



CEO Endorsement (CEO) entry ? Full Sized Project ? GEF - 7

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10535

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Prioritising Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles? Blue Economy

Countries

Seychelles

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Wetlands, Mangroves, Sea Grasses, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Tourism, Certification -National Standards, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Conservation Trust Funds, Species, Threatened Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, International Waters, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Enabling Activities

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

3/21/2020

Expected Implementation Start

6/3/2022

Expected Completion Date

6/2/2028

Duration

72In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

470,727.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	GET	4,955,023.00	18,047,959.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			4,955,023.00	18,047,959.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To conserve globally significant biodiversity through effective management of Seychelles’ Marine Protected Areas system and the promotion of nature-based solutions as pillars of the Blue Economy.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening the political and institutional framework for effective implementation of Seychelles? Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and management of the expanded MPA system	Technical Assistance	1.1: Strengthened strategic, political and institutional framework and capacity to implement Seychelles? MSP and govern the expanded MPA system	<p>1.1.1: Institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority developed for effective governance of Seychelles? MSP process and expanded MPA system</p> <p>1.1.2: A strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan is established</p> <p>1.1.3: Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system developed and implemented</p> <p>1.1.4: Legal / regulatory framework and judicial / law enforcement capacities strengthened to support MSP implementation and effective conservation of coastal and marine areas</p> <p>1.1.5: Capacities</p>	GET	838,765.00	4,370,867.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Strengthening management effectiveness of Seychelles' expanded MPA system	Technical Assistance	2.1: Expansion and strengthened management of four priority conservation sites	<p>2.1.1: Expansion of two MPA sites (Iles Cocos and Port Glaud) and development of regulations and partnership agreements</p> <p>2.1.2: Strengthening management effectiveness at four MPA sites (Iles Cocos, Port Glaud, Aride and Ste Anne) in collaboration with communities and other stakeholders</p> <p>2.1.3. Capacities of MPA management authorities and other agencies strengthened to implement monitoring and enforcement programs at MPA sites</p> <p>2.1.4. Management Plans and business/financing plans developed/updated and implemented in project sites</p>	GET	2,249,300.00	11,479,685.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Investing in innovative nature-based solutions to development	Technical Assistance	3.1: Innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 4 sites	<p>3.1.1: Strengthen policy frameworks for implementation of nature-based solutions for tourism</p> <p>3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>3.1.3: Nature-based solutions for ecosystem management / restoration identified and piloted with private sector and local communities leading to recovery of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>3.1.4: Communities living adjacent or with access to priority</p>	GET	1,226,100.00	1,860,800.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
4. Effective gender mainstreaming, knowledge management and M&E	Technical Assistance	4.1 Improved sharing of information among stakeholders and partners to strengthen ownership and management of natural resources	<p>4.1.1 Gender empowerment strategy developed and used to guide project implementation, M&E at pilot sites</p> <p>4.1.2 Participatory M&E and learning framework developed and implemented at pilot sites:</p> <p>4.1.3 Lessons learned through participatory M&E and gender empowerment are used nationally and shared internationally</p> <p>4.1.4 South-South cooperation on ?Blue Economy? with Indian Ocean countries and other SIDS</p>	GET	405,000.00	16,407.00
Sub Total (\$)					4,719,165.00	17,727,759.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	235,858.00	320,200.00
Sub Total(\$)	235,858.00	320,200.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	4,955,023.00	18,047,959.00

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(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Blue Economy Department	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	106,407.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	20,000.00
Other	Development Bank of Seychelles	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	350,000.00
Other	Development Bank of Seychelles	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,650,000.00
Other	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	370,867.00
Other	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,700,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship & Industry; Division of Science, Technology & Innovation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	72,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship & Industry; Division of Science, Technology & Innovation	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	520,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Civil Society Organization	University of Seychelles	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Island Conservation Society	Grant	Investment mobilized	9,763,685.00
GEF Agency	UNDP Mauritius ? Seychelles	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	70,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP ? Adaptation Fund project	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Donor Agency	BIOFIN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	75,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				18,047,959.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

SPGA will provide significant Investment Mobilized through its recurrent expenditures for 1) the management costs of the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks; 2) national level activities related to management, monitoring and surveillance of the overall MPA system; 3) sustainable tourism management and control measures pressures at the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks; and 4) ongoing programs for the management, conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems at the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks. DBS investment mobilized will come from grants distributed through the DBS Blue Investment Fund, while SeyCCAT will provide grants distributed through the SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund. The Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship & Industry; Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (DSTI), investment mobilized will come cash investments from the Africa Development Bank's (AfDB) Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) and the Government of Seychelles, to support: i) acquiring permanent premises for the incubator facilities; ii) purchase of the software and license for the knowledge platform for the support of the Marine Data Management System; iii) purchase of IT equipment and furniture for the incubator; and iv) workshops for the training of different stakeholders and incubator participants using the platform. Investment mobilized by the Island Conservation Society consists of conservation programs for Aride island's terrestrial and marine wildlife, including ongoing programs for: i) conservation and management of biodiversity (species and ecosystems) on the island of Aride, including seabirds, landbirds, migratory birds, plants, sea turtles and giant tortoises; ii) biosecurity and invasive species management; poaching surveillance / control; pollution control (marine debris). Finally, UNDP is providing investment mobilized through the UNDP/

AF regional project "Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future", including national-level activities for the monitoring and maintenance of coral nurseries and restoration sites in Seychelles; and regional-level activities pertaining to knowledge management, training and sensitization for enhancing capacities of local partners and communities on reef restoration.

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	Seychelles	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,955,023	470,727	5,425,750.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					4,955,023.00	470,727.00	5,425,750.00

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 (\$)
150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)
14,250

Agenc y	Trus t Fun d	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Seychelle s	Biodiversit y	BD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	164,250.0 0
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.0 0	14,250.0 0	164,250.0 0

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)
2,579.00	2,034.00	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)
281.00	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)
Iles Coco Marine National Park	12878	National Park	81.00			
Port Glaud Ramsar Site	n/a		200.00			

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)
2,298.00	2,034.00	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)
Arde Special Reserve	555643551	Strict Nature Reserve	789.00	718.00			70.00		
Iles Cocos Marine National Park	12878	National Park	86.00	120.00			42.00		
Port Launay (Glau d) Ramsar Site	902681			200.00			41.00		
Ste Anne Marine National Park	6934	National Park	1,423.00	996.00			51.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
433.00	433.00		

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)
Type/name of the third-party certification			
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)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF		LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE	
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)

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	1,500	5,231		
Male	1,000	6,995		
Total	2500	12226	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

Notes on Core Indicators The project will contribute to the following core indicators ? 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (2,034 hectares) ? 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (433 hectares under improved management for seagrass bed conservation and fisheries management in Baie Ste Anne, Praslin) ? 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF, including 264 men and 245

women who benefit from various forms of capacity building under Components 1-3, and 6,731 men and 4,986 women who reside in communities adjacent to or within sites (Port Glaud, Baie Ste Anne and Ste Anne MNP) where the project will pilot nature-based solutions and carry out localized threat reduction of threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description.*

Section II Development Challenge (Country Overview; Socio-Economic Context; Biodiversity; Marine Spatial Planning & MPA System; and Project Sites) of the UNDP Project Document (PRODOC) has been updated but remains fully aligned with the description in the original Concept Note. Additional details have been added regarding Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas System and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process as well as details on the project field sites.

