies and Plans, and associated governance frameworks, in the African SIDS participating countries. In doing so, the Project will also help African SIDS to advance towards meeting their objectives under various of the above listed international and regional agreements and associated national strategies, and support countries with making progress on several key international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The African SIDS project is therefore fully consistent and aligned with relevant national, sub-regional and regional plans, reports, assessments, and agreements. The project will help African SIDS to meet their objectives under the various agreements and associated national strategies, including the regional LME SAPs and national action plans (NAPs) guided by SAP recommendations.

As per its design, the African SIDS project will consist of **3 complementary, inter-linked and mutually supportive technical components (see Section 3), configured to collectively deliver on the project objective: To achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services.**

African SIDS Project **Component 1** will focus on creating the enabling conditions (governance frameworks and related capacity building) for the progressive development of the national blue economies, based on the principles of sustainability and care for the biosphere.

Component 2 will focus, more at the local level and generally engaging local communities/resource users, on the development, deployment and testing of innovative, sustainable blue economy/alternative livelihoods solutions.

Component 3 will support the exchange (import into/export from and between the African SIDS participating countries and the global SIDS/marine communities) of best practices and lessons learned, as well as the progressive development of the data and information networks/infrastructure needed to support BE development aspirations in African SIDS participating countries (and beyond).

Cross-cutting considerations that will be mainstreamed across all components include: the project's contributions to/impacts on: gender and youth, local communities, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and resilience of the socio-ecological system to climate variability and change, economic recovery from natural disaster (including COVID19) and regional food supply and food security.

A Theory of Change for the project has been developed with the participation of key stakeholders during the PPG phase. The Theory of Change starts from the recognition that the key development challenge in the African SIDS their remote geography and extreme climate change impacts, which results in them facing high import and export costs for goods as well as irregular international traffic volumes. They rely on external markets for many goods due to the narrow resource base, and, on their own, they are challenged in terms of their ability to create economies of scale. The Theory of Change further recognizes that while the project objective agreed upon by the SIDS stakeholders, namely *to achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services* can address this development challenge, key barriers exist to achieving this objective. The actions proposed by the project, as detailed in the project's Results Framework (which proposes specific and relevant indicators to measure the impacts of project interventions), are derived from the construction of the project's Theory of Change, which demonstrates a logical connection between the identified barriers, the project actions-outputs, and the expected project outcomes. The Theory of Change furthermore shows, based on identified assumptions and impact drivers, how the project intervention strategy will contribute to desired intermediate states that in turn will contribute to long-term positive impacts beyond the direct influence of the project, including strengthened institutional capacity for blue governance at different levels; financial sustainability of local interventions, and land degradation neutrality in Sao Tome and Principe; evidenced-based cross-sectoral management in the African SIDS; more sustainable management of blue economy resources that support climate resilient development of the African SIDS population and the achievement of SDGs by the SIDS; and increased engagement of key stakeholders (including private sector, women, youth) in sustainable management of the blue economy growth.

Assumptions underlying the success of the depicted approach based on the 3 inter-connected African SIDS Project Components include:

? the momentum for, and interest in positive action on oceans (and on the R2R approach) continues to grow and spread across all societal actors, and can be maintained in time;

? champions to drive the needed change can be identified and mobilized, at local, national and regional levels;

? the needed capacity can be mobilized at the level of, or by the different African SIDS Responsible Parties, to timely and successfully implement the elements of the project under their responsibility, and to ensure that the desired articulation of synergistic actions across the different components can be achieved;

? no substantial disruptions of prolonged crises, such as e.g. those recently caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will occur during the project lifespan;

? no major political instability in the participating countries;

? the wider range of ocean stakeholders can be progressively persuaded to open up to, absorb and integrate in their thinking and actions: identified best practice, lessons learned, and findings from science.

Relating to these assumptions and their continued (or aspired) validity: the adaptive management approach to be adopted by the African SIDS Responsible Parties will be key to ensuring the project's success. The approach will require closely monitoring of the continued validity of these basic

assumptions and triggering early preventive or remediation actions based on timely warnings/alerts.
The project will deploy a risk management plan to this effect.

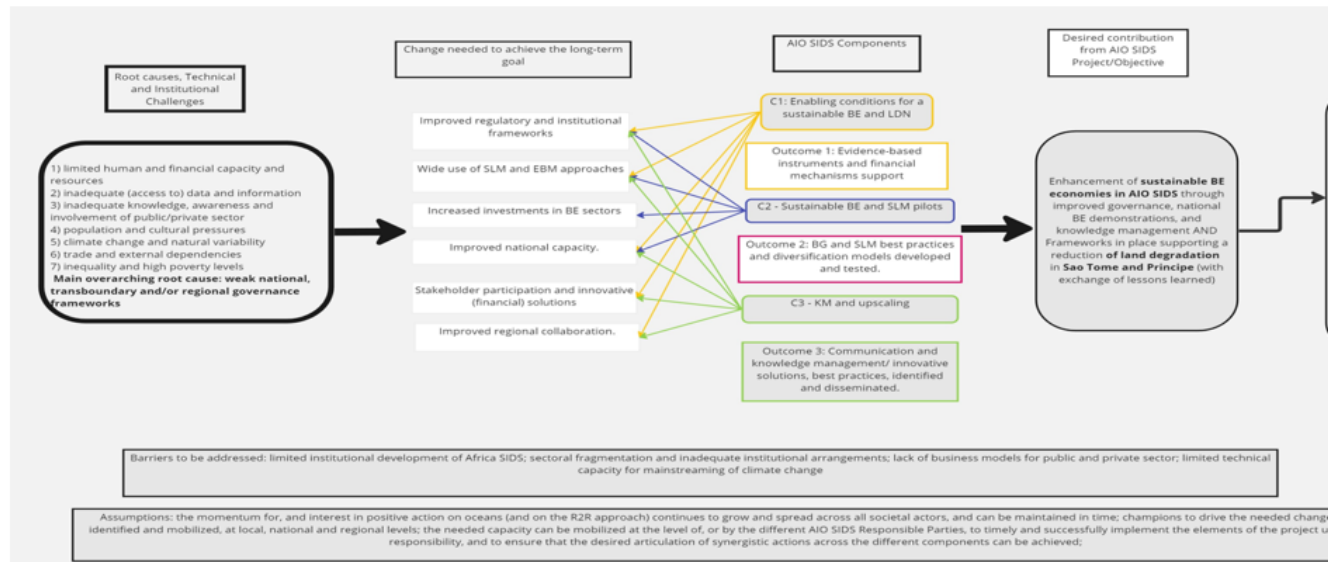


Figure 1: African SIDS Project Theory of Change Diagram

This figure 1 above also shows how different project Components, being specifically designed (together with solid project management and coordination arrangements, see Section on Institutional Arrangement and Coordination) to help lift the listed barriers, will collectively tackle root causes of environmental degradation (see also the detailed description of outputs and activities under each Project Component in Section 3).

The main Implementing Partner (IP) for the African SIDS Project will be the Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa (GWP-SA) that will engage Responsible Parties to implement national demonstration projects under component 2.

Expected results

The overall objective of the UNDP/GEF African SIDS Project is *to achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services*. The African SIDS project is organized in 3 complementary and mutually supportive technical components (plus 1 additional Monitoring & Evaluation component) with 3 associated project-level outcomes. In total, 14 project-level outputs will be generated.

When working on the delivery of these project outputs and in seeking to advancing the associated project outcomes, the following cross-cutting considerations will be systematically and consistently mainstreamed, across all outputs and activities: gender equality and empowerment of women and youth, rights and benefits for indigenous people groups and local communities, different stakeholders' considerations, robustness of the proposed/selected solutions in the face of climate change, and their contributions to enhanced resilience of the socio-ecological system, regional food supply and food security and sustainability and environmental impacts/benefits of the related blue economy activities. As can be seen from the above table, the African SIDS project considers both regional-level activities, mainly under Components 1 and 3, and in which it is anticipated that all African SIDS countries will participate, as well as country-specific, national-level/local demonstration activities under Component 2. The project structure/rationale/strategy is such that country-level activities under Component 2 will be

complemented by the enabling activities and/or the exchange of best practices and lessons learned under Components 1 and 3, thus also engaging and benefiting the wider set of African SIDS participating countries (and beyond).

As further described under the Governance Arrangements section, the Implementing Partner (IP) for the African SIDS project will be the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA). GWP-SA will be responsible for delivering all project outcomes, whereas National Responsible Parties in participating countries will be responsible for the delivery of national demonstration projects under project Component 2.

COMPONENT 1: SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY AND LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY ENABLING CONDITIONS - IMPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

African SIDS Project Component 1 will focus on creating the enabling conditions (governance frameworks and related capacity building) for the progressive development of the national and regional blue and green economies, based on the principles of sustainability and care for the biosphere. This issue is particularly salient in small island nations, where the ocean plays a ubiquitous role in the everyday lives and livelihoods of citizens. Ocean policies that aim at protecting natural capital such as coral reefs or marine biodiversity in many cases have a direct impact on the ability to utilise ocean resources, for instance by marine fisheries or maritime transport routes potentially affecting short-term employment. At the same time, positive long-term effects may secure and sustain the ocean capital for the future and thereby support economic activities in areas such as fisheries and tourism. This illustrates the importance of taking interlinkages into account when designing ocean policies. A holistic approach to governing the ocean can lead to conscious evaluations of trade-offs between sectors and the identification of policy synergies that benefit multiple areas of governance. Conversely, coordinating these multiple policy dimensions under a fragmented administrative system of competences risks focusing on isolated problems and policy challenges. Therefore, the institutional framework of ocean governance should reflect the interconnectedness of ocean policies.

As noted in the regional and baseline conducted ? progress has been made in developing strategic frameworks to guide the Blue Economy in the African SIDS and also define the aspirations of the countries. At the continental level AUC has developed the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and RECS like ECCAS and SADC have also developed strategies. Cabo Verde has developed the Charter on Blue Economic Growth and a Blue Economy Programme; Comoros has developed a Strategic Framework for a Blue Economy National Policy; Guinea-Bissau has developed the National Blue Economy Strategy and corresponding Investment Plan, Mauritius has an Ocean Economy Roadmap that has been developed and is being implemented; Sao Tome and Principe has developed a Blue Economy Transition Strategy and the National Strategy for the Blue Economy was adopted as a Law (Lei no 38/XI/8e/2022); the Seychelles have developed a Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap (the Blue Economy Roadmap) which they have been advancing.

With regards to conducting comprehensive assessments for the Blue Economy (covering social, economic, and environmental issues) ? countries have conducted various assessments. Cabo Verde supported by the OECD have conducted a Sustainable Ocean Economy Diagnostics ? which focuses on economic issues; Comoros supported by the World Bank have developed a Country Environmental Analysis ? which explored the opportunity for investing in natural capital for sustainable development ? the study, however, highlights the lack of data in natural capital. Mauritius also did an assessment supported by the World Bank on the Ocean Economy in Mauritius assessing the sector?s potential. Sao Tome and Principe ? has conducted Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessments which have also looked at the ocean economy. Seychelles using the UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK) framework conducted a comprehensive Socio-economic and ecological evaluation of the Blue Economy. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy notes that critical barrier to presenting a comprehensive view of the Blue Economy contribution from the social, economic, and ecological point of view is the

lack of comparable data, which must be gathered from different sources. Creating an appropriate national accounting framework which embraces social, economic, and ecological components will facilitate recording annual changes to identify the contribution made by the Blue Economy. Having such a tool used at the country, regional and continental level is crucial for the implementation of the Blue Economy.

Countries have made various efforts to support in the establishment of inter-sectoral platforms that bring players in the ocean economy to participate in the implementation of the Blue Economy frameworks. Cape Verde have a Steering Committee driving the development of a Blue Economy Observatory and in Mauritius a coordinated institutional framework is in place through a Multi-Stakeholder Platform Coordinating Committee; in Sao Tome and Principe an Inter-Ministerial Platform to support Promotion of Blue Employment, Entrepreneurship and Education. In Seychelles inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms have been established before to support implementation. At the continental level there no inter-sectoral platform for SIDS to engage and learn from each other.

Outcome 1. Evidence-based instruments (strategies, plans), and financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality in the participating SIDS

At continental level, this outcome will support the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy strategy in the SIDS through the development of a framework for improved monitoring of the Blue Economy implementation and establishment of coordination platforms for improved governance. Also, through collaboration with regional bodies such as the Nairobi Convention and the Abidjan Convention, this project will help to strengthen the integration of SIDS blue economy into LMEs activities. Furthermore, this project will strengthen the capacity of African SIDS to negotiate as one voice for them to benefit from AfCFTA provisions on international trade of blue goods and services.

At national level, this outcome will support the adoption and implementation of national Blue Economy strategies, strengthening national accounting frameworks and intersectoral coordination to improve Blue Economy governance, promotion of private sector engagement for innovative finance and sustainability and, capacity building and awareness raising about Blue Economy as this is a new sector that should be mainstreamed into different regional and national development agenda. In Sao Tome and Principe, specific activities will be undertaken to enhance national capacities and frameworks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Targets and NDC goals on agrochemicals.

The activities to be implemented under this component will be directly linked and inform the design and implementation of the national demonstration projects in component 2 and will be part of the lessons learned for dissemination under Outcome 3.

Output 1.1. Regional and National Blue Economy supporting/enabling instruments (e.g. assessments/strategies/policies/plans,) developed and/or updated

1. Whereas the PIF projected the development of national Blue Economy Assessments, and subsequently national Blue Economy Strategies/Policies/Plans, baseline analyses conducted during the PPG phase and reported on under Section II of this Project Document have pointed out the existence of various assessments and/or strategies/policies/plans in several of the African SIDS. In light of this, during the PPG, Outputs 1.1. and 1.2. under the African SIDS Results Framework were revised and merged into a reformulated Output 1.1., considering this updated baseline. Based on finding from the PPG baseline, it is proposed that comprehensive Blue Economy Assessments, which comprise socio-economic and ecological evaluations of the blue economy be developed for participating countries to provide a comprehensive estimate of the value of each country's Blue Economy. The findings will support the implementation of the demonstration projects and will inform the development of national accounting frameworks for recording annual changes in national blue economies and reporting at the

continental level. For Sao Tome and Principe, the Blue Economy assessment will be expanded to include the ridge-to-reef approach to provide a holistic view of the interconnections between land and ocean economy. The expected outcome-level target from these activities will be through enhanced national and continental coordination and monitoring on the implementation of the Blue Economy in African SIDS and for all participating countries to have undertaken a national BE assessment or one additional national BE/LDN/R2R-related instrument (e.g. strategy, policy, plan,) by latest Project end.

The main proposed activities leading to the delivery of Output 1.1 are:

Activity 1.1.1: Support African SIDS to develop/update gender responsive Blue Economy baselines, instruments and frameworks to ensure harmonization of data collection, analysis and reporting. Analyses will include gender and social equality issues, and efforts on private sector engagement. In Sao Tome and Principe, a comprehensive assessment of the impact of land degradation and application of agro-chemicals on coastal and marine ecosystems will be undertaken. This activity will build on the baseline inventory developed during the PPG and reported under Section II; and its findings will inform Activities 2 and 3 described below.

Activity 1.1.2: Support African SIDS to develop guidance for Blue accounts building on previous analyses and existing policy documents and national capacities. The Blue accounts support decision-making and investment planning in the African SIDS. UNECA and AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat that supported the development of Blue Economy instruments at different levels recently will be engaged in the implementation of this activity.

Activity 1.1.3: Enhance implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy in the SIDS through supporting the AUC and the countries to develop a framework for tracking the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy strategy through continuous data collection, analysis, reporting, and sharing of progress on Blue Economy initiatives, fostering transparency, and taking into account social inclusion and collaboration among African SIDS.

Output 1.2. Regional and National Coordination Platforms supporting the development of the Blue Economy strengthened

2. Following the merging of the PIF Outputs 1.1. and 1.2. into a reformulated Output 1.1 in this Project Document (see Output 1.1. here above) and taking into account the findings and practical experience from the PPG phase (e.g. during the development of the proposed national demonstrations under Component 2) relative to the continued challenges related to achieving inter-sectoral coordination in support of the national Blue Economies; a new Output 1.2. focusing on advocacy and support for such enhanced inter-sectoral coordination has now been introduced. In the institutional development of Blue Economies, a holistic multisectoral approach that systematically develops and implements strategies, policies and action plans is critical given the cross-cutting nature of the blue economy sector. African SIDS are further challenged by limited capacity in government institutions. Thus, inter-sectoral coordination is critically important.

3. In the development of the demonstration projects, the SIDS have identified the need for strong participatory and cross-sectoral engagement to support the strengthening of the Blue Economy approach. This is evidenced by the inclusion of activities focusing on the implementation of governance and participatory Blue Economy demonstration projects under Component 2. It is envisioned that the coordination mechanisms identified in each country will be engaged to support the implementation of the pilot demonstration projects in component 2 and through this process enhance collective action. The PPG baseline assessment found that multi-stakeholder coordination platforms on the Blue Economy exist in one form or the other in participating SIDS.

4. Achieving truly functional and sustainable inter-sectoral coordination platforms in African SIDS is also relevant in the current context of increasing pursuit of Integrated Coastal and Marine Zones

Management and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), which involve different sectors. In addition, this coordination is needed for this project to support the "30x30" pledges made by countries under international initiatives such as the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC), the Global Ocean Alliance (GOA), and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

5. In strengthening the functions of the national inter-sectoral platforms there is a need to ensure that all stakeholders, including women and youth are involved in the processes. At the regional level the project will create a SIDS platform and will seek to work with the Conventions, LMEs and RECs to participate in other regional platforms that are promoting intersectoral engagements and strengthen SIDS involvement. Coordination and synergies with other (GEF and non-GEF) projects with similar ambitions and targeting African SIDS will continue to be sought for this purpose.

The main proposed activities leading to the delivery of Output 1.2 are:

Activity 1.2.1: Enhance gender responsive inter-sectoral platforms in African SIDS and support their engagement with AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, Conventions, and continental Blue Economy coordination platforms in order to strengthen to improve blue economy governance. This activity will support the implementation of Activities under Output 1.1 and Component 2.

Activity 1.2.2: Production and dissemination of blue economy guidelines document including "good practices" on strengthening regional and national coordination platforms for enhanced ocean governance, based on existing international experiences and lessons learned and tailored to SIDS.

Activity 1.2.3: Production of a status report on enhancing inter-sectoral coordination taking into account participation of women and youth, developed with the AUC as part of implementing the AU Blue Economy Governance Framework in the African SIDS with policy recommendations.

Activity 1.2.4: In collaboration with AfCFTA and AUC, support participating countries (under the framework of the Islands States Commission) to create a platform for dialogue and negotiation for improved integration of African SIDS Blue Economy into international trade based on sustainable principles of Blue Economy Governance.

Output 1.3. Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles- based Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality target implementation fostering private sector investment developed

In the evolving landscape of sustainable development, particularly in the context of SIDS, the necessity for innovative financing mechanisms tailored to Blue Economy and LDN targets is increasingly important. This stems from a broader understanding that in the unique environmental, economic, and social contexts of SIDS, traditional financing mechanisms often fall short in addressing their specific needs and challenges. Therefore, Output 1.3 pivots towards a more nuanced, inclusive approach, engaging various stakeholders and leveraging global best practices to create a conducive environment for private sector participation in the Blue Economy and land restoration.

Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project to deliver output 1.3 are:

Activity 1.3.1: Support Seychelles, Mauritius and Cabo Verde to evaluate and update their Blue Economy Action Plans, noting issues of gender inequality and social exclusion, and facilitate a regional dialogue on Innovative Blue Economy principles, best practices, innovative solutions and lessons learned between the participating countries and beyond? - including invited experts and practitioners from other SIDS/countries beyond the African SIDS.

Activity 1.3.2: Undertake feasibility studies for gender responsive innovative financing mechanisms for Blue Economy transformation in Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Comoros (including both tested/proven/consolidated as well as more innovative mechanisms), best suited to the reality of each country. In Sao Tome and Principe, an integrated approach will be taken to include mechanisms that support LDN targets.

Activity 1.3.3: Support the development of resource mobilization strategies for Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Comoros and engage stakeholders for funding modalities identified in feasibility assessments working with relevant ministries.

Activity 1.3.4: Support African SIDS, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop a framework for Private Sector engagement in blue economy transformation at the national and regional level. The framework will be used to support enhancing Private Sector Action Plans in all participating countries. The private sector engagement framework will also be mainstreamed in the implementation of the proposed pilots under Component 2 to explore opportunities for engaging with private in actions on the ground. The framework will also focus on addressing issues of gender inequalities in the implementation of blue economy local actions.

Output 1.4. Capacity developed, and awareness raised in the African SIDS on topics of key relevance for transformation of the regional and national Blue Economies

Capacity building will cover but not limited to the following topics ? capacity will be aimed at supporting implementation of activities under Output 1.1, Output 1.2, and 1.3 and ensuring the strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination. Capacity building will also respond to the needs of implementing Component 2 ensuring that women and youth are included and benefit from project interventions including acquiring necessary entrepreneurship skills to be competitive on the blue economy market at national level and to benefit from the AfCFTA. Other topics include: (i) Blue capital accounting and State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies reporting; (ii) Integrated Coastal and Marine Zones Management and Marine Spatial Planning, with due attention to the Ridge-to-Reef concept and Land Degradation Neutrality, climate-resilient Blue development aspirations and the 30x30 conservation agenda; (iii) Sustainable Blue Economy Financing including private sector engagement, blue development and marine conservation; (iv) Functional landscapes maintenance and restoration; (v) Governance reforms and stakeholder participation; (vi) mainstreaming Blue Economy in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); (vii) Nature-based solutions Infrastructure Planning in support of the Blue Economy; and (viii) project risk management (regarding the latter: see the explanation/justification provided under the Narrative here below).

The African SIDS Project will seek to address this challenge by following a 2-pronged approach: in addition to (1) directly financing a limited number of capacity building/training events, the project will also seek to (2) mobilize and (re-) direct existing or planned third-party capacity building/training efforts and/or materials towards the African SIDS participating countries? stakeholder community. By carrying project management training for the National Responsible Parties of Component 2 demonstrations, the project will secure a minimum of continuation and knowledge sharing, together with a capacity building that will allow the national responsible parties to take ownership of the implementation and continuation of the activities. For this purpose, the project implementing partner and responsible parties will work together during the project inception phase, with the key project stakeholders, on fine-tuning and optimizing the project?s approach towards prioritized capacity building and awareness raising activities in the African SIDS, in support of the development of sustainable national Blue Economies. The African SIDS project will seek to coordinate and achieve synergies/collaboration, and/or complementarity with other planned efforts targeting the African SIDS countries, the wider global SIDS community and coastal African countries. Particular reference can be made in this context to other GEF IW projects such as the GEF IW: LEARN project, with global coverage and in its current iteration giving particular attention to

SIDS, and the recently GEF CEO-endorsed PROCARIBE+ Project targeting the Wider Caribbean Region (region that includes 25 SIDS). ?

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under output 1.4:

Activity 1.4.1: Identification of priority capacity building needs in African SIDS, required for the successful development of the national Blue Economies and Land Degradation Neutrality in Sao Tome and Principe, and identification of commonalities among the participating countries linked to Output 1.1, 1.3 and Component 2. Needs for women and youth will also be prioritized to ensure no one is left behind.

Activity 1.4.2: Development, in collaboration with the project stakeholders, including women and youth groups, of a strategy for the short to medium-term mobilization of a more comprehensive set of capacity building/training opportunities in support of the successful transformation of the national Blue Economies in the African SIDS. The strategy will cover the identification of third-party providers/existing materials as well the prioritization of training activities to be directly provided through use of the corresponding African SIDS funds. The strategy will include an integrated approach for Sao Tome and Principe to compressively address effects of land degradation on coastal and marine ecosystems.

Activity 1.4.3: Targeted capacity building/training activities, with specific targeted training for marginalized groups in project sites, for African SIDS stakeholders (workshops or online courses/materials) on collaboratively selected topics among those described above, to be directly supported by the African SIDS project (in coordination/seeking synergies with other GEF initiatives such as IW: LEARN and PROCARIBE+ and other initiatives of AUC and AUDA-NEPAD).

Activity 1.4.4: Project management capacity for national Responsible Parties of the project Component 2.

COMPONENT 2: ON-THE-GROUND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS ADDRESSING (1) UNSUSTAINABLE OCEAN/COASTAL USE AND/OR ?NEW AND ADDITIONAL? SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES, AND (2) INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES WITH POSITIVE IMPACTS ON BLUE ECONOMY ASSETS

Activities under Component 2 seek to contribute to the following African SIDS Project-level outcome:

Outcome 2. Sustainable Blue Economy and Sustainable Land Management good practices and diversification models with strong social, economic and sustainability elements developed, tested, and ready for upscaling among African SIDS

This outcome focuses on the gender responsive demonstration projects that will be implemented by national Responsible Parties. Sao Tome and Principe will implement two projects one under the IW Focal Area and the other under the LDN Focal Area. Increased resilience to climate change and improved local livelihoods are critical to sustainable blue economy. Therefore, this component will put sustainable and resilient local livelihoods at the center of interventions. A bottom-up approach will also be used to ensure demonstration projects yield both livelihoods and environmental benefits that can be easily scaled up. National Responsible Parties and GWP-SA will play an important role for technical support to participating communities for the project to benefit from local knowledge and organizing peer to peer networking and knowledge sharing for scale-up of the project achievements. The GWPSA will also provide expertise to ensure gender inequality and social exclusion issues are adequately addressed through providing technical assistance to the development and implementation of the actions. A key

component will be ensuring that safeguards measures are put into place and monitored throughout the duration of the project.

Output 2.1. CABO VERDE Blue Economy Demonstration: Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).

6. The Natural Park of Baía do Inferno and Monte Angra (PNBIMA), was created in April 2021 to protect unique fauna and flora and geologically important areas on the island of Santiago and its surrounding marine environment. Monte Angra (577 m), a prominent feature of the park, contains one of the highest coastal cliffs in the entire North Atlantic. The coastal cliffs between Porto Mosquito and Baia do Inferno were classified as a globally Important Bird Area (IBA) for seabirds. The park covers both land and sea, with a total area of 21,096 hectares. The coastal villages of Porto Rincão, in the municipality of Santa Catarina, and Porto Mosquito, in the municipality of Ribeira Grande, are fishing villages situated near the park's boundaries. The village of Entre Picos de Reda is an inland settlement located in the mountains near the park where the main economic activities are pastoralism and agriculture.

The Blue Economy demonstration in Cabo Verde aims at promoting the sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries and ecotourism, championing innovative integrated approaches to improve governance, and strengthening the seafood value chain in communities surrounding the PNBIMA. To achieve this, the BE demonstration will support the implementation of improved governance structures for the park and promote partnership and the effective participation of the community in the process of planning and implementation of the Blue Economy initiatives. This activity is linked to the work under Output 1.1 and Output 1.2 which looks at the strengthening blue economy governance frameworks and platforms to provide a structured approach to blue economy transformation, which is critical for the sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and the promotion of eco-tourism in Cabo Verde. Furthermore, this demonstration project will also benefit from the development of innovative financing mechanisms under Output 1.3 which can be used to support the mobilization of resources needed for the sustainable business and livelihood models. Critical, this demonstration will benefit from the trainings planned under Output 1.4 to develop entrepreneurship skills of women groups and youth.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 2.1:

Activity 2.1.1: Implementation of governance and participatory management approaches in PNBIMA to improve the conservation and sustainable use of its natural capital assets in support of local livelihoods.

Activity 2.1.2: Selection and development/enhancement of sustainable business and livelihood models, that include women and youth, by the communities surrounding PNBIMA contributing to improved planning of the use of marine and coastal resources.

Activity 2.1.3: Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of PNBIMA including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA.

Output 2.2. COMOROS Blue Economy Demonstration: Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndroué National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate

The recently created Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park (MPA), located at the northern tip of Grande Comore, has been selected as the main intervention site for the Comoros national demonstration under African SIDS project. The planned African SIDS activities will aim at demonstrating the reconciliation of the aspirations for marine conservation through enhanced MPA management effectiveness with the progressive development of a local Blue Economy agenda for the communities within the National Park boundaries, contributing as such simultaneously to enhanced MPA (management) effectiveness and (diversified) local economies and livelihoods.

An advanced baseline analysis, and identification of priority options for the BE demonstration activities in the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park areas (e.g. community-based, gender sensitive sea cucumber farming as a means to provide alternative livelihoods and reduce pressure on the reefs from the reef gleaning activities traditionally practices by women from the local communities, and/or a transition from reef-based fisheries to pelagic fisheries), has been developed during the African SIDS PPG phase. The results thereof are included in the inventory of literature and reports produced during the PPG. **Prioritization during feasibility study of the development options with local communities, including women and youth, will however be key to ensuring stakeholder led processes for this GEF investment, and for the sustainability and replication/scaling potential of its outcomes. The geographic, thematic and stakeholder scope of the African SIDS Project, and a more advanced (on-the-ground) feasibility study and local stakeholder engagement process will be implemented ? to build on the high-level preliminary work done during the PPG.** The implementation of the activities proposed below will be informed by a solid socio-economic and environmental assessment of the national and local situation (under Output 1.1) and will consider the need for **inter-sectoral decision-making process (to be developed under Output 1.2) relative to the specific blue economy solution to be implemented on the ground under this output. Support will also be provided to explore sustainable financing mechanisms aligned to the activities under Output 1.3 and capacity building in line with output 1.4.**

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 2.2:

Activity 2.2.1: Feasibility Assessments of Blue Economy (BE) activities, supporting local livelihoods, including women and youth, and contributing to/compatible with marine conservation in the Comoros, with special attention to the national system of Marine Protected Areas (MPA?s), and in particular the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park. **The Feasibility Study will also use the framework for private sector engagement that will be developed under Output 1.3 to explore options and opportunities for private sector engagement.**

Activity 2.2.2: **Selection and development, through a participatory process, of the African SIDS-supported Blue Economy demonstration initiative for the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park Area (Grande Comore) with the potential to benefit from AfCFTA.**

Activity 2.2.3: Implementation of the selected Blue Economy sustainable development option(s) in the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park Area (Grande Comore) **involving women groups and youth.**

Activity 2.2.4: **Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA.**

Output 2.3. GUINEA BISSAU Blue Economy Demonstration: Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and

capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices.

Situated in the Northern Region of Guinea-Bissau, the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) has an extension of 88,615 hectares and is considered to have the largest extension of mangrove in West Africa, with as much as 68% of the park boundary covered with mangroves. The city of Cacheu is part of the protected area, and the park's resident population was estimated to be above 28,050 in 2009. Several economic activities take place inside the park, guaranteeing the subsistence of the different resident communities, namely agriculture, cashew plantation, rainfed rice, bolanha rice, exploitation of palm products, fishing, and extraction of bivalve molluscs. Most of these activities generate some environmental impacts, with consequences for the conservation of biodiversity inside the park.

The PNTC has a management plan and a regulatory framework that guides fishing activities and the exploitation of forest resources. However, the management plan does not adequately consider the regulations, causing confusion over the management of the park's resources. The Blue Economy Demonstration in Guinea Bissau will support the review and update of the PNTC management plan and internal regulations to enhance the management effectiveness of the park. The African SIDS demonstration in the PNTC will also support the development of ecotourism and/or other opportunities under the blue economy as potential for alternative livelihoods contributing to the sustainable use of the park's natural resources. **The Blue Economy Assessments to be conducted under Output 1.1, will support in reviewing and updating the PNTC management plan and internal regulations, ensuring they are more aligned with sustainable practices and the actual conditions on the ground.**

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project Output 2.3:

Activity 2.3.1: Identification and prioritization of social and collective entrepreneurship initiatives for enhanced livelihood opportunities, which include those including women and youth, and improved community-based participatory management of the PNTC ? this will be done linked to strengthening inter-sectoral platforms under Output 1.2

Activity 2.3.2: Development of feasibility studies including possible opportunities from AfCFTA and implementation of integrated management approaches to increase locally based eco-tourism opportunities (from those prioritized under Activity 1 above), including women and youth run businesses, and improve the park's management effectiveness. Studies will also explore sustainable financing mechanisms to be considered in driving Blue Economy activities in eco-tourism (linked to output 1.3).

Activity 2.3.3: Communication, awareness-raising, environmental education, and valorization of local knowledge for behavioural change contributing to the improved management of PNTC and promoting livelihood opportunities in the blue economy space for local communities surrounding the PNTC.

Activity 2.2.4: Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of the the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA (linked to Output 1.4).

Output 2.4. MAURITIUS Blue Economy Demonstration: Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius.

Mauritius Island has a land area of 1,865 km² and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that exceeds its land area with several orders of magnitude, along with a continental shelf of 396,000 km² co-managed with the Republic of Seychelles. Mauritius has an estimated population of 1.27 million. In recent years, the Government of Mauritius has shown an interest in developing ocean-based activities into a new economic pillar for the country with particular focus on the fisheries sector. The Government has been promoting the fisheries sector as one of the priorities for it not only provides an important source of income and nutrition for the locals but also attracts investment in areas of fishing, seafood hub and aquaculture (Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, 2018).

Artisanal fishery is an important source of income for coastal communities and provides the main source of protein primarily to households living under the poverty line [35]. However, the viability of the sector is at stake due to multi-layered stressors that have led to declines in coastal fish catches and loss of ecosystem services provided by coastal lagoons. This output will be carried out in line with the implementation of the private sector engagement plan to be developed under Output 1.3 and the enabling instruments to be developed under Output 1.1.

In view of mitigating fishing-associated pressure on the lagoons and to improve the lagoonal fish stocks, the activities under the Blue Economy demonstration in Mauritius aims at a socio-economic and environmental 'win-win', as it will support Mauritius' on-going efforts to sustainably strengthen the artisanal fisheries through a holistic framework at the national level. Inter-sectoral platforms to address these challenges will be supported under activities in Output 1.2 including capacity building under Output 1.4.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 2.4:

Activity 2.4.1: Assessment and development of options to improve institutional composition, legal frameworks, safety-at-sea and technological approaches with a view to increase support to artisanal fishermen and improve conditions at sea and post-harvest.

Activity 2.4.2: Implementation of prioritized options (from Activity 1) with inter-sectoral platforms enhanced under Output 1.2 through capacity-building and inclusive (and gender responsive) empowerment of artisanal fishers.

Activity 2.4.3: Support improvement of fisheries value chains including potential benefits from AfCFTA. This will include private sector engagement (based on the framework developed under Output 1.3).

Output 2.5. SAO TOM and PRINCIPE Integrated Blue Economy and Land Degradation Neutrality Demonstration: Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tom and Principe in support of blue-green development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation and improved management of marine and coastal natural capital.

7. With 960 km², Sao Tom and Principe is the country with the second-smallest terrestrial territory in Africa after Seychelles. It consists of two archipelagos around the two main islands of Sao Tom and Principe, about 140 km apart and with a combined population of 201,800 (2018 official estimate). About 193,380 people live on Sao Tom and 8,420 on Principe. These two islands have volcanic soils and a well-developed hydrology network of streams that flow down from the mountains to the sea through forests and croplands. Main economic activities in Sao Tom and Principe are agriculture and fishing, and a small industrial sector engaged in processing local agricultural products

and producing a few basic consumer goods. The tourism sector is also expanding with the increase of foreign investment.

Food security relies on fisheries, small scale agriculture, with a particular importance of vegetable production, plantain and root vegetables, and mainly imports, including food aid and processed food, given that the national agri-food industry is still very limited. Food imports stood still at 30.94 per cent in 2019, even though they had already been reduced from 90 per cent in the 1990s. The latter was a result of crop production expansion and intensification with increased use of nitrogen-based fertilizers and pesticides. Vegetables are often grown on sloping land, exposing these lands to accelerated erosion. In addition, horticultural production is very demanding in terms of nutrients, has shorter production cycles and is dramatically affected by pests, hence significant agricultural inputs (agrochemicals such as nitrogen-based fertilizers and strong pesticides) are required. Additionally, it has been proven that agrochemicals enter the country without the proper sanitary controls and are administered by poorly trained farmers, provoking long term unknown effects on human health and on both terrestrial and, through the ridge-to-reef/source-to-sea connection, also the marine environment. **Horticulture is highly exposed to extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heavy rains. It is drastically affected by pests, requiring substantial agricultural inputs and agrochemicals, which increase land-based waste that ends up in groundwater layers and the sea.**

One of the 5 national voluntary LDN targets in São Tomé and Príncipe is to reduce by 25 per cent the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and increase the use of organic products by 25 per cent by the year 2030. This target is also one of the key priority areas of the updated NDC. The LDN component of this project will seek to deliver a distinct contribution to the achievement of this target.

Local artisanal fisherfolk report drastic declines in resource availability and catches. Notwithstanding this, and to address increasing food demand caused by demographic growth and increased consumption pressure on a limited territory, São Tomé e Príncipe will require a further increase of local -but especially sustainable, agricultural production, and of restored, and sustainably harvested, coastal fish stocks.

Efforts to achieve the 'combined' objectives -namely the protection and restoration of both the terrestrial and coastal-marine biosphere, and of the ecosystem goods and services these provide in support of a sustainable blue economy, must be embedded in a context of sustainable land/soil/water and coastal/marine zone management, under an integrated Ridge-to-Reef/Source-to-Sea approach, aspiring land degradation neutrality and with sustainable agricultural intensification complemented with actions to both protect and restore, and sustainably use the nation's marine and coastal natural resources.

As such, the African SIDS integrated IW/LD demonstration in São Tomé will also support the exploration of the potential for innovative use of marine natural resources (algae as a potential source for 'land restoration-friendly' agricultural fertilizer), combined with marine spatial planning and marine conservation/protection efforts (MPA management). Promotion of bio-inputs-supported sustainable horticulture can constitute one important factor in the equation towards long-term sustainability. As already noted, the required Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) measures in São Tomé e Príncipe are varied and will require substantial investments.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 2.5:

Activity 2.5.1: Enhance legal, institutional and regulatory framework and strengthen national capacities to monitor, control and report on the imports and use of agro-chemicals to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Target and NDC goal on agrochemicals. This will include launching an online database/digital platform providing updated information on the import and use of agrochemicals and developing capacities at all related institutions of the Ministry of Agriculture (CIAT, CADR, CATAP, Agrochemicals shop) and of the Customs Department and Customs Surveillance Police to control importation and use of fertilizers and pesticides, with a particular focus on those used for horticultural

production. This activity is well linked to the social, economy, and ecological evaluation to be conducted under Output 1.1.

Activity 2.5.2: Enhance bio-inputs value chains, including local production, distribution, market acceptance, sale and use for the production of organic vegetables, in the island of Sao Tome and explore possible benefits from AfCFTA. This will include support for piloting local production of bio-fertilizers; strengthening the production and commercialization of different types of bio-inputs; enhancing the production and market access for organic vegetables. Emphasis will be put on developing entrepreneurship skills for women and youth. Also, Private sector engagement will be ensured using the framework approach developed under Output 1.3.

Activity 2.5.3: Develop management plans (including coastal-marine spatial planning) and financing strategies for integrated management of Sao Tome's two Marine Protected Areas and surrounding coastal areas taking into account the ridge-to-reef approach. The financing strategies will include exploring opportunities from AfCFTA. This activity is linked to Outputs 1.1 and 1.3.

Activity 2.5.4: Support coastal communities to develop Blue Economy livelihoods activities related to reducing threats on the biodiversity of MPAs and coastal areas under output 2.5.3. Emphasis will be put on developing entrepreneurship skills for women and youth.

Output 2.6. SEYCHELLES Blue Economy Demonstration: The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.

8. The tourism and fishing sectors constitute the economic pillars of the Republic of the Seychelles. Over the years, significant investments have been made to modernize the fishing industry, including the use of new post-harvest technologies, giving the country a competitive edge in the fishery industry compared to other SIDS in the western Indian Ocean. Yet, similar to all SIDS, the artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries of the Republic of Seychelles face challenges, some of which are increasingly exacerbated by climate change. The common challenges include lack of appropriate infrastructure and know-how, over-exploitation, pollution, and loss of habitats[36]. It is also expected that owing to the compounding effects of climate change, anomalies such as reductions in fish reproduction and changes in fish-species composition will be observed.[37]

In view of the above, the Government of Seychelles has taken many initiatives to support the fishing sector and has also shown major interests in pursuing sustainable aquaculture projects leading to the development of a national Mariculture Master Plan[38]. However, limited resources in terms of labor, technology and finance have slowed down the momentum of some of the aquaculture pilot initiatives and dwarfed others[39].

In order to support the advancement of ocean-based sectors in the country, the Blue Economy Demonstration project in the Seychelles will investigate and model economically viable avenues to skew anthropological pressure from over-exploited marine resources to undervalued marine species and explore options for developing marine aquaculture.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 2.6:

Activity 2.6.1: Evaluation of the potential for the sustainable use of economically viable undervalued marine species by artisanal and semi-industrial fishers as well as the aquaculture sector of the Republic of Seychelles, to relieve anthropological pressure on over-exploited marine resources. This activity is linked to Output 1.1.

Activity 2.6.2: Enhancing national institutional capacities of Governmental departments and other stakeholders of the fishery-associated local communities to support the implementation of sustainable Blue-Economy-related activities. This activity will be linked with activities under output 1.4.

Activity 2.6.3: Upgrading technologies for improved post-harvest conditions and piloting new livelihood opportunities (focusing on women and youth) through a community-based small-scale aquaculture demonstration project and the local commercialization of at least one undervalued marine species and/or its derivative products. Private Sector engagement and possible linkage to AFCFTA will be explored under this activity.

COMPONENT 3: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND UPSCALING

Activities under Component 3 seek to contribute to the following project-level outcome:

Outcome 3. Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and upscaled across African SIDS and beyond.

9. A knowledge management plan and communication and awareness raising strategy on sustainable blue economy for African SIDS will be developed during the first six months of project implementation. These tools will help to ensure project information and knowledge products are exchange with all relevant stakeholders in the region to support the effective and efficient delivery of project results. They will also support the delivery of outputs on trainings and dialogue both at national and regional level.

Output 3.1. Strengthening communication and knowledge management (project results, innovative solutions, best practices and lessons learned).

10. As per the established practice for GEF IW projects, the African SIDS PMU and relevant/selected Project Partners/Stakeholders will actively participate in the regular/core GEF IW: LEARN learning exchange events that will take place during the project implementation period. Subject to the availability of adequate funding, participation in other relevant events and activities of the Global Marine/BE/LDN/R2R Community may also be pursued with the aim of fostering knowledge exchange and increased/maximized global environmental benefits from the African SIDS GEF investments through the dissemination of good practices.

This output will be implemented working closely with the AUC Blue Economy Division, AUDA-NEPAD, the RECS and the LME coordinating bodies (like Abidjan Convention and the Nairobi Convention) ? these regional bodies will play a critical role in convening regional meetings and also reporting to the AUC Summit.

Among the GEF IW: LEARN events where active participation of the African SIDS Project is anticipated, the following are highlighted: the (usually biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences, tailored IW: LEARN twinning exchanges, regional workshops, etc.

Production and dissemination, at national, regional and global levels (both SIDS and wider ocean stakeholders communities) of written and audiovisual materials, such as e.g. a project video, IW: LEARN website ([building on the African SIDS page](#)) and newsletter contributions, experience notes and story maps, will allow to capture and share good practices and lessons learned from the African SIDS Project, as project implementation is advancing, and enable the upscaling of good practices and demonstrated sustainable solutions. In doing so, African SIDS will keep an eye on possible innovations in terms of the formatting and dissemination of content, with a purview of maximizing uptake of good practices and lessons learned. **A communication strategy and plan will be critical in ensuring the outputs developed are disseminated and outreach to stakeholders is effective.**

UNDP is supporting the implementation of IW: LEARN and will work closely with the Coordination Team in UNESCO to strengthen issues from African SIDS under the Marine Hub that is dedicated to Large Marine Ecosystems. The project will also support strengthening information on the African SIDS website page on IW:LEARN as the main portal for sharing information.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 3.1:

Activities under this Output relating to the participation in GEF IW: LEARN portfolio learning activities will include (as applicable and depending on the GEF IW:LEARN Project's agenda):

Activity 3.1.1: Participation in the (biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC)

Activity 3.1.2: Participation of the Project in IW: LEARN twinning exchanges, and regional workshops (*to be coordinated with the IW: LEARN team*)

Activity 3.1.3: Participation of the Project in other relevant global/regional events surrounding the ?Oceans & Sustainable Development? **themes such as WIOMSA science to policy platform for knowledge sharing and learning on research results to inform policy in the Western Indian Ocean region.**

Activities under this Output relating to the production and dissemination of knowledge products arising from the African SIDS interventions include:

Activity 3.1.4: Development and dissemination of (multi-lingual) materials documenting project activities, progress and results **under Component 1 and Component 2- with special attention to success stories (including innovative solutions), good practices and lessons learned. To the extent possible, and to increase scope, relevance and cost-efficiency, a joint publication(s)/co-production(s) achieved through collaborative efforts involving other initiatives in the region, IW: LEARN and possibly other GEF IW projects (e.g. PROCARIBE+) will be pursued. Also, the production of the following written and/or audiovisual materials will be contemplated: project videos, a story map(s), newsletters, blogs and, IW:LEARN experience notes. In the production of materials under this output, due attention will be given to key issues such as: gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and youth, and resilience.**

Activity 3.1.5: **A joint Participating Countries-UNDP-GWP-AUC-AUDA-NEPAD ?good practices in African SIDS? publication focusing on the project achievements under all components through collaborative efforts will be pursued.**

Activity 3.1.6: **Development and implementation of a communication strategy and plan to support awareness raising and the dissemination of key project outputs.**

Output 3.2. Innovative solutions and best practices from other projects, other SIDS and regional initiatives identified and disseminated at national and regional levels

11. The African SIDS Project is far from the only initiative specifically targeting one or several of the world's SIDS or more specifically one or several of the African SIDS-participating countries, and should therefore not work in isolation from other BE/LDN/R2R initiatives around the globe. In order to pursue replication and upscaling of good practices in African SIDS and beyond, good practices and lessons learned from around the world and especially in SIDS will be collected and disseminated among the key relevant African SIDS stakeholders.