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

Section II Development Challenge (Problems, Root Causes, and Barriers) of the UNDP Project Document (PRODOC) has been updated but remains fully aligned with the description in the original Concept Note. Additional details have been added regarding the problems (threats), in particular threats at the site level.

Threats ? National level

Degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems including coral reefs, mangrove stands and seagrass meadows: Climate-induced coral bleaching is among the greatest current threats to coral reefs, causing widespread loss of live coral cover[1]. Conditions under which reefs bounce back from bleaching events or shift from coral to algal dominance are unknown, making it difficult to predict and plan for differing reef responses under climate change[2]. Coral reef bleaching events, including very significant events in 1998 and 2016, have reduced hard coral cover to very low levels at many reef sites in the Seychelles inner islands, including all MPA sites. Eight years after the 1998 event, researchers reported a phase shift on reefs from coral dominated state to a rubble and algal dominated state throughout the Seychelles granitic islands including within the MPAs that were surveyed. More recent studies have reported a loss of reef structural complexity throughout the Seychelles granitic islands, with a resultant reduction in species richness of reef communities[3]. Coral reefs are also threatened by ocean acidification; a proliferation of marine invasive species, including increasing numbers of coral predators such as black-spined sea urchins (BSU), crown-of-thorns (COTs) starfish, and *Drupella* snails; coral diseases; and high nutrient loads (including from seabird colonies at sites such as Aride). As it is expected that fish biomass will continue to decrease in the absence of effective coral reef fish recruitment, the ability of MPAs to meet the long-term conservation objective of maintaining fish abundance is unsure.

Increasing tourism development and visitor pressure: In 2018, 361,844 international visitors visited the Seychelles[4], and the Seychelles MPA network received an estimated total of 114,138 paying non-resident visitors during the year[5]. The government wants to increase the number of visitors to the MPAs, but additional studies are required to determine optimal visitor management conditions as well as studies to quantify the impact of different activities. In 1998, there were only 4 small hotels (with a

total capacity of 59 beds) located within or adjacent to sites in the Seychelles MPA network (at the Curieuse, Ste Anne, and Silhouette Marine National Parks). Now, in 2020, many hotels of all sizes and price brackets exist representing the major expansion of the tourism sector in recent years. The construction and operation of these hotels has had and is expected to have further impacts on the integrity of the parks, including destruction of seagrass areas (for jetties and bathing areas), destruction of reefs (to create harbours and berthing areas) and damage to wetland areas. Reductions in water quality resulting from sediment flows into the sea during construction, and increased disturbances in nationally important turtle rookeries, are also possible. In Ste Anne Marine Park alone, current plans include creation of a commercial marina capable of handling 45 vessels that will be built over one of the most intact reef sites in the MNP. Increased use of the marine environment for recreational activities by hotel guests and leisure seekers is also a concern; while MPA regulations restrict activities such as motorised water sports, catch and release fishing, etc., other activities such as snorkelling and diving can have negative effects on the benthic environment through direct physical contact (e.g. anchor damage) and disturbance of wildlife. Finally, while tourism development is seen in the country as a way to improve the financing of MPAs, to date hotels within MPAs have not contributed to MPA management costs, and efforts to collect or increase fees (for example from tourism charter companies) for visits to MPAs have been resisted.[6]

Increasing pollution and waste flows: Various EIA studies for construction projects in MPAs have emphasized the risk of spillage of hydrocarbons during transport to sites and the potential effects of discharge of treated sewage in the marine environment. As most of the tourism development in the MPAs is on small islands, many have their own electricity generators and need to bring in fuel from Mahé, increasing the risk of spillage during unloading of fuel on the islands. With regard to the discharge of treated sewage, even though all existing and planned hotels have proposed to treat their sewage down to the tertiary level, the volume of high nutrient sewage generated by hotel guests and staff could still play an important role in reducing water quality in the MPAs, especially in areas with low water movement. Private residences in areas upstream of some MPAs add to this pressure.

Poaching: The poaching of seabirds and their eggs as well as octopus is a major threat on numerous islands. On Aride, ICS has been fighting a losing battle with the poachers, who threaten staff (and their families) and even threaten to introduce rats to the island if ICS staff do not desist from direct confrontation. The seabird populations depend on the island's rat-free status and would be decimated by successful rat colonization. The growing threat from poaching comes at a time when natural pressures (including climate change impacts on food availability) are putting additional stresses on these vulnerable populations. In Ste Anne MNP, illegal fish traps and turtle poaching are an ongoing issue.

Climate change: Climate change impacts in the Seychelles are already evident and projected to increase in coming decades. The country's rainy season is projected to be shorter but more intense, and the dry season is projected to be longer. Surface runoff events will become more intense in the rainy season, with potentially devastating impacts in terms of sedimentation in coastal and marine ecosystems.[7] Extreme weather events are likely to produce storm surges that can severely impact coastal ecosystems, as well as possibly increasing the frequency and severity of cyclones. Sea level rise poses a very significant threat to coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds, and increased coastal flooding could raise the salinity levels of the soil and damage water tables, with major impacts on terrestrial flora and fauna. As noted above, coral reef ecosystems in the Seychelles have been significantly impacted by coral bleaching events, which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change[8]. Coral reefs may not be able to re-establish in many places if bleaching events continue on a regular basis (with much local variation depending on localized water temperatures, rates of larval settlement/recruitment, and the occurrence of temperature resistant coral types). In addition to natural habitats and biodiversity, the coastal zone and human settlements, agriculture, water resources, fisheries[9], human health, natural disasters and insurance are the key socio-economic sectors that are considered highly sensitive and vulnerable to climate change across the islands.

Threats - Project pilot sites

The existing management plans of the Ste Anne Marine National Park (2021-2025; draft)[10] and the Port Launay and Baie Ternay Marine National Park (2019-2023)[11] highlight management challenges that apply to most marine protected areas in the country, including: 1) insufficient park demarcation and mooring buoys, exacerbating the problem of anchors being dropped on reefs and damaging corals; 2) littering and inappropriate behaviour by visitors, due in part to a lack of zoning and facilities for visitors; (3) ineffective tourism management practices (unregulated numbers of visitors, lack of education and awareness of visitors regarding the damage they can cause to biodiversity by dropping anchors on coral reef, standing on corals, feeding fish, etc.); 4) coastal development within and adjacent to MNPs leading to sediment flows and pollution (organic, solid, sewage) resulting in eutrophication, siltation, coastal erosion etc.; and 5) lack of community involvement in decision making processes.

In addition to these general threats, the project sites are also subject to a number of site-specific threats as follows (additional details are provided in Annex 17a):

- **Ste Anne MNP:** Poachers who use fish traps to catch a wide array of coral reef associated fish species as well as octopus and crabs; illegal line fishing by visitors on yachts, locals, and foreign workers residing in the park; poaching for turtles (especially the critically endangered hawksbill) at the important turtle nesting beaches of Anse Manon, Grand Anse and Anse Cabot; local hire craft anchoring too close to the reef and damaging corals; dumping of waste by picnickers and sewage and solid waste from yachts and other boats; increasing tourism visitation; pollution and run-off from development within and adjacent to the MNP.
- **Port Glaud Ramsar site:** Sediments coming from nearby mountainous areas; exotic species; indiscriminate waste dumping; flows of sewage and agricultural chemicals; tourism activities (e.g. sport fishing, feeding fish, jet skiing, anchoring on reefs, littering; fires); and potential tourism infrastructure development is also a significant threat.
- **Ile Cocos MNP:** Coral bleaching events; damage from anchoring from the many tourist boats that visit the islands; high densities of black spine sea urchins (*Echinotrix sp.* and *Diadema sp.*) that graze on coral recruits; poaching of octopus and juvenile hawksbill turtles.
- **Aride Special Reserve:** Poaching of seabird eggs and chick, including hundreds of Shearwater chicks poached each year and extensive poaching of seabird eggs (mostly Sooty terns and Brown noddies); poaching of octopus and illegal use of fish traps in the marine area within the SR.
- **Baie Ste Anne:** Anchor damage from yachts anchored in the bay to seagrass beds and coral reefs; sedimentation, poor water quality, and degraded fish spawning habitat associated with dredging activities that may take place from a potential construction of for a new marina in the northwest area of Baie Ste Anne.

Barriers to be addressed:

The current barriers to effective management of Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas System and the implementation of Blue Economy approaches in the country include:

Gaps in policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks to coordinate efforts and ensure a coherent national approach to management of biodiversity and to address sustainable development in line with the national Blue Economy Roadmap and Marine Spatial Plan. A harmonized interpretation of laws and regulations and more effective enforcement provisions are needed for effective control over marine and coastal resource extraction, protection and development. Currently, specific barriers to effective MPA system planning, coordination and management include: i) management of MPAs is covered by four pieces of legislation which can make coordination of conservation efforts complex; ii) delays in the adoption of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act, under development since 2014, which would provide the overarching management framework and clearer and more diverse PA classifications (including sustainable use areas); iii) absent or outdated PA management regulations; iv) the significant increase in recent years in the number and types of PAs, as well as involved institutions, has increased the complexity of management arrangements and challenges; v) the lack of strategic oversight by government departments to develop and implement a consolidated PA system plan; vi) the lack of any national policies on sustainable tourism; and vii) limited coordination between implementing institutions, which increases overall management costs; and viii) inadequate collaborative mechanisms

to allow local residents and private sector partners to effectively participate in and support MPA management activities.

Limited capacity (i.e. systems, personnel, equipment, financial resources, data, knowledge) to manage the newly expanded MPA system and protect marine and coastal biodiversity. With pressures and threats increasing daily, an innovative systems approach to managing Seychelles expanded PA estate is essential. Key problems include: i) decision-making is not based on accurate information/data and planned expansion of coastal infrastructure and tourism growth is poorly managed; ii) lack of enforcement of marine protection, including successful prosecution of perpetrators; iii) absence of a national maritime security plan which incorporates MPA protections; iv) physical lack of connectivity between MPAs, which increases the costs of MPA management and collaboration; v) the need to improve the attractiveness of MPAs (and increase financial benefits from tourism) by restoring ecologically damaged areas and improving the enforcement of regulation; and vi) poor financing capacities, including poor implementation and/or lack of approval for BD financing and PA system financing plans, as well as the loss of some financing sources (e.g. the repeal of the Corporate Social Responsibility tax; decreased revenues for MPA managers and hotel partners due to the significant decline in tourism associated with the Covid 19 pandemic).

The lack of sustainable Blue Economy business models and income generating activities is impeding full engagement of the private sector and communities (on inhabited islands) in MPA co-management and limiting adoption of more sustainable resource use models. Blue economy business models are in their infancy and opportunities are not being realized by the private sector nor effectively incentivized by Government. As a result, the current absorption capacity of the country for available ?impact finance? is a concern. This has resulted in cost-benefit imbalances at the community level where, for example, local livelihoods are being impacted by the growth of tourism. The benefits in the tourism value chain for communities are limited, as they are primarily accrued by international tourism operators (whose profits are mostly taken offshore) and staff from other countries (who are mostly hired instead of locals). To maintain local enthusiasm for biodiversity conservation and MPA expansion, communities need to be supported in the identification and development of public-private partnerships and businesses, such as ecotourism and ?blue business? development, that will provide tangible livelihood gains.

Insufficient data and information management regarding the unique biodiversity of the Seychelles to provide an effective basis for MPA decision-making: Whilst the MSP has gathered significant ecological and economic data to inform the designation process, greater monitoring data will be required to determine whether the gazetted MPAs are effectively achieving their objectives. Efforts have been made to share lessons learned and experiences gained from previous projects and initiatives, but this needs to be further coordinated and strengthened to ensure that the new network of stakeholders is empowered to provide feedback to local, national, regional and international forums dedicated to the disciplines that will be addressed through enhanced management (including biodiversity knowledge, management skills, co-management models and sustainable tourism practices and publicity).

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Section IV: Results and Partnerships (Partnerships - Baseline Initiatives) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated but remains fully aligned with the description in the original Concept Note.

A number of donor funded programmes and projects contribute to sustainable development and conservation in the Seychelles, with links to the objective and outputs of the Blue Economy project. Additional information on baseline activities at the site level, including with private sector partners, is provided in Annex 17a of the UNDP Prodoc.

Table 1: Donor Funded Programmes and Projects

Program / Project Title	Marine Spatial Planning initiative (Implementation Phase)
Funding Agency	GoS, TNC, O5, Waïtt, BNA, SeyCCAT
Executing Agency	GoS
Budget (USD)	US\$ 5 M
Timeframe	2021- 2036
Primary Activities	The first phase of the MSP initiative (2014-2022) focused on planning to support the MPS, including: development and endorsement of an MSP Policy; development of a Governance Framework for the MSP; the operationalization of SeyCCAT; a costing analysis for the 30% area for MPAs; development of MPA management plans; formulation of nomination files for 4 outer island MPAs; a socio-economic impact analysis of MPA on industrial fisheries; and mapping of ecosystem services and ocean wealth. The second phase of the MSP Initiative is focused on implementation of the newly adopted Marine Spatial Plan, including; socio-economic impact and financial analyses of the plan; a capacity gap analysis of MSP Implementation agencies to better understand implementation needs; training and capacity building to support operationalization of the MSP governance framework; development and implementation of MPA management and business plan; drafting of new MPA regulations; development of regimes for environment monitoring and fishery surveillance and monitoring and research plans; and re-classification of pre-MSP protected areas to align with the revised legislation. Activities are carried out by numerous actors, including TNC, the MSP Core Team, SWIOfish, SeyCCAT and MACCE.
Links to the Blue Economy project	The MSP initiative provides for the setting up of the technical and institutional framework to effectively manage the different zones (including 30% of the area as MPAs) that have been designated under the Seychelles' Marine Spatial Plan.
Program / Project Title	Various programs working in collaboration to develop an integrated strategy to support SeyCCAT, the responsible Oceans Authority, the Marine Spatial Planning Initiative, and the expanded MPA system
Funding Agency	Varied (see below)
Executing Agency	Varied (see below)
Budget (USD)	Varied (see below)
Timeframe	2021 ? 2024