12. Candidate initiatives for the collection of innovative solutions, good practices and lessons learned include in first instance, but are definitely not limited to other GEF-funded projects targeting SIDS such as e.g. IW: LEARN, PROCARIBE+ and Blue and Green islands project; and other initiatives in the regions such as those of AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, WIOMSA, Nairobi Convention and Abidjan Convention.

Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 3.2:

Activity 3.2.1: Organization of workshop(s), strategically and collaboratively (i.e. in consultation with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, LMEs and other African SIDS stakeholders) scheduled throughout this project lifespan and targeting the participating countries as main beneficiaries, and, to the extent possible, also involving other global SIDS (e.g. through coordination, as feasible, with other GEF initiatives such as IW:LEARN), and with the participation of invited experts and practitioners (e.g. community members from existing successful community-based IW/LD/R2R initiatives) as well as representatives from, or invitees invited/proposed by other relevant global or regional initiatives; workshops will focus particularly on the exchange of solutions, lessons learned and best practices that will be of relevance to the planned/ongoing African SIDS demonstration interventions under project Component 2, and to the replication/upscaling of ocean and community-positive action.

Activity 3.2.2: Development of project website and collection (and, potentially, funding allowing, co-production with other related projects and initiatives), online storage, publication, and dissemination of (multi-lingual) written and audiovisual materials documenting success stories (including innovative solutions), best practices and lessons learned that are of relevance for the BE/LDN aspirations of participating African SIDS (and beyond). Already initiated during the PPG and to be continued throughout the African SIDS project lifespan; to be linked to/integrated with the activities under Outputs 3.1. and 3.2.

Output 3.3. Strategic contributions to a data/information/knowledge exchange network/infrastructure that supports BE/LDN development in the African SIDS participating countries

13. Substantial amounts of data, information, technical reports and other knowledge products on the marine environment and the marine/coastal/island natural resources of the (southeastern) Atlantic and Western Indian Oceans (WIO) - of relevance to the countries from the region and to the African SIDS - have been created both within the region as well as globally, with and without the explicit aim of supporting management processes, decision-making and investments.

14. Unfortunately, many of these efforts were project- and/or sector-driven, have been ?ad hoc? in nature, and were undertaken in a non-systematic, non-standardized way. They have therefore not been

formally or sustainably embedded in established and long-term regional mechanisms that seek to support a more holistic and sustainable, ecosystem-based or ridge-to-reef resources governance and management approach.

15. Many initiatives lacked continuity, and/or are insufficiently known. A multitude of strategies and action programmes were developed in the region, but often lacked the data and mechanisms to track their implementation.

16. Awareness about, and access to existing data, information and knowledge is often fragmented among the many stakeholders. Frequent reference is made in this context to the scarcity of financial resources to address the data/information/knowledge challenge when seeking to support decision-making and/or M&E relating to sustainable ocean management and associated socio-economic development. Nonetheless, it is easily observed how many efforts keep on being duplicated across different projects and initiatives, while critical knowledge gaps persist in time. Existing platforms and products are generally not linked together in a unified knowledge infrastructure, and/or remain insufficiently used.

17. Such lack of awareness about existing data, information and knowledge sources, complemented by insufficient or inadequate (access to) data, information and knowledge, were -together with and linked to the existence of a 'science-policy gap'- cited as important root causes of the ongoing degradation of the marine environment in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses developed with the support of the GEF for the Wider Caribbean (region consisting of 26 countries and 18 overseas territories, of which 25 are SIDS), but is equally applicable to the region and countries covered by the African SIDS Project.

18. To this effect, African SIDS project will develop a framework for data collection, analysis and reporting for the African SIDS in collaboration with the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD. The framework will not only seek to monitor the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy in SIDS, it will also (a) sustainably harness and connect existing global, regional and national efforts, while (b) setting up a system to identify information gaps and respond to these. If successful, this tool will be upscaled to continental level. Close collaboration with other GEF-supported initiatives will hereby be sought, including IW: LEARN and PROCARIBE+ - it is noted in this context how the latter project, focusing on the Wider Caribbean, has similar aspirations and activities in support of an enhanced marine data systems. The aspired collaboration and synergies are expected to lead to a higher return on the GEF investments under both projects.

List of Proposed Activities to be supported by the African SIDS Project under Output 3.3:

Activity 3.3.1: Identification of existing ocean/BE/LDN/R2R-related information exchange networks, globally and in the African SIDS region - with particular relevance to SIDS or SIDS-supporting institutions. The process will also identify related initiatives planned under the wider GEF IW portfolio and/or the global marine/SIDS community, and scoping of opportunities for synergies - proposed to be conducted in collaboration with IW:LEARN

Activity 3.3.2: Development of a Management Information System (working with AUC) that will address the information and reporting needs of African SIDS in the context of implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and sustainable ocean management/BE/LDN/R2R (collaboration with e.g. IWLEARN and the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ anticipated).

Activity 3.3.3: Support the development/enhancement and deployment of key strategic elements of the proposed Management Information System

Activity 3.3.4: Development of a sustainability plan for the elements of the network developed with the support of African SIDS

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The project is fully aligned with the Strategic Objective 1 of the GEF-7 International Waters (IW) Focal Area which aims to catalyze multi-state cooperation to 'Strengthen Blue Economy Opportunities'. The Project will apply ecosystem-based approaches through, inter alia, the development of integrated ocean management arrangements and the development of initiatives that address different key environmental stressors such as land-based sources of pollution, habitat degradation, unsustainable fisheries, and the cross-cutting issue of climate change. The African SIDS have demonstrated their firm commitment to ensuring blue growth through the development of strategic frameworks and working with the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in taking the agenda 2063 forward. As such, the project will respond to all 3 Strategic Actions called for under Objective 1 of the GEF-7 IW Focal Area. As indicated under the GEF-7 IW Programming directions, strengthening blue economy opportunities requires regional cooperation (esp. Project Components 1 and 3) and national action (Project Component 2), with tools such as socio-economic and environmental assessments (Component 1) this will be supported by enhanced data/information and knowledge management (Component 3) being enablers for more sustainable management and use of marine and coastal resources. The GEF-7 IW Focal Area aims to support collective management of coastal and marine systems through engaging with civil society, MSME, private sector and governments and promoting implementation of the full range of integrated ocean policies, legal and institutional reforms which the proposed project aligns with. With regards to Impact Program the project aligns with the Health Oceans for Sustainable the proposed project supports sustainable fisheries, through joint public-private efforts, the Project will support actions to substantially reduce IUU and/or negative impacts from unsustainable fishing practices and gear at the community level.

The Project will also support the GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) Focal Area key Objective 1: 'support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN' and key Objective 2 'creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation'. The Demonstration Project for Sao Tome and Principe under Component 2 will enhance the capacities and frameworks to help achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality Target and NDC goal on agrochemicals in the country. The demo will enhance the bio-inputs value chain for the production of organic vegetables in the highlands of the island of Sao Tom?. It will also enhance national-level capacities to monitor, control and report on the import and use of agro-chemicals by presenting proposals to improve the existing regulatory framework and building the capacities of national institutions involved in the agro-chemical value chain. The demo will apply a ridge-to-reef approach by complementing the work on LD with support for management and conservation measures of coastal and marine natural capital.

Alignment with the GEF International Waters Focal Area and Land Degradation strategy:

African SIDS responds to Strategic Objective 1 of the GEF-7 International Waters (IW) Focal Area (FA), which aims to catalyze multi-state cooperation to 'Strengthen Blue Economy Opportunities'. The proposal is well-aligned with the Strategic Actions of Objective 1. The Project will apply ecosystem-based approaches through, inter alia, the development of integrated ocean management arrangements and the development of initiatives that address different key environmental stressors such as land-based

sources of pollution, habitat degradation, unsustainable fisheries, and the cross-cutting issue of climate change. As such, the project will respond to all 3 Strategic Actions called for under Objective 1.

As indicated under the GEF-7 IW Programming directions, strengthening blue economy opportunities require regional cooperation (esp. Project Components 1 and 3) and national action (Project Component 2), with tools such as Marine Spatial Planning (Component 1 and 2, all to be supported by enhanced data/information and knowledge management (Component 3)- being enablers for more sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. The GEF-7 IW Focal Area aims to fund collective management of coastal and marine systems (Project Component 3, engaging civil society, MSME, private sector and governments) and implementation of the full range of integrated ocean policies, legal and institutional reforms (Component 1).

The Project will support selected countries in developing/updating their Blue Economy Plans and/or BE-supporting instruments, and in enhancing the effective management of their MPA's, engaging civil society organizations and MSME's in the protection and restoration of key coastal habitats (mangroves, seagrass beds, corals) while simultaneously providing sustainable livelihoods (tourism, small-scale fisheries, mariculture,...) (Component 2).

Connecting the targets of healthy ecosystems and sustainable fisheries, through joint public-private efforts, the Project will support actions to substantially reduce IUU and/or negative impacts from unsustainable fishing practices and gear at the community level (Component 2).

While the Project would also not directly deliver on the target of enhanced water security in transboundary freshwater ecosystems (GEF7 IW FA Objective 3), it may support several of the calls for action under this Objective, as it may seek to engage with, e.g., IW:LEARN, SIWI, CAPNET to increase awareness, as well as the capacity for better integration of IWRM/IRBM and ICZM/MSP efforts, promoting the Source-to-Sea (S2S)/Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) approach (Component 1 and 2).

The Project will also support the GEF-7 Land Degradation (LD) Focal Area key Objective 1: ?support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN? and key Objective 2 ?creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation?. The Demonstration Project for Sao Tome and Principe under Component 2 will enhance the capacities and frameworks to help achieve the Land Degradation Neutrality Target and NDC goal on agrochemicals in the country. The demo will enhance the bio-inputs value chain for the production of organic vegetables in the highlands of the island of Sao Tom?. It will also enhance national-level capacities to monitor, control and report on the import and use of agro-chemicals by presenting proposals to improve the existing regulatory framework and building the capacities of national institutions involved in the agro-chemical value chain. The demo will apply a ridge-to-reef approach by complementing the work on LD with support for management and conservation measures of coastal and marine natural capital. **Gender issues and climate change considerations will be mainstreamed throughout the project design and implementation.** The Project will develop a strong alliance with IW: LEARN (Component 1 and 3).

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Incremental/additional cost reasoning:

The baseline investments from the African SIDS have successfully led the development of strategic frameworks for blue economy growth. Through the AUC cooperation among the member states in Africa has been promoted with the development of the Africa Blue Growth Strategy and RECs have developed regional strategies to realize Blue Economy planning and management in Africa. Other regional. Organisations like UNECA, UNESCO and UNEP have also been instrumental in driving geographical integration that the project will build on. The proposed regional project, to be financed by GEF, would not be successful without those baseline investments and political commitments from the multiple inter-governmental organizations and geopolitical integration mechanisms which the African SIDS participate in. The proposed project will positively impact sustainability and continuity of the outcomes, as well as their replication and upscaling potential. The project will also build on the investments that have been made into 3 LMEs which strengthened understanding of the issues through TDA/SAP process and enhancing marine governance mechanisms. These investments mainly from GEF and the regional seas programme are critical in promoting a collective response from the African SIDS.

While the medium- to long-term gains to be obtained from innovation and from adopting collaborative, integrated, ecosystem-based approaches can generally be clearly visualized, in the combined 'post-COVID19' and 'climate crisis' context faced particularly by SIDS, one of the main bottlenecks to the implementation of the Alternative Scenario proposed by the Project will be the short-term financing of the incremental costs of: well-coordinated, region-wide, cross/multi-sectoral and innovative action, covering multiple spatial scales, and backed by sound data, information and knowledge, and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The GEF funding provided through the African SIDS Project to help cover these incremental costs will help putting the participating countries on the track towards achieving their sustainable and climate-resilient blue socio-economic development aspirations.

Expected contributions from the baseline and from the GEFTF

Previous investments from participating countries, GEF, and other donors have been instrumental in understanding pressures on marine ecosystems in African SIDS and the corresponding LMEs, namely through the preparation of several Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses. These investments have also allowed the development and implementation of Strategic Action Programmes to address these pressures and other priority root causes to environmental degradation, including poor ocean management, climate change, pollution reduction, and overexploitation of marine resources.

In addition, as the Blue Economy agenda is gaining momentum globally and among the SIDS, nearly all participating countries have developed Blue Economy frameworks. At the national level, there is a considerable number of planned or ongoing interventions and the indicative co-financing identified is \$23,243,237 including contributions from UNDP, SIDS governments, bilaterals, multi-laterals, NGOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The planned interventions include raising awareness and building national capacity, strengthening governance approaches, restoring marine ecosystems and the services they provide, diversifying economic activities, developing spatial planning frameworks, and for some SIDS, introducing innovative financing mechanisms to support the implementation of national frameworks supporting the ocean agenda (e.g., Cabo Verde).

However, even with these interventions, a number of constraints will still limit the full transition to an inclusive sustainable Blue Economy in African SIDS. Namely, institutional fragmentation and uncoordinated approaches at both the national and regional levels, lack of appropriate data for integrated evidence-based planning, and lack of innovative business opportunities. In addition, the COVID-19

crisis, that continues to have lingering impacts in African SIDS, is making financial resources, namely public, less available to address pressing threats and challenges, namely environmental threats.

In the absence of this GEF intervention, the baseline scenario will prevail, with patchy interventions and a sectoral and geographical siloed approach. The Blue Economy transformation would be slower and less cost effective, limiting SIDS abilities to take full advantage of their Blue Economy potential which in turn, will exacerbate the unsustainable use of natural marine resources and hinder socio-economic development.

With increasing impacts of climate change and other anthropogenic impacts, this situation would result in increased risks on the environment and associated livelihoods. Building upon the crucial processes that are taking place at the national and sub-regional levels and upon the baseline investments from the SIDS and other donors, the alternative scenario with the requested GEF financing is expected to accelerate the Blue Economy transformation in African SIDS to protect marine resources while supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and food security. The GEF intervention will be focused on consolidating the Blue Economy transformation ?building blocks? available in the different SIDS through a combination of national and regional interventions.

Having a regional project, rather than multiple national interventions for African SIDS, that face similar challenges and opportunities, will encourage integration, more effective experience sharing, and economies of scale. More specifically, and at the national level, the GEF investment will strengthen the institutional, regulatory, and capacity frameworks to create proper Blue Economy and LDN enabling environments. Targeted national investments will test new and innovative models to advance protection and restoration of coastal, marine, and agricultural ecosystems while diversifying and sustaining economies. This GEF project will also contribute to developing sustainable innovative finance mechanisms to catalyze public and private investments in a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy.

At the regional level, The GEF intervention will bolster effective knowledge sharing and learning among the participating SIDS, with opportunities to bring knowledge from other regions facing similar challenges. The experience sharing of lessons learned for the demonstrations in each county will provide a holistic view on sustainable Blue Economy interventions under different contexts and will make available several successful templates for replication and up-scaling. Finally, the project will encourage collaboration among governments and regional and national stakeholders to accelerate the transition to an inclusive sustainable Blue Economy.

Co-financing commitments to the African SIDS Objective and Outputs

Co-financing leveraged and invested into the Project Objective and Project Outcomes throughout the project timeline (from PIF approval to project end) will consist of both in-kind and cash contributions, and as it is anticipated, will originate from countries, IGO?s, NGO?s, CSO?s, IFI?s, philanthropy, the development aid community, research agencies, the private sector and the GEF Agency. A substantial amount of commitments were obtained during the PPG phase, while additional contributions will be identified and leveraged throughout the Project?s implementation phase.

Table 4 (c). Confirmed sources of African SIDS Co-financing for the project

Sources of Co-financing	Co-financing category	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)	Included in project results?	If yes, list the relevant outputs
Civil Society Organization	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	Grant	\$1,000,000	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC), Comoros	Grant	\$25,000	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Maison des Organisations de la Soci?t? Civile (MOSC), Comoros	In-kind	\$75,000	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Lantuna NGO, Cabo Verde	In-kind	\$221,662	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	NGO Biosfera 1, Cabo Verde	In-kind	\$130,719	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Association d'Intervention pour le D?veloppement et l'Environnement Mavouna, Moroni Comores (AIDE)	In-kind	\$400,000	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Ulanga ngazidja, Comoros	In-kind	\$200,000	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Oikos Cooperat?o e Desenvolvimento, Sao Tom? e Pr?ncipe	Grant	\$760,972	N	N/A
Civil Society Organization	Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa	In-kind	\$150,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP CO- Mauritius- Seychelles	Grant	\$7,456,944	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Cabo Verde	Grant	\$100,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Comoros	Grant	\$60,000	N	N/A

GEF Agency	UNDP CO - Guinea-Bissau	Grant	\$100,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - S?o Tome and Principe	Grant	\$50,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP CO - S?o Tome and Principe	In-kind	\$50,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Comoros	In-kind	\$250,000	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Mauritius	In-kind	\$249,769	N	N/A
GEF Agency	UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge - Cabo Verde	In-kind	\$250,000	N	N/A
Donor Agency	World Food Programme	Grant	\$500,000	N	N/A
Other	Jean Piaget University, Cabo Verde	In-kind	\$48,973	N	N/A
Other	BioGuinea Foundation, Guinea-Bissau	Grant	\$300,000	N	N/A
Other	Camara Municipal of Ribeira Grande Santiago, Cabo Verde	Grant	\$812,528	N	N/A
Other	Camara Municipal de Santa Catarina, Cabo Verde	Grant	\$1,187,191	N	N/A
Other	Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini, Comoros	In-kind	\$290,000	N	N/A
Other	Commune de Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini, Comoros	Grant	\$300,000	N	N/A
Recipient Country Government	Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores	In-kind	\$1,000,000	N	N/A
Recipient Country Government	Agence des Parcs Nationaux des Comores	Grant	\$4,024,479	N	N/A
Recipient Country Government	National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros	Grant	\$450,000	N	N/A

Recipient Country Government	National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality, Comoros	In-kind	\$200,000	N	N/A
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores	In-kind	\$500,000	N	N/A
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rales de l'Environnement et des For?ts des Comores	Grant	\$2,100,000	N	N/A
Total			\$23,243,237		

Note: Exchange rate used 1 Euro =1.0893231 USD

At PPG stage, preliminary indicative co-financing amounting to USD **\$23,243,237** has been identified.

Further financial contributions to the continued implementation will come from a multitude of projects and initiatives active and/or under development in the region. These will also include other GEF financial contributions, and third-party co-financing contributions to GEF-funded projects. While the latter are not to be reflected in the amounts cited above, they will still substantially contribute to the overarching project objectives.

1. *Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)*

The African SIDS project will contribute to improved natural resource management frameworks through inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy transformation, which will result in improved provision of agro-ecosystem goods and services, reduced nutrient and pesticide pollution of international waters, restored and sustained coastal, and marine ecosystems goods and services, as well as maintained capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon. Through the development of innovative approaches to enhance the blue economy in the 6 participating SIDS under Component 2, combined with the development of new blue economy instruments under Component 1, the project will contribute to the sustainable development of African SIDS.

More specifically, and at the national level, the project will contribute to the following Global Environmental Benefits as quantified via the GEF Core Indicators: Core indicator 2 (Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use), sub-indicator 2.2

(Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness specifically) through support to management effectiveness of MPAs in Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde and Comoros, where co-management approaches and new sustainable revenue generation opportunities (e.g., aquaculture) will be introduced in favor of local populations.

Alignment of the ICZM protocols of both Nairobi and Abidjan conventions will be ensured at the national level policy work of outcome 1; Core indicator 3 (Area of land restored), sub-indicator 3.1 (Area of degraded agricultural land restored) and Core indicator 4 (Area of landscapes under improved practices excluding protected areas) will be mainly addressed through the demonstration project in São Tomé e Príncipe which will focus on the promotion of sustainable use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other phytochemicals in the small-scale agriculture sector.

All the participating countries will set-up a National Inter-Ministerial Steering Committees that will ensure the delivery on Core indicator 7 (cooperative management), sub-indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees. In addition, the regional component of this project will ensure engagement in IWLEARN through a participation in training events, both at the regional and global levels, production of experience notes annually and provision of data, and participation and engagement in the GEF biennial International Waters conferences (sub-indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products).

Finally, an estimated 323,733 beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the project and support Core Indicator 11 (Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of the GEF investment).

In addition to Core indicators, this regional project will directly address SDG 13 (Climate Change), targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, and 13.b; as well as SDG 14 (Life Below Water), targets 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.7, and 14.b. The project will also indirectly contribute to SDGs 1 (poverty), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (growth/work), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

Innovativeness

The three components of the African SIDS Project will introduce, and foster innovation as follows:

The Component 1 (Sustainable Blue Economy and Land Degradation Neutrality enabling conditions): will assist countries in introducing novel regulatory and institutional frameworks intended

to preserve and restore the health of the oceans and agricultural landscapes, identify new sustainable economic sectors, and in adopting the proposed paradigm shift (from a problem-focus to an opportunity-focus) thus fostering ocean conservation and sustainable management-based (and where applicable, ridge-to-reef based) Blue Economy transformation. In addition, this component will aim at identifying innovative financial mechanisms, to attract private funding into inclusive sustainable Blue Economy sectors, like aquaculture, marine biotechnologies, sustainable land management and marine conservation. The training and capacity building efforts under this component will further aim to provide training and capacity building for core African SIDS stakeholders on innovative approaches such as Natural Capital Accounting and integrated environmental-economic reporting.

Component 2 (On-the-ground national demonstrations of Sustainable investments) will identify, design, and test on-the-ground novel approaches and technologies for addressing unsustainable use of ocean, coastal, and land and/or ?new and additional? sustainable Blue Economy opportunities in the areas of sustainable fisheries, marine aquaculture, biotechnology, pollution reduction and integrated Sustainable Land Management. More specifically, the project may e.g. support the development of community-based, small scale aquaculture in Comoros and Seychelles, as well as the restoration of degraded production landscapes through the use of (if demonstrated to be viable: ocean-based) bio-inputs in the development of a biological horticulture value chain leading to reduced agrochemicals use and enhanced valorization of organic production in S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe, support monitoring, compliance and surveillance to improve management effectiveness and livelihood opportunities in Guinea-Bissau, support the adoption of offshore fishing approaches and associated value chains by artisanal fishermen in Mauritius, simultaneously reducing pressure on the reef system and its over-fished resources, and support artisanal fisheries and ecotourism in a newly declared MPA through reinforced entrepreneurship in Cabo Verde.

Finally, under Component 3 (Monitoring and Evaluation, knowledge management and upscaling), the interventions will ensure the promotion of best (innovative) practice exchange among African SIDS through an information exchange network aiming at the improvement of knowledge and management of available information, and by mapping and building on existing initiatives and organizational mandates to ensure a progressive and sustainable, collaborative (i.e. cross-project/cross-initiative) development of a data and knowledge management network - as opposed to the more traditional, unilateral and proven-to-be-unsustainable ?project-introvert? approach.

Sustainability

The integration of project contributions into national instruments (strategies, plans,...) and the participatory approach (local communities, SCOs, private sector, development institutions, donors) to be used during e.g. also the further design, fine-tuning and implementation of the national demo?s will ensure both ownership and sustainability of the project outcomes. In addition, the project will pursue targeted capacity-building for key project stakeholders with long-term roles in supporting national Blue socio-economic development. The use of Government Institutions as national Responsible Parties for the national demonstrations will further contribute to enhanced long-term native capacity and sustainability and replication potential for the demo results. Such efforts will indeed ensure local /national capacity is in place to ensure continuation of the project interventions. Best practice exchanges generated from learning throughout the project will be supported with participating SIDS and beyond. The project will provide strategic considerations to support the consolidation of a data/information/knowledge exchange network/infrastructure based on components already anchored in institutions with relevant long-term mandates that will further support the development of Blue Economy and SLM practices in African SIDS in the long term. A strategic alliance with IW:LEARN will further enhance wider and continued availability of products and lessons/knowledge emanating from the project.

The financial sustainability of the project outcomes will also be further ensured through the identification and development of new frameworks conducive to innovative Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality targets that will seek to foster the engagement of private sector actors and new investments. National governmental stakeholders will be encouraged to adopt these frameworks into their national Blue Economy measures.

In order to monitor and ensure the sustainability of the outcomes sought in the project, a detailed results framework with outcome-level indicators were identified, and adaptive management mechanisms will be put in place at the national and regional project governance levels. A risk matrix was also developed that proposes measures to be put in place when risks are considered to limit the sustainability of project interventions.

Systematic climate-proofing in the definition, selection and prioritization of project actions and investments is further expected to substantially contribute to the sustainability of project achievements and results.

Potential for Scaling-up

Scaling considerations were at the core of the African SIDS Project design. (Preparations for the replication and scaling of best practices and lessons learned through the African SIDS Project will occur (a) both within the 6 participating African SIDS, through regional mechanisms and platforms - both pre-existing ones as well as those to be supported by the project, as well as (b) at global levels, through a strong association between the project and IW:LEARN, and other global mechanisms.

Similarly, national-level efforts, with the development/update of National Blue Economy-supporting/enabling instruments (Component 1) and under the demonstration projects (Component 2), will provide a model for more wide-spread national-level knowledge-based decision making, and will support progressive improvements in the techniques and approaches tested through the African SIDS project; training and capacity building on a variety of issues, will also allow to replicate and upscale related actions across the participating SIDS and beyond.

In addition, Component 3 of the project is designed to document, disseminate and upscale best practices and successful approaches and technologies within and across African Ocean SIDS. This will be facilitated through outreach, advocacy and awareness raising events namely through the IW:LEARN which will ensure experience sharing with other geographies to allow upscaling of successful models. Some of the demonstration projects under Component 2 will support learning exchanges with other local communities of the same country and/or with other SIDS to foster the replication of learnings and best practices. Finally, private sector engagement will allow the upscale of successful investment-ready initiatives.

Similarly, a focus on improving the enabling environment to support blue growth, through enhanced information and knowledge generation and management, MSP, and further actions to secure the natural resource base in alignment with the three-tiered approach presented in Section 3, will make it possible to upscale progress towards conservation targets as well as the project's contributions to the development of thriving, resilient ocean-based economies and support a reduction in land degradation (Sao Tome and Principe).

The three interlinked and complementary African SIDS Project components are thus specifically designed to empower the project to facilitate replication/scaling-up of actions and outcomes, towards achieving sustainability outcomes for the participating African SIDS.

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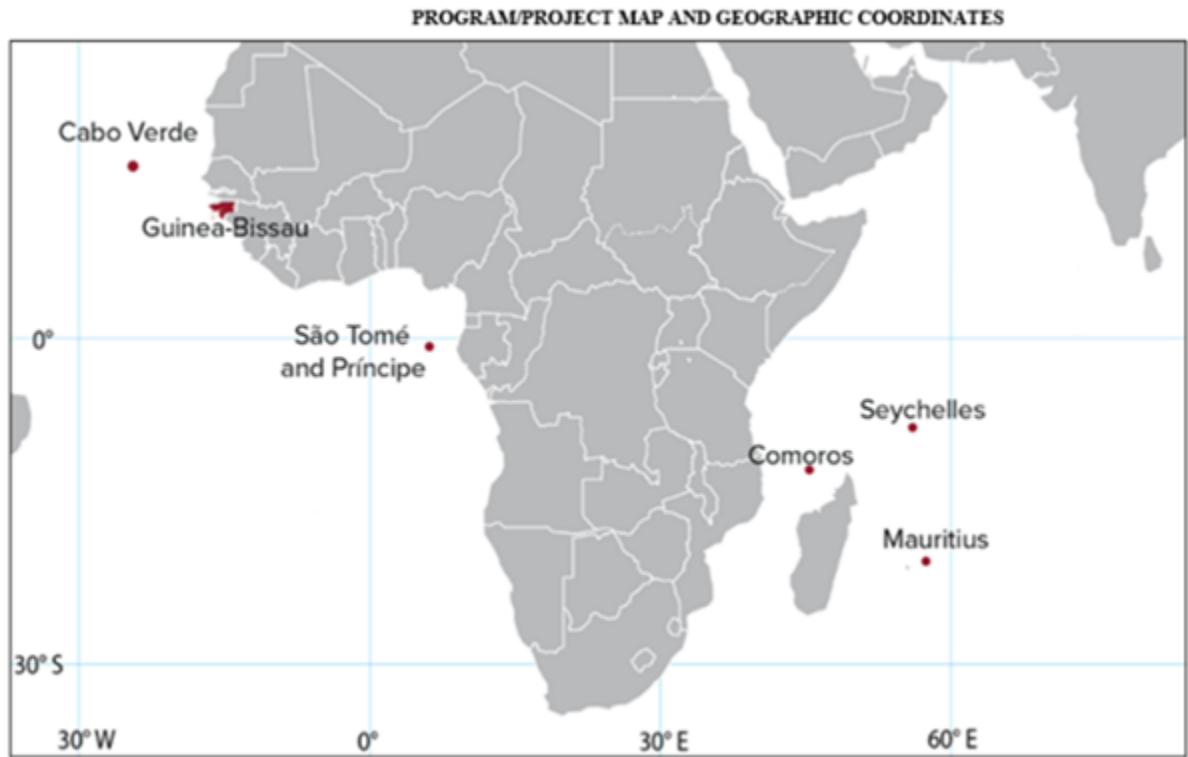
[39] Robinson & Shroff (2020). The fishing sector in Seychelles: an overview, with an emphasis on artisanal fisheries

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

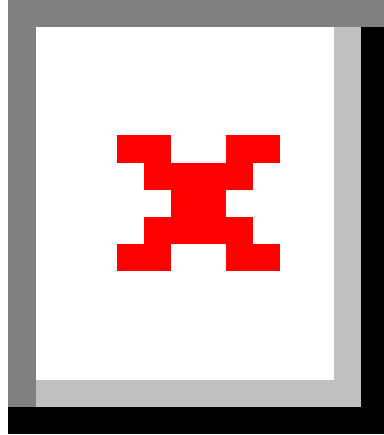
Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Ib. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place. ???

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Geo-referenced map of participating Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS



Maps of the African SIDS National Demonstrations are provided in Annex E.

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Table 5: African SIDS Project Coordinates

Country	African SIDS Project Coordinates	Coordinates (DMS)
Cabo Verde	Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park	15° 1' 26.632" N, 23° 43' 22.661" W
Comoros	Mitsamiouli-Ndrouzi National Park	11°23'19.18"S43°21'42.30"E
Guinea Bissau	Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park	12° 16' 22.711" N, 16° 10' 0.681" W
Mauritius	Mauritius	-20° 26' 40.763" S, 57° 42' 35.362" E
Sao Tome & Principe	Sao Tome & Principe	1° 20' 31" N, 7° 17' 32" E

Seychelles	Seychelles	-4° 16' 55.127" S, 55° 43' 33.172" E
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1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder involvement supporting the development of African SIDS (PIF and PPG)

African SIDS acknowledges that effective stakeholder engagement improves project ownership and acceptance and strengthens the social and environmental sustainability and benefits of supported interventions.

As such, the PIF and PPG Phases were conducted in consultation with governments, continental and regional bodies, inter-governmental organizations, CSOs, acknowledged thematic experts and other relevant stakeholders, including those having previously delivered relevant best practices and lessons learned and those running or planning for parallel or complementary activities. Additionally, extensive literature reviews have been conducted, which have allowed to complement the findings from such consultations with previously identified stakeholder preferences, priorities, challenges, (potential) conflicts and bottlenecks, all of which have assisted the development and fine-tuning of the proposed SIDS African SIDS interventions.

The concepts of continued stakeholder consultations, stakeholder engagement, and of south-south and triangular cooperation have been mainstreamed across all project components, as evidenced by the description of activities contained under Section 3 of the Project Document.

Stakeholders that were engaged, including who, date, type of engagement, number of participants, and the outcome of the discussion.

Country	Name of Delegate	Institution	Date of Consultation	Outcome of the discussion
Regional and Global	Tom Hecht	Advance Africa Management Services	November 2022	Meeting to discuss work currently underway by Advance Africa Management Services across the African SIDS and gain additional information to identify potential linkages for the project to the regional level ongoing initiatives
	Gilberto Antonio	African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	November 2023	Meeting to discuss collaboration with the AfCFTA in the Africa SIDS project to support the development of a platform for dialogue and negotiation for improved integration of the African SIDS BE into international trade.
	Georges Mba-Asseko	Head of Blue Economy Division, African Union Commission	November 2023	Meetings to discuss and align on the role of the AUC in the project. AUC support will ensure that the African SIDS? voice is raised and brings a focus on addressing the challenges they face. The project also will support the countries work towards the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Growth Strategy and supporting AUC in developing systems to monitor its implementation in the SIDS. AUC support to the African SIDS cooperation will facilitate collective processes in creating enabling conditions aimed at ensuring improved blue governance and application of knowledge in planning development and management of blue economies.
	Marco Antonio Da Costa Gourgel	Officer at the Blue Economy Division, African Union Commission		
	Harsen Nyambe Nyambe	Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy, African Union Commission	January 2024	Meeting to discuss the role of AUC in the project
	Hamady Diop	AUDA-NEPAD	November 2023	Meetings to discuss and align on the role of the AUC in the project and to gather further information on

	Bernice Mclean	AUDA-NEPAD	November 2023 December 2023 January 2024	the status of the BE in African SIDS. It was agreed that AUDA-NEPAD will support the implementation of activities under Components 1 and 3. These activities include support in developing guidance for blue accounts; support in developing a framework to enhance private sector engagement in the blue economy transformation; support in developing a framework to monitor the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy in SIDS and supporting the development and dissemination of project related knowledge management products.
	Arthur Tuda	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	January 2024	Meeting to gain an overview on the work being done by WIOMSA in the Africa SIDS participating countries and align on activities for collaboration and engagement during the Africa SIDS project implementation. The project will participate in WIOMSA's science to policy platform for knowledge sharing and learning on research results to inform policy in the Western Indian Ocean region.
	Joseph Maina Mbui	School of Natural Sciences at Macquarie University	January 2024	Meeting to discuss possible linkages and collaboration in the Africa SIDS project building on the work Macquarie University has been implementing around the Nairobi Convention "Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme " (WIO-SAP)
Cabo Verde	Monteiro Carlos	Direção Nacional de Pesca e Aquacultura ? DNPA (National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture)	January 2023	Stakeholder engagement workshop to discuss Cabo Verde National Demonstration project and collect baseline information on Cabo Verde

Iolanda Brites	Direção Nacional de Pesca e Aquacultura ? DNPA (National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture).
Ethel Rodrigues	Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA) (National Directorate for the Environment) -
Zofia Radwan	Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA) (National Directorate for the Environment) -
Albertino Martins	(Institute of the Sea)
Veiga Anav	NGO LANTUNA
Dominika Swolkien	UniCV ? Universidade de Cabo Verde (Cabo Verde University)
Anisio Evora	Conselho Estratégico do Mar CEM (Strategic Council for the Sea)
Nora Silva	National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development

Encida Rodrigues	(DGASP ? General Direction of Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock)
Nelson Moreira	C?mara Municipal de Ribeira Grande de Santiago? (CMRGST)
Armando Lopes	Instituto Mar?timo Portu?rio ? IMP
Ilice Amarante	Instituto Nacional de Gest?o do Territ?rio INGT ? (National Institute for Territorial Management (INGT)
Jesufina Barros	Instituto de Turismo de Cabo Verde (ITCV) (Cabo Verde Tourism Institute)
Ariana Pina	Instituto de Turismo de Cabo Verde (ITCV) (Cabo Verde Tourism Institute)
Antonino Pereira	National Institute for Meteorology and Geophysics
Meno Fernandes	(National Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde).
Sonia Leite	Cabo Verde Chamber of tourism

Mario Moreira	Fundo Nacional do Ambiente (National Fund for the Environment).		
Manuel Ribeiro	Fundo de Sustentabilidade Social do Turismo (Tourism social sustainability fund)		
Doutora Lara Ferrero Gomez	Jian Piaget University	January 2023	Discussions with Jian Piaget University on co-financing to support the creation of an interpretation center at Nature Parc of Baia do Inferno and Monte Agra as a coordinating agent for environmental protection.
Tommy Melo	Biosfera 1	February 2023	Discussions on co-financing to complement the project activities with on-going work by Biosfera 1 on Management of Ecosystems in MPA and integration of communities in new forms of blue sustainable income
Jassira Monteiro	Camara Municipal de Santa Catarina de Santiago	February 2023	Discussions with the City Council to ensure alignment of the project to the local government's priorities and to confirm co-financing support for the implementation of the proposed demonstration project and capacity building.
Ana Veiga	Lantuna NGO	February 2023	Discussions on project co-financing complimenting Lantuna NGO's work towards conservation of the natural resources of marine protected areas and blue economy in Cabo Verde.
Nelson Vaz Moreira	Camara Municipal de Ribeira Grande de Santiago	February 2023	Discussions with the City Council to ensure alignment of the project to the local government's priorities and to confirm co-financing support for the implementation of the proposed demonstration project and capacity building.

	Salette Bettencourt	UNDP Country Office	March 2023	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss co-financing towards the programme aligning with on-going UNDP Cabo Verde work on the conservation of the natural resources of MPAs and the blue economy.
	Maria Celeste Benchimol	UNDP Country Office	January 2024	Meetings with UNDP Country Office to align on the proposed national project demonstration activities, and working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
Comoros	Said Ahamada	Association d'Intervention pour le Développement et l'Environnement Mavouna, Moroni Comores (AIDE NGO)	October 2022	Discussions on co-financing to complement on-going work with AIDE NGO on the Ocean Project
	Aboubacar Ahmed	Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini Commune	October 2022	Discussions on co-financing support to the project aligned with Mitsamiouli Ya Mboini Commune's on-going work on contributing to the development of the legal and institutional framework governing aquaculture and in the restauration of coastal ecosystems.
	Elamine Mbechezi Youssouf	Directorate general of environment and forests	October 2022 February 2023	Discussions on co-financing support to align with the Directorate's on-going work in strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks and capacities for effective management of marine and coastal resources, improving the livelihoods of communities within the national PA network and ensure knowledge management, gender equity and empowerment of PLHIV.
	Marie Attoumane	National Directorate of Tourism and Hospitality	October 2022	Discussions on project co-financing complimenting the Directorate's work on the construction of ecotourism reception facilities in the intervention area.

Anbrata MBT Djoumoi	House of Civil Society Organizationa (MOSC)	October 2022	Discussions on project co-financing aligning with the MOSC's work on building the technical capacity of non-state actors and policy reform in the project area.
Hachinme Aberemane	ULANGA	October 2022	Discussions on co-financing to complement on-going work with ULANGA on the development of ecotourism in coastal areas, the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and the support of fishermen in the areas of intervention of the project.
Effy	Blue Ventures/Dahari	November 2022	Meeting to collect baseline information and align on work currently underway by Blue Ventures in Comoros
Timothy Kluckow	Full Circle Aquaculture	November 2022	Meeting to collect baseline information and align on work currently underway by Full Circle Aquaculture in Comoros
Nassuf Humbcot	Conservation RNAP	January 2023	Stakeholder engagement workshop to discuss Comoros National Demonstration project and collect baseline information on Comoros
Chamsoudine Mbuchieche	ANGD	January 2023	
Dzamil Boinoli	UCCIA	January 2023	
Imad Houda	PFDDSA	January 2023	
Zamil Mangou	PNC	January 2023	
Moulida Shamidi	DREF Ngozidja	January 2023	
Anfane Ali Mdziani	Facilite MDE	January 2023	
Abdoulkarim Abdillah	Association Mains	January 2023	
Tahir Nand	ONG Olangatech	January 2023	
Yahaya Ibrahim	CNDRD	January 2023	
Samir Ali	DGEF	January 2023	
Adame Hamadi	PNUD/GEF	January 2023	

Ali Ahmed Nalamond	PNC	January 2023
Anli Yetth	AD	January 2023
Abdillah Youslfay	RNAP	January 2023
Ratiamola Alan	PNC	January 2023
Baardia Ibrahim	DGEF	January 2023
Amina Anchravia	INRAPE	January 2023
Wanida Housseine	Commissioner General	January 2023
Hassani Soulimann	ORTC	January 2023
Ahmed Nassor	ORTC	January 2023
Djamal Nahoudha	MAIRE	January 2023
Titus	PNUD	January 2023
Katherine Grunjee	PNUD	January 2023
Nazir Nazi	Journalist	January 2023
Anoufidine Said	PNC	January 2023
Nassia Ali	RNAP	January 2023
Bakar Ahamada	DGEF	January 2023
Nassur Issa	Tourisme	January 2023
Nazir Naza	Alwatwane	January 2023
Dini Ahamada	MAIRE	January 2023
Faciele Abdoulatuf	Agent de Surete	January 2023
Yousseuf Soc	DGIF	January 2023
Raissa Mohamed	DGEE	January 2023

	Snehal Soneji	UNDP Country Office	February 2023	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss UNDP co-financing towards the programme aligning with on-going UNDP Comoros work on vulnerable populations being enabled to access and benefit from the positive impacts of the development of the green blue and circular and digital economies.
	Khitami Said Soilihi	UNDP Country Office	December 2023	Meetings to discuss project co-financing and to align on the proposed national project demonstration activities and working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
	Fouad Abdou Rabi	Agency for the management of protected areas in the Comoros called "Parcs nationaux des comores" (PNC)	October 2022 December 2023	
Guinea Bissau	Fenosoa Andriamahenina	BioGuinea Foundation	February 2023	Discussions on co-financing to align the project with on-going work by BioGuinea in the Casheu protected area on Community resilience, in particular community depending on mangrove resources and ecosystem services, and protected areas management efficiency regarding the Casheu Park.
	Tjark Egenhoff	UNDP Guinea Bissau	January 2023	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss co-financing towards the programme aligning with UNDP's objectives to contribute to an increased improvement of natural resource management in the water and governance of protected coastal areas of Guinea Bissau.
	Aissa Regalla de Barros	Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas (IBAP)	December 2023	Meetings with UNDP Country Offices and the Country Responsible Parties to align on the proposed national project demonstration activities, and working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
	Elisabete Alves Da Silva	UNDP Country Office	December 2023	
	Nelvina Barreto	UNDP Country Office	December 2023	

Mauritius	Amanda Serumaga	UNDP Country Office	December 2022	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss UNDP co-financing towards the programme aligning with on-going UNDP work on supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius.
	Dr Pramod Kumar Chumun	Consultant	January 2023 December 2023	Meetings to discuss and validate the demonstration project components and activities for Mauritius
	Mr Daniel Omodo McMondo	UNDP Country Office	January 2023 December 2023	
	Mr Satish Kumar Kadhun	FITEC, MoBE	January 2023 December 2023	
	Mr Ravi Deendayalsing Choreshwar Mohit	FITEC, MoBE	January 2023 December 2023	
	Jean Lindsay Azic	UNDP Country Office	January 2024	Meetings with UNDP Country Office to align on the working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
Sao Tome & Principe	Marcelino Costa	CIAT	August 2022	Meeting to validate key demo concepts presented in the PIF as well as to provide complimentary and new ideas for the development of project activities on the land degradation and blue economy component of the demo project.
	Valdimira Tavares	CIAT	August 2022	
	Lusibetty Trigueiro	CIAT	August 2022	
	Francisca Alcatra	CIAT	August 2022	
	Costa	CIAT	August 2022	
	Eduardo	CIAT	August 2022	
	Iara Trigueiro	PRIASA II	August 2022	
	Darnel Ba?a	NDC partnership	August 2022	
	Liane	Oikos	August 2022	

Edna Peres	WFP = PAM	August 2022	
Bárbara Campos	FAO	August 2022	
Armando Monteiro	Direção Agricultura	August 2022	
Marcelino Costa	CAISC	August 2022	
Sulisa Quaresma	Projeto Promessa Climática	August 2022	
Carlos Tavares	ADAPA	August 2022	
Elísio Teixeira	ADAPA	August 2022	
Arlindo Silva	ADAPA	August 2022	
Iara Trigueiro	PRIASA	August 2022	
Zélia Soares	IMVF	August 2022	
Danel Baía	NDC partnership	August 2022	
Rogério Sênica Rosa	Oikos	August 2022	
Adelino Rosa Cardoso	Ministry of Public Works Infrastructures, Natural Resources and Environment	December 2022	Meetings between the Directorate of Environment and officials of UNDP to provide support services for assistance in implementation of the Africa SIDS Blue Economy demonstration project
Lourenço Monteiro de Jesus	Directorate of Environment of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources	December 2022	Meetings between the Directorate of Environment and officials of UNDP to provide support services for assistance in implementation of the Africa SIDS Blue Economy demonstration project
Kasia Wawiernia	UNDP Country Office	December 2022	Meeting with UNDP and the General Directorate of Environment of the Ministry of Infrastructures, Natural Resources and Environment to discuss the proposed demonstration project for Sao Tome and Principe and arrangements for the DGA to support implementation of the activities as the Responsible Party.

	Luca Monge Roffarello	UNDP Country Office	February 2023	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss UNDP co-financing towards the programme aligning with on-going UNDP work on the development of an ecosystem of organic bio-input manufacturers to produce organic vegetables.
	Edna Irina Peres	WFP Sao Tome and Principe	March 2023	Meeting to discuss co-financing towards the project aligning with on-going WFP work on Sustainable Land Management and development of Agricultural value chains in Sao Tome and Principe
	Kat McGavin (Blue economy demo)	Fauna and Flora International	February 2024	Meetings with UNDP Country Office and the Country Responsible Parties to align on the proposed national project demonstration activities, and working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
	Maria Mendizabel Perez	UNDP Country Office	February 2024	
Seychelles	Amanda Serumaga	UNDP Seychelles	December 2022	Meeting to collect baseline information and to discuss UNDP co-financing towards the programme aligning with on-going UNDP Seychelles work on restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future
	Dr Pramod Kumar Chumun	Consultant	January 2023 December 2023	Meetings to discuss and validate the demonstration project components and activities for Mauritius
	Ms Margaret Ally	Seychelles Fishing Authority	January 2023 December 2023	
	Mr Aubrey Lesperance	Seychelles Fishing Authority	January 2023 December 2023	
	Mr Georgie Nicette	Seychelles Fishing Authority	January 2023 December 2023	
	Ms. Betty Victor	Seychelles Fishing Authority	January 2024	Meetings with UNDP Country Offices and the Country Responsible Parties to align on the proposed national project

	Mr. Vincent Lucas	Seychelles Fishing Authority	January 2024	demonstration activities, and working modalities between the Responsible Parties and the Implementing Partner.
	Jean Lindsay Azic	UNDP Country Office	January 2024	

Partnerships and engagement of stakeholders during Project execution

During project implementation, African SIDS will deploy a range of differentiated measures allowing for inclusion in the project activities of a wide variety of groups of interest at various scales, including under-represented and vulnerable groups.