Primary Activities	<p>The Nature Conservancy: Funding (US\$ 1,500,000) for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Management and Staffing support for SeyCCAT •Development of a National Implementation Plan for the MSP, including assisting the government of Seychelles to develop management plans for the new marine protection area network and parts of the multi-use zone •Refine Financial and Socio-Economic Analyses, including updating the costing analysis (2018) for the 30% of the MSP designated as marine protection areas, and determining finance solutions for closing the financing gap. •Developing capacity for Monitoring and Enforcement of the nationwide MSP •Amend SeyCCAT Act 2015 to address issues of sustainability for SeyCCAT and with respect to financing of MPA implementation, including strategic realignment of the Blue Grants Fund with MPA implementation cost priorities <p>Oceans 5: Oceans 5 is supporting a project (US\$ 900,000) for the implementation of new MPAs coming out of the MSP process and fisheries reforms, with three areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Preparation of management plans for the Greater Aldabra Marine Special Reserve and the D?Arros Island MPA; ? Development and implementation of ambient environmental quality monitoring protocols; ? Optimization of fisheries data utilization which will be centred around the assessment of population status of various commercially harvested fishery species such as White-blotched grouper (<i>Epinephelus multinotatus</i>), Brownspotted grouper (<i>Epinephelus chlorostigma</i>), Two-spot red snapper (<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>), Yellowspotted trevally (<i>Carangoides fulvoguttatus</i>) and Bludger (<i>Carangoides gymnostethus</i>), sharks, Spanner crab (<i>Scylla serrata</i>) and the Giant mud crab (<i>Scylla serrata</i>). <p>The Bittner Foundation: Funding (US\$ 30,000) for the development of a management plan framework for MSP high biodiversity zones.</p> <p>The Waitt Institute: Funding (US\$ 150,000) for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Development of a business plan for SeyCCAT •Development of MPA Financing Plans for two Seychelles MPAs developed under the recent national MSP initiative •Design of a blue finance pilot project to connect blue finance to MPA management in one of the selected MPAs
Links to the Blue Economy project	A detailed analysis of the complementarity between the Blue Economy project, the above-mentioned programs, and the GEF-funded Blue Nature Alliance project is provided in Annex 17e.
Program / Project Title	Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (Mauritius, Seychelles)
Funding Agency	Adaptation Fund
Executing Agency	GoS, UNDP, MCSS, SPGA
Budget (USD)	US\$ 10 M (to be shared with Mauritius)
Timeframe	2020-2025

Primary Activities	The project aims to facilitate the development of a sustainable partnership and business approach to reef restoration, establish coral farming and nursery facilities in the country, and actively restore degraded reefs. The objective is to also improve understanding and knowledge management of using coral reef restoration as an adaptation to climate change and to share regionally and globally the experienced learned in sustainable coral reef restoration. The Project will equally provide training to build capacity for long-term sustainable coral reef restoration.
Links to the Blue Economy project	The project activities to develop effective strategies for coral reef restoration will provide valuable lessons learned and data to support coral reef restoration in the Ile Cocos Marine National Park under the proposed BE project. In addition, the AF project will develop critical important expertise and skills in coral reef restoration among local government staff and other partners who can also support the BE project.
Program / Project Title	Marine Domain Awareness (MDA) Data Fusion Project: Capacity Building for Maritime Security and Safety
Funding Agency	The Kingdom of Denmark through the International Maritime Organisation
Executing Agency	Government of United States of America for NISCC
Budget (USD)	US\$ 475 000
Timeframe	2019 ? 2022
Primary Activities	This project is crucial for the Seychelles as it will provide much needed upgrading of services and training of personnel for enforcement in maritime security. Furthermore, it provides the opportunity for the development of personnel in modern technology and maritime traffic analysis skills, which in turn improves intelligence-based operations. The aim is to create a Common Operating Picture (COP) of the country's maritime space which will be shared with most of the local maritime agencies. The project will give Seychelles law enforcement agencies a Recognised Maritime Picture (RMP) for precise and timely intervention, thus further reducing the cost of operation.
Links to the Blue Economy project	The Data Fusion Project will establish an information platform for marine surveillance at NISCC that will greatly facilitate the MPA surveillance and enforcement objectives of the proposed BE project (as well as other MSP partners and areas in the country).

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

Section III: Strategy (?Theory of change and alternative scenario?) and *Section IV: Results and Partnerships* (?Expected results?) of the UNDP PRODOC are fully aligned with the project strategy, project components and project outcomes, as described in the original Concept Note.

The project's Theory of Change (ToC), depicted diagrammatically (see UNDP Prodoc, Figure 2), summarizes the activities through which the project will achieve its intended outcomes, intermediate states, and overall development objective. The ToC describes a set of causal linkages between the services and products to be delivered by the project (outputs), immediate outcomes, and medium and longer-term impacts arranged logically to form impact pathways.^[12] The assumptions that connect the early, intermediate and longer-term outcomes and impacts are also indicated in the diagram and are described more fully in the Prodoc.

Under the baseline scenario (described in preceding sections), despite significant advances in MPA management and marine spatial planning, coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles remain

vulnerable to a number of threats, which if not addressed will lead to the continued fragmentation and degradation of island habitats and loss of vital ecosystem services critical for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development, particularly as human populations and tourism pressures increase

Changes in Project Design

While the project objective and components remain unchanged from the original Project Concept Note, some changes have been made to the wording of project outputs (and one outcome), based on stakeholder consultations and feasibility assessments undertaken during the PPG phase. In some cases, the project outputs have been revised in line with changing priorities and realities in the operational environment, including the change in government in late 2020 as well as impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic. In other cases, the changes are not substantive, but rather have been done in order to shorten the length and simplify the language of the outputs, in order to facilitate easier project management and better understanding among project partners and beneficiaries. It is important to note that the level of detail in the wording of the outputs in the Project Concept Note has not been lost, but rather has been put into the text describing each output and/or into the Results Framework.

The project objective is to conserve globally significant biodiversity through effective management of Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas system and the promotion of nature-based solutions as pillars of the Blue Economy. This will be achieved through four interlinked outcomes: strengthened strategic, political and institutional framework and capacity to implement Seychelles' MSP and govern the expanded MPA system; expansion and strengthened management of four priority conservation sites; innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 4 sites; and improved sharing of information among stakeholders and partners to strengthen ownership and management of natural resources

Table 2: Summary of Changes in Project Design

Text from PIF	Revised Text in CEO ER	Explanation for Change
Output 1.1.2 A strategic coordination mechanism is established to convene key agencies (MEECC, SNPA, SOA, Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning, Ministry of Tourism, Aviation Ports and Marine, Office of the Vice President, NGOs, etc.) to agree on strategies for the long-term management and financing of the expanded MPA system framed by Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning objectives	Output 1.1.2: A strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan is established	The wording has been simplified
Output 1.1.3 Institutional and technical capacity of MSP partner agencies (including Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), etc.) developed for effective management, enforcement and monitoring of the expanded MPA system	Output 1.1.4: Legal / regulatory framework and judicial / law enforcement capacities strengthened to support MSP implementation and effective conservation of coastal and marine areas	The wording has been simplified (no need to list all relevant agencies in the title) and also the emphasis of the capacity building has been clarified, as project stakeholders have opted to focus on strengthening national capacities for MPA surveillance and enforcement, rather than capacity building for general MPA management

Output 1.1.4 Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system, developed and implemented in close coordination with Ministry of Finance	Output 1.1.3: Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system developed and implemented	The wording has been revised slightly to show that the Ministry of Finance may not be a close partner in this activity due to changes in institutional mandates
<p>Output 2.1.1 Four priority sites expanded and management effectiveness enhanced in collaboration with communities and stakeholders:</p> <p><i>Expansion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iles Cocos Marine National Park to include Felicite (from 86 ha to 167 ha) - Submission of nomination file to designate Port Glaud Wetlands and Ramsar site (from 120 ha under Ramsar protection to 200 ha) as a Zone 2 PA <p><i>Strengthened management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ste Anne Marine National Park (1,423 ha) - Aride Special Reserve (789 ha) 	<p>Output 2.1.1: Expansion of two MPA sites (Iles Cocos and Port Glaud) and development of regulations and partnership agreements</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Strengthening management effectiveness at four MPA sites (Iles Cocos, Port Glaud, Aride and Ste Anne) in collaboration with communities and other stakeholders</p>	Output 2.1.1 in the Project Concept Note was overly broad (including both MPA expansion of and management), which involve very different activities and partners, so this has been divided into two outputs.
Output 2.1.2 Select PA managers (including SNPA, ICS and co-managers) trained and capacitated to effectively manage site-level MPAs with improved enforcement and monitoring	Output 2.1.3. Capacities of MPA management authorities and other agencies strengthened to implement monitoring and enforcement programs at MPA sites	Similar to the changes at the national level, this output has been reworded to reflect the desire among MPA stakeholders to emphasize monitoring and enforcement; it also includes agencies not directly involved in MPA management since a number of agencies (NISCC, Coast Guard, Police) are critical to monitoring and enforcement of the coastal and marine environment but are not directly involved in MPA management
Outcome 3.1 Innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 3 sites	Outcome 3.1: Innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 4 sites	The wording has been changed as the Project Concept Note incorrectly mentioned 3 sites when in fact there were always 4 sites included under this outcome
	Output 3.1.1: Strengthen policy frameworks for implementation of nature-based solutions for tourism	Based on consultations with stakeholders during the project design phase, it was agreed that a separate output on tourism policy mechanisms (a new national sustainable tourism policy, and a strengthened Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label) should be added

<p>Output 3.1.1 Nature-based solutions identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation of eroded coastal ecosystems and protection of Hawksbill turtle nesting sites and seagrass beds in Ste Anne Marine National Park (SNPA-managed): with Club Med Hotel and Ste Anne communities - Recovery of degraded coral reef ecosystems in Iles Cocos Marine National Park (SNPA-managed): with Six Senses Hotel on Felicite? - Effective management of biodiverse and highly endangered seagrass bed in Baie Ste Anne, Praslin: co-managed with fishing communities - Effective management of coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs) in Port Glaud Ramsar site (MEECC-managed): with Constance Ephelia Hotel 	<p>Output 3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Nature-based solutions for ecosystem management / restoration identified and piloted with private sector and local communities leading to recovery of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1 in the Project Concept Note was divided into two new outputs, to reflect that that two distinct types of Nature-based Solutions to conserve vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems would be pursued; under the new output 3.1.2 these are focused on improved tourism management (to reduce negative impacts from tourism), while under new output 3.1.3 these are focused on ecosystem management / restoration interventions</p>
<p>Output 3.1.2 Local communities benefit from sustainable nature-based livelihoods (with focus on youth)</p>	<p>Output 3.1.4: Communities living adjacent or with access to priority conservation areas benefit from sustainable nature-based livelihoods (with focus on women and youth)</p>	<p>The wording of this output was revised to clarify that the focus of the NbS livelihoods programs will be on opportunities for persons who live adjacent to or who make use of the resources in the conservation areas that are the focus of activities under Component 2 and Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3, and also that opportunities for and participation of women (as well as youth) will be prioritized</p>
	<p>Output 3.1.5 Education and Awareness Raising on NBS and sustainable tourism for the general public, schools and the tourism sector</p>	<p>Based on consultations with stakeholders during the project design phase, it was agreed that a separate output on education and awareness raising related to NbS and sustainable tourism should be added to the project</p>

Note: A more detailed description of the project outputs is provided in the UNDP Prodoc *Section IV: Results and Partnerships* (?Expected results?).

The **project objective** is to conserve globally significant biodiversity through effective management of Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas system and the promotion of nature-based solutions as pillars of the Blue Economy.

Under Component 1, the project will support the strengthening of the institutional framework for effective implementation of the MSP through a number of activities aimed at developing the institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority. Part of this component will support establishment of a strategic coordination mechanism to ensure that key agencies working in the Seychelles Blue Economy sector are able to join forces to establish a long-term management and financing mechanism under the framework that integrates the country's Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning objectives. The institutional and technical capacity of key MSP partner agencies such as the MACCE, SPGA, Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Ministry of Transport, and NGOs will also be developed so that they can more effectively implement their respective mandates. Special emphasis will be placed on developing technical capacity of staff within these key agencies to monitor activities within the designated PAs and to enforce regulations. Essential equipment for monitoring, surveillance and collection of evidence will be procured and made available to the National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC) which will be responsible for coordinating MSP enforcement. The project will develop an Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system in close coordination with Ministry of Finance, Trade Investment and Economic Planning. The capacities of the existing Blue Economy financial services institutions (principally that of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) and Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS) will be strengthened so that they can mobilise funds to fund future work and encourage the development of new Blue Economy businesses around the MSP. The newly established Biodiversity Finance Unit within the Department of Environment will have an important role in mobilising and keeping track of financial resources from government, private and non-governmental sources which are being invested in this process. The technical capacity of the staff of this unit will be developed to enable them to achieve this objective. Public awareness around Seychelles' vision and strategy for the Blue Economy, MSP and MPA system will be enhanced through implementation of a targeted visibility, education and awareness campaign aimed at promoting greater understanding of the Seychelles' blue economy concept and the roles of marine conservation in supporting the development of the blue economy.