In support of such efforts, a dedicated Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan has been developed, and is added as an Annex (9) to the African SIDS Project Document. It is noted that the Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement must be seen in association with the Gender Analysis and Action Plan (Annex 11), for consideration of the cross-cutting goals of gender equality and the empowerment of marginalized stakeholder groups, including youth.

Given the geographic scope of the African SIDS Project, and the potential consequences of project activities and outcomes, some of which may extend beyond the limits of the region itself, a wide diversity of stakeholders will influence and/or can be potentially affected, positively or negatively, by the project activities, outputs, and outcomes. This also means that a very large number of stakeholders will need to be engaged, in a variety of ways, and with varying levels of intensity, in or through the project activities to ensure the successful implementation of the project, and to maximize the project's return on investment.

The capacity constraints inherent to the project grant and timeline that the different project agents including the Project Management Unit (PMU), the different Project Implementing Partners and Project Responsible Parties will face, will need to be considered in this context, and a periodic re-evaluation of priorities, throughout the project's implementation timeline, will be required. The forging of strategic alliances and partnership can however alleviate the burden on the project's agents up to a certain extent.

For the purposes of analysing and determining the different levels of engagement needed for different stakeholder groups during the implementation of the African SIDS Project, the BiodivERSA[1] methodology was used. Based on this methodology, four main levels of stakeholder engagement are being considered:

At the highest level, "Collaboration" is used where stakeholders have an active commitment in the project and where actors are considered as partners, providing technical and/or other kinds of support. At the lowest level, "Information" is used for passive actors with whom information about the project or the delivery of the results should be shared. For this category, information is a one-way flow, but it should be included as a form of project engagement tailored to the actor or stakeholder. Intermediate levels of participation are designed to meet the needs of stakeholders who are "Consulted" (e.g. asked for opinions or information); and those with whom "Involvement" occurs (e.g., more committed and can also provide resources or data).

The stakeholder analysis identified a wide range of actors that have the potential to be engaged in the project. A total of 162 actors were identified and the BiodivERSA[2] methodology was applied to identify their potential interest and influence in the project. The detailed results are presented in the

stakeholder plan in Annex 9 of the Prodoc. It is important to highlight that the analysis will need to be updated upon project inception and during the implementation of the project to ensure that it provides a comprehensive picture that supports effective stakeholder engagement throughout the project's lifespan.

It should be noted that the African SIDS project will make a clear distinction, and separation, between stakeholder and target group engagement for project governance and project management-related oversight and decision-making processes (*for these matters, we refer to Project Document Section on (project) Institutional Arrangement and Coordination? and the Technical Advisory Group*), versus the very substantial efforts that will be needed to engage and coordinate the much wider range of project stakeholders and (development) partners in the activities leading to the delivery of the larger set of project outputs.

The analysis also identified the main stakeholder groups to be engaged in the project. Table 9 provides a list of the types of stakeholders to be involved in the project along with a short description. From the latter, it becomes clear that not all stakeholders are to be engaged in similar ways, or with the same intensity. A better understanding of this important connotation will be helpful in prioritizing stakeholder engagement and communication/outreach efforts, something that will be critically important in the context of the limited financial and human resources that will be available to undertake such stakeholder and communication efforts.

Table 9: Project Stakeholder groups and their typology, and short description of role

Stakeholder group/category	Typology and Brief Description
Government-public Institutions	<p>Type: active agents & direct beneficiaries</p> <p>Institutional bodies that serve a public interest function assigned within the structures of the national states. The active participation of and coordination across all relevant national government stakeholders is essential to develop and implement the African SIDS Project. The national-level governmental entities may be engaged as responsible parties in the African SIDS Project. Examples: ministries for environment, tourism, foreign affairs, protected areas national agencies, meteorological services, coast guards institutions.</p>
NGO's and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)	<p>Type: mix of passive and active agents, direct and indirect beneficiaries</p> <p>Non-governmental organizations are institutions that are independent from the public administration. For many of the activities of the project implementation civil society organizations and/or access to information will be key, as members of civil society located within the geographic reach of project activities/outputs will in many cases be directly involved by these activities. In this category is also included the Big International NGOs (BINGOs) as they may support many parallel projects and that require a sound coordination for many opportunities for collaborative actions with the African SIDS outcomes. Examples: NGOs working at local-national level (Fundacao Tato, Maison des Organisations de la Societ? Civile, Cape Verdean Ecotourism Association; BINGOs (Birdlife, The Nature Conservancy, Pew Charitable Trusts)</p>
Inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) at regional or global level	<p>Type: active agents & direct beneficiaries</p> <p>Organizations whose main function is political or / and economic integration or coordination at regional or global levels. IGO's functioning at multiple scales and in multiple aspects provide support for up-scaling implementation being conducted at national level and secure coordinated responses to common national challenges and impacts. Examples: UNDP, FAO, UNEP</p>

Private sector	<p><u>Type: active agents, indirect beneficiaries</u></p> <p>Private companies of diverse productive sectors that are involved in diverse activities and sectors related to blue-economy activities.</p> <p>Examples: Comoros Diving company, Pro-Empresa (Instituto de Apoio e Promocao empresarial).</p>
Academia, science- research and technology institutes (national, regional, or global)	<p><u>Type: mix of passive and active agents</u></p> <p>Academic institutions dedicated to research and knowledge generation. The participation of researchers and academic/research institutions and science-based initiatives is critical for the generation of updated information to address transboundary issues, understanding of connectivity patterns and likelihood of climate change impacts. In addition, they provide technical advice on environmental and socio-economic issues, on evaluation of policies at the regional and national levels. Examples: Cape Verde Ocean Observatory, Universities, Fisheries Center for Applied Research.</p>
Multi and bilateral development aid, environmental funds, partnerships	<p><u>Type: mix of passive and active agents</u></p> <p>International financial and technical support institutions to provide bilateral or multilateral support for development and conservation. Their inclusion is essential in providing technical and funding support across the range of activities, outputs, and outcomes of the Project. Many of these organizations have parallel activities in the region which contribute to the African SIDS objectives. Examples: GEF, USAID, GIZ, World Bank, African Development Bank, National Fund for the Environment from Cabo Verde).</p>
Social Organizations	<p><u>Type: mix of passive and active agents, direct and indirect beneficiaries</u></p> <p>Institutions- bodies formed for organizational purposes and for the exercise of rights and established based on common interests, and for the articulation and association of a private nature. For many of the activities and outputs of the African SIDS project, civil society engagement and/or access to information will be key, as they are located within the geographic reach of project activities/outputs will in many cases be directly impacted by these activities. Examples: These integrate second-level social organizations, chambers and organizations as Mam? Catxina Association, Comoros National Fishermen?s Union.</p>

In light of the above, given the nature of the project and its rather broad geographic and thematic scope, it is acknowledged and stressed that the successful deployment of sound stakeholder engagement will require strong Project Management Unit (PMU) and Responsible Parties capable of supporting such efforts, combined with and supported through the establishment by the PMU of strong working relationships and alliances with key regional partners and platforms (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, WIOMSA, Nairobi Convention Secretariat, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, LMEs, etc. that can provide meaningful support and access to key stakeholder groups.

Achieving stronger and more wide-spread participation, buy-in and ownership, and sustainability and continuity of project outputs and outcomes, as well as enhanced cost-effectiveness may also be achieved by engaging other regional organizations with well-established stakeholder networks. An important caveat, however, is that such an approach may demand coordination of project timelines with those of ongoing regional governance processes, in addition to flexibility and adaptive project management.

South-south and triangular cooperation

Opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation that can present avenues for the harvesting, replication and for the dissemination of lessons learned and good/best practice, as well as pursuing the complementarity of actions and/or the pooling of resources offering as such the potential to increase and scale impacts, or enhance their sustainability, have been duly incorporated under the African SIDS Strategy, and several of replication and for the dissemination of lessons learned and good/best practice have been duly incorporated under the African SIDS Strategy, and several of these have been explicitly referred to under Section 3's description of Project Components, Outputs and activities.

In particular, activities planned under Project Components 1 and 3 will provide for such opportunities at the regional level (involving all African SIDS participating countries), whereas specific activities under the national demonstrations under Component 2 will also support (bi- or multi-lateral) south-south and triangular cooperation

Opportunities further include but are not limited to those that will be provided through:

? the training and capacity building activities under Component 1, and the potential/prospective engagement of global initiatives in these efforts such as SIWI, CapNet, IW:LEARN, etc., (each of these having associated global programming);

? prospective joint activities with the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge and the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Project, and other projects from the UNDP IW portfolio, the exchanges with other global programmes such as MSPGlobal, IW:LEARN and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI), on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM's), and African SIDS sister GEF and non-GEF projects working on similar topics in the region;

? the dissemination and exchange opportunities to be offered through the regional information management network, the engagement of global players in the development of its blueprint, and the strategic alliance that will be pursued with IW:LEARN.

For additional insights into these opportunities, we refer to the description of activities under Section 3.

[1] *The BiodivERsA* it is a network of national funding organizations promoting an-European research that offers innovative opportunities for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services

[2] *The BiodivERsA* it is a network of national funding organizations promoting an-European research that offers innovative opportunities for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan developed for the AIO SIDS Project, is included as ProDoc Annex 9.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Stakeholder involvement supporting the development of African SIDS (PIF and PPG)

African SIDS acknowledges that effective stakeholder engagement improves project ownership and acceptance and strengthens the social and environmental sustainability and benefits of supported interventions.

As such, the PIF and PPG Phases were conducted in consultation with governments, continental and regional bodies, inter-governmental organizations, CSOs, acknowledged thematic experts and other relevant stakeholders, including those having previously delivered relevant best practices and lessons learned and those running or planning for parallel or complementary activities. Additionally, extensive literature reviews have been conducted, which have allowed to complement the findings from such consultations with previously identified stakeholder preferences, priorities, challenges, (potential) conflicts and bottlenecks, all of which have assisted the development and fine-tuning of the proposed SIDS African SIDS interventions.

The concepts of continued stakeholder consultations, stakeholder engagement, and of south-south and triangular cooperation have been mainstreamed across all project components, as evidenced by the description of activities contained under Section 3 of the Project Document.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Type response here; if available, upload document or provide link)

The Gender Analysis and Action Plan developed for the African SIDS Project is presented as ProDoc Annex 11. The following provides a summary of the gender-related elements of the Project.

The Gender and Safeguards Specialists (GSS) will provide technical guidance for the implementation of the gender action plan, and will monitor and assess its progress during project execution.

The findings of the analysis regarding the project interventions in the Blue Economy related sectors, show that there is still much work to develop in achieving gender equality in African SIDS participating countries, despite the fact that there appears to be appropriate international and national frameworks promoting gender equality. International Agreements such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small- Scale Fisheries are internationally agreed instruments and provide guidance on how to promote gender equality in the context of achieving environmental sustainability. In addition, all African SIDS participating countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Optional Protocol for CEDAW (OP-CEDAW).

At the national level, all the countries participating in the African SIDS project have national regulations that protect and promote the enforcement of women's rights and gender equality but much progress is still needed to attain gender equality in many aspects of life.

It was clear from the analysis that there is an absence of adequate gender data in most of the participating countries and the availability of information describing women's conditions is very uneven and challenging to obtain. It was therefore not possible to present very detailed data on women's conditions.

One of the sources of information used was the Gender Inequality Index (GII) that measures inequality in three aspects of Human Development: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic status, among 189 countries. With regards to access to education, in most of the participating countries, the GII indicates that women have significantly less access to education than men (for example, access of women to education compared to men was 13% lower in Guinea Bissau and 8.5% lower in Sao Tome and Principe). Mauritius and Maldives reported that access to education for men and women is equally very low. Only Maldives reported that women have 4,9% more access to education than men.

When it comes to the participation rate of women in the labor force, the GII shows that women have significantly less access compared to men - with Maldives, Mauritius and Sao Tome and Principe indicating that women have approximately 30% less access to the labor workforce than men. Referring to the representation of women in parliament positions, among the African SIDS participating countries, women in decision-making positions range from 50% to 10%. Guinea Bissau has the highest number of women in parliamentary positions, with close to 50% of the seats held by women (8 of 18 ministers). The parliaments of Sao Tome and Principe, the Seychelles and Maldives have approximately 30% of their seats held by women. Less than 15% of the ministers in Cabo Verde, Mauritius and Comoros are women.

In the Blue Economy context, women play different roles than their peers when it comes to the exploitation of marine resources. It is therefore important to understand that the dynamics of the blue economy have a gender dimension so that efforts to enhance the blue economy can be considered inclusive and sustainable. When it comes to fisheries, women participate mainly in the pre and post extraction phases. This work is however generally not recognized formally leading to poor and limited data collection systems, cultural conceptions about fisheries as only a man's job and sexism, and common incorrect assumptions of the gender division of labor. Those misconceptions and assumptions make the work of women in the industry invisible and misunderstood. In addition, this lack of recognition is a central cause of women's exclusion from governmental programmes and schemes that could help bridge the gender gap, and it also prevents adequate regulation of their work and inclusion for their participation.

In the case of marine planning and conservation, to be legitimate and successful in the long-term, it is essential that all planning processes leading to a marine spatial plan or new protected areas, that could affect the access and use of coastal and marine resources, be designed and implemented using gender mainstreaming as a key principle. Including women can lead to better outcomes by generating a diversity of perspectives, new ideas, and innovative solutions to address the problems those processes are seeking to address.

The Gender Action Plan (**Annex 11**) defines xx affirmative actions to be executed during project implementation to promote women participation and empowerment, among which are the following:

? **Evidence-based instruments (strategies, plans,...), and financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality** will include a gender equality approach to determine women opportunities to actively participate as project beneficiaries.

? **Affirmative actions for promoting women participation in all project activities** ensuring that at least 30% of the participants in all capacity/building activities are women.

? **The generation of learnings from mainstreaming gender in the blue economy** will be documented and disseminated at national and regional levels.

? **The Project Coordination and Management Unit will achieve gender balance**, making sure that at least 30% of the staff are women and there will be a **Gender Equality and Safeguards Specialist** as part of the project implementation team which will provide technical support for the project, assist with training, and assess progress on gender mainstreaming throughout the project.

? Wherever possible, project activities will integrate affirmative actions to mainstream gender equality and youth as a cross-cutting issue. It will record **sex and age disaggregated data** in participation, include gender considerations in **procurement processes, and in reporting** such as the PIR, MTR, TE. There will be special attention given to **gender-inclusive language** in all the documents and communications under the project.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes ? /no?) If yes, please upload gender action plan or equivalent here. ?????

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

? improving women's participation and decision making; and or

? generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes ? /no?)

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 Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

While the public sector can create the enabling conditions and/or set the boundaries which will allow all societal sectors to harmoniously contribute to the achievement of both conservation and sustainable blue development goals, in the majority of cases the private sector will be the engine for growth, with businesses, driven by profit, creating the jobs that will support socio-economic development and paying the taxes that will (theoretically) enable public financing of services and investments that help preserve, monitor and protect the natural resource base (feedback loop). Private sector entities can provide a commercial insight into current barriers and opportunities to the development of commercially viable sectors. In addition, they can support innovation through blended finance mechanisms.

Under Component 1, African SIDS will promote the involvement of non-public agents, including from the private sector, in the development of instruments (strategies, plans,...), and SBE-principles-based financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality in the participating SIDS. The latter may include insurance and blended finance partnerships, financing for conservation, debt swaps, and blue bonds. Frameworks conducive to innovative sustainable Blue Economy and/or LDN financing and fostering private sector investment will be developed for at least three participating SIDS.

In addition, the efforts to advance the wider-ranging, comprehensive national blue economy framework, through for example, Blue Economy scoping exercises and/or natural capital, accounting, will stand to gain from the engagement and consultations with ocean-using private sector actors. For these interventions, the private sector will be important to provide information on the socio-economic benefits of ocean-based sectors necessary to inform the development of the sustainable Blue Economy.

For Component 2, the efforts to advance national-level blue economy demonstrations will provide distinct opportunities for small community-based businesses and private innovators to contribute to the project's dual goal of protecting and conserving biodiversity, while enabling the use of marine and coastal capital for business development and livelihoods. Under the national demonstration activities, several ocean-based industries will be involved with a view to increase the sustainability of their operations and improve the livelihoods of local coastal communities. In addition, several of the national demonstrations will focus on supporting local community members in the development of social and collective entrepreneurship to sustainably harness the values of the Blue Economy. Coordination and synergies with the private sector will be promoted for these activities to ensure experience-sharing and the integration of knowledge.

Recognizing that for several African SIDS, fishing and tourism are considered as the main drivers of local Blue Economies, many of the activities to be undertaken under the national blue economy demonstrations will involve actors from both of these industries. In the case of Seychelles, Mauritius, Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau, the project will work closely with local fishing cooperatives and artisanal fishermen to improve the sustainability of the local fish stocks and seek to improve the fisheries value-chain. In Cabo Verde, the project will support the development of new ecotourism opportunities and showcase selected eco-businesses in fairs and/or expos with other industry experts to present the products and services offered and connect to existing domestic and foreign markets. Synergies with projects

participating to the Joint SDG Fund ?Connecting Blue Economy Actors in Cape Verde, coordinated by the UNDP, ILO and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, together with the government of Cape Verde and in partnership with Blue-X platform, and guided by the Cape Verde International Investment Bank benefiting 22 municipalities. The platform has allowed the coordination between relevant actors and the capital market regulatory agency creating the adequate conditions and legal framework for the issuance of the social bond.

In Comoros and Seychelles, the project will seek to involve experienced professionals from the aquaculture industry to inform the development of community-based aquaculture.

In Sao Tome and Principe, the project will work in partnership with the private sector to support the development and use of algae-based bio-inputs, with the establishment of at least one pilot project for the production of liquid fertilizer and/or for a composting plan using algae. With the engagement of local farmers and producers, the project will promote the use of bio-inputs with a view to reduce the quantity of pesticides used for agriculture and horticulture production, contributing to improved water quality and reduced land degradation. The project will also engage private sector agents in the elaboration of recommendations on enhancing capacities to control importation and use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Overall, the Blue Economy/Land Degradation Neutrality national demonstrations will offer new business opportunities that can be replicated and up-scaled by private partners.

Component 3 will seek to harness private sector contributions in the efforts to develop and consolidate the region's marine data/information/knowledge management landscape and associated infrastructure (e.g. data and information products, and IT platforms, created/managed by private sector agents).

Overall and across the 3 project components, private sector expertise and/or data/information/knowledge generation capacities will be harnessed, where needed and deemed feasible, beneficial and cost-effective, for the purpose of delivering on the project outputs and outcomes, e.g. through the engagement of private sector consultancy services.

Work will continue along the African SIDS project timeline, and through activities related to the outcomes and outputs listed above, to expand these (potential) contributions by private sector agents and mechanisms to the African SIDS objective and expected outcomes.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risks. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation (table format acceptable): ?????

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
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1	Lack of government commitment	Strategic	<p>Governments may fail to see the relevance of participating in the project and changes in national priorities may affect their capacities and interest to get involved.</p> <p>L=3 I=4</p>	<p>The project outcomes have been designed to respond to national priorities and will support countries meet their commitments under a variety of international agreements, such as the SDGs. The project was developed in consultation with respective governments and political ownership was secured. The project unit will continue to communicate the benefits of actively engaging in project activities to ensure continued buy-in for the project.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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2	<p>Project activities carried out within or near national parks and protected areas, many of which are recognized as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), could impact Critical Habitats.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental</p>	<p>Some project activities will be carried out within or near national parks and protected areas, many of which are recognized as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). If not well planned and managed, activities undertaken in those areas could impact Critical Habitats.</p> <p>Critical habitats include those areas that are (i) legally protected, (ii) officially proposed for protection, (ii) identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value or (iv) recognized as protected by traditional local communities.</p> <p>L=3 I=4</p>	<p>Where relevant, the Project will put in place management plans for Pas to ensure sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources.</p> <p>During the implementation, further social and environmental screening will be completed (Component 2). This will allow the Project to make a decision on the best course of action with regards to siting the planned activities. The Project will conduct ESIA's, which will include targeted biodiversity studies to further assess the level of risk to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The ESIA's could confirm whether endangered, vulnerable or critically endangered species are found at the project's intervention sites, as well as the ecosystem services that could be impacted. The ESMPs will address the biodiversity risks identified in or near the protected areas and other critical habitats, and management actions will be designed to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values that might be impacted within the Protected Area.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Action Plan will be included within the ESMP (when relevant) for those</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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				<p>actions within the KBA. The implementation of the BAP will help ensure that i) there are no measurable adverse impacts on the area's biodiversity values and supporting ecological processes, ii) no reduction in Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species, and iii) any lesser impacts are appropriately mitigated, and net gains of relevant biodiversity values.</p>	
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3	<p>Duty-bearers may lack the capacity to implement meaningful participatory processes, particularly involving vulnerable groups, preventing them from accessing information and from being consulted on project activities that may affect them.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental</p>	<p>Each country involves diverse stakeholders, including vulnerable groups (e.g., ethnic minorities [Creole and Chagossian/Ilois in Mauritius], women, youth, people with disabilities). Meaningful consultation with vulnerable groups is key to the project's sustainability and the long-term development impact of the BE. All individual demonstrations include cross-cutting considerations, including stakeholder engagement plans, that will be systematically and consistently mainstreamed across all outputs and activities as indicated in Annex 5 of the ProDoc</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>Initial consultation and engagement activities were conducted in respective countries, as part of the project design process. The consultations involved relevant groups of stakeholders and local communities. During project implementation phase, consultation will continue with project partners, government, communities including vulnerable and marginalized people, etc, through targeted communication (Component 2; but also Activity 4 of Output 1.3, Output 1.4). In each country, these consultation activities will be led by experienced stakeholder engagement professionals who also have a good understanding of local contexts and profound knowledge of consultation with local communities, to both gather views and concerns of stakeholders and facilitate their full contribution to project design. The Project also will put measures in place to ensure local people are provided with regular feedback (in appropriate format that is understandable and relevant to local women and men) on how their input is taken into consideration as the project moves forward and to address any</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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additional concerns that may be identified as the project moves forward.

A **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)** was developed, and it covers all the project countries. The SEP provides a roadmap for stakeholders and project implementers as to when, how and with whom consultations and exchanges should be undertaken throughout the life of the project. The SEP will be scaled to reflect the nature of the activities in each country and their potential impacts.

A **Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAAP)** have been developed. It provides details on how gender will be mainstreamed into the project, including consultations. The GAAP will be regularly updated, implemented, and monitored during the project implementation.

4	<p>Poorly implemented regulatory and institutional reform may further undermine environmental governance and the adequate implementation of social and environmental standards, leading to higher social and environmental risks and impacts, as well as the potential escalation of conflict.</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>Legal and institutional reform constitutes a process for improving governance and institutional capacity to address social and environmental issues. If the reform fails to include the voice of vulnerable groups, its legitimacy may be undermined. The project will involve personnel from several stakeholders for its implementation (various Government ministries, NGOs, cooperatives, and other third-party institutions) and will carry out activities aimed at multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus-building for the reform.</p> <p>L=4 I=4</p>	<p>In the first year of the implementation phase, each country will develop a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for upstream activities (Component 1; but also, upstream activities in Component 2), to integrate environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate their interlinkages with economic and sustainability considerations. An Environmental & Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed to guide environmental and social risk management steps required during project implementation. The ESMF is an umbrella document covering all the countries targeted by the Project based on the ESMF, once specific areas of influence of each project are known, an appropriately scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be developed. The ESIA (and related Environmental and Social Impact Management Plans - ESMPs) will be developed during the implementation phase, to further refine risk identification, mitigation and management strategies, as well as to establish a system for</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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			<p>monitoring the environmental and social risks.</p> <p>The SESAs and ESIAs will conduct further assessment on risks associated with supporting local cooperatives/community associations and other project partners and integrate specific procedures into the ESMPs. When working/partnering with third-party organizations, the Project will ensure that such partnerships are established with organizations that can demonstrate some level of experience and/or expertise in the social and environmental standards. When necessary, the Project will organize trainings and/or workshops to build the capacity of those stakeholders and partners and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. This is key to ensuring continued success over the course of the project implementation, and beyond. Such capacity building activities will start before the implementation of the first activity on the ground and will include UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES),</p>	
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			<p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan and UNDP Accountability Mechanisms (Grievance Redress Mechanism, SRM, SECU).</p> <p>Overall, the project will have a strong focus on enhancing capacity of relevant authorities and targeted communities to ensure that they have the required knowledge and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned, and uptake good practices.</p>	
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5	<p>Inadequately designed Grievance Redress Mechanisms may lead to unresolved stakeholders concerns and grievances, particularly of vulnerable groups, regarding project activities, which could lead to the infringement of their rights.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental</p>	<p>Ensuring that all stakeholders, especially marginalized groups, can communicate their concerns and grievances and to have access to a rights-compatible Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is a means to mitigate, manage, and resolve potential negative impacts, thus improving the project's accountability. No reported grievance does not mean that no grievances exist.</p> <p>The GRM, nonetheless, should not prevent citizens or communities from pursuing their rights and interests in any other national or local forum, and citizens should not be required to use GRMs before seeking redress through the courts, administrative law procedures, or other formal dispute resolution mechanisms.</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>The Project will carry out comprehensive, gender-responsive consultations with local communities and other stakeholders within project sites and will allow them to raise objections or concerns and/or to request additional information. The Project will accommodate their expressed interest and concerns in the final project design and the design of particular project outputs and activities (Component 2).</p> <p>In each country, the Project will develop a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is specific to the context of the country. Each GRM will be proportional, culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent, and that ensures appropriate protection for claimants, and the Project also will inform the stakeholders about the existence of the mechanism and how to use it.</p> <p>The GRMs will be executed through the Responsible Party (in each country).</p> <p>The GRM will be design with the involvement of the stakeholders and local community. The Project must largely inform project stakeholders and local community of the</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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				<p>existence of the project-level GRM, how to use it and encourage them to use it.</p> <p>The Project will also inform them about UNDP Accountability Mechanism, including the Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) and the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU), their purpose, and the procedures that should be followed to raise complaints with SRM and/or SECU if they are not satisfied with the GRM's response.</p>	
6	<p>Areas where the Project will carry out activities are subject to hazards, such as severe winds, storms, and floods, which may lead to unanticipated adverse impacts on the communities and the marine ecosystem.</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>Climate change has a very tangible impact on SIDS. Climate change-related threats do not only arise from hurricanes; slow onset events such as sea level rise pose an existential threat to small island communities. The sectors to be supported by the project (e.g. ecotourism, aquaculture, fisheries, etc) could be impacted by climate change.</p> <p>L=2 I=3</p>	<p>The project will assess, during ESIA's in each of the demonstrations (Component 2), the climate risks related to the activities, and consider the measures that will need to be put in place to minimize the risks to project activities. The Project will also ensure that beneficiaries have access to timely climate information to take measures in case of climate hazard.</p> <p>The Project will integrate disaster risk reduction measures, in coordination with each countries? disaster risk reduction and management agencies.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>

7	<p>The establishment of Protected Areas (PA) in Sao Tome and Principe or changes in the regulatory and management framework of established Pas could lead to restrictions on accessing marine resource, leading to the economic displacement of local communities</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>No assessment has been done yet to evaluate and characterize the use of marine and coastal space and the interactions among its uses to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment and to deliver social and economic outcomes.</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans (CMSP) (e.g. Sao Tome and Principe, Cabo Verde) will support the regulated use of the coastal-marine space and help achieve national development targets and commitments. The CSMP will be instrumental in the development of the nationwide multi-year program for STP's transition to a Blue Economy (Components 1 and 2).</p> <p>An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed during the PPG phase to guide risk management steps required during project implementation.</p> <p>During the implementation phase, the Project will undertake a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to support upstream activities of Components 1 and 2, including the strengthening of the regulatory framework and weaknesses associated with fisheries within the protected area, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the relevant authorities and park stakeholders.</p> <p>Downstream activities involving the improvement of local communities? livelihoods will be assessed through</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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Environmental and Social Assessments (ESIAs), which will result in **Environmental and Social Impact Management Plans (ESMPs)**, following the principles and procedures established in the **ESMF**. The ESMPs will include **Livelihoods Action Plans** to address the impact of economic displacements. The Project will make sure that all zoning processes will be designed and implemented by consulting with the communities and stakeholders being impacted.

A **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)** will also be developed. It will be activated in case any concerns are raised by stakeholders about human rights infringements, adverse socio-economic or environmental impacts directly or indirectly attributed to project implementation. All concerns will be assessed, documented, and followed up with appropriate responses in order to address the issue.

8	Political instability	Safety and Security	<p>Political instability in certain participating countries could affect the ability to implement certain project activities (e.g. demonstration projects under Component 2) and put at risk the safety of project staff in cases of political unrest.</p> <p>L=2 I=4</p>	<p>The executing agency will monitor the political and socio-economic conditions regularly in each participating SIDS to rapidly respond in case of risk. The UNDP Country Offices will inform the Executing Agency swiftly if they are aware of any potential political unrest in any of the countries. The project will collaborate with a diverse set of partners, minimizing the risk that political instability in one sector greatly affect the implementation of the project.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit Responsible Parties</p>
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9	<p>The involvement of law enforcement personnel (e.g., Park rangers, police) could lead to human rights violations, including harassment and abuse.</p>	<p>Social and Environmental</p>	<p>Zoning and management of PAs will involve enforcement of regulations, which will require enforcement personnel could go beyond their line of duty and generate conditions that would jeopardize the project enforcing the rules/laws.</p> <p>L=3 I=4</p>	<p>In countries where this is pertinent, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will support the regulatory framework reform to improve institutional capacity and governance (upstream activities of Components 1 and 2). Some of the factors that will be included in the assessment include: i) Human rights records of law enforcement forces; ii) local and national prosecuting authority and judiciary's capacity to ensure accountability and other capacity gaps and weaknesses in enforcement processes.</p> <p>The project will provide dedicated training to enforcement personnel on UNDP human rights requirements to ensure that no human rights violations are perpetrated during enforcement actions in Protected Areas and other project landscapes.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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10	<p>The construction of community-based aquaculture infrastructure (Seychelles) and improvements to be made in community infrastructure for eco-businesses (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau) could lead to safety and labour management risks.</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>Small-scale level, activities involving the construction of aquaculture infrastructure (Seychelles) may generate environmental risks and impacts (e.g., chemical and biological pollution, disease outbreaks, competition for coastal space) Improvements to current infrastructure (e.g., Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde) could generate working condition risks.</p> <p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Risks associated with occupational health and safety and working conditions, will be further assessed and addressed during the project implementation phase through relevant ESIAs and ESMPs (Component 2).</p> <p>The Project will develop Labour Management Procedures as part of the ESIA/ESMP when relevant. The procedures will set out the conditions in which project workers will be employed or engaged and managed, in accordance with the requirements of the SES and applicable labour laws, rules and regulations.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
11	<p>High staff turnover leading to delays in project implementation and loss of continuity in project delivery.</p>	Organizational	<p>This would impact overall project implementation and would result in a delay or in some cases inability to successfully implement the proposed activities. In the extreme case it could mean that the project is unable to achieve its objective.</p> <p>L=2 I=4</p>	<p>Provide adequate working conditions and staff benefits, invest in human resource development.</p> <p>Ensure that the right individuals with the required experience/knowledge are contracted for key positions.</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>GWP-SA</p>

12	Project involved sectors (e.g. ecotourism, fisheries, etc.) could potentially involve child labour, leading to the violation of children's rights, including disrupted physical, mental, moral and social development, exposure to extreme weather conditions, injuries, infections, and diseases.	Social and Environmental	<p>US Department of Labour reports issued in 2021 indicated that Child labour continues to be prevalent in Cape Verde (artisanal fishing in small boats, construction, etc.), Comoros (fishing, Extracting and selling marine sand), Guinea-Bissau (fishing), Mauritius (fishing, including diving, and casting nets and traps), Sao Tome and Principe (fishing, including line and hook fishing)</p> <p>L=4 I=3</p>	<p>Relevant procedures are described in the ESMF and will be monitored during project implementation accordingly. Risks associated with child labour will be further assessed during the implementation phase through the ESIA and subsequent specific management measures in accordance with national policies, labour laws, rules and regulations (Component 2).</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
13	Open-sea project activities could lead to various health and safety risks, exposing aquaculturalists and fishermen to drowning, thermal stress, lost at sea, drifting, and other types of accidents.	Social and Environmental	<p>The project staff, fishers, law enforcement officers, and other stakeholders will operate in the open sea, which involves an array of hazards. Most project activities, however, will take place within the framework of national safety regulations, which reduces the likelihood and impact associated with this risk.</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>The Project (Component 2) will implement appropriate field safety procedures. The procedures will be tailored to the activities and include i) Management of medical treatment cases; ii) evacuation/recovery scenarios; and iii) use of tracking devices (e.g. SPOT device)</p> <p>Where relevant, the project will provide training on 'Safety at Sea' measures including use of life jackets and AIS beacon to fishers in the project landscape.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>

14	Delays with setting-up co-executing agreements with project partners	Organizational	<p>This could cause some serious delays during the project inception phase and in the worst case scenario could cause the inability to start certain key project activities.</p> <p>L=3 I=4</p>	<p>The Project Coordination Unit and Responsible Parties will engage early with potential co-executing partners, GWP-SA and UNDP to ensure that the contractual procedures can start as early as possible.</p> <p>Where possible, those procedures will start early during the project inception phase to ensure a smooth transition towards project implementation.</p> <p>The Executing Agency and Implementing Partners will ensure to use the experiences gained with other projects to process the arrangements as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>GWP-SA</p>
15	Fluctuation in the value of good and services and rates of currency in certain participating countries	Financial	<p>The value of currency and changes in market prices for goods and services may impact the ability of the project to fully implement all planned activities.</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>The Project Coordination Unit and Implementing Partners will follow procurement guidelines to ensure that the project receives the best value for price for any purchase and contract it undertakes.</p> <p>Fluctuations in markets and currency will be evaluated during project implementation to avoid unexpected consequences on the project budget.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>GWP-SA</p>

16	Project activities involving aquaculture could inadvertently enable the introduction of invasive alien species into the local ecosystem, leading to adverse effects on native species.	Social and Environmental	<p>Although the project is designed around the best aquaculture and fishing practices, it is possible that project participants could fail to use these best practice techniques and instead introduce invasive alien species. These could escape from aquaculture farms into the larger ecosystem and alter its structure and functions.</p> <p>L=2 I=4</p>	<p>The ESIA will assess the risks and impacts associated with aquaculture development. The ESMPs will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien fish species (Component 2). The project will promote best practice in aquaculture using indigenous and/or non-invasive species.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
17	Human and technical capacities of the selected implementing partners may be insufficient to carry-out the agreed project activities.	Operational	<p>The IPs may not be able to fully meet their commitments on project delivery and this could cause delays with project implementation or cause the inability to fully achieve the project outcomes.</p> <p>L=2 I=4</p>	<p>All implementing partners underwent a thorough capacity assessment prior to or during the PPG phase to ensure that they have the required capacities to implement the project.</p> <p>The project will ensure that all agreements to be signed with IPs include clear responsibilities and expectations.</p> <p>The project monitoring and evaluation plan will assist with tracking progress on project implementation and allow timely corrections in implementation plans when needed.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>

18	<p>The continued use of agrochemicals, such as nitrogen-based fertilizers and strong pesticides, in agricultural initiatives supported by the Project (vegetable farming, agriculture, horticulture) in Sao Tome and Principe could increase their negative effects on human health and the environment.</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>While national policies aim to reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the country, there are currently very limited capacities to monitor and control the import and use of those products. If not well monitored, agriculturalists and horticulturalists could continue using agrochemicals</p> <p>L=2 I=3</p>	<p>Particular support and assistance will be derived from the implementation of a SESA, to strengthen the capacities of agencies associated with the Ministry of Agriculture, namely the CIAT (<i>Research Center for Agronomy and Technology</i>), the CADR (Rural Extension Service), the CATAP (Centre for Technical Improvement of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry) as well as the Customs Department and the Customs Surveillance Police, who are tasked with the supervision and monitoring of pesticides and fertilizers and the training to farmers and animal breeders (Output 2.6).</p> <p>The project will also work in partnership with the private sector to support the development and use of algae-based bio-inputs, with the establishment of at least one pilot project for the production of liquid fertilizer and/or for a composting plan using algae. With the engagement of local farmers and producers, the project will promote the use of bio-inputs with a view to reduce the quantity of pesticides used for agriculture and horticulture production, contributing to improved water quality and reduced land</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
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				<p>degradation. The project will also engage private sector agents in the elaboration of recommendations on enhancing capacities to control importation and use of fertilizers and pesticides.</p>	
19	<p>Pilot projects may be unsuccessful in achieving the desired outcomes</p>	<p>Strategic</p>	<p>The demonstration projects under component 2 are piloting new initiatives that may not be sustainable in the long term or may turn out to be unfeasible during the implementation phase.</p> <p>L=3 I=3</p>	<p>The demo projects were designed by national consultants with experience and knowledge of the local conditions and the activities were selected in consultation with the local and national authorities.</p> <p>The PCU and IPs will involve national experts in the initial phase of development of the demo projects to capture as much experience and knowledge as possible on the activities to be carried out to increase the likelihood of success.</p> <p>Corrective actions will be taken early whenever problems with the full implementation of the pilot activities are detected.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>

20	<p>Successful commercialization of threatened marine species (e.g. sea cucumber) by the Project in Comoros could inadvertently boost an interest in its overexploitation, threatening the survival of the species.</p>	Social and Environmental	<p>Sea cucumber (<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>) is vulnerable (VU) on IUCN Red List.</p> <p>The 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has also listed sea cucumbers as threatened species (Appendix II)</p> <p>L=2 I=4</p>	<p>The Project will follow CITES guidelines for the trade of sea cucumbers. The Project ESIA's will further review (where relevant) the risks associated with activities that involve the trade of flora and fauna species, including sea cucumber (Output 2.2), and outline the best actions to address those risks, in line with international best practices.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>
21	Risks related to construction	Social and Environmental	<p>Some activities will involve construction of infrastructure. The construction of project infrastructure by local entrepreneurs will involve risks related safety and labor management.</p> <p>L=2 I=3</p>	<p>Risks associated with occupational health and safety and working conditions, will be further assessed and addressed during the project implementation phase through relevant ESIA's and ESMPs.</p> <p>The Project will develop Labour Management Procedures as part of the ESIA/ESMP when relevant. The procedures will set out the conditions in which project workers will be employed or engaged and managed, in accordance with the requirements of the SES and applicable labour laws, rules and regulations.</p>	<p>Project Management Unit</p> <p>Responsible Parties</p>

22	Commercialization of species that are priorities for conservation	Social and Environmental	Successful commercialization of threatened marine species (e.g. sea cucumber) by the Project could inadvertently boost an interest for illegal exploitation of those species, with could threaten the survival of the specie.	Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival. The Project will follow CITES guidelines for the trade of sea cucumbers. By extension, the Project ESIA's will further review (where relevant) the risks associated with activities that involve the trade of trade of flora and fauna species, and outline the best of actions to address those risks, in line with international best practices.	Project Management Unit Responsible Parties
23	Limited stakeholder involvement given the complications/challenges of the multi-country nature of the project	Strategic	The project may fail to reach stakeholders at different levels especially at the project demonstration sites	National Responsible Parties have been identified for demonstration projects and M&E Plan includes detailed activities to ensure stakeholder engagement at continental, regional and national levels. Project Steering Committee meetings will also be organized on quarterly basis both at regional and national levels bringing a different range of stakeholders.	Project Management Unit Responsible Parties

Brief explanation of the requirements of the SES that are triggered (per the ESSS Supporting Document Question 5)

1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA): For countries with activities in multiple distinct geographical sites, an appropriately scoped Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be developed for each site. For countries where the project activities are undertaken in one geographical site, a

single ESIA will be undertaken covering that site. These ESIA's (and related Environmental & Social Impact Management Plans - ESMPs) will be developed in the first year of the implementation phase, to further refine risk identification, mitigation and management strategies, as well as to establish a system for monitoring the environmental and social risks.

The ESIA's will assess the planned downstream, on-the-ground activities with a physical footprint and will address direct impacts to communities and individuals from on-site project activities in each country. The ESIA's will develop strategies for avoiding, reducing and managing adverse impacts and enhancing positive impacts, and the outputs of both assessments will inform the Environmental and Social Management Plans. ESIA's must conform to the host country's environmental assessment laws and regulations, host country obligations under international law, and the requirements of UNDP's SES. The ESIA's will analyse the range of identified social and environmental risks and impacts specific to that site and that intervention. The ESIA's will be carried out, according to the outline presented in Appendix 3.

The scoped ESIA's will commence in the first year following project inception. The ESIA's requires that sites and locations are specified, and proposed activities specific to those sites are identified. The ESIA's will be developed and carried out by independent experts in a participatory manner with stakeholders during the first year of the project.

The ESIA's will:

- Screen social and environmental issues and impacts specific to the local context.

- Further clarify the applicable social and environmental standards (including UNDP SES) triggered by the project activities.

- Take steps necessary in the context of the ESIA's to fulfil those requirements and make recommendations on how such compliance is to be carried out through the life of the project.

The UNDP SES and SESP require that an ESIA and the resulting mitigation and management measures (captured in the Environmental and Social Management Plan ? ESMP) must be completed, disclosed and discussed with stakeholders prior to implementation of any activities that may cause adverse social and environmental impacts.

Assessment of further activities will be commensurate with the magnitude of the envisaged risks especially considering risks to poor, vulnerable or marginalized communities and individuals. The ESIA's will be conducted in a manner consistent with national regulations and the UNDP SES and lead to the development of appropriately scaled management measures and plans to address the identified risks and impacts.

2. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA): In the first year of the implementation phase, each country will develop a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for upstream activities, in order to integrate environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate their interlinkages with economic and sustainability considerations. The Project will commission appropriate experts to conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), at the beginning of the implementation phase. The SESA, at the policy level, will evaluate the effect of policy reform on a broad, cross-sectoral basis with the aim of enhancing governance and institutional capacity to address the environmental and social priorities. The SESA will integrate environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programmes and evaluate their interlinkages with economic and sustainability considerations.

Policy options will inform decision-making and will be used to guide subsequent assessments of downstream activities. As a high-level document, the SESA is based on the broad scope of envisaged high-level project activities. As these are already identified and broadly defined, work on the SESA will commence at an early

stage. The detailed scope of the SESA will be refined by the experts conducting the assessment. The report will identify strategies for effective management of identified impacts, which will inform the impact management approach adopted.

3. Targeted management plans: the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan have been developed and annexed to this CEO ER. Their update will be informed by the SESA/ESIAs. Labour Management Plan, Field Safety Procedure, Biodiversity Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan and Waste Management Plan will be developed where relevant, based on the need at the sites of demonstration projects.

4. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP): An Environmental & Social Impact Management Plan (ESMP) will be prepared along with each scoped ESIA. These ESMP will:

- Provide time-bound specific recommendations for avoiding adverse impacts, and where avoidance is not possible, for reducing, mitigating, and managing those impacts for all project activities.
- Further identify project activities that cannot take place until certain standards, requirements and mitigation measures are in place and carried out (complimenting and updating what has already been identified in this draft ESMF).
- Develop specific/standalone management plans, as necessary and as required by the applicable UNDP SES. These will outline the management objectives, potential impacts, control activities and the environmental performance criteria against which projects will be evaluated. Recommendations will be adopted and integrated into the project activities, monitoring and reporting frameworks and budget.
- Provide guidelines for stakeholder engagement, and plans for stakeholder engagement during implementation of management measures.
- Specify actions to implement mitigation measures for each identified risk and impact.
- Include a monitoring and reporting plan.
- Provide summary of identified adverse social and environmental impacts and any residual risks remaining after impact avoidance/mitigation/minimization.
- Provide a capacity development and training plan.
- Define roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.
- Show implementation schedule, cost estimates and funding sources.

Impact management will adhere to the 'mitigation hierarchy' model. Where possible, adverse impacts will be 'designed out' i.e. design of project activities will be amended or adjusted so as to avoid the identified impacts. Where this is not possible, measures will be developed, in conjunction with stakeholders, to reduce, minimize, mitigate or manage those impacts.

The above required assessments and management plans must be prepared and mitigation measures in place as per those plans, prior to the initiation of any project activity that may cause adverse impacts.

The ESMP is dynamic and will require amending as new project activities are identified, screened, and assessed in accordance with the procedures described. Additional required mitigation and impact management measures must be integrated into management plans, and in some cases may require, or benefit from, input from the Project Safeguards Officer.

Project-affected stakeholders will be consulted on the scope and parameters of the assessment processes and their findings, including proposed mitigation and management measures. It may be necessary to undertake targeted consultations to ensure that marginalized or disadvantaged groups and individuals affected by the project have the opportunity to participate.

Assessment reports and adoption of appropriate mitigation plans/measures will be completed, disclosed, and discussed with stakeholders prior to initiation of any project activities that may cause adverse social and environmental impacts.

It is worth specifying that the Safeguards Officer, who will be hired by the Project and will have primary responsibility for tracking the implementation of the ESMP, which needs to be responsive to changes in project circumstances, unforeseen events, and the results of monitoring.

5. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF): Developed and annexed to this CEO ER.

UNDP SES Programming Principles

In accordance with UNDP SES policy, the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) has been applied to the Project during the project development phase. It highlights the Project relates to mainstreaming UNDP's Programming Principles (Leave No One Behind, Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Sustainability and Resilience, and Accountability).

Principle 1: Leave No One Behind

This Principle is triggered because project-affected persons, might not be able to effectively claims their rights, file grievances, or raise their concerns due to various limiting factors and barriers (logistics, technology, language, culture, etc.).

Principle 2: Human Rights

This is due to duty bearers' potential limitations in terms of ability to conduct inclusive consultations with all stakeholder groups.

Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This Principle is triggered because gender is an inherent aspect of community consultation and the blue economy have a gender dimension that is key to its sustainability.

Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience

Project activities promoted by the project may be vulnerable to climate change, which triggers this Principle.

Principle 5: Accountability

The fact that grievances could be raised about project activities is one of the elements that triggers this Principle.

Risk and opportunity analysis on the impacts of COVID-19 on African SIDS

(Potential) risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

Potential Risk	Mitigation Measures
<p>While most countries have now removed the main public health measures for COVID, there is a possibility that due to resurgences of the disease or new variants of concern COVID/public health control measures could be reinstalled. Those measures could include: stay-at-home orders, physical distancing and travel restrictions that might affect the possibility of conducting face-to-face meetings, stakeholder consultations and field work during the project implementation timeframe.</p>	<p>In its design during the PPG phase, the project work plan development effort has included mitigation and 'work-around' solutions to deal with the impacts of potential COVID control measures. The same will be applicable during the project implementation and will be facilitated by the Project's embracing of an adaptive management approach and early risk detection mechanism. Consolidation of the use of remote methods, such as online surveys, video-conferencing and emails for communications, and innovative/creative solutions such as online progress dashboards and discussion/collaboration platforms will be further explored and deployed, and will provide a buffer against potential new COVID-related contingencies. Working with national partners and/or consultants will be pursued where deemed feasible and beneficial, to limit the effects of potential travel restrictions on project activities.</p> <p>When and where applicable, the project will adhere to COVID bio-security protocols.</p>
<p>Possible delays in execution due to COVID-19 infections of staff members</p>	<p>Key staff to adhere to COVID infection prevention measures. To minimize risks, project activities to the extent possible undertaken in such a way as to reduce/eliminate risk for infection as a consequence of project execution and following bio-security protocols; sound knowledge transfer & management.</p> <p>GWP-SA has commitment to occupational health and safety and social and environmental aspects across all its projects and facilities.</p>
<p>COVID-19 can have an aggravating/escalating effect on the impacts of natural disasters through a reduced capacity to respond to disasters and a corresponding effect on the people and economies affected. Natural disasters may also increase the risk of people becoming infected with COVID-19 as they seek shelters and receive aid supplies.</p>	<p>Through a number of interventions, the project will seek to increase the resilience of local coastal communities to natural disasters by for example providing opportunities to improve their livelihoods and restore the natural capital of certain key areas (Component 2). This is anticipated to help reduce the overall risk of certain communities during climate-related disasters. Overall, the project's support for the development of (diversified) blue economies in is expected to contribute to enhanced resilience to external shocks - including but not limited to pandemics.</p>

<p>Some participating countries may decide to make increased investments towards unsustainable practices to allow for short term economic growth post covid-19 which may have negative impacts on coastal and marine habitats, and the people depending on them for livelihoods</p>	<p>The project will seek to build the case of the importance of sustainability and the longer-term perspective (including the importance of resilience towards future adverse events, drawing upon the lessons learnt from COVID-19), and how the aforementioned does not preclude post-covid recovery efforts which can also deliver short-term benefits.</p>
<p>The priorities of governments and partners may be towards COVID-19 recovery rather than supporting environmental causes which are sometimes considered less urgent/important. This may cause delays in providing required inputs for/feedback on project implementation, especially in lower-capacity countries. Project partners (government, private sector and civil society) are anticipated to suffer from resource depletion (staff, funding, time) which could exacerbate the difficulties of actively contributing to the activities of the project.</p> <p>Countries may also request a change in project activities due to shifting priorities.</p>	<p>The project will use flexible approaches while reaching out to countries and partners for feedback and include a clear structure and timeline on when input will be needed.</p> <p>In cases where delays/lengthier timeframes cannot be avoided, the project will also seek to consider, to the extent possible, such likely delays when setting its ambitions, and when determining time frames within which information and feedback is to be obtained. The concept of adaptive management will be embraced.</p>
<p>Limited, unreliable internet access and/or lack of capacity to use online tools, and/or resistance to change, may limit the possibility of collaborative work for certain actors.</p>	<p>The project will work with local organisations for on-the-ground actions where it is anticipated that capacities to use online tools will be limited. This will limit the use of virtual platforms that may not be easily accessible or effective for certain target groups.</p> <p>Advocacy for, and demonstration of the potential of innovative tools and approaches will be conducted in order to promote an incremental up-scaling of their use (including through the engagement of local champions); additional benefits such as reduction of costs and environmental impacts will be highlighted.</p> <p>Where it is deemed that physical presence (meetings, in the field,...) is essential, or highly beneficiary, the risks will be duly assessed, and adequate prevention measures will be implemented.</p>

Increased cost of goods and services may occur.	Sound budget planning and implementation tracking/M&E/early risk detection tools will be used to monitor availability of resources versus (potentially changing) needs; the PMU will use an adaptive management approach to address and resolve changing conditions. Timely detection of potential financial shortfalls will allow to conduct prioritization exercises and/or mobilize additional co-financing
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(Potential) Opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic

Opportunities	Project Response
Opportunity for the introduction/use/consolidation of innovative approaches and new technology, with positive impacts on: wider-ranging outreach and higher levels of participation, stakeholder buy-in and ownership, budgets, environment.	<p>The project will take advantage of the new opportunities generated through the use of online tools to reach-out in cost-effective ways to more stakeholders for consultations, improve outreach targets and use innovative ways to develop local capacities and increase overall levels of engagement and buy-in.</p> <p>The project will greatly benefit from the use of virtual platforms and an increased dissemination of all data/knowledge management products developed, and for overall project governance and progress tracking.</p>
Changes in national priorities and economic sectors	Many countries may wish to restructure their national priorities and economic sectors for COVID recovery. This provides an important opportunity for an increased focus on/prioritization of the sustainable Blue Economy. The project will therefore work with participating countries to ensure that the project investments help develop ocean-related sectors with a view to align priorities and promote investments that will support post-covid recovery, climate change considerations and sustainable socio- economic development.

<p>Public and private interest in incorporating sustainable ocean and biodiversity considerations into post COVID-19 recovery strategies and a renewed focus towards the linkages between oceans, the SDG's (e.g. SDG6, SDG14, achieving SDG-6,..) and the climate agenda.</p>	<p>With the pandemic came an increased awareness of the importance of oceans, and of protecting biodiversity and integrating sustainable practices in all aspects of society needed to improve the resilience of our socio-ecological systems.</p> <p>The project will aim to take advantage of the new opportunities created by the pandemic for investing in ocean conservation and restoration, tied to blue socio-economic development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
<p>Increased awareness of how biodiversity loss can affect human health, well-being and economic prosperity.</p>	<p>The project will seek to make use of this renewed awareness to gather wide-ranging support for the implementation of planning and conservation instruments (e.g. Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas and Blue Economy Scoping and Strategies, Natural Capital Accounting) to be supported under the project.</p>
<p>Overall: Using the Ocean As a Tool for Global Economic Recovery</p>	<p>International think tanks and ocean leaders have reflected on, and analyzed the opportunities for sustainable ocean governance, management and use arising from the need to rebuild, after COVID. E.g.: WRI (1) (2); High-level panel for a sustainable ocean economy . Key findings have been considered in the design of African SIDS.</p>

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

1. *Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. ?????*

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism

Implementing Partner (IP)

The UNDP Implementing Partner (IP) for this project is the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a well-established non-government organisation, headquartered in Sweden. Formed in 2002, it links agencies of the United Nations, government institutions, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector. An MOU exists between UNDP and GWP (signed in 2014). GWP's Southern Africa branch has a strong system of policies and procedures, including internal operational controls for project management, governance, reporting and budget management and administration. It maintains yearly audited accounts of its financial performance and position. The UNDP South Africa Country Office conducted a HACT-based micro assessment for GWP Southern Africa in Q3 2020 with no concerns and completed a PCAT for GWP Southern Africa in December 2020.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Responsible Parties

Six government agencies will take additional lead roles in the execution of demonstration projects under component 2 of the project, upon delegation by the Implementing Partner/ namely GWP-SA. GWP-SA will decide whether to formally designate these as Responsible Parties and will sign Responsible Party Agreements with them. Broadly, their roles and responsibilities per project output are as follows:

? National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of the Sea of Cabo Verde: Output 2.1. Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).

? General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF) of the Comoros: Output 2.2. Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndroué National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate

? Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) of Guinea Bissau: Output 2.3. Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices

? Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius: Output 2.4 Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius.

? General Directorate of Environment (DGA), of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN) of Sao Tome and Principe: Output 2.5. Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tomé and Príncipe in support of blue development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation; and Improved management of marine and coastal natural capital in Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

? Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) of Seychelles: Output 2.6. The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.

Project stakeholders and target groups

The African SIDS Project will seek to apply a multi-pronged approach towards the engagement of stakeholders and target groups in project-related decision-making processes.

For this purpose, the project will make a clear distinction, and separation, between decision-making that relates to project management and project governance matters (this Section 1- General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism), versus the much wider-ranging participation and decision-making processes that are part of the technical project activities listed under Section IV of this Project Document.

In doing so, the project will be able to narrow down the scope of work of the African SIDS Project Board (Steering Committee), in line with the Board's formal mandate, and optimized towards the Board's composition and (more compact) membership (see also Sections 2 and 4 further below). This approach will enable more cost-efficient governance and management of the main African SIDS Project,).

In line with the above and for the purpose of African SIDS project governance and management, the main project stakeholders/target groups will be: UNDP as the GEF Agency, the African SIDS Implementing Partner, African Union Commission, the responsible parties, and the participating GEF-eligible and/or co-financing countries and entities. Differential roles and positions of the aforementioned parties on or vis-a-vis the Project Board are explained further below.

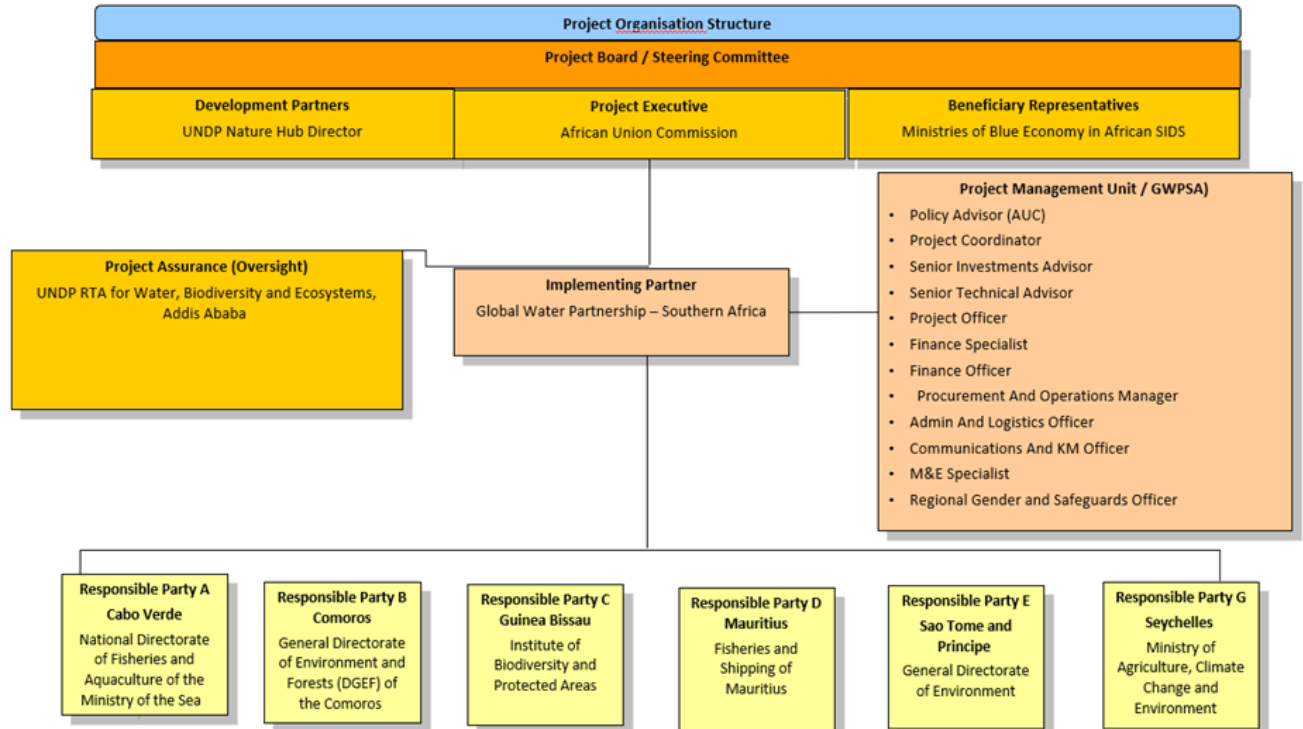
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP HQ assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A UNDP BPPS NCE representative will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-?-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 2: Project governance structure



Consistency 2: Project Governance Arrangements

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Notes

1. The Policy Advisor will be based in AUC under the department of Blue Economy

2. The Project Coordinator and the Policy Advisor will be full time positions

3. The following positions will be part-time, shared with other GWP-SA projects:

i) Finance Specialist (30% time input)

ii) Finance Officer (25% time input)

iii) Administrative & Logistics Officer (50% time input)

iv) Procurement and Operations Manager (30% time input)

v) Senior Technical Advisor (20% time input)

vi) Project Officer (40% time input)

vii) Senior Investments Advisor (10% time input)

viii) Communications and Knowledge Management Officer (30% time input)

ix) Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (50% time input)

x) Gender and Safeguards Officer (50% time input)

Xi) Each Responsible Party will hire a national Project Manager (full time position) to support the implementation of demonstration projects. Sao Tome and Principe will have two National Project Managers: One for the marine demonstration project and another for land restoration demonstration project.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

As noted in the [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-?-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the [?Provide Oversight?](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and

ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the [?Manage Change?](#) section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.

? Meet annually; at least once.

? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.

? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

1. Responsibilities of the Project Board:

? Consensus decision making:

o The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.

o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;

o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.

o In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

? Oversee project execution:

o

o Agree on project coordinator's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project coordinator's tolerances are exceeded.

o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.

Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project coordinator and project assurance

o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.

o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.

o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.

o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? Risk Management:

o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.

o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.

o Address project-level grievances.

? Coordination:

o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy Directorate, AUC
2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: Ministries of Blue Economy in participating countries
3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: UNDP Africa Hub Director

b) Project Assurance: Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Coordinator. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is: the RTA for Water and Ocean governance.

c) Project Management ? Execution of the Project: The project management unit (PMU) is headed by the Project Coordinator and includes eleven members (Figure 2). These staff will be contracted by the Implementing Partner, using GEF resources, solely for the execution of this project. The Implementing Partner will apply strict measures to prevent that the project's personnel are involved in other matters or activities that are not part of their terms of reference. One of these staff (the Policy Advisor) will be based in AUC under the department of Blue Economy while other 10 staff will be based at GWP-SA office in Pretoria. The Project Coordinator and the Policy Advisor will be only the full time positions while other positions will be part time shared with other GWP-SA projects as described above under the Project structure notes. . As

indicated above, each Responsible Party will hire a national Project Manager (full time position) to support the implementation of demonstration projects. Sao Tome and Principe will have two National Project Managers: One for the marine demonstration project and another for land restoration demonstration project. Annex 8 includes the Terms of Reference for the PMU positions.

The Coordinator (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The coordinator typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. Roles and responsibilities of the PMU members are detailed in the respective Annex.

The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: the Project Coordinator. To enhance cooperation and strengthening of continental actions the Policy Advisor in AUC will also attend the board meetings.

1. *Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. ?????*

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism

Implementing Partner (IP)

The UNDP Implementing Partner (IP) for this project is the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a well-established non-government organisation, headquartered in Sweden. Formed in 2002, it links agencies of the United Nations, government institutions, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector. An MOU exists between UNDP and GWP (signed in 2014). GWP's Southern Africa branch has a strong system of policies and procedures, including internal operational controls for project management, governance, reporting and budget management and administration. It maintains yearly audited accounts of its financial performance and position. The UNDP South Africa Country Office conducted a HACT-based micro assessment for GWP Southern Africa in Q3 2020 with no concerns and completed a PCAT for GWP Southern Africa in December 2020.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Responsible Parties

Six government agencies will take additional lead roles in the execution of demonstration projects under component 2 of the project, upon delegation by the Implementing Partner/ namely GWP-SA. GWP-SA will decide whether to formally designate these as Responsible Parties and will sign Responsible Party Agreements with them. Broadly, their roles and responsibilities per project output are as follows:

? National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of the Sea of Cabo Verde: Output 2.1. Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).

? General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF) of the Comoros: Output 2.2. Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate

? Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) of Guinea Bissau: Output 2.3. Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices

? Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping of Mauritius: Output 2.4 Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius.

? General Directorate of Environment (DGA), of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN) of Sao Tome and Principe: Output 2.5. Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe in support of blue development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation; and Improved management of marine and coastal natural capital in Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe.

Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) of Seychelles: Output 2.6. The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.

Project stakeholders and target groups

The African SIDS Project will seek to apply a multi-pronged approach towards the engagement of stakeholders and target groups in project-related decision-making processes.

For this purpose, the project will make a clear distinction, and separation, between decision-making that relates to project management and project governance matters (this Section 1- General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism), versus the much wider-ranging participation and decision-making processes that are part of the technical project activities listed under Section IV of this Project Document.

In doing so, the project will be able to narrow down the scope of work of the African SIDS Project Board (Steering Committee), in line with the Board's formal mandate, and optimized towards the Board's composition and (more compact) membership (see also Sections 2 and 4 further below). This approach will enable more cost-efficient governance and management of the main African SIDS Project.

In line with the above and for the purpose of African SIDS project governance and management, the main project stakeholders/target groups will be: UNDP as the GEF Agency, the African SIDS Implementing Partner, African Union Commission, the responsible parties, and the participating GEF-eligible and/or co-financing countries and entities. Differential roles and positions of the aforementioned parties on or vis-à-vis the Project Board are explained further below.

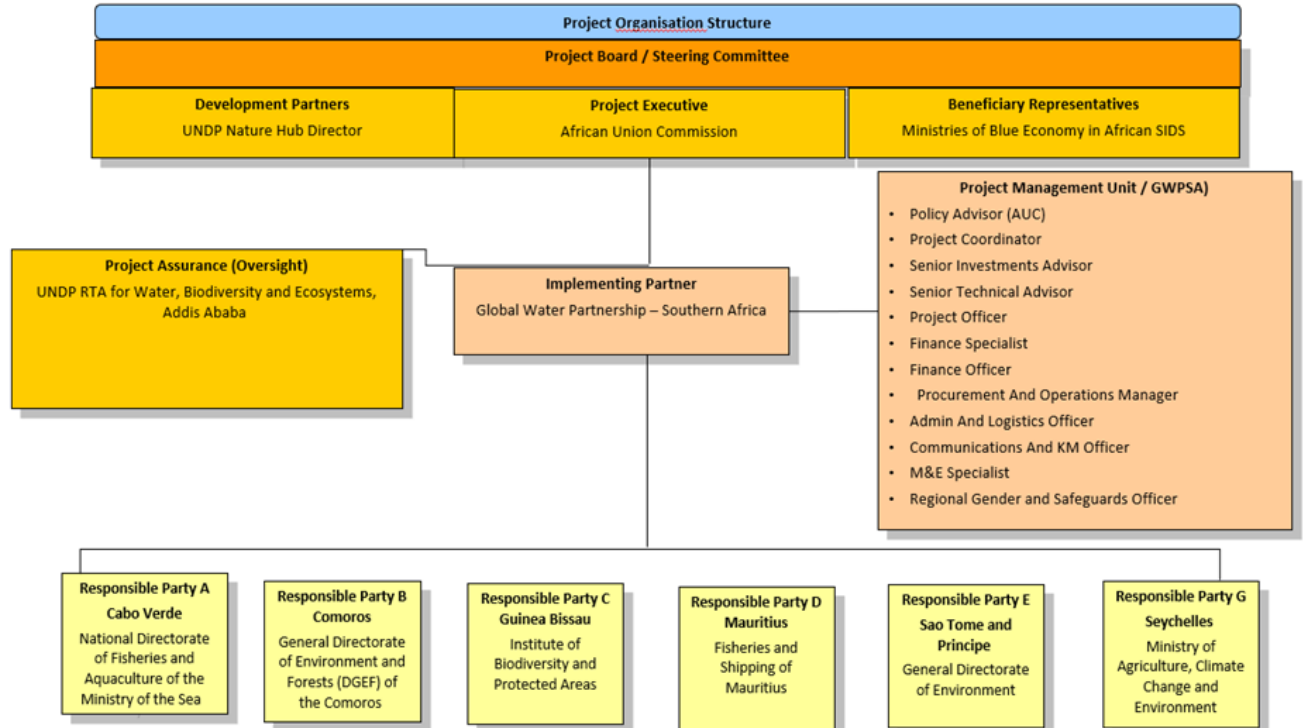
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP HQ assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A UNDP BPPS NCE representative will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-à-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 2: Project governance structure



Consistency 2: Project Governance Arrangements

Notes

1. The Policy Advisor will be based in AUC under the department of Blue Economy

2. The Project Coordinator (PM) and the Policy Advisor will be full time positions

3. The following positions will be part-time, shared with other GWP-SA projects:

i) Finance Specialist (30% time input)

ii) Finance Officer (25% time input)

iii) Administrative & Logistics Officer (50% time input)

iv) Procurement and Operations Manager (30% time input)

v) Senior Technical Advisor (20% time input)

vi) Project Officer (40% time input)

vii) Senior Investments Advisor (10% time input)

viii) Communications and Knowledge Management Officer (30% time input)

ix) Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (50% time input)

x) Gender and Safeguards Officer (50% time input)

xi) Each Responsible Party will hire a national Project Manager to support the implementation of demonstration projects. Sao Tome and Principe will have two National Project Managers: One for the marine demonstration project and another for land restoration demonstration project.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

As noted in the [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-?-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the [?Provide Oversight?](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports,

evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the **'Manage Change'** section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:

? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.

? Meet annually; at least once.

? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.

? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

1. Responsibilities of the Project Board:

? Consensus decision making:

o The project board provides overall overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.

o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;

o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.

o In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

? **Oversee project execution:**

o Agree on project coordinator's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project coordinator's tolerances are exceeded.

o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.

o Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project coordinator and project assurance;

o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.

o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.

o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.

o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? **Risk Management:**

o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.

o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.

o Address project-level grievances.

? **Coordination:**

o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

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Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy Directorate, AUC
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c) Project Management ? Execution of the Project: The project management unit (PMU) is headed by the Project Coordinator and includes eleven members (Figure 2). These staff will be contracted by the Implementing Partner, using GEF resources, solely for the execution of this project. The Implementing Partner will apply strict measures to prevent that the project's personnel are involved in other matters or activities that are not part of their terms of reference. One of these staff (the Policy Advisor) will be based in AUC under the department of Blue Economy while other 10 staff will be based at GWP-SA office in Pretoria.

The Project Coordinator and the Policy Advisor will be only the full time positions while other positions will be part time shared with other GWP-SA projects as described above under the Project structure notes. Annex 8 includes the Terms of Reference for the PMU positions.

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A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. Roles and responsibilities of the PMU members are detailed in the respective Annex.

The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: the Project Coordinator. To enhance cooperation and strengthening of continental actions ? the Policy Advisor in AUC will also attend the board meetings.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

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The countries participating in this project are, to varying degrees, signatories to numerous multi-lateral agreements relating to the protection and management of the marine environment, both at a global and regional level. Table 3 below lists some of those most relevant to the sustainable development in the African SIDS region.

Several of these agreements have been translated into national policies and/or related action plans. In particular, most, if not all African SIDS countries have developed the following:

? National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD addressing both terrestrial and marine biodiversity;

? National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC including publishing and maintaining successive **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** relating to commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Consistency with global priorities

The project is supporting countries in fulfilling commitments to the following MEAs related to the project:

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982: The project's focus on sustainable offshore fishing aligns with UNCLOS objectives related to the conservation and management of marine resources.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992: The project's emphasis on biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management supports CBD goals and objectives. This project is in line with the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as it supports biodiversity conservation efforts in line with the CBD's strategic plan.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement: By addressing climate change resilience and sustainability, the project contributes to UNFCCC and climate agreements' objectives.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ? through addressing land degradation issues and contributing to achieving LDN targets set by the countries the project supports the aims of the UNCCD.

Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1972: The project indirectly supports CITES by promoting sustainable fishing practices and reducing the exploitation of marine species.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971: Shifting anthropological pressures from overexploited lagoons aligns with Ramsar Convention goals related to wetland conservation.

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1948 and 1959: While not directly related to whaling, the project contributes to responsible marine resource management, which is in line with whaling conventions' principles.

FAO Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: The project's focus on improving food hygiene and reducing post-harvest losses aligns with efforts to combat illegal fishing.

UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The project addresses several SDGs and contributes to the broader sustainability goals outlined in the UN 2030 Agenda. It specifically contributes to the achievement of SDG14 on Life below Water (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), SDG13 on Climate Action (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG17 on Partnerships for the Goals (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The project contributes to Target 2 (Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity), Target 7 (Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects), Target 14 (Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes), Target 15 (Take legal, administrative or

policy measures to encourage and enable business), Target 20 (Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation).

Specifically for commitments related to SIDS - Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA, 1992), Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI, 2005), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) an internationally agreed programme of action for SIDS for the 2014 - 2024 period, which has identified Ocean and seas, Climate Change, Sustainable tourism, Sustainable transportation, Sustainable consumption, and production as priority areas for all SIDS at the global level. The project aligns with these specific SIDS-focused agreements by promoting sustainable development, resilience, and improved livelihoods in a vulnerable island context^[1]. Seeing as the ocean is a global entity as stipulated by the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal June 28th to 1st July 2022, ocean management, protection and conservation often requires cooperation and collaboration across national and regional economic communities.

Consistency with continental priorities

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African Union Commission

Following the Rio+20 Conference, the African Union (AU) in 2012 articulated the overarching vision of *'Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy 2050'* as follows: *'to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner'*. In 2013, the AU included the Blue Economy as one of the key enablers in its *'Agenda 2063'*, with the latter being *'the framework and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future'*. The AU also declared 2015-2025 as the *'Decade of African Seas and Oceans'*, and 25 July as the *'African Day of Seas and Oceans'*. Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want: The project's focus on sustainable blue economy activities aligns with the broader goals of Agenda 2063, which seeks to advance sustainable development in Africa. Agenda 2063 of the African Union declares the Blue Economy to be *'Africa's future'* and recognizes the key role that the ocean plays as a catalyst for socioeconomic transformation.

AU identified Blue Economy as a major contributor to achieving its Agenda 2063. A Blue Economy Strategy was developed by AU in 2019 followed in 2020 by the Africa Blue Economy Strategy Implementation Plan (2021-2025). This plan supports the setting up Blue Economy governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels. In addition, the 2014 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS); the 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS); and the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) are also relevant in the context of developing the Blue Economy in African SIDS.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy emphasizes the sustainable and inclusive development of Africa's blue economy. Focusing on five critical thematic areas: fisheries, aquaculture, ecosystems conservation, shipping, transportation, trade, sustainable energy, extractive minerals, environmental sustainability, and governance institutions. The proposed project is consistent and aligns with the Strategy by advocating for the sustainable use of marine resources, environmental conservation, and promoting socio-economic development. It supports initiatives for coastal-marine spatial planning and strengthening financing for marine conservation

measures. This synergy ensures that the project's objectives are in harmony with the broader continental vision for a sustainable blue economy???.

The AU Blue Framework for Governance and Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy provides guidance on establishing functional, integrated blue governance coordination mechanisms. These institutional arrangements refer to the coordination, planning and monitoring of the Blue Economy activities initiated by AU bodies, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), other regional organizations, and member states.

Currently, within AU Commission under the ?Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment? (ARBE) a Division of Blue Economy has been established (under the Environment and Blue Economy Directorate). The Blue Economy development and coordination division is based on 3 pillars: biological resources (mainly referring to the fishery and aquaculture resources); non-biological resources (petroleum, gas and mineral resources and renewable energy); and ocean governance of both resource types. Components of blue economy range from the traditional ocean industries such as fisheries, tourism, and maritime transport, to new and emerging activities, such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed extractive activities, and marine biotechnology and bio prospecting. These activities are located outside of the area of intervention of the new Blue Economy Division[2]². The project plans to work with the Blue Economy Division ? in order to facilitate engagement and coordination at the political level and also to ensure alignment of the African SIDS efforts with the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. The AUC has also identified tools for effective Blue Governance that the project can support in developing ? they are mainly Blue Economy Accounting (economics, environmental and social), Marine and Freshwater Spatial Planning, Blue Economy Standards and Blue Funding mechanisms.

The key role for the AUC is facilitating international Blue Governance Coordination with international organisations like UNDP, FAO, UNESCO (with its International Oceanographic Commission, IOC), EU, UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, International Seabed Authority, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Division of Maritime Affairs, and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), UNCTAD, WTO, United World Tourism Organisation, etc.

African Blue Economy development is furthermore receiving dedicated attention by AUDA/NEPAD (African Union Development Agency/New Partnership for African Development) with the current elaboration of the Blue Economy Programme that aims to guide the Agency?s support to AU Member States and RECs. In anticipation of the support needed by member states and RECs to implement the continental Blue Economy Strategy, the AUDA-NEPAD developed a Sustainable Blue Economy Programme in 2019 to facilitate the implementation of its priorities in alignment with Agenda 2063. This African SIDS project will work closely with AUDA NEPAD to support the participating countries in the implementation of Blue Economy activities ? AUDA NEPAD has been instrumental in supporting RECs and Member States in the development of instruments (strategies, investment plans and programmes etc.)

A number of other key documents to support the Blue Economy have been developed at the Continental level:

- a. Africa?s Blue Economy: A policy handbook (UNECA, 2016): The project's activities are in line with the principles and recommendations outlined in this guide for promoting sustainable blue economy practices on the African continent.
 - b. UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Kit: which launched in 2021 provides a comprehensive understanding of the Blue Economy?s value beyond traditional economic measures. It supports evidence-
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based decision-making for Blue Economy policy and investment. The tool, therefore, helps countries to prioritize sustainable management and development of Blue Economy Resources. Indications are that the tool has been used in Comoros and Seychelles

Africa Continental Free Trade Area

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the world's largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the AU and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs)[3]3. By creating a single continental market for goods and services, it aims to enhance trade and economic integration across Africa. The integration of the AfCFTA with the Africa Blue Economy Strategy is part of a broader strategy for regional cooperation and development and complements the objectives of the Strategy by potentially creating a more unified market that can support sustainable ocean-based economic activities.

Given the constraints of their small domestic markets and their narrow sectoral bases, SIDS' economic growth relies substantially on international trade and has a limited number of export commodities and export markets, resulting in economic vulnerability in the face of changes in export demand and commodity prices[4]4. As a result, trade is significantly more volatile for them. The AfCFTA can be a significant opportunity for these countries, as it encompasses negotiations on trade in goods and services, dispute settlement, intellectual property rights, investment, and competition policy. All six target countries in the project have signed and ratified the AfCFTA, indicating their commitment to this continental economic integration[5]5??.

Cooperation across various ocean-using sectors is important for achieving the goals of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. This includes negotiating and facilitating mutually beneficial outcomes, strengthening regional collaboration among countries, and implementing regional Strategic Action Plans for LMEs and key documents like the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Achieving synergy among different stakeholders and avoiding conflicting actions is essential for integrated approaches to ocean and natural resources governance??.

A study conducted by the International Economics Consulting Ltd has conducted an assessment on the challenges and opportunities for African SIDS in the context of the AfCFTA at the request of UNECA in Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Mauritius, S?o Tom? and Princ?pe, and Seychelles[6]6. The assessment highlighted the gains to be derived from the full implementation of the AfCFTA and also cautioned that the gains would not be distributed evenly amongst countries - even more so for the SIDS given the fundamental variations in their starting points. While all SIDS can expect to acquire advantages from reduced trading costs, it will be crucial for SIDS to ensure that their implementation strategy will ensure sustainability and ownership across the government and beyond.

Consistency with regional priorities

Western Indian Ocean (Southern and Eastern Africa)

As part of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme the Member States in the WIO are party to the Nairobi convention with a vision of a prosperous WIO region with healthy rivers, coasts and oceans. To realise the

vision the Convention is aimed at increasing the capacity of the Member States to protect, manage and develop their coastal and marine environment. The 3 SIDS in the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles) are party to the Treaty. The Convention offers a legal framework and coordinates the efforts of countries to plan and develop programmes, it provides a forum for inter-governmental discussions to ensure better understanding of problems and strategies, it promotes sharing of information, and facilitates periodic assessments of the state of coastal and marine environments. The COP meets every two years and is the main decision-making body.

Several African RECs have also drafted Blue Economy strategies or are currently preparing them. These include the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); the Southern African Development Community (SADC); the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); and the 2014 Integrated Marine Strategy developed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which was accompanied by a regional action plan.

The Great Blue Wall Initiative in the West Indian Ocean goal is to accelerate the upscaling of ocean conservation actions while enhancing socioecological resilience and the development of a regenerative Blue Economy. The initiative has set ambitious targets to protect 2 million square kilometers of protected and conserved areas, achieve net gain of critical blue ecosystems by conserving and restoring more than 2 million hectares of critical ecosystems and thereby sequestering more than 100 million tonnes of carbon, and unlocking regenerative livelihood opportunities for 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean region^[7].

Atlantic Ocean (Central and West Africa)

The 'Abidjan Convention' for the Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region was signed in 1981 and went into effect in 1984. In addition, the Contracting Parties adopted the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region ('Action Plan?'). The three (3) Atlantic SIDS participating countries of Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe are located in the Abidjan Convention area but have not yet ratified the Convention. The Gulf of Guinea Commission was established by the treaty signed in Libreville, Gabon, on 3 July 2001 by Angola, Congo, Gabon, Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe. It consists of an institutional framework for cooperation amongst the countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea in order to defend their common interest and promote peace and socio-economic development^[8].

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting educational, scientific, and technological development of marine sciences in the Western Indian Ocean region, which includes Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, and R?union (France). WIOMSA aims to advance regional cooperation in all aspects of coastal and marine sciences, including socio-economic and management sciences, and supports sustainable development while promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. This initiative is crucial for linking research knowledge with the management and governance

of marine and coastal ecosystems, contributing significantly to the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. WIOMSA's activities span five key areas: capacity development, scientific research, information dissemination and communication, partnerships/networking, and resource mobilization. The organization focuses on enhancing the abilities of individuals and entities for improved coastal and marine management, supporting regional research through grants, and ensuring knowledge spread via various media. It fosters collaborations across scientific fields and regions, seeking sustainable management solutions for the Western Indian Ocean's environmental challenges, while actively pursuing funding to support its operations and the WIOMSA Trust.

WIOMSA has established working relationships with a number of key institutions within and outside the WIO region. The Association has MOUs with UNEP as the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Coastal Resource Centre of the University of Rhode Island, and the Indian Ocean Commission (COI). WIOMSA is also a Scientific Partner of the Centre for Biological Diversity (CBD), and an active member of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C).

Large Marine Ecosystems

From an international waters perspective, the African SIDs are in Canary Current LME (CCLME), Guinea Current LME (GCLME) and the Agulhas-Somali Current LME (ASCLME). Transboundary Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) for these LMEs have been developed in the past years with GEF financing and are currently under implementation. This project aims to build on the work carried out in the LMEs to support sustainable governance and promote multiple countries to collaborate on strategic long-term ocean governance of transboundary resources especially on blue economy sectors including fisheries and eco-tourism.

Consistency with national priorities

The proposed project is consistent with the national priorities of the participating countries as stipulated in their respective national and sectorial development plans and strategies ? promoting a sustainable blue economy. The project is also consistent with and will support national commitments to relevant regional and international programs and priorities, including the Rio Conventions and their associated programs, as detailed below.

Cabo Verde

The Charter on Blue Growth (2015) serves as a framework for all policies and investments related to the development of the sustainable ocean economy. The Resolution No. 172/2020 approved the Policy Charter for the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde ? it is the main framework for Cabo Verde's blue economy focusing on sustainable and inclusive economic growth, addressing inequalities, combating unemployment, and enhancing research and knowledge.

In 2018, Cabo Verde established a Ministry for the Maritime Economy (since 2021 called Ministry for the Ocean), which has authority over a wide array of ocean-related policies. The portfolio of the ministry includes maritime policy, maritime economy and industry, marine resources, fisheries, aquaculture, ports, and maritime transport.

To give tangible form to the National Blue Economy Strategy adopted in 2019, Cabo Verde has launched the Blue Economy Programme and developed the National Blue Economy Investment Plan. Cabo Verde has also positioned the Blue Economy as a key accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within its long-term development strategy "Ambition 2030," and it recognizes the importance of marine spatial planning in this context. the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity 2014-2030 has a vision

of protecting, rehabilitating and valuing biodiversity whilst promoting sustainable use and enhancing mechanisms for participation and sharing of benefits in a fair and equitable manner. The project is consistent with and will support the country's efforts to manage the blue economy in a sustainable way and will contribute to the capacity building and engagement of the relevant bodies. Establishment of supporting multisectoral institutions/bodies such as the Blue Economy Observatory and the Blue Economy Steering Committee. The Blue Economy Observatory was established to provide technical assistance and promote institutional co-operation in ocean governance. The Steering Committee serves as a technical body that analyses and discusses issues related to the Cabo Verde's Blue Economy Transition and comprises representatives from the Ministries of Maritime Economy, Finance, Tourism and Transport, Foreign Affairs, the National Directorates of Industry and Energy and the Environment, the National Institutes for Fisheries Development, Statistics and Spatial Planning and the University of Cabo Verde.

Comoros

The Comoros is still in the early stages of developing a comprehensive framework for its blue economy. While there's no single dedicated law specifically for the blue economy, several existing laws, policies, and strategies touch upon various aspects. The Constitution recognises the importance of the marine environment; the Fisheries Code regulated fishing activities to promote sustainable exploitation and conservation of the marine resources; the Maritime Code governs the maritime navigation, safety, and pollution; whilst the Environmental Code sets out general principles for environmental protection including marine ecosystems. Comoros adopted a Strategic Framework for a National Blue Economy Policy in 2018 with focus on: Strategic Framework for a Blue Economy National Policy with focus on: (1) Strengthening of national safety and security; and (2) Enhancing key sectors of Blue Economy with training and creating jobs for the youth; and (3) protecting coastal, aquatic, and marine ecosystems through waste management; (4) enhancing adaptation of institutional frameworks; and (5) reorienting pillars of regional integration frameworks.

With regards to national action plans and/pr investment plans "The Emerging Comoros Plan" in 2019, which serves as a comprehensive framework for nationwide development policies. The second pillar of this Plan places a significant emphasis on the Blue Economy, with a visionary goal of establishing a sustainable Blue Economy by 2030. This objective centres on harnessing marine resources to drive research and development in biotechnology while concurrently safeguarding the marine environment. The government of Comoros has prioritized unlocking the immense potential of the Blue Economy, underlining its strategic significance. The national strategic objectives within the marine and coastal sector encompass several key priorities: enhancing national safety and security, fostering the growth of pivotal sectors within the Blue Economy to facilitate youth training and job creation, implementing sustainable management practices for fishery resources, protecting coastal, aquatic, and marine ecosystems, and efficiently managing waste. The proposed project is consistent with the country's efforts to achieve a Sustainable Blue Economy by 2030.

To ensure the successful execution of the Blue Economy Agenda, the responsible ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Territory Planning and Urban, and the Ministry of Transportation, Post, Telecommunications, Communication & Tourism. This concerted effort signifies Comoros' commitment to harnessing the potential of its marine assets for sustainable development and prosperity. The project will seek alignment with the institutional framework being developed and will support cross-sectoral engagement.

Guinea-Bissau

The Environmental Framework Law Law n° 1/2011, 2nd of March, defines the fundamental principles of national environmental protection policy which covers aspects of the ocean economy. Currently, there is no specific law of the ocean economy.

Guinea-Bissau recognizes the importance of the blue economy in its national development plan "Guinea-Bissau 2025 *Terra Ranka*". With support from UNDP the country developed a comprehensive National Blue

Economy Strategy and corresponding Investment Plan. This plan focuses on advancing economic diversification and leveraging the blue economy for transformative growth. Central to the government's objectives is the creation of better living conditions for the population, which encompasses generating employment and income to combat poverty. The strategy prioritizes promoting sustainable economic growth, with the blue economy playing a vital role.

The strategy addresses key sectors and cross-cutting issues integral to the blue economy, such as maritime transport, governance, and financing. It aims to guide interventions across all sectors, particularly focusing on creating value chains that empower the private sector while promoting fisheries, agriculture, and tourism. The development of ecotourism is a priority for the government, aligning with the strategy's broader goal of economic diversification and building resilience to market fluctuations. The strategy also confronts challenges like controlling overfishing and illegal fishing activities, balancing the need for profitability with the imperatives of sustainable development^[9]?. The project is aligned to Guinea-Bissau's national priorities, supporting economic diversification, sustainable development, and the creation of employment opportunities.

The coordinated institutional framework for the Blue Economy in Guinea-Bissau is under development there are a number of government agencies that are currently supporting related work. The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy plays a key role with potential to oversee the broader blue economy activities. The diversity of government entities that have responsibilities in the management of wetlands and coastal zones is broad, for example Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP), the Directorate General for Water Resources, the Port Maritime Institute, the Ministry of Fisheries, and the Directorate General of Land Use, amongst others. This requires a clear articulation and definition of responsibilities between these public entities, which does not exist, aiming coordinated management of ecosystems services in the country and, in accordance with the commitments ratified by the Guinea-Bissau^[10]¹⁰. The proposed project will support building capacity focused on strengthening intersectoral coordination.

The IBAP (Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas) also plays a critical role in the management of protected coastal and marine ecosystems. Due to its mission and to its institutional autonomy, IBAP has been able to gather financial support from different international organizations, however as the territory under legal protection for nature conservation has increased significantly, their resources are also becoming tight and out of proportion to their duties and responsibilities, under the nature conservation policies that the country has recently assumed^[11]¹¹.By involving various sectors and stakeholders, the proposed project ensures a comprehensive and inclusive approach to development. The project will focus on sustainable practices in critical economic sectors like fisheries, agriculture, and tourism aligns with the national strategy, contributing towards the country's broader economic and sustainable development goals. One key issue requiring strengthening is the coordination mechanisms for the Blue Economy ? and the project will support this through linking with the pilot project.

Guinea-Bissau has created an Environmental Fund, Decree n? 6/2017, 28th of June created to promote the protection of national natural resources and the environment, dedicated to promoting activities of sustainable natural resource management, environmental education, restoration of degraded habitats, support environmental inspection and the environmental assessment process, among others.

Mauritius

The key legislations for the ocean economy are the Environment Protection Act (2002) which sets environmental standards and regulations for activities impacting the marine environment. Fisheries and Marine Resources Act (2007) which regulates fishing activities and establishes protected areas and promotes

sustainable fisheries management and the Maritime Zones Act (2004) which defines the maritime zones of Mauritius and regulates activities within them.

The Mauritius government's commitment to developing the ocean sector as a major economic pillar was solidified in 2015 with the creation of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping. This ministry consolidates various departments to effectively coordinate ocean-related activities. Mauritius developed an Ocean Economy Roadmap in 2020,^[12]¹² which focuses on sustainably managing and coordinating ocean-related activities, aiming to transform the ocean sector into a significant component of the national economy. Concurrently, the preparation of a Marine Spatial Plan for Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone^[13]¹³ is geared towards optimizing the use of marine resources, ensuring their sustainable utilization while balancing environmental conservation and economic development needs.

S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe

S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe approved a Blue Economy Transition Strategy^[14]¹⁴ in 2019, outlining objectives and priority areas for intervention. The National Strategy for the Blue Economy was adopted as a Law (Lei no 38/XI/8e/2022). This national strategy is the key instrument in driving the Blue Economy as a critical pillar for the economic development of the country.

The country has developed a national investment plan to strengthen Blue Economy governance and establish a multi-year program for the transition^[15]¹⁵?. The investment plan builds on an enabling environment driven by an attractive investment code that promotes business development, incentives to FDI, access to state properties and Tax Benefits Code. It identifies Blue Economy opportunities in transport and maritime security, environment, tourism and ecotourism, fisheries and aquaculture, value chain, market, food security, renewable energy, and environment.

The country's key economic sectors: Fisheries and Aquaculture, Tourism, new renewable energy, infrastructure and maritime transport, environment are part of the Blue Economy, and as such, have been planned together in the National Strategy (Transition Strategy for the Blue Economy, 2019), under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA). The recent blue economy legal framework introduced a mechanism led by the Ministry to ensure coordination, harmonisation, follow up and assessment of partner's intervention in the Blue Economy. A Strategic Unit for the Blue Economy (UIEEA) has been set up in MPFEA to support implementation of Blue Economy. The Inter-Ministerial Platform has been established to support the Promotion of Blue Employment, Entrepreneurship and Education (P4EA).

S?o Tom? e Pr?ncipe Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) measures include manage and restore degraded forests, sustainable agriculture/restoration/ good agricultural practices, manage urbanization and integrate spatial land-use planning, mainstream LDN in institutions and sectoral plans, raise LDN awareness and sensitization campaign at all levels, build knowledge management platform, improve capacity in monitoring and evaluation system and mobilize innovative financing and build public-private partnerships. One of 5 national voluntary LDN targets in S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe is to reduce by 25 per cent the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and increase the use of organic products by 25 per cent by year 2030. This target is also one of key priority areas of the updated NDC. The LDN component of this project will contribute to achievement of this target.