Component 1 includes the following outputs and key activities:

Output 1.1.1: Institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority developed for effective governance of Seychelles' MSP process and expanded MPA system

- ? Capacity development program for: 1) ocean governance and inter-agency coordination for MSP implementation; 2) site management plan preparation, monitoring, reporting and review for MSP zones with different types of uses; 3) resource mobilization and budgeting; and 4) designing and implementing public education, stakeholder communication and outreach campaigns
- ? Development of a 5-year Strategic Plan for the responsible Oceans Authority

Output 1.1.2: A strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan is established

- ? Establishment of an inter-sectoral strategic coordination mechanism to provide broad oversight of and facilitate the MSP implementation process
- ? Preparation of work plans for the key agencies involved in MSP implementation

? Development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) against which reporting on MSP implementation will be based and measured.

? An online platform will be established for use by key agencies to report on MSP implementation

Output 1.1.3: Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system developed and implemented

? Development and implementation of an Investment Framework and Strategy to provide financing for the expanded MPA system.

Output 1.1.4: Legal / regulatory framework and judicial / law enforcement capacities strengthened to support MSP implementation and effective conservation of coastal and marine areas

? Review and update of existing legislation relevant to MPAs

? Develop new site-level regulations for the various MPAs that have been designated through the MSP process

? Carry out Social and Environmental Assessment process for any proposals for new or amended legislation put forward by the project

? Training in the prosecution of environment-related crimes will be organised for prosecuting lawyers in the Office of the Attorney General

? Training to local judges and magistrates on the best practices for handling environment-related crimes

? Capacity building workshops on drafting of MPA legislation for legal advisors and other staff handling legal issues in key MSP implementation agencies

Output 1.1.5: Capacities of Blue Economy financial services institutions (including Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust and Development Bank of Seychelles) strengthened

? Establish the appropriate database(s), IT systems and dashboards to manage the BGF application process

? Develop technical capacity of SeyCCAT staff and local consultants in monitoring, assessment and evaluation of projects funded by the BGF

? Develop the capacity of SeyCCAT staff and local consultants on proposal preparation and fundraising

? Build the capacity of prospective BGF applicants, and grantees

- ? Build the capacity of its staff and consultants to evaluate Blue Economy loan applications
- ? Improve the ease of doing business with DBS, as well as record keeping and tracking of projects
- ? Undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a guarantee scheme for Blue Economy loans
- ? Strengthen DBS' capacity to evaluate projects for economic viability, social-environmental impacts, and alignment
- ? Develop a database and online interface for managing loans applications and for providing clients with greater access to information on their loans

Output 1.1.6: Capacities developed for the new Biodiversity Finance Unit to support implementation of Seychelles' Biodiversity Finance Plan

- ? Carry out training workshops on the identification of biodiversity financing options, resource mobilisation and project proposal preparation
- ? Establish an online system for capturing public and private biodiversity and climate change adaptation expenditures
- ? Update the Seychelles' Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP)

Output 1.1.7: Public understanding and awareness of Seychelles' vision and strategy for the Blue Economy, MSP and MPA system is enhanced

- ? Carry out a knowledge, practice, and awareness (KPA) survey to assess existing public understanding and awareness of relevant issues
- ? Increase public understanding regarding the designation of the MSP zones
- ? Increase awareness of the government's planned investments, through this project and other sources, to strengthen the management effectiveness of Seychelles' MPA system
- ? Support the creation and use of a monitoring protocol to adaptively manage the public awareness campaign

Under Component 2, the project will focus on expanding the area of two existing marine protected areas in the Inner Islands (Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site) and on strengthening the management effectiveness of those sites as well as two other MPAs in the Inner Islands (the Ste Anne MNP and the Aride SR) in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, through improved management practices on the ground and new / updated management plans for each site. For the Ile Cocos MNP, the primary goals are to expand and better manage the site in order to protect important coral reefs and to better control the impacts from tourism and marine resource harvesting. For the Port Glaud Wetland, the primary goals are to expand and better manage the site in order to

encompass and conserve a greater diversity of wetland habitats and to link the area with two adjacent PAs in order to create one contiguous zone of protection from the ridge of the mountain to the seabed at the bottom of the reef slope. For Aride island, the focus will be on improving conservation of globally significant nesting seabird populations, including reducing the current high level of poaching of seabirds and their eggs. For the Ste Anne MNP, the project will focus on strengthening regulations and enforcement capacities to ensure that the MNP continues to sustain ecosystem services and protect eco-tourism values in the face of continued development and increasing visitation to the MNP. In addition to these site-specific interventions, the project will also undertake a program of capacity development for both general MPA management as well as for monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of MPAs for the organisations responsible for the management of MPA sites as well as partner agencies such as the NISCC, Marine Police, the Seychelles Coast, SFA, SMSA, Seychelles Licensing Authority, etc. An important component of the project will be to improve the coordination among enforcement agencies and to clarify the existing institutional roles and operational protocols so as to strengthen enforcement.

Component 2 includes the following outputs and key activities:

Output 2.1.1: Expansion of two MPA sites (Iles Cocos and Port Glaud) and development of regulations and partnership agreements

Activity 2.1.1.1 Expansion of Iles Cocos Marine National Park to include F?licit?:

- ? Habitat and socio-economic activity mapping of the area
- ? Prepare a nomination file and send to government for approval
- ? Amend park regulations
- ? Carry out Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan

Activity 2.1.1.2 - Expansion of Port Glaud Wetland Ramsar site and designation as a Zone 2 (sustainable use) Protected Area:

- ? Habitat and socio-economic activity mapping of the area
- ? Prepare a nomination file and send to government for approval
- ? Amend park regulations
- ? Carry out Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan

Output 2.1.2: Strengthening management effectiveness at four MPA sites (Iles Cocos, Port Glaud, Aride and Ste Anne) in collaboration with communities and other stakeholders

Activity 2.1.2.1 - Management strengthening of Aride Special Reserve:

- ? Assess population trends and the current status of the various seabird nesting populations on Aride, and based on the results, propose new management measures
- ? Improve the efficiency and reliability of field data collection in the Aride SNR through the use of the Open Foris data collection tool
- ? Support the development of a surveillance and enforcement strategy and plan for the Aride SR
- ? Updating of regulations for the Aride SR

Activity 2.1.2.2 - Management strengthening of Ste Anne Marine National Park and

Activity 2.1.2.3 - Management strengthening of Ile Cocos Marine National Park

Both Sites

- ? Support the establishment of partnership agreements between the SPGA and private hotels
- ? Reviewing and updating park regulations
- ? A surveillance and enforcement strategy will be prepared and implemented in both MNPs
- ? Capacity building programs on visitor interaction, monitoring, enforcement, and conservation
- ? An electronic reporting system (mobile app) and associated dashboards for recording of illegal activities will be developed and implemented
- ? Support surveillance and enforcement patrols in the two parks
- ? MNP rangers and conservation officers will be provided with security kits containing essential surveillance and enforcement equipment
- ? Install solar powered surveillance cameras with remote data links at Ile Cocos and at important nesting beaches in the Ste Anne MNP
- ? Vessel Monitoring Systems will be installed on SPGA boats operating in the two MNPs

Ste Anne MNP

- ? Support the establishment and implementation of environmental monitoring programmes targeting coral reefs and seagrass habitats
- ? Demarcation buoys will be installed at the Ste Anne MNP boundaries and reef passages leading to the shores of Cerf Island

- ? Support the acquisition of equipment to enable additional surveillance and enforcement.
- ? Design and install information boards on regulations and allowed activities within the MNP
- ? Design and disseminate information materials to raise awareness among park visitors of the importance of coral reefs, behaviours that damage reefs, and codes of conduct when on the reef.