Seychelles

Seychelles has developed a national Seychelles? Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap (the Blue Economy Roadmap) was approved by the Government of Seychelles on 31st January 2018. It is an integrated approach to ocean based sustainable development which brings together economy, environment, and society, consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDG?s), Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015) [16]¹⁶. The Nationally Determined Contribution (2021), which is targeted to achieve the commitments of the country to the Paris Agreement, identified blue economy as a major strategy to achieve climate adaptation and mitigation targets

Seychelles has been working towards promoting intersectoral cooperation in promoting and implementing the Blue Economy strategy. The country established a National Blue Economy Forum in 2014, a Blue Economy Ministerial Council in 2019 that is chaired by the Vice President, to provide strategic leadership and oversight, and a Multi-Stakeholder Forum as a platform for dialogue and advice to the Ministerial Council on cross-sectoral implementation of blue economy. As indicated above, these structures have operational issues that this African SIDS project would help to address.

[1] Karani. P et al. (2022) Africa Blue Economy Strategies Integrated in Planning to Achieve Sustainable Development at National and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Journal of Sustainability Research

[2] AU-IBAR (2020.) Africa Blue Economy Strategy ? Blue Governance Framework.

[3] About The AfCFTA - AfCFTA (au-afcfta.org)

[4] African SIDS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Opportunities - International Economics (tradeconomics.com)

[5] AfCFTA Poised to Revive Economies of Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (uneca.org)

[6] African SIDS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Opportunities - International Economics (tradeconomics.com)

[7] Great Blue Wall. www.greatbluewall.org

[8] Failler, P. et al. 2020. Perception of natural habitat changes of West African marine protected areas. *Ocean & Coastal Management*. 187. 1-12.10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2020.105120.

[9] UNDP (2022) A multifaceted National Blue Economy Strategy with a Common Goal

[10] World Bank (2020) Diagnostic of Country's Environmental and Social Management Capacity

[11] World Bank (2020) Diagnostic of Country's Environmental and Social Management Capacity

[12] World Bank (2017) [The Ocean Economy in Mauritius](#)

[13] Ongoing Marine Spatial Plan for its EEZ

[14] [Blue Economy Transition Strategy](#)

[15] [Sao Tome and Principe new Law on the transition towards the Blue Economy](#)

[16] Seychelles' Blue Economy (2018) Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap Charting the Future (2018-2030)????

The countries participating in this project are, to varying degrees, signatories to numerous multi-lateral agreements relating to the protection and management of the marine environment, both at a global and regional level. Table 3 below lists some of those most relevant to the sustainable development in the African SIDS region.

Several of these agreements have been translated into national policies and/or related action plans. In particular, most, if not all **African** SIDS countries have developed the following:

? National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD addressing both terrestrial and marine biodiversity;

? National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC including publishing and maintaining successive **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** relating to commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Consistency with global priorities

The project is supporting countries in fulfilling commitments to the following MEAs related to the project:

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982: The project's focus on sustainable offshore fishing aligns with UNCLOS objectives related to the conservation and management of marine resources.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992: The project's emphasis on biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management supports CBD goals and objectives. This project is in line with the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as it supports biodiversity conservation efforts in line with the CBD's strategic plan.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement: By addressing climate change resilience and sustainability, the project contributes to UNFCCC and climate agreements' objectives.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ? through addressing land degradation issues and contributing to achieving LDN targets set by the countries the project supports the aims of the UNCCD.

Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 1972: The project indirectly supports CITES by promoting sustainable fishing practices and reducing the exploitation of marine species.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1971: Shifting anthropological pressures from overexploited lagoons aligns with Ramsar Convention goals related to wetland conservation.

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1948 and 1959: While not directly related to whaling, the project contributes to responsible marine resource management, which is in line with whaling conventions' principles.

FAO Agreement on Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: The project's focus on improving food hygiene and reducing post-harvest losses aligns with efforts to combat illegal fishing.

UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The project addresses several SDGs and contributes to the broader sustainability goals outlined in the UN 2030 Agenda. It specifically contributes to the achievement of SDG14 on Life below Water (conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), SDG13 on Climate Action (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG17 on Partnerships for the Goals (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The project contributes to Target 2 (Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity), Target 7 (Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects), Target 14 (Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes), Target 15 (Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business), Target 20 (Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation).

Specifically for commitments related to SIDS - Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA, 1992), Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI, 2005), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) an internationally agreed programme of action for SIDS for the 2014 ? 2024 period, which has identified Ocean and seas, Climate Change, Sustainable tourism, Sustainable transportation, Sustainable consumption, and production as priority areas for all SIDS at the global level. The project aligns with these

specific SIDS-focused agreements by promoting sustainable development, resilience, and improved livelihoods in a vulnerable island context^[1]. Seeing as the ocean is a global entity as stipulated by the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal June 28th to 1st July 2022, ocean management, protection and conservation often requires cooperation and collaboration across national and regional economic communities.

Consistency with continental priorities

African Union Commission

Following the Rio+20 Conference, the African Union (AU) in 2012 articulated the overarching vision of *'Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy 2050'* as follows: *'to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner'*. In 2013, the AU included the Blue Economy as one of the key enablers in its *'Agenda 2063'*, with the latter being *'the framework and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future'*. The AU also declared 2015-2025 as the *'Decade of African Seas and Oceans'*, and 25 July as the *'African Day of Seas and Oceans'*. Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want: The project's focus on sustainable blue economy activities aligns with the broader goals of Agenda 2063, which seeks to advance sustainable development in Africa. Agenda 2063 of the African Union declares the Blue Economy to be *'Africa's future'* and recognizes the key role that the ocean plays as a catalyst for socioeconomic transformation.

AU identified Blue Economy as a major contributor to achieving its Agenda 2063. A Blue Economy Strategy was developed by AU in 2019 followed in 2020 by the Africa Blue Economy Strategy Implementation Plan (2021-2025). This plan supports the setting up Blue Economy governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels. In addition, the 2014 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS); the 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS); and the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lom' Charter) are also relevant in the context of developing the Blue Economy in African SIDS.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy emphasizes the sustainable and inclusive development of Africa's blue economy. Focusing on five critical thematic areas: fisheries, aquaculture, ecosystems conservation, shipping, transportation, trade, sustainable energy, extractive minerals, environmental sustainability, and governance institutions. The proposed project is consistent and aligns with the Strategy by advocating for the sustainable use of marine resources, environmental conservation, and promoting socio-economic development. It supports initiatives for coastal-marine spatial planning and strengthening financing for marine conservation measures. This synergy ensures that the project's objectives are in harmony with the broader continental vision for a sustainable blue economy???

The AU Blue Framework for Governance and Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the African Blue Economy Strategy provides guidance on establishing functional, integrated blue governance coordination mechanisms. These institutional arrangements refer to the coordination, planning and monitoring of the Blue Economy activities initiated by AU bodies, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), other regional organizations, and member states.

Currently, within AU Commission under the *'Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment'* (ARBE) a Division of Blue Economy has been established (under the Environment and Blue Economy Directorate). The Blue Economy development and coordination division is based on 3 pillars: biological resources (mainly referring to the fishery and aquaculture resources); non-biological resources (petroleum, gas and mineral resources and renewable energy); and ocean

governance of both resource types. Components of blue economy range from the traditional ocean industries such as fisheries, tourism, and maritime transport, to new and emerging activities, such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed extractive activities, and marine biotechnology and bio prospecting. These activities are located outside of the area of intervention of the new Blue Economy Division[2]. The project plans to work with the Blue Economy Division ? in order to facilitate engagement and coordination at the political level and also to ensure alignment of the African SIDS efforts with the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. The AUC has also identified tools for effective Blue Governance that the project can support in developing ? they are mainly Blue Economy Accounting (economics, environmental and social), Marine and Freshwater Spatial Planning, Blue Economy Standards and Blue Funding mechanisms.

The key role for the AUC is facilitating international Blue Governance Coordination with international organisations like UNDP, FAO, UNESCO (with its International Oceanographic Commission, IOC), EU, UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, International Seabed Authority, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Division of Maritime Affairs, and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), UNCTAD, WTO, United World Tourism Organisation, etc.

African Blue Economy development is furthermore receiving dedicated attention by AUDA/NEPAD (African Union Development Agency/New Partnership for African Development) with the current elaboration of the Blue Economy Programme that aims to guide the Agency?s support to AU Member States and RECs. In anticipation of the support needed by member states and RECs to implement the continental Blue Economy Strategy, the AUDA-NEPAD developed a Sustainable Blue Economy Programme in 2019 to facilitate the implementation of its priorities in alignment with Agenda 2063. This African SIDS project will work closely with AUDA NEPAD to support the participating countries in the implementation of Blue Economy activities ? AUDA NEPAD has been instrumental in supporting RECs and Member States in the development of instruments (strategies, investment plans and programmes etc.)

A number of other key documents to support the Blue Economy have been developed at the Continental level:

- a. Africa?s Blue Economy: A policy handbook (UNECA, 2016): The project's activities are in line with the principles and recommendations outlined in this guide for promoting sustainable blue economy practices on the African continent.
- b. UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Kit: which launched in 2021 provides a comprehensive understanding of the Blue Economy?s value beyond traditional economic measures. It supports evidence-based decision-making for Blue Economy policy and investment. The tool, therefore, helps countries to prioritize sustainable management and development of Blue Economy Resources. Indications are that the tool has been used in Comoros and Seychelles

Africa Continental Free Trade Area

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the world?s largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the AU and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs)[3]. By creating a single continental market for goods and services, the aims to enhance trade and economic integration across Africa. The integration of the AfCFTA with the Africa Blue Economy Strategy is part of a broader strategy for regional cooperation and development and complements the objectives of the Strategy by potentially creating a more unified market that can support sustainable ocean-based economic activities.

Given the constraints of their small domestic markets and their narrow sectoral bases, SIDS' economic growth rely substantially on international trade and have limited number of export commodities and export markets, resulting in economic vulnerability in the face of changes in export demand and commodity prices[4]. As a result, trade is significantly more volatile for them. The AfCFTA can be a significant opportunity for these countries, as it encompasses negotiations on trade in goods and services, dispute settlement, intellectual property rights, investment, and competition policy. All six target countries in the project have signed and ratified the AfCFTA, indicating their commitment to this continental economic integration[5]??.

Cooperation across various ocean-using sectors is important for achieving the goals of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. This includes negotiating and facilitating mutually beneficial outcomes, strengthening regional collaboration among countries, and implementing regional Strategic Action Plans for LMEs and key documents like the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Achieving synergy among different stakeholders and avoiding conflicting actions is essential for integrated approaches to ocean and natural resources governance??.

A study conducted by the International Economics Consulting Ltd has conducted an assessment on the challenges and opportunities for African SIDS in the context of the at the request of UNECA in Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Mauritius, S?o Tom? and Princ?pe, and Seychelles[6]. The assessment highlighted the gains to be derived from the full implementation of the AfCFTA and also cautioned that the gains would not be distributed evenly amongst countries - even more so for the SIDS given the fundamental variations in their starting points. While all SIDS can expect to acquire advantages from reduced trading costs, it will be crucial for SIDS to ensure that their implementation strategy will ensure sustainability and ownership across the government and beyond.

Consistency with regional priorities

Western Indian Ocean (Southern and Eastern Africa)

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Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting educational, scientific, and technological development of marine sciences in the Western Indian Ocean region, which includes Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Reunion (France). WIOMSA aims to advance regional cooperation in all aspects of coastal and marine sciences, including socio-economic and management sciences, and supports sustainable development while promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. This initiative is crucial for linking research knowledge with the management and governance of marine and coastal ecosystems, contributing significantly to the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. WIOMSA's activities span five key areas: capacity development, scientific research, information dissemination and communication, partnerships/networking, and resource mobilization. The organization focuses on enhancing the abilities of individuals and entities for improved coastal and marine management, supporting regional research through grants, and ensuring knowledge spread via various media. It fosters collaborations across scientific fields and regions, seeking sustainable management solutions for the Western Indian Ocean's environmental challenges, while actively pursuing funding to support its operations and the WIOMSA Trust.

WIOMSA has established working relationships with a number of key institutions within and outside the WIO region. The Association has MOUs with UNEP as the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Coastal Resource Centre of the University of Rhode Island, and the Indian Ocean Commission (COI). WIOMSA is also a Scientific Partner of the Centre for Biological Diversity (CBD), and an active member of the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C).

Large Marine Ecosystems

From an international waters perspective, the African SIDs are in Canary Current LME (CCLME), Guinea Current LME (GCLME) and the Agulhas-Somali Current LME (ASCLME). Transboundary Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) for these LMEs have been developed in the past years with GEF financing and are currently

under implementation. This project aims to build on the work carried out in the LMEs to support sustainable governance and promote multiple countries to collaborate on strategic long-term ocean governance of transboundary resources especially on blue economy sectors including fisheries and eco-tourism.

Consistency with national priorities

The proposed project is consistent with the national priorities of the participating countries as stipulated in their respective national and sectorial development plans and strategies ? promoting a sustainable blue economy. The project is also consistent with and will support national commitments to relevant regional and international programs and priorities, including the Rio Conventions and their associated programs, as detailed below.

Cabo Verde

The Charter on Blue Growth (2015) serves as a framework for all policies and investments related to the development of the sustainable ocean economy. The Resolution No. 172/2020 approved the Policy Charter for the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde ? it is the main framework for Cabo Verde?s blue economy focusing on sustainable and inclusive economic growth, addressing inequalities, combating unemployment, and enhancing research and knowledge.

In 2018, Cabo Verde established a Ministry for the Maritime Economy (since 2021 called Ministry for the Ocean), which has authority over a wide array of ocean-related policies. The portfolio of the ministry includes maritime policy, maritime economy and industry, marine resources, fisheries, aquaculture, ports, and maritime transport.

To give tangible form to the National Blue Economy Strategy adopted in 2019, Cabo Verde has launched the Blue Economy Programme and developed the National Blue Economy Investment Plan. Cabo Verde has also positioned the Blue Economy as a key accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within its long-term development strategy "Ambition 2030," and it recognizes the importance of marine spatial planning in this context. The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity 2014-2030 has a vision of protecting, rehabilitating and valuing biodiversity whilst promoting sustainable use and enhancing mechanisms for participation and sharing of benefits in a fair and equitable manner. The project is consistent with and will support the country?s efforts to manage the blue economy in a sustainable way and will contribute to the capacity building and engagement of the relevant bodies. Establishment of supporting multisectoral institutions/bodies such as the Blue Economy Observatory and the Blue Economy Steering Committee. The Blue Economy Observatory was established to provide technical assistance and promote institutional co-operation in ocean governance. The Steering Committee serves as a technical body that analyses and discusses issues related to the Cabo Verde?s Blue Economy Transition and comprises representatives from the Ministries of Maritime Economy, Finance, Tourism and Transport, Foreign Affairs, the National Directorates of Industry and Energy and the Environment, the National Institutes for Fisheries Development, Statistics and Spatial Planning and the University of Cabo Verde.

Comoros

The Comoros is still in the early stages of developing a comprehensive framework for its blue economy. While there's no single dedicated law specifically for the blue economy, several existing laws, policies, and strategies touch upon various aspects. The Constitution recognises the importance of the marine environment; the Fisheries Code regulated fishing activities to promote sustainable exploitation and conservation of the marine resources; the Maritime Code governs the maritime navigation, safety, and pollution; whilst the Environmental Code sets out general principles for environmental protection including marine ecosystems. Comoros adopted a Strategic Framework for a National Blue Economy Policy in 2018 with focus on: Strategic Framework for a Blue Economy National Policy with focus on: (1) Strengthening of national safety and security; and (2) Enhancing key sectors of Blue Economy with training and creating jobs for the youth; and (3) protecting coastal, aquatic, and marine ecosystems through waste management;

(4) enhancing adaptation of institutional frameworks; and (5) reorienting pillars of regional integration frameworks.

With regards to national action plans and/pr investment plans "The Emerging Comoros Plan" in 2019, which serves as a comprehensive framework for nationwide development policies. The second pillar of this Plan places a significant emphasis on the Blue Economy, with a visionary goal of establishing a sustainable Blue Economy by 2030. This objective centres on harnessing marine resources to drive research and development in biotechnology while concurrently safeguarding the marine environment. The government of Comoros has prioritized unlocking the immense potential of the Blue Economy, underlining its strategic significance. The national strategic objectives within the marine and coastal sector encompass several key priorities: enhancing national safety and security, fostering the growth of pivotal sectors within the Blue Economy to facilitate youth training and job creation, implementing sustainable management practices for fishery resources, protecting coastal, aquatic, and marine ecosystems, and efficiently managing waste. The proposed project is consistent with the country's efforts to achieve a Sustainable Blue Economy by 2030.

To ensure the successful execution of the Blue Economy Agenda, the responsible ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Territory Planning and Urban, and the Ministry of Transportation, Post, Telecommunications, Communication & Tourism. This concerted effort signifies Comoros' commitment to harnessing the potential of its marine assets for sustainable development and prosperity. The project will seek alignment with the institutional framework being developed and will support cross-sectoral engagement.

Guinea-Bissau

The Environmental Framework Law Law n° 1/2011, 2nd of March, defines the fundamental principles of national environmental protection policy which covers aspects of the ocean economy. Currently, there is no specific law of the ocean economy.

Guinea-Bissau recognizes the importance of the blue economy in its national development plan "Guinea-Bissau 2025 *Terra Ranka*". With support from UNDP the country developed a comprehensive National Blue Economy Strategy and corresponding Investment Plan. This plan focuses on advancing economic diversification and leveraging the blue economy for transformative growth. Central to the government's objectives is the creation of better living conditions for the population, which encompasses generating employment and income to combat poverty. The strategy prioritizes promoting sustainable economic growth, with the blue economy playing a vital role.

The strategy addresses key sectors and cross-cutting issues integral to the blue economy, such as maritime transport, governance, and financing. It aims to guide interventions across all sectors, particularly focusing on creating value chains that empower the private sector while promoting fisheries, agriculture, and tourism. The development of ecotourism is a priority for the government, aligning with the strategy's broader goal of economic diversification and building resilience to market fluctuations. The strategy also confronts challenges like controlling overfishing and illegal fishing activities, balancing the need for profitability with the imperatives of sustainable development[9]???. The project is aligned to Guinea-Bissau's national priorities, supporting economic diversification, sustainable development, and the creation of employment opportunities.

The coordinated institutional framework for the Blue Economy in Guinea-Bissau is under development there are a number of government agencies that are currently supporting related work. The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy plays a key role with potential to oversee the broader blue economy activities. The diversity of government entities that have responsibilities in the management of wetlands and coastal zones is broad, for example Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP), the Directorate General for Water Resources, the Port Maritime Institute, the Ministry of Fisheries, and the Directorate General of Land Use, amongst others. This requires a clear articulation and definition of responsibilities between these public entities, which does not exist, aiming coordinated management of ecosystems services in the country and, in

accordance with the commitments ratified by the Guinea-Bissau[10]. The proposed project will support building capacity focused on strengthening intersectoral coordination.

The IBAP (Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas) also plays a critical role in the management of protected coastal and marine ecosystems. Due to its mission and to its institutional autonomy, IBAP has been able to gather financial support from different international organizations, however as the territory under legal protection for nature conservation has increased significantly, their resources are also becoming tight and out of proportion to their duties and responsibilities, under the nature conservation policies that the country has recently assumed[11].By involving various sectors and stakeholders, the proposed project ensures a comprehensive and inclusive approach to development. The project will focus on sustainable practices in critical economic sectors like fisheries, agriculture, and tourism aligns with the national strategy, contributing towards the country's broader economic and sustainable development goals. One key issue requiring strengthening is the coordination mechanisms for the Blue Economy ? and the project will support this through linking with the pilot project.

Guinea-Bissau has created an Environmental Fund, Decree n? 6/2017, 28th of June created to promote the protection of national natural resources and the environment, dedicated to promoting activities of sustainable natural resource management, environmental education, restoration of degraded habitats, support environmental inspection and the environmental assessment process, among others.

Mauritius

The key legislations for the ocean economy are the Environment Protection Act (2002) which sets environmental standards and regulations for activities impacting the marine environment. Fisheries and Marine Resources Act (2007) which regulates fishing activities and establishes protected areas and promotes sustainable fisheries management and the Maritime Zones Act (2004) which defines the maritime zones of Mauritius and regulates activities within them.

The Mauritius government's commitment to developing the ocean sector as a major economic pillar was solidified in 2015 with the creation of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping. This ministry consolidates various departments to effectively coordinate ocean-related activities. Mauritius developed an Ocean Economy Roadmap in 2020.[12] which focuses on sustainably managing and coordinating ocean-related activities, aiming to transform the ocean sector into a significant component of the national economy. Concurrently, the preparation of a Marine Spatial Plan for Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone[13] is geared towards optimizing the use of marine resources, ensuring their sustainable utilization while balancing environmental conservation and economic development needs.

S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe

S?o Tom? and Pr?ncipe approved a Blue Economy Transition Strategy[14] in 2019, outlining objectives and priority areas for intervention. The National Strategy for the Blue Economy was adopted as a Law (Lei no 38/XI/8e/2022). This national strategy is the key instrument in driving the Blue Economy as a critical pillar for the economic development of the country.

The country has developed a national investment plan to strengthen Blue Economy governance and establish a multi-year program for the transition[15]???. The investment plan builds on an enabling environment driven by an attractive investment code that promotes business development, incentives to FDI, access to state properties and Tax Benefits Code. It identifies Blue Economy opportunities in transport and maritime

security, environment, tourism and ecotourism, fisheries and aquaculture, value chain, market, food security, renewable energy, and environment.

The country's key economic sectors: Fisheries and Aquaculture, Tourism, new renewable energy, infrastructure and maritime transport, environment are part of the Blue Economy, and as such, have been planned together in the National Strategy (Transition Strategy for the Blue Economy, 2019), under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA). The recent blue economy legal framework introduced a mechanism led by the Ministry to ensure coordination, harmonisation, follow up and assessment of partner's intervention in the Blue Economy. A Strategic Unit for the Blue Economy (UIEEA) has been set up in MPFEA to support implementation of Blue Economy. The Inter-Ministerial Platform has been established to support the Promotion of Blue Employment, Entrepreneurship and Education (P4EA).

Sto Tom? e Pr?ncipe Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) measures include manage and restore degraded forests, sustainable agriculture/restoration/ good agricultural practices, manage urbanization and integrate spatial land-use planning, mainstream LDN in institutions and sectoral plans, raise LDN awareness and sensitization campaign at all levels, build knowledge management platform, improve capacity in monitoring and evaluation system and mobilize innovative financing and build public-private partnerships. One of 5 national voluntary LDN targets in Sto Tom? and Pr?ncipe is to reduce by 25 per cent the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and increase the use of organic products by 25 per cent by year 2030. This target is also one of key priority areas of the updated NDC. The LDN component of this project will contribute to achievement of this target.

Seychelles

Seychelles has developed a national Seychelles' Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap (the Blue Economy Roadmap) was approved by the Government of Seychelles on 31st January 2018. It is an integrated approach to ocean based sustainable development which brings together economy, environment, and society, consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDG's), Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015) [16]. The Nationally Determined Contribution (2021), which is targeted to achieve the commitments of the country to the Paris Agreement, identified blue economy as a major strategy to achieve climate adaptation and mitigation targets

Seychelles has been working towards promoting intersectoral cooperation in promoting and implementing the Blue Economy strategy. The country established a National Blue Economy Forum in 2014, a Blue Economy Ministerial Council in 2019 that is chaired by the Vice President, to provide strategic leadership and oversight, and a Multi-Stakeholder Forum as a platform for dialogue and advice to the Ministerial

Council on cross-sectoral implementation of blue economy. As indicated above, these structures have operational issues that this African SIDS project would help to address.

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[2] AU-IBAR (2020.) Africa Blue Economy Strategy ? Blue Governance Framework.

[3] About The AfCFTA - AfCFTA (au-afcfta.org)

[4] African SIDS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Opportunities - International Economics (tradeconomics.com)

[5] AfCFTA Poised to Revive Economies of Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (uneca.org)

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[7] Great Blue Wall. www.greatbluewall.org

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[9] UNDP (2022) A multifaceted National Blue Economy Strategy with a Common Goal

[10] World Bank (2020) Diagnostic of Country's Environmental and Social Management Capacity

[11] World Bank (2020) Diagnostic of Country's Environmental and Social Management Capacity

[12] World Bank (2017) The Ocean Economy in Mauritius

[13] Ongoing Marine Spatial Plan for its EEZ

[14] Blue Economy Transition Strategy

[15] Sao Tome and Principe new Law on the transition towards the Blue Economy

[16] Seychelles? Blue Economy (2018) Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap Charting the Future (2018-2030)

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

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The outcome 3 of the proposed project is focused on Knowledge Management and will ensure that project results, innovative solutions, best practices, and lessons learned from the 7 sustainable Blue Economy, and 1 Sustainable Land Management demonstrations, as well as from best practices from other projects in SIDS, including UNDP's Accelerator Labs, Ocean Innovation Challenge and GEF SGP are disseminated at national and regional level for potential replication and upscaling. This will secure the sustainability of the project outcomes through strengthening the science-policy interface.

An information exchange network will be specifically created for African SIDS to support information and experience sharing. In addition, the project will be allocating 1% of GEF IW grant financing to support the project's engagement in International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) with 1) the development of an active website in line with IW:LEARN guidance, 2) a strong participation in training/twinning events, both at the regional and global levels, and production of at least one experience note annually, and 3) the financing PCU and government representatives participation and engagement in the GEF biennial International Waters conferences and the provision of spatial data and other data points via the project website. This will substantially contribute to the SIDS oriented Blue Economy knowledge within the IW:LEARN network.

Finally, an information exchange network for African SIDS will be created to facilitate knowledge exchange and promote policy coherence. To support this process, a knowledge management strategy will be developed during the inception phase of the project.

Table 6: Breakdown of budget allocated to knowledge learning and communications related activities

**Inclusive of translation/interpretation costs required for development of the deliverables*

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Component	Output	Activities	Knowledge Management Deliverables	Budget (USD)
Component 1	1.1. National B(G)E Supporting/Enabling Instruments	Activity 1.1.1	? Report on the framework for tracking the implementation of the Blue Economy	5400
		Activity 1.1.2	? 6x Baseline reports on the availability and implementation of BGE supporting instruments and frameworks	18000
		Activity 1.1.3	? Blue economy assessment reports for Guinea-Bissau, Sao-Tome and Principe and Comoros	7100
	1.2. Regional and National Coordination Platforms	Activity 1.2.3	? Blue economy guidelines document including ?best practices? guidance document on strengthening regional and national coordination platforms for enhanced ocean governance	5000
		Activity 1.2.4	? Status report on enhancing intersectoral coordination developed with the AUC as part of implementing the AU Blue Economy Governance Framework in the African SIDS countries with policy recommendations.	5000
	1.3. Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles	Activity 1.3.1	? Workshop/dialogue reports on SBE principles, best practices, innovative solutions and lessons learned globally from SIDS and beyond	3700
		Activity 1.3.2	? Assessment reports on potential BE financing instruments and innovative mechanisms for Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Comoros	4100
		Activity 1.3.4	? Report on the framework for engaging private sector in the BE at national and regional level	3000
	1.4. Capacity Building and Awareness Raising	Activity 1.4.1	? Report on capacity building needs for the successful development of national BG Economies in the participating African SIDS	6500
		Activity 1.4.2	? Strategy report for the short to medium-term mobilization of a more comprehensive set of capacity building/training opportunities in support of the successful development of the national Blue Economies in the African SIDS participating countries	5900
		Activity 1.4.3	? Reports on capacity building workshops for the successful development of national and regional Blue Economies for Africa SIDS Stakeholders	10800
		Activity 1.4.4	? Capacity building workshop reports and materials	24320

Component 2	2.1. Cabo Verde BE Demonstration	See also separate, Demo MYWP	? Report/audiovisuals on the implementation of governance and participatory management approaches in PNBIMA to improve the conservation and sustainable use of its natural capital assets in support of local livelihoods ? Report on sustainable business and livelihood models for PNBIMA contributing to improved planning of the use of marine and coastal resources. ? Capacity building workshop reports/audiovisuals	28000
	2.2. Comoros BE Demonstration	See MYWP	? Feasibility Assessment report of Blue Economy (BE) activities, supporting local livelihoods and contributing to marine conservation in the Comoros ? Report and lessons learnt document on implementation of the selected Blue Economy sustainable development option(s) in the Mitsamiouli-Ndroud? National Park Area (Grande Comore) ? Capacity building workshop reports on blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of the Grande Comore	36000
	2.3. Guinea-Bissau BE Demonstration	See MYWP	? Report on identification and prioritization of social and entrepreneurship initiatives for enhances livelihood opportunities and community based participatory management of the PNTC ? Report and lessons learnt on implementation of integrated management approached to increase locally based eco-tourism opportunities in Guinea Bissau (including opportunities from AfCFTA and financing mechanisms to drive blue Economy activities in eco tourism)	15750
	2.4. Mauritius BE Demonstration	See MYWP	? Assessment and options report to improve institutional composition, legal frameworks, safety-at-sea and technological approaches to support artisanal fishermen and improve conditions at sea and post-harvest ? Report and lessons learnt document/audio-visuals on the implementation of prioritised options to support artisanal fishermen and improve conditions at sea and post harvest ? Report/audio/visuals on improvement of fisheries value chains including potential benefits from AfCFTA	100306

	<p>2.5. Sao Tom? e Pr?ncipe BE&LDN (R2R) Demonstration</p>	<p>See MYWP</p>	<p>? Report/audio-visuals on capacity building workshops to strengthen national capacities to monitor, control and report on the imports and use of agrochemicals to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality Target and NDC goal on agrochemicals</p> <p>? Report/audio-visuals on piloting local production of bio-fertilizers; strengthening the production and commercialization of different types of bio-inputs; enhancing the production and market access for organic vegetables.</p> <p>? Management plans and financing strategies for integrated management of Sao Tome?s two Marine Protected Areas and surrounding coastal areas taking into account the ridge-to-reef approach</p> <p>? Report on Blue Economy livelihoods activities related to reducing threats on the biodiversity of MPAs and coastal areas</p>	<p>15910</p>
	<p>2.6. Seychelles BE Demonstration</p>	<p>See MYWP</p>	<p>? Report on the evaluation of the potential for the sustainable use of economically viable undervalued marine species by artisanal and semi-industrial fishers as well as the aquaculture sector of the Republic of Seychelles</p> <p>? Workshop reports/audio-visual products on capacity building workshops/initiatives undertaken</p> <p>? Lessons learnt report/audio-visuals on implementation of sustainable BE related activities implemented in Seychelles</p>	<p>90180</p>
<p>Component 3</p>	<p>3.1. Strengthening communication and knowledge management</p>	<p>Activity 3.1.1</p>	<p>? Report and website articles on participation in the (biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC)</p>	<p>9730</p>
		<p>Activity 3.1.2</p>	<p>? Reports/audio-visuals/website articles on participation of the Project in IW:LEARN twinning exchanges, and regional workshops</p>	<p>8425</p>
		<p>Activity 3.1.3</p>	<p>? Reports/audiovisuals/website articles on participation of the project in relevant global/regional events surrounding the ?Oceans & Sustainable Development?</p>	<p>10000</p>
		<p>Activity 3.1.4</p>	<p>? Reports/audiovisuals documenting project activity progress, results, best practices and lessons learnt</p>	<p>20750</p>
		<p>Activity 3.1.5</p>	<p>? AUC ?best practices in SIDS? publication, highlighting gender equality and social inclusion, achieved through collaborative efforts involving other initiatives</p>	<p>12450</p>

		Activity 3.1.6	? Project communication strategy and plan	10545	
	3.2. Innovative Solutions and BP from other projects	Activity 3.2.1	? Workshop reports/audiovisuals and website articles on the exchange of solutions for innovative approaches for upscaling of the BE and community positive action	12050	
		Activity 3.2.2	? Online database/website containing written and audiovisual materials documenting success stories, best practices and lessons learned related to BE/LDN ? Publications and audiovisual materials documenting project success stories, lessons learnt	30000	
	3.3. Strategic contributions to data/info/KM network	Activity 3.3.1	? Report on existing ocean/BE/LDN/R2R-related information exchange networks, globally and in the African SIDS region	7345	
		Activity 3.3.2	? Report on the framework to address information needs of African SIDS in the context of sustainable ocean management/BE/LDN/R2R	7210	
		Activity 3.3.4	? Sustainability plan for the elements of the information exchange network developed with the support of African SIDS	8000	
	Component 4	4.2 Inception workshop and report	Activity 4.2.1	? Report, audiovisual materials and website articles related to the inception workshop	7000
			Activity 4.2.2	? Report, audiovisual materials and website articles related to the inception report	3800
	Total				532271

<p>Activity 1.1.2: Support African SIDS to develop guidance for Blue accounts building on previous analyses and existing policy documents and national capacities. UNECA and AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat that supported the development of Blue Economy instruments at different levels recently will be engaged in the implementation of this activity.</p>													
<p>Activity 1.1.3: Enhance implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy in the SIDS through supporting the AUC and the countries to develop a framework for tracking the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy strategy through continuous data collection, analysis, reporting, and sharing of progress on Blue Economy initiatives, fostering transparency, and taking into account social inclusion and collaboration among African SIDS</p>													
<p>Output 1.2: Regional and National Coordination Platforms supporting the development of the Blue Economy strengthened</p>													

<p>Activity 1.2.1: Enhance gender responsive inter-sectoral platforms in African SIDS and support their engagement with AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, Conventions, and continental Blue Economy coordination platforms in order to strengthen to improve blue economy governance. This activity will support the implementation of Activities under Output 1.1 and Component 2.</p>														
<p>Activity 1.2.2: Production and dissemination of blue economy guidelines document including ?good practices? on strengthening regional and national coordination platforms for enhanced ocean governance, based on existing international experiences and lessons learned and tailored to SIDS.</p>														
<p>Activity 1.2.3: Production of a status report on enhancing inter-sectoral coordination taking into account participation of women and youth, developed with the AUC as part of implementing the AU Blue Economy Governance Framework in the African SIDS with policy recommendations.</p>														

<p>Activity 1.2.4: In collaboration with AfCFTA and AUC, support participating countries (under the framework of the Islands States Commission) to create a platform for dialogue and negotiation for improved integration of African SIDS Blue Economy into international trade based on sustainable principles of Blue Economy Governance.</p>														
<p>Output 1.3: Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles-based Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality target implementation fostering private sector investment developed.</p>														
<p>Activity 1.3.1: Support Seychelles, Mauritius and Cabo Verde to evaluate and update their Blue Economy Action Plans, noting issues of gender inequality and social exclusion, and facilitate a regional dialogue on Innovative Blue Economy principles, best practices, innovative solutions and lessons learned between the participating countries and beyond? - including invited experts and practitioners from other SIDS/countries beyond the African SIDS.</p>														

<p>Activity 1.3.2: Undertake feasibility studies for gender responsive innovative financing mechanisms for Blue Economy transformation in Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Comoros (including both tested/proven/consolidated as well as more innovative mechanisms), best suited to the reality of each country. In Sao Tome and Principe, an integrated approach will be taken to include mechanisms that support LDN targets.</p>													
<p>Activity 1.3.3: Support the development of resource mobilization strategies for Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Comoros and engage stakeholders for funding modalities identified in feasibility assessments working with relevant ministries.</p>													
<p>Activity 1.3.4: Support African SIDS, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to develop a framework for Private Sector engagement in blue economy transformation at the national and regional level. The framework will be used to support enhancing Private Sector Action Plans in all participating countries.</p>													

	<p>Output 1.4: Capacity developed, and awareness raised in the African SIDS on topics of key relevance for transformation of the regional and national Blue Economies. The private sector engagement framework will also be mainstreamed in the implementation of the proposed pilots under Component 2 to explore opportunities for engaging with private in actions on the ground. The framework will also focus on addressing issues of gender inequalities in the implementation of blue economy local actions.</p>														
<p> </p>	<p>Activity 1.4.1: Identification of priority capacity building needs in African SIDS, required for the successful development of the national Blue Economies and Land Degradation Neutrality in Sao Tome and Principe, and identification of commonalities among the participating countries linked to Output 1.1, 1.3 and Component 2. Needs for women and youth will also be prioritized to ensure no one is left behind.</p>														

<p>Activity 1.4.2: Development, in collaboration with the project stakeholders, including women and youth groups, of a strategy for the short to medium-term mobilization of a more comprehensive set of capacity building/training opportunities in support of the successful transformation of the national Blue Economies in the African SIDS. The strategy will cover the identification of third-party providers/existing materials as well the prioritization of training activities to be directly provided through use of the corresponding African SIDS funds. The strategy will include an integrated approach for Sao Tome and Principe to compressively address effects of land degradation on coastal and marine ecosystems.</p>															
	<p>Activity 1.4.3: Targeted capacity building/training activities, with specific targeted training for marginalized groups in project sites, for African SIDS stakeholders (workshops or online courses/materials) on collaboratively selected topics among those described above, to be directly supported by the African SIDS project (in coordination/seeking synergies with other GEF initiatives such as IW: LEARN and PROCARIBE+ and other initiatives of AUC and AUDA-NEPAD).</p>														

		<p>Activity 1.4.4: Project management capacity for national Responsible Parties of the project Component 2.</p>															
<p>Component 2: On-the-ground national demonstrations of Sustainable investments addressing 1) unsustainable ocean/coastal use and/or new and additional sustainable Blue Economy opportunities, and 2) Integrated land management and restoration of degraded production landscapes with positive impacts on Blue</p>	<p>Outcome 2. Sustainable Blue Economy and Sustainable Land Management best practices and diversification models with strong social, economic and sustainability elements developed, tested, and ready for upscaling among African SIDS</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Cabo Verde Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).</p>															
		<p>Activity 2.1.1: Implementation of governance and participatory management approaches in PNBIMA to improve the conservation and sustainable use of its natural capital assets in support of local livelihoods.</p>															
		<p>Activity 2.1.2: Selection and development/enhancement of sustainable business and livelihood models, that include women and youth, by the communities surrounding PNBIMA contributing to improved planning of the use of marine and coastal resources.</p>															

Economy assets	Activity 2.1.3: Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of PNBIMA including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA.													
	Output 2.2: Comoros Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate.													
	Activity 2.2.1: Feasibility Assessments of Blue Economy (BE) activities, supporting local livelihoods, including women and youth, and contributing to/compatible with marine conservation in the Comoros, with special attention to the national system of Marine Protected Areas (MPA?s), and in particular the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park. The Feasibility Study will also use the framework for private sector engagement that will be developed under Output 1.3 to explore options and opportunities for private sector engagement.													

<p>Activity 2.2.2: Selection and development, through a participatory process, of the African SIDS-supported Blue Economy demonstration initiative for the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park Area (Grande Comore) with the potential to benefit from AfCFTA.</p>													
<p>Activity 2.2.3: Implementation of the selected Blue Economy sustainable development option(s) in the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park Area (Grande Comore) involving women groups and youth.</p>													
<p>Activity 2.2.4: Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA.</p>													
<p>Output2.3: Guinea-Bissau Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices.</p>													

	<p>Activity 2.3.1: Identification and prioritization of social and collective entrepreneurship initiatives for enhanced livelihood opportunities, which include those including women and youth, and improved community-based participatory management of the PNTC ? this will be done linked to strengthening inter-sectoral platforms under Output 1.2</p>															
	<p>Activity 2.3.2: Development of feasibility studies including possible opportunities from AfCFTA and implementation of integrated management approaches to increase locally based eco-tourism opportunities (from those prioritized under Activity 1 above), including women and youth run businesses, and improve the park's management effectiveness. Studies will also explore sustainable financing mechanisms to be considered in driving Blue Economy activities in eco-tourism (linked to output 1.3).</p>															

<p>Activity 2.3.3: Communication, awareness-raising, environmental education, and valorization of local knowledge for behavioural change contributing to the improved management of PNTC and promoting livelihood opportunities in the blue economy space for local communities surrounding the PNTC.</p>														
<p>Activity 2.2.4: Strengthen the capacity of local communities and business partners to improve blue economy value chains for sustainable conservation of the the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park including opportunities to benefit from AfCFTA (linked to Output 1.4).</p>														
<p>Output 2.4: Mauritius Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius.</p>														
<p>Activity 2.4.1: Assessment and development of options to improve institutional composition, legal frameworks, safety-at-sea and technological approaches with a view to increase support to artisanal fishermen and improve conditions at sea and post-harvest.</p>														

<p>Activity 2.4.2: Implementation of prioritized options (from Activity 1) with inter-sectoral platforms enhanced under Output 1.2 through capacity-building and inclusive (and gender responsive) empowerment of artisanal fishers.</p>														
<p>Activity 2.4.3: Support improvement of fisheries value chains including potential benefits from AfCFTA. This will include private sector engagement (based on the framework developed under Output 1.3).</p>														
<p>Output 2.5: Sao Tome & Principe Sustainable Blue Economy and Land Management/Land Degradation Neutrality demonstrations: Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tom? and Principe in support of blue and green development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation and; improved management of marine and coastal natural capital.</p>														

<p>Activity 2.5.2: Enhance bio-inputs value chains, including local production, distribution, market acceptance, sale and use for the production of organic vegetables, in the island of Sao Tome and explore possible benefits from AfCFTA. This will include support for piloting local production of bio-fertilizers; strengthening the production and commercialization of different types of bio-inputs; enhancing the production and market access for organic vegetables. Emphasis will be put on developing entrepreneurship skills for women and youth. Also, Private sector engagement will be ensured using the framework approach developed under Output 1.3.</p>														
<p>Activity 2.5.3: Develop management plans (including coastal-marine spatial planning) and financing strategies for integrated management of Sao Tome's two Marine Protected Areas and surrounding coastal areas taking into account the ridge-to-reef approach. The financing strategies will include exploring opportunities from AfCFTA. This activity is linked to Outputs 1.1 and 1.3.</p>														

<p>Activity 2.5.4: Support coastal communities to develop Blue Economy livelihoods activities related to reducing threats on the biodiversity of MPAs and coastal areas under output 2.5.3. Emphasis will be put on developing entrepreneurship skills for women and youth.</p>															
<p>Output 2.6: Seychelles Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.</p>															
<p>Activity 2.6.1: Evaluation of the potential for the sustainable use of economically viable undervalued marine species by artisanal and semi-industrial fishers as well as the aquaculture sector of the Republic of Seychelles, to relieve anthropological pressure on over-exploited marine resources. This activity is linked to Output 1.1.</p>															
<p>Activity 2.6.2: Enhancing national institutional capacities of Governmental departments and other stakeholders of the fishery-associated local communities to support the implementation of sustainable Blue-Economy-related activities. This activity will be linked with activities under output 1.4.</p>															

		<p>Activity 2.6.3: Upgrading technologies for improved post-harvest conditions and piloting new livelihood opportunities (focusing on women and youth) through a community-based small-scale aquaculture demonstration project and the local commercialization of at least one undervalued marine species and/or its derivative products. Private Sector engagement and possible linkage to AFCFTA will be explored under this activity.</p>															
<p>Component 3: Knowledge management and upscaling</p>	<p>Outcome 3. Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Communication and knowledge management (project results, innovative solutions, best practices and lessons learned) from the seven sustainable Blue Economy/Sustainable Land Management demonstrations developed and disseminated at national and regional level.</p>															
	<p>Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and</p>	<p>Activity 3.1.1: Participation in the (biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC)</p>															
	<p>upscaled across African SIDS and beyond</p>	<p>Activity 3.1.2: Participation of the Project in IW: LEARN twinning exchanges, and regional workshops (to be coordinated with the IW: LEARN team)</p>															

	<p>Activity 3.1.3: Participation of the Project in other relevant global/regional events surrounding the 'Oceans & Sustainable Development?' themes such as WIOMSA science to policy platform for knowledge sharing and learning on research results to inform policy in the Western Indian Ocean region.</p>														
	<p>Activity 3.1.4: Development and dissemination of (multi-lingual) materials documenting project activities, progress and results under Component 1 and Component 2- with special attention to success stories (including innovative solutions), good practices and lessons learned. To the extent possible, and to increase scope, relevance and cost-efficiency, a joint publication(s)/co-production(s) achieved through collaborative efforts involving other initiatives in the region, IW: LEARN and possibly other GEF IW projects (e.g. PROCARIBE+) will be pursued. Also, the production of the following written and/or audiovisual materials will be contemplated: project videos, a story map(s), newsletters, blogs and, IW:LEARN experience notes. In the production of materials under this output, due attention will be given to key issues such as: gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and youth, and resilience.</p>														

<p>Activity 3.1.5: A joint Participating Countries-UNDP-GWP-AUC-AUDA-NEPAD ?good practices in African SIDS? publication focusing on the project achievements under all components through collaborative efforts will be pursued.</p>													
<p>Activity 3.1.6: Development and implementation of a communication strategy and plan to support awareness raising and the dissemination of key project outputs.</p>													
<p>Output 3.2: Innovative solutions and best practices from other projects, other SIDS and other regional initiatives identified and disseminated at national and regional levels.</p>													

<p>Activity 3.2.2: Collection (and, potentially, funding allowing, co-production with other related projects and initiatives), online storage, publication, and dissemination of (multi-lingual) written and audiovisual materials documenting success stories (including innovative solutions), best practices and lessons learned that are of relevance for the BE/LDN aspirations of participating African SIDS (and beyond). Already initiated during the PPG and to be continued throughout the African SIDS project lifespan; to be linked to/integrated with the activities under Outputs 3.1. and 3.2.</p>														
<p>Output 3.3: Strategic contributions to a data/information/knowledge exchange network/infrastructure that supports BE/LDN development in the African SIDS.</p>														

		<p>Activity 3.3.1: Identification of existing ocean/BE/LDN/R2R-related information exchange networks, globally and in the African SIDS region - with particular relevance to SIDS or SIDS-supporting institutions. The process will also identify related initiatives planned under the wider GEF IW portfolio and/or the global marine/SIDS community, and scoping of opportunities for synergies- proposed to be conducted in collaboration with IW:LEARN</p>														
		<p>Activity 3.3.2: Development of a Management Information System (working with AUC) that will address the information and reporting needs of African SIDS in the context of implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and sustainable ocean management/BE/LDN/R2R (collaboration with e.g. IWLEARN and the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ anticipated).</p>														
		<p>Activity 3.3.3: Support the development/enhancement and deployment of key strategic elements of the proposed Management Information System</p>														
		<p>Activity 3.3.4: Development of a sustainability plan for the elements of the network developed with the support of African SIDS</p>														

<p>Activity 4.2.2: Develop the Inception Report to be validated by the stakeholders ? with refined actions to be implemented at regional and national level.</p>													
<p>Output 4.3: Annual GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR), and M&E of GEF core Indicators, Gender Plan, Safeguards Frameworks and Action Plans</p>													
<p>Activity 4.3.1: Development and implementation of the project M&E framework, including tracking of GEF Core Indicators and other indicators in the Project Results Framework; monitoring of Social and Environmental Safeguards; and an independent Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation of the project. The M&E plan is presented in section IV of this Project Document and detailed Results Monitoring Plan, specifying the outcome-level indicators, targets, methods, means of verification and risks and assumptions is included in ProDoc Annex 5 to this Project Document.</p>													
<p>Activity 4.3.2: Development of Annual Work Plans and Reports for the PSC and PIR</p>													
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>													
<p>Activity Mid-term review</p>													

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

9. Monitoring and Evaluation. Describe the budgeted M & E plan. ?????

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Regional Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[1]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed ? including during the Project Inception Workshop - and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Minimum project monitoring and reporting requirements as required by the GEF:

Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date, with the aim to:

1. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
2. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
4. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
5. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
6. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
7. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the Project Board.
8. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

1. The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.

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GEF and/or LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators:

2. The GEF and/or LDCF/SCCF Core indicators included as Annex 15 will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the core indicators status. The updated monitoring data must be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent groundtruthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the [GEF](#). If relevant to the project: The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METTs) must be prepared and the scores included in the GEF Core Indicators.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

An independent mid-term review (MTR) will be completed by the mid-point of the project. The terms of reference, the MTR process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and MTR guidance for UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center](#). The MTR must be submitted to the GEF by the mid-point of the project but no later than **28** months after CEO Endorsement. *Mid-point is determined by taking the expected ProDoc signature date plus number of months duration and finding the middle date. (For example, if a project has a 5-year duration, the MTR must be submitted 2.5 years after ProDoc signature.)* To meet the submission deadline, final MTR reports must be completed and submitted to BPPS NCE team no later than 2 months in advance of the submission deadline to allow sufficient time for internal review/clearance that is required prior to submission.