Activity 2.1.2.4 - Management strengthening of the Port Gland Wetland Ramsar Site and Sustainable Use Protected Area

- ? strengthen the capacities of the MACCE Wetlands Unit through training in: i) wetland inventory and monitoring succession; ii) economic analyses of wetlands and their services; iii) collection and archiving of Ethno-botanical information on mangroves and other wetland plants; iv) long-term monitoring and evaluation of wetland sites for specific impacts such as erosion, climate change, sea level rise, changes in species composition, etc.; v) mapping of mangrove species using various airborne means; and vi) identification of mangrove and other wetland plant species
- ? Support the establishment of a co-management partnership with the Port Gland Environmental Club
- ? Support the Wetlands Unit and local partners in carrying out a biodiversity inventory of the wetland and the updating of the area's Ramsar site information sheet, as well as preparation of the national Ramsar country review report.
- ? Establish and implement a habitat monitoring and surveillance programme for mangrove, seagrass and coral reefs (building on mangrove monitoring activities initiated at the site under the GEF 6 Ridge to Reef project).

Output 2.1.3: Capacities of MPA management authorities and other agencies strengthened to implement monitoring and enforcement programs at MPA sites

- ? Strengthen capacities for general PA management within SPGA and ICS through the WIO-COMPAS programme has three levels of certification
- ? Strengthen the capacities of SPGA and other key surveillance and enforcement agencies
- ? Develop an employee handbook and induction training program
- ? Carry out a feasibility study to assess whether MPA rangers can and should be granted enforcement powers similar to those of the police
- ? Participate in exchange visits with MPA sites elsewhere in the region or in other SIDS
- ? Establish a system for sharing surveillance and enforcement data among enforcement agencies; prepare a strategic document outlining each organisation's role and operational protocols

- ? Create and support a network of agency focal points to drive changes in the way that MPA enforcement is undertaken at the national level
- ? Implement targeted surveillance and enforcement at each project site
- ? Purchase operational equipment to support surveillance operation and evidence collection
- ? Support SPGA in establishing a command centre to coordinate operations in the different MNPs
- ? SPGA's ICT infrastructure will be improved
- ? Support the establishment of a boat and engine maintenance workshop, and the purchase of necessary maintenance equipment and materials

Output 2.1.4: Management Plans and business/financing plans developed/updated and implemented in project sites

- ? Support the development and implementation of new or updated Management Plans in four target MPA sites
- ? Develop a business plan for the Aride SR, the project will develop a business plan
- ? Carry out Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for all new / amended MPA management plans; based on this, a scoped Environmental and Social Management Plan
- ? Establishment / operation of an Information System for Protected Land/Seascape Management Plans at MACCE

Under Component 3, and within the framework of establishing a sustainable Blue Economy[13] in the Seychelles, the project will support implementation of sustainable tourism approaches, identify and develop Nature based Solutions that reduce negative impacts from tourism on coastal and marine ecosystems, improve ecosystem management and support sustainable livelihoods opportunities, and educate and raise awareness among the public, private sector and visitors on NbS and sustainable tourism approaches in the context of a Blue Economy. Focusing on Nature based Solutions (NbS), the component will implement actions that address societal challenges through the protection, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems, benefitting both biodiversity and human well-being. For the Seychelles, a critical opportunity for impactful NbS can be found in the intersection of sustainable tourism development and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly as the tourism industry in the country recovers and also adopts new strategies as the Covid-19 pandemic begins to wane (additional analysis of NbS opportunities in the Seychelles are provided in Annex 17d). However, concerns also exist that the pandemic could roll back global progress in equality and sustainable economic growth[14], and that recovery will not fully realize the potential to promote greater resilience and/or address the challenges of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, as well as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.[15] Component 3 will include approaches to assist the government to embark on a greener development pathway as it recovers from the impacts of COVID-19, especially targeting the tourism sector and most-affected communities. Furthermore, project approaches to Nature-based Solutions related to the tourism sector, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and entrepreneurial livelihoods opportunities have been developed in consultation with relevant partners and potential beneficiaries in order to ensure that NbS have

widespread support and are designed to effectively conserve natural ecosystems and provide socio-economic benefits[16].

Component 3 includes the following outputs and key activities:

Output 3.1.1: Strengthen policy frameworks for implementation of nature-based solutions for tourism

Activity 3.1.1.1 - Develop a sustainable tourism policy for Seychelles that supports nature-based solutions, as a cross-cutting policy that addresses gaps in existing relevant policies

? A cross-cutting policy on sustainable tourism will be drafted that is aligned with the Destination 2030 program

Activity 3.1.1.2: Extend use of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) by tourism operators serving the project MPA sites

? Conduct a feasibility study for the mandatory certification of tourism establishments

? Undertake baseline biodiversity and energy system audits of tourism establishments in the project sites

? Develop and share data and analyses that demonstrate the business case for SSTL certification for both large and smaller tourism operations

? Develop and implement a marketing plan to promote adoption of the SSTL among hotel operators

Output 3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems

Activity 3.1.2.1 - Promote sustainable and ecologically friendly tourism development at Ste Anne, Port Glaud, and Ile Cocos MPA sites:

? Establish kayak / snorkel trails with interpretative information on marine ecosystems and the impacts of unsustainable visitation

? Scale-up an existing Wise Oceans / SeyCCAT project on sustainable snorkelling

? Promote sustainable practices among dive / snorkel operators who are active in the project sites, including facilitating their possible certification with Greenfins (<https://greenfins.net>)

Activity 3.1.2.2: Reduce pressure on ecosystems from tourism activities at Ste Anne, Port Gland, and Ile Cocos MPA sites

- ? Develop and implement a mooring buoy action plan for the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos MNPs
- ? Establish an information kiosk at the Port Gland MPA site that will provide venues for environmental education and interpretation
- ? Develop and disseminate guidance on park rules and guidelines, responsible visitation practices, and information on ecosystems and habitats in each of the project sites
- ? Strengthen mechanisms to control land use and visitor activities at the target MPAs, including improved zoning guidelines, land access and use guidelines, demarcation of zoned areas, etc.