Provisions must be taken to complete and submit the MTR within the submission deadline. Therefore, the MTR process must start no later than 8 months before the expected date of submission of the MTR.

The MTR will be "independent, impartial and rigorous". The evaluator(s) that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be reviewed. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the MTR process. Additional quality assurance support is available from BPPS/NCE.

The final MTR report will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by the MTR submission date included on cover page of this project document. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's submission to the GEF.

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Terminal Evaluation (TE):

3. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and TE guidance for UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center](#). TE must be submitted to the GEF no later than 6 months after the Completion Date. This is a hard deadline that, if not met, can only be extended through a formal extension request. To meet the submission deadline, final TE reports must be completed and submitted to BPPS NCE team no later than 2 months in advance of the deadline to allow sufficient time for internal review/clearance that is required prior to submission.

4. Provisions must be taken to complete and submit the TE within the submission deadline. Therefore, TE must start no later than 8 months before the expected date of submission of the TE (or 11 months prior to the estimated operational closure date).

5. The evaluation will be "independent, impartial and rigorous". The evaluator(s) that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

6. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from BPPS NCE.

7. The final TE report will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDPHY ERC by the TE submission date included on cover page of this project document. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report submission to the GEF.

8. Per the GEF Terminal Evaluation requirements, for cancelled full-sized projects, Terminal Evaluations are required if the GEF grant expenditure exceeds more than US\$ 2 million.

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Final Report:

The project's final GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Monitoring Plan:

9. The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Results Monitoring	PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services
Indicators	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	PE = 323,733 (total), of which 194,240 male and 129,493 female; MT = 106,832 (total), of which 64,099 male and 42,733 female (i.e. approximately 33% of PE target values) Annual monitoring total numbers 107,911 of which 64,746.6 male and 43,164.4 female <i>note 1: preliminary values - see comment under column "Data Source/Collection Methods"; note 2: the total number of prospective project beneficiaries is likely to be higher than the preliminary target values provided here - but a more precise determination will require the dedicated attention from the Project's M&E Specialists</i>
Description of indicators and targets	use of GEF Guidelines for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators; <i>values are determined through a desktop exercise, where possible fine-tuned/complemented by data obtained from the project's field and stakeholder participation activities, and using the data sources/collection methods described further below; values are determined at the level of the individual project output and aggregated at the project level (methodology to be fine-tuned by the Project M&E Specialist, once on-boarded, with support from the different national Responsible Parties).</i>
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by all African SIDS Implementing Partner (with, as and where applicable, the support of Responsible Parties), and to be subsequently assembled and aggregated by the main African SIDS Implementing Partner (more specifically, the GWP-SA-run African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialists), using the GEF guidance (hyperlinked under the "Description of Indicators and Targets" column), and based on the means of verification listed under the MoV column
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at project mid-point (MTR) and project closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (lead; M&E specialist), together with the national Responsible Parties (and possibly supported by the African SIDS Project Steering Committee and the Project and national demo Responsible Parties)

Means of verification	Report(s) to be prepared by the African SIDS PMU, official statistics, signed Project Document/Results Framework/Activities List/Stakeholder Strategy/Gender Strategy,...participating countries list, project reports and deliverables, dedicated data collection documents (logs of electronic exchanges, questionnaires),...with due attention to disaggregation by gender; dedicated data collection records based on a template to be developed by the African SIDS M&E specialists, and tailored to the specific outcome; Field Verification Visits, demonstration activities reports, audiovisual materials, dissemination materials and related production volumes, site hits/visitors for online materials
Indicators	GEF Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) Sub-Indicator 2.2.: Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	Core Indicator 2: Aggregate value: PE = 112,025 ha; MT = 0 ha - Sub-Indicator 2.2: Aggregate value: PE = 112,025 ha; MT = 0 ha
Description of indicators and targets	use of GEF Guidelines for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators; target values were derived from the African SIDS Work Plan and description of activities, in particular those corresponding to the national demonstrations, as well as the METTs annexed to the African SIDS Project Document, for the different African SIDS participating countries where national demonstrations will address MPA management effectiveness (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome e Principe)
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS Implementing Partner (with, as and where applicable, the support of Responsible Parties), mentioned under 'Description of Indicators and targets?', and to be subsequently assembled and aggregated by the main African SIDS Implementing Partner (more specifically, the GWP-SA-run African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialists), using the GEF guidance (hyperlinked under the 'Description of Indicators and Targets?' column), and based on the means of verification listed under the MoV column The main data source for this indicator is the METT score that is calculated using the GEF-7 BD tracking tool (https://www.thegef.org/document/gef-7-biodiversity-protected-area-tracking-tool)
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE) [/ when change from status-quo/milestone achieved/(sub-)target met]
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist; aggregation of data at the regional level), with the corresponding national-level inputs to be provided by the national <i>Responsible Parties</i> , as applicable

Means of verification	The updated METTs for the MPA's under consideration; periodic progress reports from the corresponding national <i>Responsible Parties</i> and the aggregated reporting by the regional PMU, online World Database on Protected Areas (WCMC-WDPA); Field Verification Visits, demonstration activities reports, audiovisual materials.
Indicators	GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares) Sub-Indicator 3.2.: <i>Area of degraded agricultural lands restored</i>
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	Core Indicator 3: MT = 0 ha; PE = 400 ha Sub-Indicator 3.1: MT = 0 ha; PE = 400 ha
Description of indicators and targets	use of GEF Guidelines for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators; targets set during the scoping and design/dimensioning of the national demonstration activities in Sao Tom and Principe
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialist) based on the inputs provided by the Sao Tom and Principe national <i>Responsible Party</i> , using the GEF guidance (hyperlinked under the 'Description of Indicators and Targets' column)
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist), with the corresponding national-level inputs to be provided by the Sao Tom and Principe national <i>Responsible Party</i>
Means of verification	Field Verification Visits, demonstration activities reports, audiovisual materials
Indicators	GEF Core Indicator 4: <i>Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</i> Sub-Indicator 4.1.: <i>Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</i> Sub-Indicator 4.3.: <i>Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems</i>
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	Core Indicator 4: MT = 50 ha; PE = 800 ha Sub-Indicator 4.1: MT = 50 ha; PE = 400 ha Sub-Indicator 4.3: MT = 0 ha; PE = 400 ha

Description of indicators and targets	use of GEF Guidelines for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators; targets set during the scoping and design/dimensioning of the national demonstration activities in Sao Tom? and Principe
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialist) based on the inputs provided by the Sao Tom? and Principe national Responsible Party , using the GEF guidance (hyperlinked under the ?Description of Indicators and Targets? column)
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist), with the corresponding national-level inputs to be provided by the Sao Tom? and Principe national Responsible Party
Means of verification	Field Verification Visits, demonstration project reports, audiovisual materials
Indicators	<p>GEF Core Indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3.: Level of national/local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4.: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key product</p>
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	<p>Core Indicator: MT = 2; PE = 2</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3.: MT = 2; PE = 3</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4.: MT = 4; PE = 4</p>
Description of indicators and targets	use of GEF Guidelines for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators;
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by African SIDS Implementing Partner (with, as and where applicable, the support of Responsible Parties), and to be subsequently assembled and aggregated by the African SIDS Implementing Partner (-run African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialists), using the GEF guidance (hyperlinked under the ?Description of Indicators and Targets? column), and based on the means of verification listed under the MoV column
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)

Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist), with support from the African SIDS Project Steering Committee
Means of verification	<p>Core Indicator: map illustrating location of African SIDS participating countries (and their EEZ(s) in shared marine water systems; documents relating to planned, or reporting on improved cooperative management in these systems; BTOR reports from participation in meetings/activities from regional mechanisms targeting enhanced management of shared system; participants lists from African SIDS-supported activities demonstrating engagement from regional partners from the shared systems in African SIDS activities; documents/reports/strategies/plans capturing recommendations and conclusions and M&E results</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3.: relevant meetings held (as documented, reported, with meeting minutes/reports and expenditure reports) and documents produced with African SIDS support/through African SIDS advocacy under African SIDS Project Component 1; report on status of NICs in African SIDS countries, documented NIC participation in related activities; reform documents (to be) provided by the corresponding national Responsible Parties</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4.: IW:LEARN activity reports, African SIDS PMU BTORs and African SIDS Workshop Reports, African SIDS Project Website; African SIDS IW:LEARN advocacy/dissemination materials, online experience/results notes, project video/ story map (as applicable), online best practice/lessons learned documentation and training materials; travel authorizations, expenditure logs;...; dedicated data collection records based on a template to be developed by the African SIDS M&E specialists for this purpose, and tailored to the specific outcome.</p>

Results Monitoring	Project Outcome 1: Evidence-based instruments (strategies, plans), and financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality in the participating SIDS
Indicators	Indicator 1.1: Number of enabling instruments/elements/contributions for the Blue Economy put in place by the African SIDS Project at the Regional Level and across the 6 participating countries (with ?enabling elements? e.g. including: Africa Blue Economy Strategy Monitoring Framework, a (updated) BE assessment, blue accounts guidance, strategy, plan, reporting mechanism, financing plan/mechanism, MSP, NCA mechanism, updated NDC, etc; and with ?enabling contributions? consisting of relevant capacity building delivered)
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	MT = min 4 new enabling instruments/elements/contributions delivered across the 6 countries, by project mid-term; PE = min 8 new enabling instruments/elements/contributions delivered across the 6 countries, by project end (of which at least 1 relating to/supportive of LDN)

Description of indicators and targets	The preliminary inventory of BE related instruments and processes in the 6 participating African SIDS countries conducted during the African SIDS PPG and included in Section II of the Project Document will be further expanded and updated under Component 1 during the Project Inception Phase. An updated list of what is to be considered BE enabling instruments/elements/contributions, and what elements are to be part of a 'comprehensive BE enabling environment' will be produced by recognized BE experts for this purpose. The updated/expanded baseline and reference framework will be used as a reference to subsequently measure progress towards the indicator's MT and PE targets.
Data source/Collection Methods	Data will be obtained through the reporting by the African SIDS PMU on the delivery on the activities and outputs listed under Component 1, together with the collection of the resulting national/regional instruments and capacity building materials and reports
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist), with support from the African SIDS national <i>Responsible Parties</i> , and, where relevant/applicable, Project Steering Committee
Means of verification	African SIDS project website/database and/or the African SIDS supported marine information/knowledge management network containing the inventory results (report) as well as (hyperlinked) copies of the instruments (e.g. new/updated BE assessment, strategy, plan, investment/private sector plan, SOMEE 'state of' report, NDC, proof of NCA efforts, Marine Spatial Plan,...) and capacity building/training materials, activity reports and associated participants lists,....
Indicators	<i>Indicator 1.2: Percentage of women trained under the capacity-building activities to be implemented during the execution of the national demonstration projects</i>
Targets (MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)	<i>MT = A min. of 20% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under African SIDS Component 1 are women;</i> <i>PE = A min. of 30% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under African SIDS Component 1 are women</i>
Description of indicators and targets	Under Component 1 the African SIDS Project will implement a number of capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing the national enabling environments for the development of the Blue Economies in the participating countries. Considering the existing gender gap identified in the Gender Analysis, affirmative action will be taken to ensure that at least 30% of the trainees that attend in the capacity-building activities are women.
Data source/Collection Methods	Sex disaggregated data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialist), with where applicable the support from the national Responsible Parties)
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)

Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist and GSS), with support as applicable from national counterparts
Means of verification	Training and Capacity Building materials and reports, demonstrating the gender-relevance of these investments. List of participants of the capacity-building activities organized.

Results Monitoring	Project Outcome 2: Sustainable Blue Economy and Sustainable Land Management best practices and diversification models with strong social, economic and sustainability elements developed, tested, and ready for upscaling among African SIDS
Indicators	<i>Indicator 2.1: Number of Blue Economy and/or Integrated Blue Economy (Ridge-to-Reef) solutions implemented and with lessons learned and best practices available to support replication and upscaling (including through improvements/optimization) across the African SIDS participating countries (as relevant) and beyond</i>
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	MT = 7 national demonstrations ongoing and with a status/progress assessment by mid-term, as monitored and evaluated by the project, that is enabling/conducive to their successful completion by project end (and with revisions/remediation measures identified and under implementation, where and if applicable); PE = 7 solutions tested and documented, and with lessons learned and best practices available to support replication and upscaling, across the African SIDS (and having delivered concrete contributions to the project objective as manifested through their measured contributions to the Project's corresponding Core Indicators)
Description of indicators and targets	5 Blue Economy and 1 integrated Blue-Economy (Ridge-to-Reef) pilots are to be implemented as per the demonstration activity descriptions (and associated targets) contained in the Project Document and annexes, with demonstration-level MYWP's and outputs. See also the corresponding GEF Core Indicators
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by African SIDS Implementing Partner (with, as and where applicable, the support of Responsible Parties), and to be subsequently assembled and aggregated by the African SIDS Implementing Partner--run African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialists).
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist; aggregation of data at the regional level), with the corresponding national-level inputs to be provided by the national Responsible Parties , as applicable
Means of verification	Demonstration progress and results reports, METTs, ?BE? products produced under the demo?s (e.g. organic horticulture, seafood, sea products, brochures, awareness building materials), Field Verification Visits, audiovisual materials, documented best practices and lessons learned, independent evaluations

Indicators	Indicator 2.2: <i>Percentage of women trained under the capacity-building activities to be implemented during the execution of the national demonstration projects</i>
Targets <i>(MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)</i>	MT = <i>A min. of 20% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under the national demonstration projects are women;</i> PE = <i>A min. of 30% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under the national demonstration projects are women</i>
Description of indicators and targets	The national demonstration projects will implement a number of capacity-building activities aimed at increasing the technical knowledge and skills of a variety of actors related to Blue Economy sectors. Considering the existing gender gap identified in the Gender Analysis, affirmative action will be taken to ensure that at least 30% of the trainees that attend in the capacity-building activities are women.
Data source/Collection Methods	Sex disaggregated data to be collected, processed and logged by African SIDS Implementing Partner (with, as and where applicable, the support of Responsible Parties), and to be subsequently assembled and aggregated by the African SIDS Implementing Partner -run African SIDS PMU (GSS and M&E Specialists).
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist and GSS; aggregation of data at the regional level), with the corresponding national-level inputs to be provided by the national Responsible Parties , as applicable
Means of verification	Demonstration progress and results reports. List of participants of the capacity-building activities organized.

Results Monitoring	Project Outcome 3: Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and upscaled across African SIDS and beyond
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Indicators	<p>Indicator 3.1: potential for regional and global impacts (i.e. within and beyond the set of African SIDS participating countries) increased through: (a) number of innovative approaches & best practices documented/exchanged (i.e. both collected and distributed - including those piloted by third parties as well as by African SIDS) and available to all African SIDS participating countries, other SIDS, the wider GEF IW/LME and/or non-GEF marine communities + (b) number of innovative approaches & best practices documented/exchanged focusing on gender/women empowerment + (c) number of IW:LEARN and other relevant oceans/LD/SIDS events with active participation and inputs (arising from project activities) by African SIDS participating countries + (d) number of good/best practices from African SIDS investments globally disseminated through IW:LEARN.</p> <p>(Note: this is in part a proxy indicator as it would not be possible for the PMU to fully measure the global impacts from the African SIDS GEF IW investments as a consequence of advocacy and synergistic action, and the exchange of experiences and best practices with the global marine community undertaken by the project.)</p>
Targets (MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)	<p>MT = (a) at least 12 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/documentated and exchanged; (b) at least 2 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/documentated and exchanged focus on gender; (c) African SIDS participation in at least 1 IWLEARN events and at least 1 other global ocean event; (d) at least 2 good/best African SIDS practices disseminated globally;</p> <p>PE = (a) at least 22 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/documentated and exchanged; including at least 7 originating from the African SIDS project investments; (b) at least 4 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/documentated and exchanged focus on gender/women empowerment; (c) African SIDS participation in at least 2 IWLEARN events and at least 2 other global ocean/SIDS events; (d) at least 7 good/best African SIDS practices disseminated globally;</p>
Description of indicators and targets	<p>The indicators and targets refer to the wider variety of knowledge sharing materials, products and mechanisms (including IW:LEARN) that will be used to capture, document and disseminate/make widely available the best practices, innovative approaches and lessons learned in support of the development of national Blue Economies in SIDS, and in the African SIDS in particular - both those collected from third-party experiences as well as those arising from the activities and demonstrations undertaken with the support of the African SIDS Project. Gender specific cases will be documented and disseminated.</p>
Data source/Collection Methods	<p>Data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialist, and where applicable the GSS), with support and inputs (as applicable and relevant) from national Responsible Parties/the Project Steering Committee.</p>
Frequency	<p>Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)</p>
Responsible for data collection	<p>African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist, and where applicable the GSS), with support from the African SIDS Responsible Parties and Project Steering Committee</p>

Means of verification	Communication and dissemination/awareness raising materials, workshop materials, video/story map (as applicable), stakeholder accounts (written/verbal), website entries, knowledge network entries, newsletter entries, experience notes, BTOR reports from IW: LEARN and other Ocean/R2R/LDN/SIDS events attendance, events participants lists. Basic African SIDS Project website
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Results Monitoring	Project Outcome 3: Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and upscaled across African SIDS and beyond
Indicators	<i>Indicator 3.2: enhanced access by African SIDS participating countries (and other countries from the region, and global SIDS) to data, information and knowledge in support of the development of their national Blue Economies, through (a) the availability of a collaboratively developed framework for an enhanced data/information/knowledge management/sharing network, and (b) the demonstrated deployment and implementation, and use, of key elements of the network (as evaluated by the project)</i>
Targets (MT = project Mid-Term; PE = Project End)	MT = first (partial) draft of the collaboratively developed framework available; PE = demonstrated implementation, and use by African SIDS participating countries, of key elements of the network as evaluated by the project, by project end
Description of indicators and targets	The framework will capture existing and missing/desirable elements of (as applicable) (an) existing or prospective network(s) of data/information/knowledge management and dissemination that address the data/info/knowledge needs for sustainable Blue-Green development in African SIDS (and beyond); the second element of the indicator will seek to demonstrate the (enhanced) accessing by African SIDS stakeholders of the network in support of the Blue Economy, and in particular the elements of the network that will have been improved or newly created through the support and/or advocacy of the African SIDS Project
Data source/Collection Methods	Data to be collected, processed and logged by the African SIDS PMU (M&E Specialist), with support and inputs (as applicable and relevant) from national Responsible Parties/the Project Steering Committee
Frequency	Annually (PIR) and at mid-point (MTR) and closure (TE)
Responsible for data collection	African SIDS PMU (M&E specialist), with support from the African SIDS national Responsible Parties and Project Steering Committee

Means of verification	Framework document + online availability of key resources flagged in the framework document, stakeholder accounts, visitor statistics (geo-tool), materials produced and uploaded/made available through African SIDS, demonstrated practical use of resources accessed through the network
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Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by the regional Project Management Unit (PMU), and with inputs for the national demonstrations to be provided by the corresponding national Demonstration projects? Coordinators as per the responsibilities of the different African SIDS Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	75,600	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	18,900	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	18,900	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of gender action plan	16,019	On-going
Monitoring of safeguards management frameworks/action plans	16,600	On-going
Supervision missions	41,695	Annually
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):	50,000	30 June 2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE):	32,400	31 December 2026
TOTAL indicative COST	270,114	

[1] See <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/policies-guidelines>

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project will directly address the need for multinational cooperation supported by AUC, and more broadly by the RECs and LME commissions and conventions. The project, together with co-financing partners, will strengthen the African SIDS institutional, technical and coordination capacity so that they can function effectively as a hub for harnessing, coordinating, and channeling political and economic interests from both public and private sectors into their economies. In addition, the participating countries will significantly benefit from capacity building activities planned at both regional and national levels, collection of more knowledge about the ocean economy, knowledge sharing activities across the countries, strengthened science-to-governance linkages both at the national and regional level, and strengthened regional collaboration and coordination with AUC, all included in the expected results, outcomes and outputs to be delivered through the proposed project interventions.

Through the project the participating countries will conduct intersectoral informed policy dialogue at the continental level to address increasing demands on the ocean resources in the future and how these needs can be met in an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive manner for the SIDS population. The tangible contributions to be made by GEF investment to these intersectoral dialogues are the development of the instruments that take forward the implementation of the strategic frameworks and the inclusion of the women, and youth into the process. The project will also support in establishing a framework for land degradation neutrality in Sao Tome and this understanding can provide environmental safeguards to the coastal and marine ecosystems (another GEB expected from the project) as well as social safeguards to those populations whose livelihoods depend on the healthy and productive ecosystems. Other benefits expected to accrue to the SIDS population include benefits from the development of sustainable financing mechanism and engagement with private sector aimed at enhancing sustainability of interventions; the pilot projects will provide the countries with an opportunity to implement the governance frameworks developed and ensure benefits are brought to the community level.

The AUC support will ensure that the African SIDS voice is raised and brings a focus on addressing the challenges they face. The project also will support the countries work towards the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Growth Strategy and supporting AUC in developing systems to monitor its implementation in the SIDS. AUC support to the African SIDS cooperation will facilitate collective processes in creating enabling conditions aimed at ensuring improved blue governance and application of knowledge in planning development and management of blue economies.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Template (v. July 2022)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African SIDS
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	GEF Project ID: 10865 / UNDP PIMS ID: 6528
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Regional (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles)

4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	27-Feb-2023

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

For any economy to prevail, it should be inclusive and sustainable. However, although most of the SIDS participating in this project have developed Blue Economy frameworks, they still face inclusion challenges caused by institutional fragmentation and uncoordinated approaches. This limits their full transition to sustainable Blue Economies. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the situation by making financial resources less available to address these constraints. This project aims at promoting inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy transformation in **African Ocean SIDS** with focus on improving existing Blue Economy sectors, identifying and pilot-testing new Blue Economy initiatives and consolidating the enabling environment. Therefore, it will ensure that no one is left behind in the design and implementation of interventions. This will enable the beneficiary SIDS to take full advantage of their Sustainable Blue Economy potential that will result in sustainable use of natural marine resources and increase their potential for socioeconomic development and reduction of poverty and inequity.

Stakeholder engagement will be done by involving the project direct beneficiaries, local communities (including marginalized groups), private sector, civil society, academia, government institutions in review and formulation of evidence-based policies, strategies, and implementation plans; development, testing and upscaling of sustainable Blue Economy best practices; and in documenting, sharing and upscaling innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation across **African** SIDS and beyond. The demo projects will allow for stronger project ownership at both the local and national level. Local communities will be engaged in identifying, planning and implementing project activities, therefore ensuring overall project sustainability. As such, this project will ensure that these stakeholders are engaged in the development and implementation of policies (component 1), the design and implementation of pilot projects (component 2), and the knowledge management component of the project. Private engagement opportunities, namely target groups, will be sought during the preparation phase. Second, the capacity building strategy adopted in the project is likely to have additional social and human rights benefits. Stakeholder, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Analyses were undertaken during the preparation phase of the project. The resulting Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan provide some details about the structural challenges that vulnerable groups including women, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities face in the participating SIDS. Also, these plans will provide recommendations to ensure that the project will generate socio-economic benefits to these community groups and will empower them to participate in decision-making in the **African** Ocean SIDS.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

In many societies, women's involvement in certain livelihoods is known to be limited by gender stereotypes and relations which limit them to take up certain livelihood options. The average labor force participation rate in AIO SIDS, was 47% for females versus 70% for males in 2019. AIO SIDS ranked from 78 (Mauritius) to 133 (Sao Tome and Principe) globally according to their Gender Inequality Index. These statistics justify the need to promote gender equality and women empowerment when implementing all of the policy, demonstration, and knowledge management components of this project. A gender analysis was undertaken during the project preparation phase and based on the findings a gender action plan was developed. The action plan provides a high-level framework for ensuring that the inclusive sustainable blue economy interventions are fully gender responsive. It enumerates key gender actions that will be mainstreamed under each project output and recommendations that will help to address issues affecting women in the beneficiary SIDS.

The Gender Action Plan will be refined during the first six months of project implementation and operationalized to ensure that women, men, youth and any other vulnerable groups benefit equitably from the project outputs. When the demonstration projects will be identified, and specific activities defined for implementation at specific sites, clear activity-level targets will be set for representation of women, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups such as the youth (with adequate consideration given to both young women and men), the elderly, people with disability. The project will therefore ensure that gender mainstreaming and SESP requirements are met as an integral part of the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation and a corresponding budget will be allocated.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The objective of this project is to support the development and realization of sustainable blue economies in African SIDS through improved governance, national blue economy demonstrations, and knowledge management. All project components mainstream sustainability and resilience through: i) Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable Blue Economy transformation at the national and regional levels. Under this component, the project will support the SIDS to develop and adopt strategies/plans, policy and institutional reforms. Where lacking, innovative financing frameworks intended to foster private sector engagement will be introduced. Activities related to capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy will also be implemented to ensure that stakeholders are committed to and have the technical capacity to support the Blue Economy transformation. ii) Implementing inclusive sustainable Blue Economy pilots one in each SID to deliver on-the-ground solutions to Blue Economy challenges. These demonstrations will be developed around Ecosystem protection by improving marine habitat management; area-based conservation measures and supporting the restoration of degraded habitats; sustainable fisheries management; new and additional sustainable Blue Economy opportunities and alternative livelihoods; reduction of land-based and sea-based marine pollution and blue economy innovative financing schemes. iii) Documenting, sharing and upscaling innovative solutions and best practices that support the sustainable Blue Economy transformation across African Ocean SIDS and beyond. The project will support national stakeholder consultations and the development and dissemination of knowledge products (project results, innovative solutions, best practices, and lessons learned from the 6 sustainable Blue Economy pilots) at national, regional and global levels.

This includes project participation in IW: LEARN platform; using other existing networks such as UNDP's Accelerator Labs, Ocean Innovation Challenge and GEF SGP to disseminate innovative solutions and best practices; and creating an information exchange network for the recipient SIDS to facilitate knowledge exchange and promote policy coherence. As described above, the project supports for development of mechanisms and tools that will enable the recipient governments to identify key barriers to achieving inclusive sustainable blue economy and necessary frameworks and actions that would help to better manage shocks. Also, it will help to address site-specific challenges linked to sustainable use and management of natural resources. Thus, improved resilience of the site-specific communities to potential shocks that result from disruption of ecosystem services provisioning. Furthermore, documenting and sharing good practices will help for replication and scale-up of the project achievements.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

The project will engage a wide range of stakeholders from the conception to the closure stage to ensure synergies and complementarity and that activities address priorities issues without jeopardizing the interests of vulnerable groups. At the PIF level, a quick mapping of stakeholders was undertaken and the project idea is being developed in consultation with stakeholders at different levels including multilateral/international (UNEP, UNOPS, FAO, WB), national (the 6 governments and their relevant agencies), and sub-national stakeholders (including local communities, farmers, CSOs, Private Sector, fisheries companies, academia, etc.). Further mapping and consultations will be made at the project preparation and project implementation phases. For instance, local communities, women, men and youth will be actively engaged in the design and implementation of demonstration project in each of the 6 recipient SIDS. Also, several Blue Economy sectors that this project will support, such as tourism, fisheries, shipping, finance, and marine biotechnology are largely dominated by private stakeholders. As such, these stakeholders will be further engaged to inform the development and implementation of new blue economy policies and regulations, the design and implementation of pilot BE projects and the knowledge management. At the project preparation phase, a stakeholder analysis was undertaken, and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) developed. The SEP ensures that all relevant stakeholders are fully engaged during the project implementation. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and the national and regional knowledge sharing platforms are the important tools that will ensure project accountability to stakeholders. The GRM will be included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to provide guidance on how stakeholder grievances shall be handled within the scope of this project. The project implementation team will ensure that stakeholders, beneficiaries, and all those who will be impacted by the project are informed of the GRM during project implementation phase. Also, the national and regional knowledge sharing platforms will be established during the project implementation phase to share project information, data, reports and lessons learned.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
<p><i>Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)</i></p>	<p><i>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</i></p>	<p><i>Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i></p>	<p><i>Comments (optional)</i></p>	<p><i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i></p>

<p>Risk 1: - Duty-bearers may lack the capacity to implement meaningful participatory processes, particularly involving vulnerable groups, preventing them from accessing information and from being consulted on project activities that may affect them.</p> <p>Questions P.2, P.5, P. 10, and P.13</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Each country involves diverse stakeholders, including vulnerable groups (e.g., ethnic minorities [Creole and Chagossian/Ilois in Mauritius], women, youth, people with disabilities). Meaningful consultation with vulnerable groups is key to the project's sustainability and the long-term development impact of the BE. All individual demonstrations include cross-cutting considerations, including stakeholder engagement plans, that will be systematically and consistently mainstreamed across all outputs and activities as indicated in Annex 5 of the ProDoc.</p>	<p>Initial consultation and engagement activities were conducted in respective countries, as part of the project design process. The consultations involved relevant groups of stakeholders and local communities. During project implementation phase, consultation will continue with project partners, government, communities including vulnerable and marginalized people, etc, through targeted communication (Component 2; but also Activity 4 of Output 1.3, Output 1.4). In each country, these consultation activities will be led by experienced stakeholder engagement professionals who also have a good understanding of local contexts and profound knowledge of consultation with local communities, to both gather views and concerns of stakeholders and facilitate their full contribution to project design. The Project also will put measures in place to ensure local people are provided with regular feedback (in appropriate format that is understandable and relevant to local women and men) on how their input is taken into consideration as the project moves forward and to address any additional concerns that may be identified as the project moves forward.</p> <p>A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was developed, and it covers all the project countries. The SEP provides a roadmap for stakeholders and project implementers as to when, how and with whom consultations and exchanges should be undertaken throughout the life of the project. The SEP will be scaled to reflect the nature of the activities in each country and their potential impacts.</p> <p>A Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAAP) have been developed. It provides details on how gender will be mainstreamed into the project, including consultations. The GAAP will be regularly updated, implemented, and monitored during the project implementation.</p>
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<p>Risk 2: Poorly implemented regulatory and institutional reform may further undermine environmental governance and the adequate implementation of social and environmental standards, leading to higher social and environmental risks and impacts, as well as the potential escalation of conflict.</p> <p>Questions: P.12, P.14, 1.1-1.6, 1.10 1.14, 3.8, 4.3, 5.2, 5.4. 7.1-7.3, 7.6, 8.2, and 8.5</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Legal and institutional reform constitutes a process for improving governance and institutional capacity to address social and environmental issues. If the reform fails to include the voice of vulnerable groups, its legitimacy may be undermined. The project will involve personnel from several stakeholders for its implementation (various Government ministries, NGOs, cooperatives, and other third-party institutions) and will carry out activities aimed at multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus-building for the reform.</p>	<p>In the first year of the implementation phase, each country will develop a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for upstream activities (Component 1; but also, upstream activities in Component 2), to integrate environmental and social considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate their interlinkages with economic and sustainability considerations. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed to guide environmental and social risk management steps required during project implementation. The ESMF is an umbrella document covering all the countries targeted by the Project based on the ESMF, once specific areas of influence of each project are known, an appropriately scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be developed. The ESIA (and related Environmental and Social Impact Management Plans - ESMPs) will be developed during the implementation phase, to further refine risk identification, mitigation and management strategies, as well as to establish a system for monitoring the environmental and social risks.</p> <p>The SESAs and ESIAs will conduct further assessment on risks associated with supporting local cooperatives/community associations and other project partners and integrate specific procedures into the ESMPs. When working/partnering with third-party organizations, the Project will ensure that such partnerships are established with organizations that can demonstrate some level of experience and/or expertise in the social and environmental standards. When necessary, the Project will organize trainings and/or workshops to build the capacity of those stakeholders and partners and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. This is key to ensuring continued</p>
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			<p>success over the course of the project implementation, and beyond. Such capacity building activities will start before the implementation of the first activity on the ground and will include UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), Stakeholder Engagement Plan and UNDP Accountability Mechanisms (Grievance Redress Mechanism, SRM, SECU).</p> <p>Overall, the project will have a strong focus on enhancing capacity of relevant authorities and targeted communities to ensure that they have the required knowledge and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned, and uptake good practices.</p>
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<p>Risk 3: Inadequately designed Grievance Redress Mechanisms may lead to unresolved stakeholders concerns and grievances, particularly of vulnerable groups, regarding project activities, which could lead to the infringement of their rights.</p> <p>Questions P.1, P.2, P.5, and P.14</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Ensuring that all stakeholders, especially marginalized groups, can communicate their concerns and grievances and to have access to a rights-compatible Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is a means to mitigate, manage, and resolve potential negative impacts, thus improving the project's accountability. No reported grievance does not mean that no grievances exist.</p> <p>The GRM, nonetheless, should not prevent citizens or communities from pursuing their rights and interests in any other national or local forum, and citizens should not be required to use GRMs before seeking redress through the courts, administrative law procedures, or other formal dispute resolution mechanisms.</p>	<p>The Project will carry out comprehensive, gender-responsive consultations with local communities and other stakeholders within project sites and will allow them to raise objections or concerns and/or to request additional information. The Project will accommodate their expressed interest and concerns in the final project design and the design of particular project outputs and activities (Component 2).</p> <p>In each country, the Project will develop a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is specific to the context of the country. Each GRM will be proportional, culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent, and that ensures appropriate protection for claimants, and the Project also will inform the stakeholders about the existence of the mechanism and how to use it.</p> <p>The GRMs will be executed through the Implementing Partner and Responsible Parties in each country. As needed or as requested, UNDP will be available to help the Implementing Partner to address project-related grievances as part of its oversight and assurance roles.</p> <p>The GRM will be design with the involvement of the stakeholders and local community. The Project must largely inform project stakeholders and local community of the existence of the project-level GRM, how to use it and encourage them to use it.</p> <p>The Project will also inform them about UNDP Accountability Mechanism, including the Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) and the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU), their purpose, and the procedures that should be followed to raise complaints with SRM and/or SECU if they are not satisfied with the GRM's response.</p>
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<p>Risk 4: Areas where the Project will carry out activities are subject to hazards, such as severe winds, storms, and floods, which may lead to unanticipated adverse impacts on the communities and the marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Climate change has a very tangible impact on SIDS. Climate change-related threats do not only arise from hurricanes; slow onset events such as sea level rise pose an existential threat to small island communities. The sectors to be supported by the project (e.g. ecotourism, aquaculture, fisheries, etc) could be impacted by climate change.</p>	<p>The project will assess, during ESIA's in each of the demonstrations (Component 2), the climate risks related to the activities, and consider the measures that will need to be put in place to minimize the risks to project activities. The Project will also ensure that beneficiaries have access to timely climate information to take measures in case of climate hazard.</p> <p>The Project will integrate disaster risk reduction measures, in coordination with each countries? disaster risk reduction and management agencies.</p>
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<p>Risk 5: The establishment of Protected Areas (PA) in Sao Tome and Principe or changes in the regulatory and management framework of established PAs could lead to restrictions on accessing marine resource, leading to the economic displacement of local communities.</p> <p>Questions 5.2 and 5.4</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>No assessment has been done yet to evaluate and characterize the use of marine and coastal space and the interactions among its uses to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment and to deliver social and economic outcomes.</p>	<p>Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans (CMSP) (e.g. Sao Tome and Principe, Cabo Verde) will support the regulated use of the coastal-marine space and help achieve national development targets and commitments. The CSMP will be instrumental in the development of the nationwide multi-year program for STP's transition to a Blue Economy (Components 1 and 2).</p> <p>An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed during the PPG phase to guide risk management steps required during project implementation.</p> <p>During the implementation phase, the Project will undertake a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to support upstream activities of Components 1 and 2, including the strengthening of the regulatory framework and weaknesses associated with fisheries within the protected area, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the relevant authorities and park stakeholders.</p> <p>Downstream activities involving the improvement of local communities' livelihoods will be assessed through Environmental and Social Assessments (ESIAs), which will result in Environmental and Social Impact Management Plans (ESMPs), following the principles and procedures established in the ESMF. The ESMPs will include Livelihoods Action Plans to address the impact of economic displacements. The Project will make sure that all zoning processes will be designed and implemented by consulting with the communities and stakeholders being impacted.</p> <p>A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will also be developed. It will be activated in case any concerns are raised by stakeholders about human rights infringements, adverse socio-</p>
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				economic or environmental impacts directly or indirectly attributed to project implementation. All concerns will be assessed, documented, and followed up with appropriate responses in order to address the issue.
<p>Risk 6: The involvement of law enforcement personnel (e.g., Park rangers, police) could lead to human rights violations, including harassment and abuse.</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Zoning and management of PAs will involve enforcement of regulations. Law enforcement personnel could go beyond their line of duty and generate conditions that would jeopardize the project enforcing the rules/laws.</p>	<p>In countries where this is pertinent, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will support the regulatory framework reform to improve institutional capacity and governance (upstream activities of Components 1 and 2). Some of the factors that will be included in the assessment include: i) Human rights records of law enforcement forces; ii) local and national prosecuting authority and judiciary's capacity to ensure accountability and other capacity gaps and weaknesses in enforcement processes.</p> <p>The project will provide dedicated training to enforcement personnel on UNDP human rights requirements to ensure that no human rights violations are perpetrated during enforcement actions in Protected Areas and other project landscapes.</p>

<p>Risk 7: The construction of community-based aquaculture infrastructure in the Seychelles and improvements to be made in community infrastructure for eco-businesses (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau) could lead to safety and labour management risks.</p> <p>Questions 7.1, 7.6, and 8.2</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Small-scale level, activities involving the construction of aqua culture infrastructure (Seychelles) may generate environmental risks and impacts (e.g., chemical and biological pollution, disease outbreaks, competition for coastal space) Improvements to current infrastructure (e.g., Guinea-Bissau, Cabo Verde) could generate working condition risks.</p>	<p>Risks associated with occupational health and safety and working conditions, will be further assessed and addressed during the project implementation phase through relevant ESIAs and ESMPs (Component 2).</p> <p>The Project will develop Labour Management Procedures as part of the ESIA/ESMP when relevant. The procedures will set out the conditions in which project workers will be employed or engaged and managed, in accordance with the requirements of the SES and applicable labour laws, rules and regulations.</p>
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<p>Risk 8: Project involved sectors (e.g. ecotourism, fisheries, etc.) could potentially involve child labour, leading to the violation of children's rights , including disrupted physical, mental, moral and social development, exposure to extreme weather conditions, injuries, infections, and diseases.</p> <p>Questions P.3 and 7.3</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 4</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>US Department of Labour reports issued in 2021 indicated that Child labour continues to be prevalent in Cape Verde (artisanal fishing in small boats, construction, etc.), Comoros (fishing, Extracting and selling marine sand), Guinea-Bissau (fishing), Mauritius (fishing, including diving, and casting nets and traps), Sao Tome and Principe (fishing, including line and hook fishing)</p>	<p>Relevant procedures are described in the ESMF and will be monitored during project implementation accordingly. Risks associated with child labour will be further assessed during the implementation phase through the ESIA and subsequent specific management measures in accordance with national policies, labour laws, rules and regulations (Component 2).</p>
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<p>Risk 9: Open-sea project activities could lead to various health and safety risks, exposing aquaculturalists and fishermen to drowning, thermal stress, lost at sea, drifting, and other types of accidents.</p> <p>Question 7.6</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project staff, fishers, law enforcement officers, and other stakeholders will operate in the open sea, which involves an array of hazards. Most project activities, however, will take place within the framework of national safety regulations, which reduces the likelihood and impact associated with this risk.</p>	<p>The Project (Component 2) will implement appropriate field safety procedures. The procedures will be tailored to the activities and include i) Management of medical treatment cases; ii) evacuation/recovery scenarios; and iii) use of tracking devices (e.g. SPOT device)</p> <p>Where relevant, the project will provide training on ?Safety at Sea? measures including use of life jackets and AIS beacon to fishers in the project landscape.</p>
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<p>Risk 10: Project activities carried out within or near national parks and protected areas, many of which are recognized as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), could impact Critical Habitats.</p> <p>Questions 1.1., 1.2, and 1.4</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>The main sources of income in communities in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park Area (PNBIMA), in Cabo Verde, include fishing and ecotourism, which derive from the attractive landscapes and important biodiversity of the protected area, an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).</p> <p>The project will support the participatory management of the Blue Economy in the PNBIMA region as a means to improve the advocacy for local ocean-based activities and to facilitate the transition to a sustainable blue economy by local community members that depend on coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods.</p>	<p>Where relevant, the Project will put in place management plans for Pas to ensure sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources.</p> <p>During the implementation, further social and environmental screening will be completed (Component 2). This will allow the Project to make decision on the best course of action with regards to siting the planned activities. The Project will conduct ESIAs, which will include targeted biodiversity studies to further assess the level of risk to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The ESIAs could confirm whether endangered, vulnerable or critically endangered species are found at the project's intervention sites, as well as the ecosystem services that could be impacted. The ESMPs will address the biodiversity risks identified in or near the protected areas and other critical habitats, and management actions will be designed to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values that might be impacted within the Protected Area.</p> <p>A Biodiversity Action Plan will be included within the ESMP (when relevant) for those actions within the KBA. The implementation of the BAP will help ensure that i) there are no measurable adverse impacts on the area's biodiversity values and supporting ecological processes, ii) no reduction in Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered species, and iii) any lesser impacts are appropriately mitigated, and net gains of relevant biodiversity values.</p>
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<p>Risk 11: Project activities involving aquaculture could inadvertently enable the introduction of invasive alien species into the local ecosystem, leading to adverse effects on native species.</p> <p>Question 1.6</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Although the project is designed around the best aquaculture and fishing practices, it is possible that project participants could fail to use these best practice techniques and instead introduce invasive alien species. These could escape from aquaculture farms into the larger ecosystem, and alter its structure and functions.</p>	<p>The ESIA will assess the risks and impacts associated with aquaculture development. The ESMPs will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien fish species (Component 2). The project will promote best practice in aquaculture using indigenous and/or non-invasive species.</p>
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<p>Risk 12: The continued use of agrochemicals, such as nitrogen-based fertilizers and strong pesticides, in agricultural initiatives supported by the Project (vegetable farming, agriculture, horticulture) in Sao Tome and Principe could increase their negative effects on human health and the environment.</p> <p>Question 8.5</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>While national policies aim to reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the country, there are currently very limited capacities to monitor and control the import and use of those products. If not well monitored, agriculturalists and horticulturalists could continue using agrochemicals.</p>	<p>Particular support and assistance will be derived from the implementation of a SESA, to strengthen the capacities of agencies associated with the Ministry of Agriculture, namely the CIAT (<i>Research Center for Agronomy and Technology</i>), the CADR (Rural Extension Service), the CATAP (Centre for Technical Improvement of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry) as well as the Customs Department and the Customs Surveillance Police, who are tasked with the supervision and monitoring of pesticides and fertilizers and the training to farmers and animal breeders (Output 2.6).</p> <p>The project will also work in partnership with the private sector to support the development and use of algae-based bio-inputs, with the establishment of at least one pilot project for the production of liquid fertilizer and/or for a composting plan using algae. With the engagement of local farmers and producers, the project will promote the use of bio-inputs with a view to reduce the quantity of pesticides used for agriculture and horticulture production, contributing to improved water quality and reduced land degradation. The project will also engage private sector agents in the elaboration of recommendations on enhancing capacities to control importation and use of fertilizers and pesticides.</p>
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<p>Risk 13: Successful commercialization of threatened marine species (e.g. sea cucumber) by the Project in Comoros could inadvertently boost an interest in its overexploitation, threatening the survival of the species.</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Sea cucumber (<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>) is vulnerable (VU) on IUCN Red List.</p> <p>The 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has also listed sea cucumbers as threatened species (Appendix II)</p>	<p>The Project will follow CITES guidelines for the trade of sea cucumbers. The Project ESIAs will further review (where relevant) the risks associated with activities that involve the trade of flora and fauna species, including sea cucumber (Output 2.2), and outline the best actions to address those risks, in line with international best practices.</p>
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QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
<i>Low Risk</i>	?		
<i>Moderate Risk</i>	?		
<i>Substantial Risk</i>	?		<p>The project includes three risks rated as Substantial, while 10 risks have a Moderate rating. The overall risk categorization is Substantial.</p>
<i>High Risk</i>	?		

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
<i>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</i>	?			<i>Status? (completed, planned)</i>
<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>		?	Targeted assessment(s)	

		?	Country-specific ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned
		?	Country-specific SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned
<i>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</i>		?		

	<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		<p>?</p> <p>Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)</p> <p>GAAP (Gender Analysis and Action Plan)</p> <p>Labour Management Plan (where relevant)</p> <p>Field Safety Procedure</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Planned</p>
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		?	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Planned
		?	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
<i>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project - level Standards triggered?</i>			Comments (not required)	
<i>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</i>				
<i>Human Rights</i>	?			
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	?			
<i>Accountability</i>	?			
<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i>	?			
<i>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</i>	?			
<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</i>	?			
<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	?			
<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	?			
<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	?		Indigenous Peoples are not present in any of the AIO SIDS	
<i>7. Labour and Working Conditions</i>	?			
<i>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	?			

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have 'checked' to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have 'cleared' the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
<p>INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.</p>		
<p>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</p> <p>Human Rights</p>		Answer (Yes/No)
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	Yes
P.2	Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Yes
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.4	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? 16	Yes
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	Yes
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	Yes
<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p>		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	Yes
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No

P.10 reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	Yes
P.11 limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	Yes
P.12 exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	No

16 Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below	
Accountability	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.13 exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Yes
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	Yes
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	Yes
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Yes
1.3 changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	Yes
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	Yes
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	Yes
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	Yes
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	No
1.8 harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9 significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	Yes
1.11 significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No

1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ¹⁷	No
1.13 utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ¹⁸	No
1.14 adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	Yes
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	

17 See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

18 See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	Yes
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	Yes
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	Yes
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	Yes
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	Yes
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities? health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	Yes
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	Yes

4.4 alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5 utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
5.1 temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No

5.2 economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions ? even in the absence of physical relocation)?	Yes
5.3 risk of forced evictions?19	No
5.4 impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Yes
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
6.1 areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2 activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3 impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is ?yes?, then Standard 6 requirements apply, and the potential significance of risks related to impacts on indigenous peoples must be Moderate or above. [1]*</i>	No
6.4 the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5 the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6 forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	No
6.7 adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8 risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9 impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>	

7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	Yes
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	Yes
7.3	use of child labour?	Yes
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	Yes

19 Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
8.1 the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2 the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Yes
8.3 the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4 the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	No
8.5 the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	Yes
8.6 significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

[1]* Note: revised July 2022 modifying presumption of risk significance from Substantial or higher to Moderate or higher.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
SESP_African SIDS project_11 Feb 2024	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SESP_AIO SIDS project_1 March 2023	CEO Endorsement ESS	

Title	Module	Submitted
SESP Pre-Screening_PIMS 6528_AIO SIDS Blue Economy PIF 13 September 2021_clean	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): <i>SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17</i>				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): <i>N/A</i>				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target <i>Expected level of progress before MTR process starts</i>	End of Project Target <i>Expected level when terminal evaluation undertaken</i>
Project Objective :	To achieve integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services.			
	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	Total: 106,832 Males: 64,099 Females: 42,733 Approx. 33% of PE target values	Total: 323,733 Males: 194,240 Females: 129,493
	GEF Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) GEF Sub-Indicator 2.2: Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness	Core Indicator 2: 0 (as attributable to African SIDS) Sub-Indicator 2.2.: 0	Aggregate value: 0 ha Sub-indicator 2.2: 0 ha	Aggregate value: 112,025 ha Sub-indicator 2.2: 112,025 ha
	GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares) GEF Sub-Indicator 3.1: Area of degraded agricultural lands restored	Core Indicator 3: 0 (as attributable to African SIDS) Sub-Indicator 3.1.: 0	Aggregate value: 0 ha Sub-indicator 2.2: 0 ha	Aggregate value: 400 ha Sub-indicator 2.2.: 400 ha

<p>GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</p>	<p>Core Indicator 3: 0 (as attributable to African SIDS)</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 4.1.: 0</p>	<p>Aggregate value: 50 ha</p> <p>Sub-indicator 4.1: 50 ha</p>	<p>Aggregate value: 800 ha</p> <p>Sub-indicator 4.1: 400 ha</p>
<p>GEF Sub-Indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</p>	<p>Sub-Indicator 4.3.: 0</p>	<p>Sub-indicator 4.3: 0 ha</p>	<p>Sub-indicator 4.3: 400 ha</p>
<p>GEF Sub-Indicator 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems</p>			

<p>GEF Core Indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p> <p>GEF Sub-Indicator 7.3.: Level of national/local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees</p> <p>1 = Neither national/local reforms nor IMCs</p> <p>2 = National/local reforms in preparation, IMCs functional</p> <p>3 = National/local reforms and IMCs in place</p> <p>Guidelines on Indicators (ME/GN/01) 19</p> <p>4 = National/local reforms/policies implemented, supported by IMCs.</p> <p>GEF Sub-Indicator 7.4.: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key product</p> <p>1 = No participation 2 = Website in line with IW:LEARN guidance active 3 = As above, plus strong participation in training/twinning events and production of at least one experience note and</p>	<p>Core Indicator: 0 (as attributable to African SIDS)</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3: 1</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4: 1</p>	<p>Core Indicator: 2</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3: 2</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4: 4</p>	<p>Core Indicator: 2</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.3: 3</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 7.4: 4</p>
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	<p>one results note 4 = As above, plus active participation of project staff and country representatives at International Waters conferences and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website.</p>			
Project Component 1	Sustainable Blue Economy and Land Degradation Neutrality enabling conditions - improved governance frameworks			
<p>Project Outcome 1 Evidence-based instruments (strategies, plans,...) and financing mechanisms that support sustainable Blue Economy development and Land Degradation Neutrality in the participating SIDS</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1: Number of enabling instruments/elements/contributions for the Blue Economy put in place by the African SIDS Project at the Regional and across the 6 participating countries (with ?enabling elements? e.g. including: Africa Blue Economy Strategy Monitoring Framework, a (updated) BE assessment, blue accounts guidance, strategy, private sector action plans, reporting mechanism, financing plan/mechanism, MSP, National and regional coordination mechanisms, updated NDC, etc; and with ?enabling contributions? consisting of relevant capacity building delivered). This indicator will contribute to the Core indicator 7.3</p>	<p>0 new instruments/elements/contributions attributable to the African SIDS Project, at Project Start (baseline inventory as reference for further project M&E of the indicator)</p>	<p>min 4 new enabling instruments/elements/contributions delivered across the 6 countries, by project mid-term</p>	<p>min 8 new enabling instruments/elements/contributions delivered inclusive of instruments at the pan-African level and across the 6 countries, by project end (of which at least 1 relating to/supportive of LDN)</p>

	<p>Indicator 1.2: Percentage of women trained under the capacity-building activities to be implemented under Component 1. This indicator will contribute to the Core indicator 11.</p>	<p>No women trained at project start</p>	<p>A min. of 20% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities are women. 20% of the total project female beneficiaries will be supported.</p>	<p>A min. of 30% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities are women. 30% of the total project female beneficiaries will be supported.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.1. Regional and National Blue Economy supporting/enabling instruments (e.g. assessments/strategies/policies/plans,) developed and/or updated. 1.2. Regional and National Coordination Platforms supporting the development of the Blue Economy strengthened . 1.3. Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles- based Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality target implementation fostering private sector investment developed. 1.3. Frameworks conducive to innovative Sustainable Blue Economy principles- based Blue Economy financing and Land Degradation Neutrality target implementation fostering private sector investment developed. 1.4. Capacity developed, and awareness raised in the African SIDS on topics of key relevance for transformation of the regional and national Blue Economies.</p>			
<p>Project Component 2</p>	<p>On-the-ground national demonstrations of Sustainable investments addressing 1) unsustainable ocean/coastal use and/or ?new and additional? sustainable Blue Economy opportunities, and 2) Integrated land management and restoration of degraded production landscapes with positive impacts on Blue Economy assets</p>			

<p>Project Outcome 2 Sustainable Blue Economy and Sustainable Land Management best practices and diversification models with strong social, economic and sustainability elements developed, tested, and ready for upscaling among African SIDS</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of Blue Economy and/or Integrated Blue Economy (Ridge-to-Reef) solutions implemented and with lessons learned and best practices available to support replication and upscaling (including through improvements/optimization) across the African SIDS participating countries (as relevant) and beyond. This Indicator 2.1 will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Restoration of 3 marine protected areas ii) Restoration of degraded agricultural land in Sao Tome iii) Restoration of coastal degraded areas. <p>This indicator will contribute to the Core indicators 2, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>0 solutions implemented, attributable to the African SIDS Project, at project start</p>	<p>7 national demonstrations ongoing and with a status/progress assessment by mid-term, as monitored and evaluated by the project, that is enabling/conducive to their successful completion by project end (and with revisions/remediation measures identified and under implementation, where and if applicable)</p> <p>50% of the total project beneficiaries will be supported.</p>	<p>7 solutions tested and documented, and with lessons learned and best practices available to support replication and upscaling, across the African SIDS (and having delivered concrete contributions to the project objective as manifested through their measured contributions to the Project's corresponding Core Indicators) . These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 112,025 hectares of marine Protected Areas under Improvement Management ii) 400 hectares of agricultural land restored in Sao Tome iii) 400 hectares in coastal areas in the participating SIDS under improved management to benefit biodiversity iv) 400 hectares in production systems in participating SIDS under sustainable management. <p>90% of the total project beneficiaries will be supported.</p>
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	<p>Indicator 2.2: Percentage of women trained under the capacity-building activities to be implemented during the execution of the national demonstration projects. This indicator will contribute to the Core indicator 11.</p>	<p>No women trained at project start</p>	<p>A min. of 20% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under the national demonstration projects are women 50% of the total project female beneficiaries will be supported.</p>	<p>A min. of 30% of all trainees participating in the capacity-building activities under the national demonstration projects are women. 85 % of the total project female beneficiaries will be supported.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.1. Cabo Verde Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Participatory, sustainable management of artisanal fisheries and improved entrepreneurship skills of coastal inhabitants, in support of the local development of a (sustainable) Blue Economy in the Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park (PNBIMA).</p> <p>2.2. Comoros Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Climate-resilient income and livelihoods diversification in the area of the Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park: merging MPA management effectiveness and the national blue economy agenda at the local level, in the context of a changing climate</p> <p>2.3. Guinea-Bissau Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Enhanced management effectiveness in the Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park (PNTC) and improved awareness and capacity of the surrounding local communities to harness the biodiversity and cultural assets of the park through sustainable practices</p> <p>2.4. Mauritius Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local, artisanal fishing communities, successfully piloted in the Republic of Mauritius</p> <p>2.5. Sao Tome & Principe Sustainable Blue Economy and Land Management/Land Degradation Neutrality demonstrations: Ridge-to-Reef approach applied in Sao Tom? and Principe in support of blue development through enhanced capacities and enabling frameworks for reducing land degradation and; improved management of marine and coastal natural capital.2.6. Seychelles Sustainable Blue Economy demonstration: The resilience of Blue Economy activities enhanced by diversifying income of the local communities of the Republic of Seychelles.</p>			
<p>Project Component 3</p>	<p>Knowledge management and upscaling</p>			

<p>Project Outcome 3</p> <p>Innovative solutions and best practices supporting the sustainable Blue Economy transformation and Sustainable Land Management, documented, shared and upscaled across African SIDS and beyond</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1: <i>potential for regional and global impacts (i.e. within and beyond the set of African SIDS participating countries) increased through: (a) number of innovative approaches & best practices documented/exchanged (i.e. both collected and distributed - including those piloted by third parties as well as by African SIDS) and available to all African SIDS participating countries, other SIDS, the wider GEF IW/LME and/or non-GEF marine communities + (b) number of innovative approaches & best practices documented/exchanged focusing on gender/women empowerment + (c) number of IW:LEARN and other relevant oceans/LD/SIDS events with active participation and inputs (arising from project activities) by African SIDS participating countries + (d) number of good/best practices from African SIDS investments globally disseminated through IW:LEARN.</i></p> <p><i>(Note: this is in part a proxy indicator as it would not be possible for the PMU to fully measure the global impacts from the African SIDS GEF IW investments as a</i></p>	<p>a) counter at zero for FSP project start</p> <p>b) counter at zero for FSP project start</p> <p>c) counter at zero for FSP project start</p> <p>d) counter at zero for FSP project start</p> <p><i>(best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches identified and collected during the African SIDS PPG phase (and considered in the proposal development) will be counted as contributing to the project outcome during FSP implementation but will be flagged in the indicator reporting as having been achieved during the PPG)</i></p>	<p><i>(a) at least 12 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/ documented and exchanged; (b) at least 2 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/ documented and exchanged focus on gender/women empowerment; (c) African SIDS participation in at least 1 IWLEARN events and at least 1 other global/regional ocean event (e.g. WIOMSA science to policy platform); (d) at least 12 good/best African SIDS practices disseminated globally;</i></p>	<p><i>(a) at least 22 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/ documented and exchanged; including at least 1 regional best practices guidelines document and 7 originating from the African SIDS national project demonstrations; (b) at least 4 BE best practices/lessons learned/innovative approaches collected/ documented and exchanged focus on gender/women empowerment; (c) African SIDS participation in at least 2 IWLEARN events and at least 2 other global/regional ocean/SIDS events (e.g. WIOMSA science to policy platform); (d) at least 7 good/best African SIDS practices disseminated globally;</i></p>
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	<p>consequence of advocacy and synergistic action, and the exchange of experiences and best practices with the global marine community undertaken by the project.). This indicator will contribute to the Core indicators 7.4, 7.3, 2.3, 4, 11</p>			
	<p>Indicator 3.2: enhanced access by African SIDS participating countries (and other countries from the region, and global SIDS) to data, information and knowledge in support of the development of their national Blue Economies, through (a) the availability of a collaboratively developed framework for an enhanced data/information/knowledge management/sharing network, and (b) the demonstrated deployment and implementation, and use, of key elements of the network (as evaluated by the project) . This indicator will contribute to the Core indicators 7.4, 7.3, 2.3, 4, 11</p>	<p>no existing framework and no related developments attributable to the project</p>	<p>first (partial) draft of the collaboratively developed framework available</p>	<p>demonstrated implementation, and use by African SIDS participating countries, of key elements of the network as evaluated by the project, by project end</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1. Strengthening communication and knowledge management (project results, innovative solutions, best practices and lessons learned) from the seven sustainable Blue Economy/Sustainable Land Management demonstrations developed and disseminated at national and regional level.</p> <p>3.2. Innovative solutions and best practices from other projects, other SIDS and other regional initiatives identified and disseminated at national and regional levels.</p> <p>3.3. Strategic contributions to a data/information/knowledge exchange network/infrastructure that supports BE/LDN development in the African SIDS</p>			

Project Component 4	Timely Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to inform adaptive management for successful delivery of project results.			
Project Outcome 4 Project-level monitoring and evaluation, in compliance with UNDP and mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements	<i>Indicator 4.1.: Project-level monitoring and evaluation completed through documentation from Inception Workshop, Annual GEF Project Implementation Reviews (PIR), M&E of GEF core Indicators, Gender Plan, Safeguards Frameworks and Action Plans, Independent Mid-Term Review, and Independent Final Evaluation. This indicator will contribute to the Core indicators 7.4, 7.3, 2.3, 4, 11</i>	Project-level M&E planned but not initiated	Project-level monitoring and evaluation meets the requirements of UNDP and GEF at project mid-point	All project-level monitoring and evaluation is complete and meets the requirements of UNDP and GEF
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	<i>4.1. Inception Workshop and Report 4.2 Annual GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR), and M&E of GEF core Indicators, Gender Plan, Safeguards Frameworks and Action Plans 4.3 Independent Mid-Term Review 4.4 Independent Final Evaluation</i>			

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Comments received from STAP and responses from the PPG Coordination Unit

Part I: Project Information	Response	Comments/responses from the African SIDS PPG Coordination Unit:
GEF ID	10865	

Project Title	Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African SIDS
Date of Screening	9 November 2021
STAP member screener	Blake Ratner
STAP secretariat screener	Virginia Gorsevski
STAP Overall Assessment and Rating	<p>Minor.</p> <p>The proposed project covers a wide diversity of SIDS, aiming to span both Blue Economy and Land Degradation priorities. There is logic in linking these two elements, owing to the environmental flows from land to sea as well as the need for integrated national planning and policy implementation. The project structure is simple and straight-forward, emphasizing these connections, yet the details of design do not yet show adequate integration.</p> <p>The PIF provides some recognition that Blue Economy activities may result in environmental degradation; clear criteria are needed to ensure these risks are averted.</p> <p>Greater attention should be paid to risks relating to policy development and implementation, including recognition of potential conflicts and negative impacts. Discussion of policy development and implementation is strikingly simplistic (ref Figure 2), with no reference to the political economy of policy reform and potential for conflict and trade-offs.</p> <p>There is reference to 'new and innovative models to advance protection and restoration of coastal, marine, and agricultural ecosystems while diversifying and sustaining economies' but inadequate information to suggest what this might entail. The land degradation aspects are poorly developed, with mention of LDN but no reference to supporting guidance including the Guidelines for Land Degradation Neutrality.</p>

Part I: Project Information B. Indicative Project Description Summary	What STAP looks for	Response	<p>Regarding the potential for ?BE? activities to result in environmental degradation: the Project Document now explicitly adopts the UNDP definition of the Blue Economy, highlighting the sustainability dimension, and strongly brings forward its focus on pursuing ?win-wins? (environmental, social -including gender, and economic). The Project Document also explicitly refers to the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) principles and uses the alternative representation by the Stockholm Resilience Center of the Sustainable Development Goals (the ?SDG Wedding Cake?) to stress the critical interdependence between sustainable socio-economic (blue/green) development and a healthy, well conserved, protected and restored biosphere/ocean, using this as the departure point for the development of the Project Strategy. A Social and Environmental Safeguards experts was engaged during the PPG and screening of the proposed activities have taken place, and a corresponding safeguards management plan for the project has been developed. A Social and Environmental Safeguards Expert will also be engaged during project implementation, to keep guiding project actions. Related capacity building are also anticipated as part of the project activities.</p>
			<p>The (sustainable) land (management) (incl. LD/LDN) element of</p>

		<p>African SIDS was not reflected in the project objective as originally incorporated in the PIF, a small revision of the project objective has been proposed for this reason. Only one of the 7 participating countries brings in a GEF STAR LD allocation to the GEF financing of the African SIDS Project; notwithstanding this, and even when the possibilities for corresponding on-the-ground actions beyond Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe itself will be limited due to this composition of the focal area contributions to the total GEF project grant, the double concept of a blue-green economy and integrated land & ocean management (R2R/S2S) has been more widely adopted and brought forward as a development path for the African SIDS, and activities are foreseen to allow other African SIDS participating countries to benefit from related demonstration results and lessons learned, or related capacity building activities. In the case of Sao Tom? and Pr?ncipe, the initially proposed LD and IW demo?s have been combined in a single, integrated R2R demonstration proposal.</p> <p>The integration of the Blue and Green Economies with (training and capacity building for) the adoption of the Ridge-to-Reef/Source-to-Sea concepts, have now also been made much more explicit in the project, including in the ToC and across the set of outputs and</p>
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			<p>activities to be delivered by the project.</p> <p>Regarding the risks related to policy development and implementation: special attention will be paid by the project to inter-sectoral coordination (advocacy and support for NICs) and enhanced stakeholder participation, SWOT analysis and M&E. Enhanced baseline analysis will support the avoidance of duplication and of potential antagonistic action across sectors. Support for Natural Capital Accounting and integrated Environmental & Socio-Economic reporting on the national marine natural capital will be supportive of the identification of trade-offs.</p> <p>The way in which the project will embrace new and innovative models to advance protection and restoration of coastal, marine, and agricultural ecosystems while diversifying and sustaining economies is now described with more detail, both in the project strategy/approach as well in the details provided on the proposed national demonstrations.</p> <p>Based on identified priorities and preferences for the national intervention, the LD investment in Sao Tom and Principe has been embedded in an integrated ridge-to-reef demonstration, with the LD component focussing on</p>
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			<p>sustainable land management and restoration through bio-inputs based organic horticulture.</p> <p>Capacity building on LDN with due consideration of/shaped around the GEF STAP Guidelines can be advanced through the corresponding capacity building output under Component 1.</p>
Project Objective	<p>Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?</p>	<p>The project objective is ?To support the development and realization of sustainable blue economies in Atlantic and Indian Ocean</p> <p>SIDS through improved governance, national Blue Economy demonstrations, and knowledge management.?</p> <p>Subsequently in the PIF, the stated objective is ?to support African SIDS in addressing the root causes and barriers, listed previously to preserve and restore the health of marine and ocean ecosystems in order to sustain inclusive and sustainable development models.?</p> <p>These related but distinct articulation of objectives are characteristic of the PIF which has large, overarching objectives but lacks detail on defining elements of the approach to inspire confidence that the project will result in tangible benefits.</p>	<p>The project objective has been slightly revised during the PPG and now states: ?to support the development and realization of sustainable blue(-green) economies in 7 Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS through improved governance, national Blue Economy (and a Ridge-to-Reef) demonstrations, and enhanced data, information and knowledge management.?</p> <p>The lack of details in the PIF, relating to the pathway(s) that the project will use overall and under its 3 technical components to deliver tangible benefits, has been addressed in the Project Document through the more extended articulation of the project strategy, approach and interlinkages among the components, combined with substantive levels of details on the (where applicable, and considered necessary or beneficial: revised) outputs and the proposed activities to be implemented for their successful delivery.</p>

Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	Yes. The components address 1) improving of the enabling conditions for a Blue Economy transformation, 2) investing in the development and implementation of national sustainable Blue Economy demonstrations specifically tailored for each country, and 3) disseminating of learning experiences from the planning work and national demonstrations for replication and up-scale at both the national and regional scales.	The STAP comment is noted. The description of planned activities has been expanded and further improved during the PPG, further strengthening their linkage with and contributions to the project objective, taking into account also the updated baseline. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention. Do the planned outcomes encompass important adaptation benefits ?	It is possible that the demonstration projects will encompass adaptation benefits ? if, for example, they are focused on Nature based Solutions such as restoration.	The concept of NBS is embraced by the project, and their implementation and upscaling will be pursued by the project via several avenues. Additionally, attention is given to the possibility for the project to advocate for and contribute to the (upscaled) integration of the marine environment in the 2025 updates of the NDC's. As per the project strategy, climate proofing of project investments is one of the actions (e.g. together with gender) that are to be mainstreamed across the different elements of the project's wider-ranging work plan.

	<p>Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?</p>	<p>Difficult to assess at this stage.</p>	<p>Further attention has been given during the project design efforts under the PPG to ensure that global environmental/adaptation benefits can be achieved - supportive of this will be both the on-the-ground delivery under the demonstrations under Component 2 as well as the enabling of further replication and scaling through Components 1 and 3</p>
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project.</p> <p>Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?</p>	<p>Strategies, plans, pilots, etc. There are many possible products and services that could be generated through this project and each would in theory contribute to some aspect of a sustainable blue economy or LDN.</p>	<p>While a response or further comments were not specifically requested by STAP under this point, it can be mentioned that additional care has been given to articulating the connections and complementarity, and mutually-supportive elements of the different outputs, and also between the project and other ongoing projects and initiatives in the participating countries and beyond (and also the sustainability thereof), this as to guarantee a higher return on this GEF investment (total contribution of the project is more than simply the sum of the individual outputs).</p>

<p>Part II: Project justification</p>	<p>A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.</p>	<p>A TOC is presented but is essentially a list of components, outputs, etc. without causal pathways, underlying assumptions. Immediate causes are shown as leading to Root causes, so there is some confusion evident. See STAP Primer on Theory of Change for guidance.</p>	<p>The narrative explaining the baseline, and, building on this, the projects proposed strategy and underlying logic and assumptions, have now been expanded, revised and strengthened in the Project Document. Root causes and barriers have been described under Section II, and integrated into a revised ToC. Changes needed to address these root causes have been highlighted and linked to the project structure and thematic components. In the fine-tuning of project outputs and the definition of associated activities, care has been taken to ensure the inclusion of activities/outputs directed at lifting the identified barriers.</p>
<p>1. Project description. Briefly describe:</p> <p>1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed</p>	<p>Is the problem statement well-defined?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.</p>
	<p>Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?</p>	<p>Yes, with useful differentiation by country.</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.</p>

<p>(systems description)</p>	<p>For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?</p>	<p>Yes; however, the problem statement and analysis is much better developed for the Blue Economy portion. The land degradation/LDN component, albeit smaller in terms of the overall project, is lacking in detail.</p> <p>Overall, the acknowledgement that Blue Economy stretches beyond the IW focal area and oceans and should incorporate land-based activities is positive. However, this is not reflected in systematic way throughout the project design.</p> <p>Reviewing lessons learned from prior analyses of LDN investments(e.g., Gnacadjia & Wiese, 2016, Gonzalez-Roglich et al., 2019, Chasek et al., 2019, Keesstra et al., 2018, etc.) can be helpful for development of this aspect.</p>	<p>The STAP comment is well noted. Efforts have been undertaken during the continued (participatory) design of the project to address this comment, e.g. in the development of Section I and the references to the ?3+1? ocean sustainability challenge of ?pollution, habitat degradation, overfishing and climate change?, and the multiple reference to the concepts of ridge-to-reef/source-to-sea and the clearly articulated aspiration for combined blue-green socio-economic development. It is to be noted however that only one country provided a STAR LD contribution to the project funding. For this country, the idea for a separate LD and IW demo has been modified into a proposal for an integrated, ridge-to-reef LD+IW demonstration, clearly in line with the proposal made by STAP. Lessons learned and best practices documented from this demo and shared through the project with both African SIDS participating countries and beyond will definitely be beneficial for a wider-ranging adoption of such integrated, multi-focal area approach to developing and supporting Blue-Green socio-economic development. For other participating countries, while possibilities for integrated R2R demonstration may definitely have been there, national stakeholder preferences and the need for choices</p>
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			<p>to be made in light of the limitations inherent to the size of the IW grant (considering the amount of participating countries), vis-a-vis the wider array of potential project investments in the BE, choices made during the PPG did not necessarily facilitate embracing the R2R or integrated LD+IW approach in the demo activities itself. However, concrete opportunities to further promote the integrated land and water/oceans management approach will definitely arise from the planned activities under Project Components 1 and 3 (as described in the Project Document).</p>
<p>2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects</p>	<p>Is the baseline identified clearly?</p>	<p>Ample information is provided on related projects in target SIDS.</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.</p>

Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?

Quantification depends upon comparative data on environmental and institutional trends which is not provided.

While the basis for comparative analysis may not have been fully integrated in the PIF or Project Document, more advanced baselines on a number of matters (e.g. the BE enabling framework) were developed during the PPG and will be further expanded and reported on during the project inception phase. METTs have also been added in annex to the project document. An inventory of relevant available reports and reference materials has also been made during the PPG and will also be further expanded during project implementation. This, in combination with the Results Framework and associated Monitoring Plan developed during the PPG, will provide an enhanced basis for quantifying the benefits delivered with the support of the African SIDS Project Investment.

Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?

Not yet.

The description of the project strategy has been revised/strengthened, further underpinning the alignment of the project with the GEF FA strategies and the associated incremental cost reasoning for the project.

The baseline has been substantially strengthened on many fronts during the PPG, as allowed by the available time and funds, and further enhancements of the baseline will continue to be pursued during the project inception phase, including with the assistance of the M&E expert and increased engagement with the many project countries and stakeholders facilitated by the availability of project staff.

For multiple focal area projects:

<p>are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators;</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>With the recommendations to avoid overly lengthy project documents, a combined approach has been used for African SIDS where part of the (rather wide range of) baseline information of relevance to the project and used in its design has been included directly in the Project Document and/or its Annexes, while references to a much more extensive set of relevant baseline and background information has been included in an online inventory of reports and documents that will continue to be consulted/used and further complemented during the project itself, and to which a hyperlink has been included in the Project Document.</p>
<p>are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and</p>	<p>Identification of lessons needs much additional effort.</p> <p>There is scope for harvesting lessons from prior GEF investment in SIDS, particularly with regard to integrated development policy. There is also a need to identify connections with parallel GEF programming, e.g., on biodiversity governance in Cabo Verde (10871) which includes a substantial section on blue economy initiatives.</p> <p>There are quite a few peer-reviewed evaluations and analyses of Blue Economy projects in SIDS. Some of these include: Hampton & Jeyacheya, 2020, Bakshi, 2019, Phelan et al., 2020,</p>	<p>A solid review of a large set of reports and materials relevant to the intervention areas and topics have been consulted and analyzed during the PPG and used to support the further development of the project. This is especially (but not only) reflected in the design of the proposed activities under the national demonstrations. In particular, and given the similarities between the problems and the development challenge between the African SIDS region and other GEF-supported regions such as the ?SIDS-rich? wider Caribbean (supported through e.g. the GEF CLME, CLME+</p>

	<p>how did these lessons inform the design of this project?</p>	<p>Unclear.</p>	<p>and recently GEF CEO endorsed PROCARIBE+ Projects), it has been possible to tap substantially into the large set of lessons learned and experiences from these projects, and consider and use these in the design of African SIDS. An expanded inventory of both past and parallel, or upcoming projects targeting the African SIDS countries has also been used to extract lessons learned, to avoid possible duplication of efforts, and to pursue complementarity and synergies. Several parallels that can be drawn between e.g. the African SIDS and PROCARIBE+ strategy and project structure/outputs illustrates how lessons learned from other GEF initiatives have allowed to shape and improve the African SIDS Proposal for stronger results.</p>
<p>3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project</p>	<p>What is the theory of change?</p>	<p>In general, the TOC is that having national BE and or LDN strategies in place combined with demonstration projects that can be scaled will result in sustainable blue economies in the target countries.</p>	<p>The TOC has been further improved during the PPG and looks at root causes and barriers, and determines how to remove/lift these through the proposed project strategy and structure, towards achieving its sustainable Blue(-Green) development and, where applicable, LND aspirations.</p>

<p>What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?</p>	<p>Strategies/plans/financing mechanisms + demonstration/pilots + information sharing and scaling = widespread adoption of sustainable blue economies in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS.</p> <p>Discussion of policy development and implementation is strikingly simplistic (ref Figure 2), with no reference to the political economy of policy reform and potential for conflict and trade offs.</p>	<p>In light of the improved baseline obtained during the PPG, which highlights distinct but differentiated advances in the development of B(G)E-supporting/enabling instruments across the different countries, the approach to Component 1 under AIO SIDS has been updated accordingly, also taking into account the comment from the STAP. The complexity of more holistically creating the required enabling environment has been embraced, including the need for enhanced inter-sectoral coordination. A further in-depth analysis of the national enabling frameworks, departing from the baseline inventory that was already partially advanced during the PPG (and described in the submission package) and including a SWOT analysis, is now included as one of the first activities to be implemented under Project Component 1, and is then to inform also more specific, further action under this Component. The TOC illustrates the interlinkages between root causes, required actions, project design/components and project objective.</p>
<p>What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?</p>		<p>In light of the improved baseline obtained during the PPG, which highlights distinct but differentiated advances in the development of B(G)E-supporting/enabling instruments across the different countries, the approach to Component 1 under AIO SIDS has been updated accordingly, also taking into account the comment from the STAP. The complexity of more holistically creating the required enabling environment has been embraced, including the need for enhanced inter-sectoral coordination. A further in-depth analysis of the national enabling frameworks, departing from the baseline inventory that was already partially advanced during the PPG (and described in the submission package) and including a SWOT analysis, is now included as one of the first activities to be implemented under Project Component 1, and is then to inform also more specific, further action under this Component. The TOC illustrates the interlinkages between root causes, required actions, project design/components and project objective.</p>
<p>Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?</p>	<p>No, not yet adequate.</p>	<p>Mechanisms of change successfully developed and adopted in the ?SIDS-rich? wider Caribbean region through the CLME, CLME+ and now also the more</p>

	<p>Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?</p>		<p>recently GEF CEO endorsed PROCARIBE+ Project have inspired the revision of the ToC and change mechanisms proposed for African SIDS. Due the similarities of the BE-related challenges and opportunities of both regions, the assumptions underlying the project strategy and pathways are largely shared between both regions.</p> <p>Underlying assumptions have been identified in association with the ToC.</p> <p>The project will adopt an adaptive approach to project management, inspired on the model and approach adopted for this purpose by the CLME and CLME+ Projects (and commended on in the independent GEF Terminal Evaluations), and further fine-tuned based on lessons learned also in the design of African SIDS ?sister? project in the wider Caribbean, PROCARIBE+. This approach will include the close monitoring of the continued validity of the assumptions underlying the ToC, in order to enable early preventive or mitigative action, whenever deemed beneficial or required.</p>
<p>5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co</p>	<p>GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?</p>		

financing	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	N/A	N/A
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<p>6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)</p>	<p>Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?</p>	<p>Yes, though with heavy emphasis on marine protected areas. The target indicated for land restored & under improved management (200 ha) is trivial ? not clear whether this is a mistake.</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. It is to be noted that the heavy emphasis on the marine environment (targetting not only MPA's but also sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development) is in part due to the fact that only 1 of the 7 participating countries committed a contribution from their STAR LD allocation to the Project. National stakeholder preferences expressed during the PPG often re-confirmed the priority attention to the marine environment/MPA's. The target indicated for land restored and under improved management in Sao Tom? and Principe has been doubled to 400 ha. It is to be noted in this context that part of the LD investment will go to creating the enabling governance environment as well as to capacity building, feasibility analyses and facilitating the exchange of lessons learned. As such, while the immediate shorter-term on-the-ground impact of this GEF LD intervention may thus be perceived, at first glance, as rather modest, it is to be considered that the longer-term impacts from the investments in enabling conditions, capacity building and global exchanges are likely to be much farther-reaching.</p>
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<p>Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?</p>	<p>The scale of this project is vast and varied and implausible for even a \$9 million GEF grant. However, co-financing is substantial and the project builds on past and ongoing activities in each of the target countries so it is likely that some progress will be made in advancing SBE.</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG. Efforts have been made during the PPG to enable substantive delivery by the project on SBE through enhancements to the project design.</p>
<p>Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.</p>
<p>Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The STAP comment is noted. No further response to the STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.</p>

What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?

The concept of systematic climate proofing all actions under this GEF investment was also introduced for the African SIDS sister project in the wider Caribbean, PROCARIBE+. The climate proofing approach for project investments, to be mainstreamed across all 3 African SIDS Project Components, departs from 2 basic questions: (1) How robust? is the solution/investment proposed by the project, in face of the uncertainties associated with the potential (future) manifestations of climate change in the area; (2) Will the proposed solution/investment contribute to enhanced resilience of the local socio-ecological system?

<p>7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up</p>	<p>Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?</p>	<p>There is reference to ?new and innovative models to advance protection and restoration of coastal, marine, and agricultural ecosystems while diversifying and sustaining economies? but inadequate information to suggest what this might entail, despite some examples such as promotion of organic production, aquaculture, or entrepreneurship.</p> <p>There is potential for innovative financing, for example, however at this point no details are provided. Dharmapuri Tirumala and Tiwari (2020), Christiansen (2021) and Whisnant and Vandeweerd (2019) amongst others propose and evaluate various financing mechanisms, including blended finance for Blue Economy projects; these and related studies merit review to identify lessons appropriate for the context of this project.</p>	<p>Specific interventions and expected contributions in these fields are now much more clearly described in the Project Document. With regard to innovative financing mechanism, the Project Document does not yet describe these, instead, actions under Component 1 will enable a better understanding, and subsequent prioritization of available options in support of their national BE economies. The comment with regard to the reference studies from which lessons can be extracted and used in the context of the project are noted, and corresponding action will be supported through the Project Activities under especially Project Component 1 and 3.</p>
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	<p>Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?</p>	<p>There is significant potential for scaling and knowledge exchange given the vast reach of this project and the fact that despite their differences, SIDS have many commonalities.</p>	<p>The vision on how this will be achieved is now described much more clearly under Component 3. To be noted also in this context is that engagement of and interactions with the wider global SIDS/B(G)E/R2R/LDN, beyond the 7 African SIDS participating countries -e.g. through collaborative actions with other GEF Projects such as IW:LEARN and PROCARIBE+ and the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge, to just name a few, will strongly strengthen and expand the potential of African SIDS in terms of contributions to innovation and scaling.</p>
	<p>Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?</p>		
<p>1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.</p>		<p>A map is provided.</p>	<p>Additional maps were collected and included in a corresponding Annex in the submission package during the PPG.</p>

<p>2. Stakeholders. Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: Indigenous people and local communities; Civil society organizations; Private sector entities. If none of the above, please explain why. 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.</p>	<p>Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</p>	<p>The engagement of stakeholders is mentioned throughout the PIF as essential and touches upon all of the relevant categories (government, NGO, local communities, private sector, etc.). However, the section on Stakeholders is very preliminary, describing initial consultations but no indication of anticipated roles.</p>	<p>A stakeholder plan has now been developed during the PPG to address this. Taking into account the limitations inherent to the PPG in light of the multitude of stakeholders and the complexity of this GEF intervention (7 participating countries, more specifically 7 SIDS including several LDC?s), this can not be consider a final document, and collaborative efforts with key project partners aimed at its further expansion and improvements during the project (especially but not only limited to the inception phase) will be pursued with the support of the 8 Implementing Partners (1 regional and 7 national).</p>
<p>3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender</p>	<p>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p>	<p>Adequate identification of how women bear the brunt of environmental degradation and yet lack the ability to reverse their situation due to financial constraints, decision making ability, rights, etc. A gender action plan will be developed during PPG phase. In undertaking this, it will be useful to consult analyses of prior efforts, e.g., Collantes et al., 2018 which analyzes combining gender equality and land degradation neutrality interventions.</p>	<p>The STAP comment was noted by the PPG team. The PPG team confirms that a gender action plan was developed and is part of the submission package for GEF endorsement. Additionally, gender has been highlighted as one of the cross-cutting considerations to be mainstreamed across all project outputs and activities. In the construction of the gender action plan, a wide array of prior analyses and planning efforts, lessons learned,.. were considered.</p>

<p>equality and women empowerment?</p> <p>Yes/no/tbd.</p> <p>If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision making; and/or economic benefits or services.</p> <p>Will the project's results framework or logical frameworks include gender sensitive indicators?</p> <p>yes/no/tbd</p>	<p>Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?</p>	<p>Yes. Gender action plan.</p>	
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<p>5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design</p>	<p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive?</p> <p>Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control</p> <p>Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?</p> <p>For climate risk, and climate resilience measures: ? How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately? ? Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? ? Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with? ? What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?</p>	<p>Identified risks are reasonable and most are outside of project control.</p> <p>Greater attention should be paid to risks relating to policy development and implementation, including recognition of potential conflicts and negative impacts. In the Blue Economy domain, see, for example, Bennett et al., 2019. (This is distinct from institutional conflicts at the landscape scale, which is also mentioned among risks.)</p> <p>Other supplementary tables on risk include additional detail that could usefully be integrated, including on private sector uptake.</p> <p>A separate Climate Risk Screening is provided as Annex 20 of the Prodoc.</p>	<p>The comment from the STAP is noted and will continue to be considered also during project implementation. The risk analysis has been expanded and improved during the PPG, inclusive through the work conducted under the Social and Environmental screening processes. The PPG definitely does not constitute the end point but rather the beginning to risk management, and a solid approach to risk identification, revision and updating is part of the UNOPS standardized project management approach. Capacity building for the national Implementing Partner will also address the issue of project risks, more specifically focussing on the implementation of the national demonstrations.</p>
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<p>6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives</p>	<p>Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?</p>	<p>Yes, some indications of this.</p>	<p>This has in particular been achieved through the extensive research behind the development of several of the national demonstration proposals. Also to be noted is that this activity does not need to end with the PPG, but the project's aim is for it to be continued throughout project implementation</p>
	<p>Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?</p>	<p>Not adequately reflected in the PIF.</p>	<p>Substantive efforts has gone into the recognition of previous, parallel and newly planned projects that are of relevance to African SIDS during the PPG phase. Building on best practice from African SIDS ?sister? PROCARIBE+ Project, the construction of a database has been initiated under the PPG to register relevant projects for this purpose. Lessons learned from CLME, CLME+ and PROCARIBE+, but also from many other projects and initiatives in the region, and as documented in a wide array of reports, assessments and guidance documents (captured in a reports & documents inventory available online and that will continue to be expanded and consulted during African SIDS) have strongly influenced the shaping of the current African SIDS proposal</p>
	<p>Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?</p>		

	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?		
	Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?		
8. Knowledge management. Outline the Knowledge Management Approach for the project, and how it will contribute to the project's overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?	Component 3 is dedicated to M&E, KM and upscaling. Products will be developed that stem from Components 1 (plans/strategies/financing) and Component 2 (demonstration projects) that will be shared via IW:Learn and elsewhere.	The STAP comment was noted by the PPG team. No further response to this STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?		The STAP comment was noted by the PPG team. No further response to this STAP comment/remedial action was needed during the PPG.

Consolidated comments from the GEF Council on project #10865 - Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African SIDS

Germany Comments

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but **asks that the following comments are taken into account: Suggestions for improvement:**

Component 1 with its focus on strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable Blue Economy is **lacking a focus on Sustainable Blue Economy**. For instance, the assessments of output 1 such as an analysis of potential new areas for blue investment with a high likelihood of success needs to include a focus on the sustainability and environmental impacts of such investments e.g. by applying the SBE Finance Principles. Also, the assessment of ecosystem services could be supplemented with a natural capital assessment for a more thorough stocktaking of impacts and dependencies of the blue economy sectors per country.

How the comment was addressed during the PPG:

The comment from the GEF Council is duly noted, and the potential for different interpretations as to what constitutes the Blue Economy among project stakeholders was indeed observed in certain interactions with national counterparts during the PPG - highlighting thus the high relevance and importance of this comment.

For this reason, among the multitude of actions taken to duly consider and address this comment during the PPG, we can refer to e.g.: (1) under its Section I the Project Document clarifies that the African SIDS Project is adopting the UNDP definition of the Blue Economy, which highlights the sustainability dimension as it states: *“the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving and restoring the health of ocean ecosystems?”*; an explicit reference to the SBE Finance Principles has also been included, and the (required) sustainability focus/element and the pursuit of “win-wins” (environmental, social - including gender, economic,..) to be obtained from the project’s investments in the Blue Economy are further consistently highlighted throughout the Project Document (including where it refers to the outputs and activities under Component 1); (2) also under Section I, the globally changing baseline vis-a-vis Natural Capital Accounting is highlighted (e.g. by referring to the adoption in March 2021 by the UN Statistical Commission of the “UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting” (SEEA EA)), and, e.g., training on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is specifically proposed as part of the prospective capacity building activities under Project Component 1; (3) the project strategy departs from the “SDG Wedding Cake” - a alternative representation of the sustainable development goals which illustrates how protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the biosphere (and thus the oceans) will underpin the achievement of Society’s social and economic aspirations; (4) e.g., in the case of one demonstration activity proposed by the national government, where a more traditional and more narrowly-economic approach to shrimp aquaculture was initially brought forward as the initially considered national demonstration, specific training and capacity building on the concept of the sustainable blue economy and on the mainstreaming of environmental considerations in economic proposal development have now been included as part of the project activities, to be used then for the further fine-tuning of the national proposal during the project inception phase.

“Output 2 of component 1 needs to **ensure coherence between national policies and actual needs and priorities on the ground? or the local level.** While the planning process is already intended to be consultative and participatory, this must include local voices.

How the comment was addressed during the PPG:

The comment from the GEF Council is duly noted. By expansion, we would even wish to add that challenges relative to national policy development and priority-setting are not limited to the (acknowledged as: critical) issue of (absence of adequate) local stakeholder participation, but also relative to a lack of, or insufficient inter-sectoral coordination. The African SIDS Project Document recognizes these issues under the description of root causes and barriers in Section I, and in the proposed Project Theory of Change. The Project further embraces the concept of interactive (ocean) governance, referring to the (need to increase/promote) “a wider range of interactions among all societal sectors, to resolve (ocean-related) problems and to create (ocean-based) societal opportunities”.

Much more specifically and with regard to this comment, a first activity under the African SIDS Project Component 1 will consist of a more in-depth SWOT analysis of the existing Blue(-Green) Economy instruments and of the remaining gaps, this as to then inform and guide *-using a participatory approach to ensure full buy-in and ownership-* further work on the development of the B(G)E enabling governance framework to be conducted with the support of the African SIDS Project (*note: possible constraints due to the budget available for the outputs under this Component are to be taken into account; synergies and complementarity with parallel initiatives/projects to be sought*).

“While it is welcome to adjust outputs per SIDS to current needs and local conditions, the **current phrasing of component two with its focus on “demonstration projects” is unclear and vague. The component appears as an aggregation of very different measures. It should be considered that progress within each measure per country will be so different that a comparison or an overall learning cannot be achieved.**

How the comment was addressed during the PPG:

The observation from the GEF council is duly noted. However, it is to be indicated that the mentioned national-level adjustments, differing priorities and/or differences in the specific topics chosen for the national demo? does not need to hamper, but will instead be expected to broaden the scope of the overall learning to be achieved through African SIDS: notwithstanding the fact that different demonstration topics/themes may have been chosen in different African SIDS participating countries, in many cases these topics/themes will still be of interest to the other participating African SIDS countries, and/or to other neighboring countries or the global SIDS communities. Likewise, experiences may already exist on the chosen topics in other SIDS/neighboring countries, thus offering the opportunity for this wider knowledge base to be tapped into (e.g. through the proposed wider-ranging south-south and triangular cooperation/learning exchange activities), and integrated in the different African SIDS Project Activities. Meaningful comparisons that could further stimulate enhanced knowledge and the development of better/identification of best practices does thus not need to be constrained by the limited membership of the African African SIDS community itself, and the differences in the chosen topics/focus of the African SIDS national demonstrations.

The potential for enhanced learning, and strong attention to the exchange of experiences, both within the African SIDS set of countries as well as beyond, has now been more clearly articulated in the fully developed African SIDS Project. Complementary and mutually supportive actions across the 3 main Project Components, will further contribute to maximize the associated return-on-investment from this project, despite the obvious constraints imposed by the limited project timeline.

? Plans to strengthen resilience should not only contribute to green but also specifically blue recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. Particularly SIDS with their high dependence on tourism should tackle strategies to diversify their blue economy.

How the comment was addressed during the PPG:

The above comment from the GEF Council has been duly considered during the further design and development of the Project, and will continue to be considered and acted upon during implementation, including in the context of the national Blue Economy (and ridge-to-reef) demonstrations and the global and intra- African SIDS exchanges on innovation, best practices and lessons learned. To just cite one concrete example: where other parallel projects targeting the recently created Mitsamiouli-Ndrou? National Park (MPA) in Comoros will mainly or exclusively focus on ecotourism to support local livelihoods, African SIDS will look, together with the local communities and national/global experts, into complementary development alternatives to avoid a too strong dependence on a single sector. Application of the proposed ?climate proofing? to all African SIDS actions will depart from the following 2 basic questions: 1. is the proposed African SIDS solution/invest ?robust?, in face of the uncertainties associated with the future manifestations of climate variability and change (note: *and this concept can equally be extended and applied to other potential external shocks*); and 2. will the proposed African SIDS solution/investment contribute to the enhanced resilience of the targeted socio-ecological system (note: *idem dito*).

GEF SEC comments (on the CEO ER ?April 203-February 2024; March 2024, April 2024)

Comment	Response/comment/observation	Reference in the CEO ER

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

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<p>I See comment below on needing further elaboration on how the LD focal area STAR investment in Sao Tome and Principe is aligned with national priorities and contributes to the implementation of UNCCD agenda</p>	<p>How the LD focal area STAR investment in Sao Tome and Principe is aligned with national priorities and contributes to the implementation of UNCCD agenda has been further elaborated under Baseline Scenario section (see last paragraph on page 27 and 4 first paragraphs on page 28 of the CEO ER). Also more details on land degradation especially in Sao Tome and Principe have been added under section 1a. Project Description, the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (See the before last paragraph on page 10, second and third paragraphs on page 13 and fifth and sixth paragraphs on page 16 of the CEO ER).</p>	<p>Pages 27,28,13,16</p>
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<p>The duration of the project seems to be 51 months instead of 42. Please request the agency to review and correct where necessary</p>	<p>Duration of the project has been updated to 42 months across the documents.</p> <p> </p>	<p> </p>
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2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

<p>No. Overall the project design needs significant work. There are too many proposed assessments, SWOTs, inventories, etc. This suggests very little stakeholder engagement was conducted during project development to articulate all these national and regional baselines. The project design also lacks a compelling regional element to align with IW. Lastly, the narrative incorrectly makes many references to limited GEF resources, but the project amount has been known since PIF approval and should no longer be a surprise nor a factor for full project design. Please note of the below:</p>	<p>The overall project design has been updated based on the latest consultations with national and regional stakeholders ? this exercise also ensured the updating of the baseline. Activities in Output 1.1 have been updated: Activity 1.1.1 to focus on harmonisation of data collection, analysis and reporting; also, a clear focus on private sector engagement and LDN target implementation in Sao Tome and Principe. With regards to the regional element ? the link between the SIDS blue economy and other regional efforts has been explained in Section 1.a Project Description, 1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed showing how the proposed project is coming into address transboundary problems identified in the LMEs. Furthermore, in analysing the regional baseline ? the work carried out under the Conventions managing the LMEs links have been made as to how the project will build on this work ? the Regional Seas Programme, Nairobi Convention and Abidjan Convention have been identified as partnerships that need to be strengthened to work with the SIDS and follow-up on transboundary issues identified in the LMEs. In terms of strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration for SIDS at the continental level AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and AfCTA has been elaborated (see pages 9-10 of the CEO ER), and new text has been added to provide the context of working with AUDA-NEPAD. Activities have also been included in Component 1 on working with the AUC to strengthen policy advice and domestication of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy. References on GEF resources have been updated ? and project is designed according to approved funding (see details under the multi year work plan in the CEO ER).</p>	<p> </p>
<p>1) The project objective states, "... support the development... in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS through improved governance..." - Governance of what? Please revise objective to provide a more tangible objective. Also note the objective in Table B differs from the longer project objective listed in the narrative.</p>	<p>The project objective has been updated under Table B. Project Description Summary of the CEO ER (see page 2)? to make it tangible and has been made consistent in all Sections</p>	<p>Page 2</p>

<p>2) In Table B of the Portal, the components are out of order. Why is Component 2 presented before Component 1?</p>	<p>Noted ? Corrected in Portal</p>	
<p>3) It is unclear how the national pilots identified in each country map back to Component 1. Only three countries are noted as the target of the Outputs in Component 1, so it is impossible to know exactly how each national pilot is furthering the evidence-based instruments noted in Component 1. Can the countries not already be identified in Component 1? How come all seven targeted countries are not identified in the outputs for Component 1?</p> <p>3) Please remove references to a "GEF-imposed cap on project management costs" throughout the text.</p>	<p>The link between Component 1 and 2 ? the country development/updating of baselines and instruments will be linked to supporting the pilot projects in Component II. The proposed activities under output 1.1 are supporting the implementation of the Component 2 pilots through strengthening intersectoral coordination and building capacity. Component 3 ? will drive the regional knowledge sharing and learning. With regards, to Component 1 the project has now been redesigned to cover all 6 African SIDS (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	
<p>4) The rationale for Output 1.2 suggests this output was not developed based on stakeholder consultations but rather on an assumption it was an issue and that NICs have "... been a frequent action point for many GEF-funded IW projects for well over a decade...". Please provide evidence based on stakeholder consultations specific to this project that this output is appropriate in this context. This is not to say that NICs are not important, but rather this is to ensure that stakeholders have identified the need. Further, Activity 2 discusses "Engagement of the NICs" but the project also specifically states it will not use funds to create or operate NICs. This suggests an assumption that countries will successfully create and operate NICs on their own during the life of the project. What happens of this assumption proves false during implementation?</p>	<p>Output 1.2 on intersectoral coordination has been clarified and builds directly on the national baseline assessments carried out for each country linked to implementation of Output 1.1 and Component 2. The assessment also builds on the consultations that have been done to update the project design see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	

<p>5) The narrative in the Portal for Output 1.3 is blank. How is Activity 2 on SWOT on financing different than the SWOT in Activity 1 from Output 1.1? Why can't financing be part of the assessment done in Output 1.1?</p>	<p>Activities on financing mechanisms have been clarified ? to show the need of conducting a feasibility study on innovative mechanisms under Activity 1.3.2 in the countries (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan). The information also added in the Portal.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>6) On Output 1.4, it's unclear why an "inventory" of capacity development needs again differs from the SWOT activities also in this component? Please explain how assessing capacity to develop/implement BE strategies is not part of the two other proposed national BE assessments that are being proposed? How will this output build on capacity building support to SIDS in the current phase of GEF IW:LEARN as well as the GEF-8 Blue and Green Islands IP, not to mention other global SIDS capacity building efforts?</p>	<p>1) Output 1.4 on capacity development ? has been redesigned to link it better to Output 1.1, 1.2. To ensure output 1.3 builds on other on-going capacity building initiatives Activity 1.4.3 has been designed to link to other capacity building initiatives such as IW:LEARN and other GEF IPs and projects (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	<p> </p>
<p>7) Component 2 is presented as operating almost entirely as independent national projects, with several of the national activities suggesting national BE assessments or capacity building that overlaps with what is proposed in Component 1. There needs to be a more closer integration of the proposed activities in Component 1 with the national pilots in Component 2. Further, as a regional IW project, what are the mechanisms to facilitate coordination among national pilots since Component 3 is capturing knowledge/experiences and not on institutional coordination/cooperation. Why are existing regional entities tasked with this not part of the project?</p>	<p>2) Link between Component 1 and 2 ? has now been elaborated in the activities as explained in point 3 above. Institutional mechanisms to support knowledge management and learning have been identified ? partners have been identified under Output 3.3 (IW:LEARN, AUC Blue Economy Division, AUDA-NEPAD) to provide the institutional mechanism to drive knowledge management (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	<p> </p>

<p>8) It appears Output 3.2 is simply developing and disseminating communication products for UNDP. What specific mechanisms will actually scale up any innovations that may be presented to participating SIDS? How does this align with the private sector activities in Component 1?</p>	<p>3) Output 3.2 has now identified specific mechanisms that will scale up innovations that may be presented to participating SIDS ? work done through WIOMSA, the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, IW:LEARN SIDS Platform, AUC Blue Economy Division ? are the candidate initiatives that will be engaged (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	
<p>9) For Output 3.3, again how is doing an inventory of existing BE exchange networks and SWOT different than the other assessments, inventories, and similar terms all being proposed in this project? Please explain why this is not part of these other proposed activities and must be uniquely separate under another output?</p>	<p>Output 3.3 has been redesigned to focus on development of a information system working closely with identified networks and African SIDS this will be done in collaboration with IW:LEARN. Key in Output 3.3 is that there is a consolidated repository of knowledge that the SIDS can access working with identified information exchange networks (see details under the alternative scenario section and the multi year work plan).</p>	
<p>10) There seems to be differences between the total amounts for the components provided in Portal Table B vs. those in the budget table in Annex E. Please request the agency to review and correct where necessary.</p>	<p>Budget amounts updated in the Portal.</p>	
<p>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?</p>		
<p>1) Biosfera (Cabo Verde) and Lantuna CoFi letters are in EUR. Please provide the exchange rate used below Table C.</p>	<p>The Exchange rate used added below Table C</p>	<p>Page 46</p>
<p>2) In Table C, Comoros Minist?re de l'Agriculture, de la P?che, de l'Environnement, du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat lists \$2,100,000 as in-kind but the letter states this is grant. Please revise.</p>	<p>In Table C, the type of co-financing of Comoros Minist?re de l'Agriculture, de la P?che, de l'Environnement, du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat has been changed from in-kind grant</p>	

<p>3) All the co-financing has been categorized as Investment mobilized. Please note that, in general, in-kind co-financing is categorized as ?recurrent expenditures?. Please request the agency to review all and correct where necessary.</p>	<p>Correction made: in-kind co-financing is now categorized as ?recurrent expenditures?</p>	<p> </p>
<p>4) Some co-financing letters (Oiko, BioGuinea) do not provide information on the type of co-financing. It mentions to which components it will contribute but not in which form (Grant, in kind, loan, etc?). Please request the agency to get confirmation from the co-financier on how this co-financing will materialize.</p>	<p>The letters of Oiko and BioGuinea indicates that co-financing is grant.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>5) The co-financing from governmental entities should be categorizes as "Recipient Country Government" (several are currently listed as "Other"). The source of co-financing from WFP should be categorized as from "Other" to "Donor Agency".</p>	<p>The Government co-financiers are now categorized as "Recipient Country Government" and the source of co-financing from WFP is now categorized as "Donor Agency".</p>	<p> </p>
<p>6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?</p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request</p>		<p> </p>
<p>1) Please add table to Annex C in Portal and not just refer to other parts of document.</p>	<p>Table has been added to Annex C in Portal.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>2) The PPG table needs to include much more detail per line item. For example, how many and what was role of each consultant or workshops? Please update all rows with additional detail.</p>	<p>The PPG table has been updated to include much more detail per line item.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?</p>		<p> </p>

<p>This section is incomplete. The Portal Core Indicator table and the submitted CER document do not match. For example, in Indicator 2 on MPAs, the Portal shows no values at CEO Endorsement while the uploaded CER shows 112,025 (million) ha. It is also unclear if this value of 112,025 (million) ha is indeed presented in million ha or is 112,025 ha. Likewise for Indicator 3, 4, and 11. Indicator 5 and 8 are shown in the Portal but not in the uploaded CER. More comments may follow after this is addressed and it is clear what the Core Indicator Targets will be at CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>The Agency needs to make sure data on Core Indicators internally consistent across the Core Indicators section in the Portal, their justification in the template, the Annexed Results Framework and the separate uploaded Core Indicator sheet. There are currently gaps in the data entered on Core Indicators through the Portal compared to other references.</p>	<p>Data in the Portal Core Indicator table and the submitted CER document have been adjusted to match. (million) has been removed. Figures under Indicator 5 and 8 have been removed in the Portal. Core indicators have been updated across the documents.</p>	
<p>Part II ? Project Justification</p> <p>1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?</p>		
<p>Partly. The text presenting threats, root causes, and barriers lacks references that demonstrate how AIO SIDS have identified what is listed. For example, what is the evidence that an absence of trust is a barrier for AIO SIDS? Please include references to backup the identified threats, root causes, and barriers. What is currently presented is highly generalized</p>	<p>The barriers have been updated with references included to better articulate the root causes and barriers starting with the root causes. All root causes have now been referenced appropriately to make issues more specific to the African SIDS and also building on LMEs issues identified. The barriers have been refined to provide more clarity on the issues on the ground (see pages 13-16 of the CEO ER).</p>	
<p>2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?</p>		

<p>Partly. The baseline scenario in each country on existing BE plans - and also existing regional SIDS efforts, is weak. The Table 5 is largely empty and where there is text, it's largely hyperlinks. Table 6 is just a list of mainly GEF projects and their objectives. There is no assessment of LD related efforts. The national baselines do not reflect the long list of cofinancing partners (following GEF incremental reasoning). Please revise this section to integrate all this information into a regional and then national set of coherent and project-related baselines that highlight the planned activities during the project's duration which are aligned with the cofinancing partners that are identified in Table C.</p>	<p>The baseline has been updated including the regional and national analysis. The following aspects of the Blue Economy (i) BE Policy/Law(s) (ii) BE Action and/or Investment Plans (iii) the institutional framework and status of national intersectoral ocean coordination mechanisms (iv) Blue Economy Scoping Assessments (v) blue economy financing instruments (vi) Natural Capital Accounting/ Ecosystem Services Assessment (vii) Status of Marine Environment Reporting (viii) Marine Spatial Planning (ix) programmes/initiatives have been used to assess the National Baseline for each country. The identified co-financing partners and projects have been highlighted in the baseline now. LD efforts have also be assessed especially for Sao Tome and Principe and added under the baseline scenario. The regional and national baseline are covered on page 16-25 of the CEO ER.</p>	<p>Pages 16-25</p>
<p>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?</p>		
<p>See Comment #2 on Table B above.</p>	<p>The alternative scenario section has been revised to provide more details on the strategy, theory of change and the project components, outcomes and outputs have been updated and presented to better articulate the project description and the achievements planned (see pages 26-42 of the CEO ER).</p>	
<p>4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?</p>		
<p>No. See above comment on elaboration of baseline scenario and associated baseline projects.</p>	<p>These sections have been refined to show how the baseline investment and co-financing are critical to the project as explained above.</p>	
<p>Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?</p>		

<p>No. See above comments on lack of consistency on GEF Core Indicators, which persists in this section here. Several Core Indicators mentioned lack numerical values and others are widely different than what is in Core Indicator Table (e.g. narrative stating 323,733 beneficiaries for Core Indicator 11 versus 23,178 in the Table).</p>	<p>Necessary adjustments have been made in the Portal</p>	
<p>Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?</p>		
<p>No. Please provide coordinates for each national pilot. If unknown, provide coordinates for the country.</p>	<p>A table has been added with all the coordinates as requested.</p>	
<p>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?</p>		
<p>1) A dedicated Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan was developed (Annex 9). This annex suggests that national stakeholders were consulted, but it is unclear which, if any, regional organizations or specific other groups were consulted even though the document states that more than 24 bilateral consultations were held. Please include a table of ALL stakeholders that were engaged, including who, date, type of engagement, number of participants, and the outcome of the discussion.</p>	<p>Table of the stakeholder consultations conducted and the outcome of the consultations has been added in Annex 9 (see pages 27-35 of Annex 9). Annex 9 has been indicated in the ProDoc as a separate document and it is now uploaded in the Portal. A table of all the stakeholders that were consulted is already under annex 9 and has been added in the main Portal CEO Endorsement (and in documents) under the stakeholder engagement section (see CEO ER pages 52-60).</p>	
<p>2) Please select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: in portal section on stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>The stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase have been selected in portal section on stakeholder engagement.</p>	
<p>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?</p>		

<p>1)A Gender Analysis and Action Plan is included (Annex 11). The Action Plan states gender will be a integrated into project activities, but in the narrative of the project description gender is only mentioned in two national pilots in Component 2. The Action plan also highlights promoting gender equality in the Project Coordination and Management Unit but nothing is mentioned about this in the description in the Institutional Arrangements section.</p> <p>2)The Agency is also requested to specifically mention in the section on Project description summary, specific entry points for gender-responsive interventions, in particular, in the following outputs 1.4, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.</p>	<p>Gender equality and social inclusion issues have been integrated into all the Components of the project activities ? and this is also reflected in the monitoring plan. The PMU has a Gender Expert that will support on gender mainstreaming under all project activities</p>	
<p>If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?</p>		
<p>No. Given the focus on blue economy, the private sector should be a key player. There is limited information on engagement with private sector actors/industry. The provided information is too general. As noted in the stakeholder engagement comments, please identify which, if any, private sector entities that were consulted during the project development. Why is UNDP's Ocean Innovation initiative not featured here given it's role in promoting ocean startups? Please revise this section to better reflect the specific actors and sectors that will be the focus of the project.</p>	<p>One of the key barriers identified is the lack of business models for public and private sector participation ? and this builds on the national baseline that has now been strengthened. Component 1 has been updated Activity 1.1.1 will also focus on strengthening private sector engagement in the updating/development of the instruments. Activities under Output 1.2 will promote private sector engagement in intersectoral platforms that will be supporting implementation of BE. In Output 1.3 the feasibility study for innovative mechanisms will also analyse the involvement of private sector. Component 2 pilot projects will be designed to test business models that will engage and involve private sector. Private sector engagement has also been elaborated (see pages 56-58 of the CEO ER).</p>	<p>Pages 56-58</p>
<p>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?</p>		

<p>Yes. However, please add the risk highlighted by the Stakeholder Analysis that stresses the importance of continued stakeholder engagement given the complications/challenges of the multi-country nature of the project.</p>	<p>Noted ? risk has been added (See risk 23 under the risks table on page 78)</p>	
<p>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?</p>		
<p>1) It is noted that letters of support have been emailed by UNDP for UNDP country offices to support execution in San Tome and Principal and Comoros. Please upload these letters to the Portal. The GEF policy on such requests requires that ALL countries provide letters of support for the role of the GEF Implementing Agency providing executing services, not just the countries where the support is being provided. Please provided the additional letters from the other countries so this request can be considered. It is suggested that a standard letter us used for all countries that includes a table of all the countries where UNDP is proposing to provide executing support. Lastly, it is noted in the text that UNDP Maldives will operate under a DIM model and in the budget UNDP Maldives is receiving funding to execute parts of the project, so why is it not included in the list of countries requesting GEF Implementing Agency to provide executing services?</p>	<p>1) The Project Execution will now be supported by Global Water Partnership ? Southern Africa and this has been reflected in the project management structure. The Maldives component is no longer part of the project.</p>	

<p>2) It is noted that UNOPS states, "...UNOPS does not control the management, planning and progress of activities, the management of associated budgets, nor the quality of the national outputs to be delivered by the national IP?s, nor their rules, regulations or procedures, UNOPS shall not be held accountable, or otherwise carry any liability, for the performance of tasks and the delivery of the corresponding project outputs by national IP?s (including the responsible parties they select/engage), which remain the responsibility of the relevant national IP." Please add a sentence after this stating UNDP's responsibility on these issues.</p>	<p>GWP-SA will support the national execution working with national Nesponsible Parties. Details are under the Institutional Arrangement and Coordination section (pages 82-87)</p>	
<p>3) Figure 7 (project governance arrangements) does not show in the Portal. Please upload again.</p>	<p>Figure 2 (project governance arrangements) uploaded in the Portal</p>	
<p>4) Please upload Annex 8 to the Portal.</p>	<p>Annex 8 providing an overview of project staff and consultancies uploaded in the Portal</p>	
<p>5) The role and justification for a deputy Project Manager is unclear. Given the many references to the limited funds available for this project, this position seems unnecessary given the TOR of the PM and the LTA.</p>	<p>The deputy Project Manager post has been removed</p>	
<p>Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?</p>		
<p>No. Please address the following: 1) Currently all that is provided is a generic table (Table 12) (also incorrectly referred to as Table 3 immediately above it) that lists "some of those most relevant" multi-lateral agreements. Consistency with national priorities should be articulated for each country and specific to this project, not just a general list.</p>	<p>1) A section on "Consistency with global, regional and national priorities" has now been revised to include international MEAs, regional baseline and national baseline (which articulate the national priorities). The Table has been removed (pages 87-95 of the CEO ER).</p>	

<p>2) Further elaboration is needed on how the LD focal area STAR investment in Sao Tome and Principe is aligned with national priorities and contributes to the implementation of UNCCD agenda.</p>	<p>The LDFA STAR investments has now been elaborated for Sao Tome and Principe under this section as well.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?</p> <p> </p>		
<p>No. Please address the following:</p> <p>1) The section is poorly written with redundant paragraphs referring to an information exchange network for AIO SIDS. Given UNDP is also co-implementing IW:LEARN, please explain in the project how the KM activities here will complement and not overlap wiht the SIDS component of the phase of IW:LEARN that is just starting.</p>	<p>1) The KM section has been updated ? and the link to the IW:LEARN African SIDS page also coordination will be done to link to the Marine Hub ? this will ensure that the project feeds into the IW:LEARN website without creating another platform.</p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p>	<p> </p>
<p>2) A KM Work Plan is provided. However, in Output 3.1 it mentions a project website but no activity nor deliverable date is provided</p>	<p>Under Output 3.1 ? the development of a project website is aligned to feeding into the IW:LEARN so coordination with their Coordination Team in UNESCO will be facilitated</p>	<p> </p>
<p>3) Please also explain the difference between lower case and upper case "A" in the table</p>	<p>2) Addressed - The lower case and upper case ?A?s? have been removed from the Multi-Year workplan in Annex 3</p> <p> </p>	<p> </p>
<p>4) Please justify the differences between Activity 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.3.3 proposing to conduct more respective inventories, inventories, and SWOT.</p>	<p>3) Activities 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.3.3 have been updated to facilitate the development of a information system to address the needs for the SIDS to implement the African BE Strategy ? this will be facilitated working with AUDA-NEPAD and AUC</p> <p> </p>	<p> </p>

<p>5) Please justify the differences between Activity 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 that, respectively, propose "Development of a blueprint" and "Support... for the development/enhancement... of the proposed blueprint."</p>	<p>Activities under Output 3.3 now reflects identifying information exchange networks and building an information system that will assist the SIDS. The deployment will focus on strategic elements that will ensure capacity is built in using the system and institutionalization with national institutions</p>	<p> </p>
<p>6) The agency should include a communications plan/strategy and clarify the timeline for activities associated with the project's participation in IW:Learn (activities 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3). The KM section should also include a simple summary table showing the breakdown of the budget allocated to knowledge, learning and communications related activities/deliverables mentioned in Component 3 as well as in other components.</p>	<p>The development and implementation of the Communication Strategy and Plan has been included under Activity 3.1.6</p>	<p> </p>
<p>Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</p>		
<p>A SESP has been provided that has categorized the project as "Substantial". Please provide the following:</p> <p>1) In the CER text, please provide a brief explanation of the requirements of the SES that are triggered (per the ESSS Supporting Document Question 5).</p>	<p>Added.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>2) In the ESSS Supporting Document, it notes that the ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework) is completed. Please upload this document to the Portal.</p>	<p>The ESMF is now uploaded in the Portal</p>	<p> </p>
<p>3) Lastly, please provide additional justification in the Agency response to the following statement made in the ESSS Supporting Document, "Indigenous Peoples are not present in any of the AIO SIDS."</p>	<p>All project demonstration sites have been identified. National stakeholders and available online reports show that there are no Indigenous Peoples present (See Annex 24 for details on the national project sites).</p>	<p> </p>
<p>Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</p> <p> </p>		

<p>No. Please address the following:</p> <p>1) It appears the Project Results Framework (RF) has been included here. Please move this to the Annex per the CER template. The Project M&E Plan should focus on the mechanisms and processes for project monitoring and evaluation, such as the PIR, MTR, and TE. The RF should be incorporated into these project M&E tools.</p>	<p>Project Results Framework (RF) has been included now as Annex A.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>2) Please ensure the M&E budget in the table presented in this the M&E section is consistent with Table B (Component 4) and the budget.</p>	<p>M&E budget in the table presented in this the M&E section is consistent with Table B (Component 4) and the budget. The figures under the M&E Budget table under the M&E Section has been adjusted to match the figure under Component 4 M&E total in table B. See Page 130 of the CEO ER.</p>	<p> </p>
<p>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?</p>		
<p>No. This section currently lists five bullet points. This section needs to be revised to present a coherent narrative that discusses the project benefits to all seven participating countries.</p>	<p>The section on benefits has been rewritten from Paragraph 119 ? it now provides a clear overview of the benefits (page 116 of CEO ER).</p>	<p> </p>
<p>Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?</p>		

<p>No. Please upload all annexes to the Portal, not just a reference them in other documents. Please also address the following specific issues:</p> <p>Annex A (Results Framework): See comments below.</p> <p>Annex B (Response to Reviews): In the Portal, please organize this into a table format so it is readable. It is noted that many of the comments provided by STAP and GEF Council are also reflected in the above GEF review (need to improve national baselines, . Please be sure to update the</p> <p>Annex C (PPG): See PPG comment above regarding the need for more detail.</p> <p>Annex D (Map): See comments below.</p> <p>Annex E (Budget):</p> <p>1) The GEF budget is incomprehensible. For example, it is unclear if cell B43 under International Consultants lists the costs for just a communication specialist or also a number of other staff described in the cell with other costs. Each of these staffing (and all costs) should be their own row in the budget. Please revise accordingly to allow a proper initial review of the budget.</p>	<p>Budget has been reworked and project breakdowns have been made clearer for all outputs and activities. All annexes are now uploaded to the main Portal CEO Endorsement page</p>	
<p>2) All costs related to audits must be charged to the PMC. Please request the agency to review.</p>	<p>Corrected</p>	
<p>3) Several positions (technical advisor, technical coordinator, operations support manager) are being charged across components and PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. Please request the agency to review.</p>	<p>The budget has been revamped ? and breakdowns have been made clearer. Project management costs are covered under PMC.</p> <p>- The budget table in excel format is now uploaded in the Document section of the Portal.</p> <p>- Details have been added under the budget notes in the TBWP and Annex 7: Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies in the Prodoc to show% of technical responsibilities and % of Project Management Functions of PMU staff.</p>	

Project Results Framework		
<p>The sub-indicators 2.2 is incorrectly within Core Indicator 3. The aggregate vales of sub-indicator 4.1 and 4.2 do not add up to the combined value - which is different than the values presented in the main Core Indicator table. Likewise the total value for Core Indicator 11 is different in the Portal. Lastly, it is unclear how the project level Outcome Indicators will feed up into the GEF project core indicators. For example, how will the number of land and marine hectares be measured? Likewise, the beneficiary indicators at the project outcome level are % woman (which is important) but in isolation, will not provide a total measure of people supported by to project per Core Indicator 11.</p>	<p>The information has been provided. The Core Indicator Worksheet and the indicators across the documents have been updated and new text added under the RF to show how indicators under Outcomes contribute to Core Indicators. See pages 4-5; pages 132-136; and pages 186-188 of the CEO ER.</p>	

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date (by end of February 2023)</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International Consultants	144,615	130,622	18,704
Regional Coordinator	111,245	97,252	18,704
Technical Specialist	28,779	28,779	0
Financial/Partnership Officer	4,591	4,591	0
Local Consultants	25,140	19,151	6,278
Social & Environmental Safeguards Specialist	15,139	15,139	0
Gender Specialist	10,001	4,012	6,278
Travel	5,000	0	0
Supplies	1,000	0	1,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	11,480	7,155	4,325
Operational and office cost	11,480	7,155	4,325
Trainings, workshops	12,765	12,765	0
Support to national demos preparation workshops and multi-country offices meetings	12,765	12,765	0
<u>TOTAL</u>	200,000	169,693	30,307

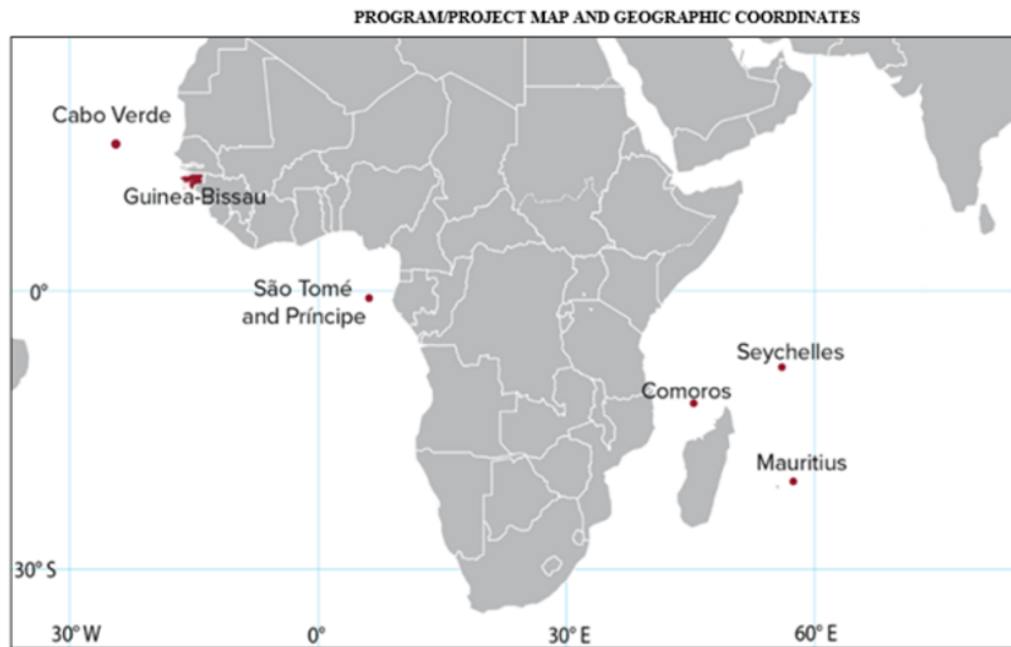
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

TABLE 8: AFRICAN SIDS PROJECT COORDINATES

Country	African SIDS Project Coordinates	Coordinates (DMS)
Cabo Verde	Baia do Inferno and Monte Angra Natural Park	15° 1' 26.632" N, 23° 43' 22.661" W
Comoros	Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park	11°23'19.18"S43°21'42.30"E
Guinea Bissau	Cacheu River Tarrafes Natural Park	12° 16' 22.711" N, 16° 10' 0.681" W
Mauritius	Mauritius	-20° 26' 40.763" S, 57° 42' 35.362" E
Sao Tome & Principe	Sao Tome & Principe	1° 20' 31" N, 7° 17' 32" E
Seychelles	Seychelles	-4° 16' 55.127" S, 55° 43' 33.172" E

Project map and Geospatial Coordinates of project sites



Geo-referenced map of participating Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS

FIGURE 3: MAP OF PROJECT INTERVENTION SITE SHOWING THE 6 PARTICIPATING AFR

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the [GeoNames? geographical database](#) containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#).

Location Name Latitude Longitude Geo Name ID Location & Activity Description

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	[Executing Entity]
		Component 1 Output 1	Component 2 Output 2	Component 3 Output 3	M&E	Sub-Total	PMC		
Contractual services-Company	Contract for development and updating of National BE Supporting/Enabling Instruments (Output 1.1)Contract/grant for development of Private Sector Frameworks for the E (Output 1.1)Contract/grant for development of capacity building/training activities for African SIDS stakeholders	512,619.00					512,619.00	512,619.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Company	Contract for the Collection and online storage, publication and dissemination of (multi-lingual) written and audiovisual materials documenting success stories under Outputs 3.1. and 3.2. Contract for the development of a framework (working with AUC) that will address the information needs of (African) SIDS in the context of sustainable ocean management (Output 3.3)			139,536.00			139,536.00	139,536.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Company	Contractual Services - Companies to support output 2.1-2.6		1,833,854.00				1,833,854.00	1,833,854.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Admin and Logistics Officer (50% time allocation)						49,665.00	49,665.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Communications And Km Officer (PMU) to support the development of knowledge management outputs under Output 1.1,1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (19% time allocation)	15,983.00					15,983.00	15,983.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Communications And Km Officer (PMU) to support the development of knowledge management outputs under Output 3.1-3.3 (62% time allocation)			54,210.00			54,210.00	54,210.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Communications And Km Officer (PMU) to support the development of knowledge management outputs under Outputs 2.1-2.6 (19% time allocation)		15,983.00				15,983.00	15,983.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Cape Verde		75,600.00				75,600.00	75,600.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Comoros		72,000.00				72,000.00	72,000.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Guinea-Bissau		75,600.00				75,600.00	75,600.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Mauritius		96,000.00				96,000.00	96,000.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Sao Tome and Principe		285,825.00				285,825.00	285,825.00	Global Water Pa

Contractual services-Individual	Contractual Services - Imp Part Seychelles			75,600.00			75,600.00		75,600.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Finance Officer (25% time allocation)						-	32,400.00	32,400.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Finance Specialist (GWPSA) (23% time allocation)						-	90,000.00	90,000.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Finance Specialist (GWPSA) to support project management capacity building under Output 1.4 (6% time allocation)	25,000.00					25,000.00		25,000.00	UNDP
Contractual services-Individual	Finance Specialist (GWPSA) under 2.1-2.6 (6% time allocation)			25,000.00			25,000.00		25,000.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	M&E Specialist (GWPSA) for management of monitoring system and storage of deliverables and outputs for reporting ; PIR Development (Outputs 4.1-4.3) (18% time allocation)					28,946.00	28,946.00		28,946.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	M&E Specialist (GWPSA) for monitoring of implementation under 1.1-1.4 (24% time allocation)	37,862.00					37,862.00		37,862.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	M&E Specialist (GWPSA) for monitoring of implementation under 2.1-2.6 (52% time allocation)			82,862.00			82,862.00		82,862.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	M&E Specialist (GWPSA) for monitoring of implementation under Outputs 3.1-3.3 (6% time allocation)				9,102.00		9,102.00		9,102.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Procurement and operations specialist (45% time allocation)						-	73,916.00	73,916.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Coordinator (27% time allocation)						-	98,808.00	98,808.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Coordinator (PMU) to lead in development of PIR and facilitate overall M&E (Outputs 4.1-4.3) (5% time allocation)					17,293.00	17,293.00		17,293.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Coordinator (PMU) to support outputs 1.1-1.4 (39% time allocation)	144,386.00					144,386.00		144,386.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Coordinator (PMU) to support outputs 2.1-2.6 (24% time allocation)			90,627.00			90,627.00		90,627.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Coordinator (PMU) to support outputs 3.1-3.3 (6% time allocation)				21,280.00		21,280.00		21,280.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Officer (PMU) to support Outputs 1.1-1.4 (37% time allocation)	35,864.00					35,864.00		35,864.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Officer (PMU) to support Outputs 2.1-2.6 (58% time allocation)			55,864.00			55,864.00		55,864.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Project Officer (PMU) to support Outputs 3.1-3.3 (5% time allocation)					5,300.00	5,300.00		5,300.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Regional Gender and Safeguards Officer (GWPSA) to support integration of gender into knowledge products (Output 3.1-3.3) (5% time allocation)				4,822.00		4,822.00		4,822.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Regional Gender and Safeguards Officer (GWPSA) to support Output 1.1 and 1.2 (30% time allocation)	32,175.00					32,175.00		32,175.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Regional Gender and Safeguards Officer (GWPSA) to support Output 2.1-2.6 (59% time allocation)			62,175.00			62,175.00		62,175.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Regional Gender and Safeguards Officer (GWPSA) to support tracking and monitoring on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (Outputs 4.2-4.3) (6% time allocation)					6,852.00	6,852.00		6,852.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Investments Advisor (PMU) to support knowledge management to promote investments at AUC and other global fora (Outputs 4.2-4.3) (8% time allocation)					6,593.00	6,593.00		6,593.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Investments Advisor (PMU) to support knowledge management to promote investments at AUC and other global fora under Output 3.2 (8% time allocation)				6,593.00		6,593.00		6,593.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Investments Advisor (PMU) to support private sector engagement under Output 1.3 (65% time allocation)	54,211.00					54,211.00		54,211.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Investments Advisor (PMU) to support private sector engagement under Output 2.1-2.6 (19% time allocation)			15,752.00			15,752.00		15,752.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Technical Advisor (GWPSA) to support engagements with regional institutions and development of sustainability plan under Outputs 3.1-3.3 (12% time allocation)				12,862.00		12,862.00		12,862.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Technical Advisor (GWPSA) to support engagements with regional institutions under Outputs 2.1-2.6 (30% time allocation)			32,918.00			32,918.00		32,918.00	Global Water Pa
Contractual services-Individual	Senior Technical Advisor (GWPSA) to support engagements with regional Institutions under Outputs 1.1-1.4 (58% time allocation)	62,345.00					62,345.00		62,345.00	Global Water Pa
Equipment	Equipment & Furniture to support output 2.1-2.6			351,000.00			351,000.00		351,000.00	Global Water Pa
Equipment	Hardware, software, power stabilizers to support project						-	10,078.00	10,078.00	Global Water Pa
Equipment	Information Technology Equipment Output 2.1-2.6			61,500.00			61,500.00		61,500.00	Global Water Pa
Equipment	IT Equipment costs. Cost allocated to this outcome	7,776.00			7,776.00		15,552.00		15,552.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	AfCFTA SIDS Integration Consultant Output 1.1	20,000.00					20,000.00		20,000.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	Baseline consultant for 6 SIDS Output 1.1	90,000.00					90,000.00		90,000.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	Consultant for development and dissemination of (multi-lingual) materials documenting project activities, progress and results supporting Output 3.1 Consultant to develop joint AUC "best practices in SIDS" publication, highlighting gender equality and social inclusion, achieved through collaborative efforts under Output 3.1 Consultant for development of communications strategy to support awareness raising under Output 3.1 Consultant for identification of existing ocean/BE/LDN/R2R-related information exchange networks, globally and in the African SIDS region (Output 3.2) Consultant to support development of a framework (working with AUC) that will address the information needs of (African) SIDS in the context of sustainable ocean management/BE/LDN/R2R (Output 3.2)					150,000.00	150,000.00		150,000.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	Consultant for Independent Mid-Term Project Evaluation Consultant for Independent Terminal Project Evaluation					82,400.00	82,400.00		82,400.00	UNDP
International Consultants	Consultant for production "best practices" on National and Regional multi-stakeholder platforms for enhanced ocean governance output 1.2	13,828.00					13,828.00		13,828.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	Consultant for study of existing social and collective entrepreneurship from the blue economy sectors Under Output 2.1-2.6			469,783.00			469,783.00		469,783.00	Global Water Pa

International Consultants	Policy Advisor (Y1-3) Output 1.1 (100% time allocation)	146,865.00			146,865.00		146,865.00	Global Water Pa
International Consultants	Status Report for multi-stakeholder coordination Consultant (Output 1.2)	14,000.00			14,000.00		14,000.00	Global Water Pa
Local Consultants	Local consultants for updating of baselines on the availability and implementation of Blue Economy (BE)/Blue-Green Economy (BGE) supporting instruments (Output 1.1)Project Interns. USD 2,081 per year (Y1-Y3) and USD 1,040 (Y4). Time allocated to this outcome	67,283.00			67,283.00		67,283.00	Global Water Pa
Local Consultants	Local Consultants to support Output 2.1-2.6		591,287.00		591,287.00		591,287.00	Global Water Pa
Local Consultants	Project Interns to support knowledge management and communications (Output 3.1-3.3)Local Consultants for development and dissemination of (multi-lingual) materials documenting project activities, progress and results supporting Output 3.1			30,000.00	30,000.00		30,000.00	Global Water Pa
Office Supplies	Cost allocated to this outcome	7,884.00			7,884.00		7,884.00	Global Water Pa
Office Supplies	Office supplies demo local and technical activities Output 2.1-2.6		46,316.00		46,316.00		46,316.00	Global Water Pa
Office Supplies	Office supplies project local and technical activities. Cost allocated to PMC				-	3,886.00	3,886.00	Global Water Pa
Office Supplies	Office supplies project local and technical activities. Cost allocated to this outcome			7,884.00	7,884.00		7,884.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Maintenance cost to support outputs 2.1-2.6		72,000.00		72,000.00		72,000.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Rental & Maintenance of PMU Offices				-	45,000.00	45,000.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Share of local offices to support technical activities. Cost allocated to this outcome	26,460.00		26,460.00	52,920.00		52,920.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Professional services for Project Audit				-	25,000.00	25,000.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Supporting audiovisuals and printed materials to implement demo activities (Output 2.1-2.6)		286,146.00		286,146.00		286,146.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Supporting materials and resources for Inception Workshop (in-person meeting)				10,800.00		10,800.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Supporting materials and resources for participation in the (biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC) (Output 3.1)Supporting materials and resources for the development and dissemination of (multi-lingual) materials documenting project activities, progress and results (Outputs 3.1.-3.3)Supporting materials and resources for Organization of workshop(s), strategically and collaboratively scheduled throughout the African SIDS project lifespan (Outputs 3.1.-3.3)Supporting materials and resources for collection, online storage, publication and dissemination of (multi-lingual) written and audiovisual materials (Outputs 3.1.-3.3)Written translations and interpretation. Cost allocated to this outcome (Outputs 3.1.-3.3)			136,505.00	136,505.00		136,505.00	Global Water Pa
Other Operating Costs	Supporting materials and resources for Regional workshop on Assessments for the Blue Economy and the role of different sectors of Society (Output 1.1)Supporting materials and resources for the development of a national Private Sector Action Plan in support of the (R2R-based) Blue Economy (Output 1.3)Supporting materials and resources for mobilization of capacity building opportunities in support of the national Blue Economies in the African SIDS countries (Output 1.4)Supporting materials and resources for Project management training for African SIDS Component 2 national Responsible Parties (Output 1.4)Supporting materials and resources for SIDS technical overview meetings under Output 1.1-1.4Written translations. Cost allocated to this outcome	98,820.00			98,820.00		98,820.00	Global Water Pa
Training, Workshops, Meeting	Logistics and organization for Inception Workshop				21,600.00		21,600.00	Global Water Pa
Training, Workshops, Meeting	Logistics and organization of workshop(s), to support African SIDS in UNDP's Accelerator Labs, Ocean Innovation Challenge and GEF SGP identified and disseminated at national and regional levels (Output 3.2)Logistics and organization of 2 Virtual PSC meetings			31,477.00	31,477.00		31,477.00	Global Water Pa
Training, Workshops, Meeting	Logistics support for the development and implementation of the national BE/LDN/R2R agendaLogistics and organization of Regional workshop on Assessment the Blue Economy and the role of different sectors of Society (Output 1.1)Logistics for the development of a national Private Sector Action Plan in support of the (R2R-based) Blue Economy (Output 1.3)Logistics and organization of SIDS Technical overview meetingLogistics and organization of 2 Virtual PSC meetings	176,216.00			176,216.00		176,216.00	Global Water Pa
Training, Workshops, Meeting	Workshop organization cost to support implementation of demo activities (includes 3 network meetings, training workshops for the Advisory Council/Management Unit, training for the members of the co-management committee(s) and/or other community members, among others) (Output 2.1-2.6)		431,926.00		431,926.00		431,926.00	Global Water Pa
Travel	Travel cost for output 2.1-2.6		534,140.00		534,140.00		534,140.00	Global Water Pa
Travel	Travel costs for Independent Mid-Term Project EvaluationTravel cost for Independent Terminal Project EvaluationTravel cost for Inception Workshop (in-person meeting)Travel cost for supervision missions			41,630.00	41,630.00		41,630.00	UNDP
Travel	Travel costs for Independent Mid-Term Project EvaluationTravel cost for Independent Terminal Project EvaluationTravel cost for Inception Workshop (in-person meeting)Travel cost for supervision missions			54,000.00	54,000.00		54,000.00	Global Water Pa
Travel	Travel costs for participation in the (biennial) GEF International Waters Conferences (IWC)Travel costs for participation of the Project in IW:LEARN twinning exchanges, and regional workshops (Output 3.1)Travel costs for participation of the Project in other relevant global/regional events surrounding the "Oceans & Sustainable Development" themesPMU Travel to support component 3		174,200.00		174,200.00		174,200.00	Global Water Pa
Travel	Travel missions for workshops under Output 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3, 1.4 Workshop for development of Private Sector Frameworks under Output 1.3Travel cost for organization of PMU technical support missions under Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3	157,638.00			157,638.00		157,638.00	Global Water Pa
	Project Total	1,747,215.00	5,739,758.00	818,007.00	270,114.00	8,575,094.00	428,753.00	9,003,847.00

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

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ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).