Activity 3.1.2.3: Strengthen capacities to support the application of nature-based solutions at MPA sites through building knowledge and technical capacity in coastal monitoring, engineering and nature-based protection

- ? Adapt and supplement the existing UniSey Certificate course on Coastal Management and Adaptation with modules on nature-based solutions designed to address the negative environmental impacts of coastal tourism development
- ? Make course available to regional participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in order to support South-South collaboration and learning
- ? Work with the Department of Environment to develop formal Sector Standards for planning and construction in coastal areas

Output 3.1.3: Nature-based solutions for ecosystem management / restoration identified and piloted with private sector and local communities leading to recovery of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems

Activity 3.1.3.1 - Improved management and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs) at Port Gland Ramsar site

- ? Study capacity of mangroves to filter toxins and other effluents coming from nearby residential areas and hotels, and appropriate mitigation activities carried out
- ? Support mangrove planting and conservation programs and annual mangrove clean-up activities to address the threat posed by the illegal dumping of waste
- ? Install fencing on the mountain-facing side of the wetland to prevent dumping of waste into the mangroves

? Support an education and awareness campaign for nearby households on waste management activities

Activity 3.1.3.2 - Rehabilitation of eroded coastal ecosystems and protection of Hawksbill turtle nesting sites at Ste Anne Marine National Park

? Monitoring of turtle nesting on the most important beaches (Anse Grand Manon, Anse Petit Manon and Grand Anse)

? Gradual removal of trees with hard and complex lateral root systems on nesting beaches and replacing the trees with native coastal plants with softer roots

Activity 3.1.3.3 - Establish a coral recovery programme at Ile Cocos Marine National Park that strengthens the resilience of reefs through targeted nature-based restoration

? Develop and implement a coral restoration strategy for the Ile Cocos MNP along the reef facing F?licit? Island

? Stabilization of the rubble slope to provide a base onto which corals grown in the nurseries

? Checking coral recovery patterns at sites of the on-going Adaptation Fund project at Ste Anne, Curieuse and Praslin starting in 2025 to assess recovery rates and the success of different methods used

? Test options for controlling populations of black spine sea urchin, which can negatively impact the coral recovery process through their grazing on coral recruits

Activity 3.1.3.4 ? Community-led management of important seagrass beds in Baie Ste Anne, Praslin

? Support the PFA in preparing and implementing a participatory management plan for the Baie Ste Anne seagrass beds

? Build the capacity of the PFA and its members to implement the management plan

? Install approximately 15 permanent mooring buoys over the seagrass beds

? Pilot a community-led seagrass restoration program, focusing on beds of Tape Seagrass (*Enhalus acocroides*)

-

Output 3.1.4: Communities living adjacent or with access to priority conservation areas benefit from sustainable nature-based livelihoods (with focus on women and youth)

Activity 3.1.4.1 ? Analysis of successful business models for NbS to support livelihoods from other SIDS and coastal states

- ? Conduct a desk review of investable/profitable NbS business models / approaches
- ? Propose a suite of recommendations on NbS that may be feasible in the Seychelles

Activity 3.1.4.2 ? Establish the NbS Enterprise Incubator stream within the existing MSME incubator

- ? Identify potential candidates for participation in the NbS incubator stream (emphasizing the inclusion of women and youth)
- ? Provide the information developed under Activity 3.1.4.1 on successful NbS approaches to incubator participants
- ? Establish a mentoring system (with domestic and/or international mentors) to support incubator participants

Activity 3.1.4.3 ? Partner with incubator applicants to design and pilot selected NbS enterprises

- ? Support incubator participants in basic research and development; feasibility studies; creation / testing of prototypes; market demand assessments; licensing; development of business plans; securing intellectual property protection; and marketing of NbS products
- ? Assist participants in mobilizing seed capital for NbS business ideas and applying for start-up funding for equipment and materials

Activity 3.1.4.4 ? Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

- ? Carry out a SESP for activities related to sustainable nature-based livelihoods, in particular for the selected pilot NbS enterprises.

Output 3.1.5: Education and Awareness Raising on NBS and sustainable tourism for the general public, schools and the tourism sector

Activity 3.1.5.1 ? School Campaign on environmental awareness

- ? Develop and implement an environmental awareness campaign for schools. Educational outreach will be coupled with beach and mangrove clean-up campaigns for school groups.

Activity 3.1.5.2 - Awareness raising of tourism sector stakeholders

? Awareness raising program targeting tourism sector stakeholders to increase their understanding of the fragility of coastal and marine ecosystems and the potential negative impacts that tourism can have on those ecosystems

Activity 3.1.5.3 ? Buy Local Campaign

? Support a buy local campaign to encourage Seychellois to ?buy locally?, including products and services developed by local entrepreneurs through the NbS incubator developed under Output 3.1.4

Under Component 4, the project will ensure effective gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, and the integration of knowledge management processes across the project outcomes and outputs. This will be achieved through implementing a gender empowerment strategy and carrying out associated gender impact assessments; development and implementation of the project M&E framework, including detailed assessments and action plans related to potential safeguards issues; the creation and sharing of project knowledge products, including be technical, policy and planning products and rapid assessments and policy briefs to provide targeted policy guidance, as well as the establishment of networks to bring together existing stakeholder associations and groups and build local ?communities of practice; and finally the promotion of South-South cooperation on ?Blue Economy? with other Indian Ocean countries and other SIDS through sharing information on key lessons learnt / best practices and participation in regional / global meetings on Blue Economy and conservation / management of the marine environment

Component 4 includes the following outputs and key activities:

-

Output 4.1.1: Gender empowerment strategy developed and used to guide project implementation, M&E at pilot sites

Activity 4.1.1.1 - Develop Project Gender Empowerment Strategy

? Assess how different groups of women and men use, manage, and conserve the marine and coastal environment

? Develop and implement a gender empowerment strategy to ensure an inclusive approach throughout the project

Activity 4.1.1.2 - Mainstream gender across project components

? Facilitate the participation of women and youth in project activities, including national level policy, planning, M&E and other activities; activities at the site level to address gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; strengthen the participation of women in decision-making processes; and enhance their income-generating potential; and project education campaigns and awareness raising activities

Activity 4.1.1.3 - Carry out Gender Impact Assessments

? Conduct gender impact assessments with a focus on empowerment-for-all across the project

Output 4.1.2: Participatory M&E and learning framework developed and implemented at pilot sites:

Activity 4.1.2.1 - Development and implementation of the project M&E framework

? Develop and implement a participatory Monitoring and Evaluation and learning framework for the project, following standard UNDP and GEF procedures

Activity 4.1.2.2 - Carry out assessments of potential safeguards issues

? Assess safeguards issues (including any possible risks from restricted access to land or resources) related to project activities at the project field sites, and develop mitigation measures as needed

Output 4.1.3: Lessons learned through participatory M&E and gender empowerment are used nationally and shared internationally

Activity 4.1.3.1 - Develop, consolidate and disseminate project knowledge products

- ? Create and share knowledge products; many of these knowledge products will be technical, policy and planning products based on information generated and lessons learned from project activities under Components 1-3
- ? Produce and disseminate rapid assessments and policy briefs that translate assessments and research into simple, easily understood practical policy guidance
- ? Disseminate selected project findings and results through media, scientific publications and on-line tools

Activity 4.1.3.2 ? Establish information sharing platforms / communities

- ? Establish platforms and networks to bring together existing stakeholder associations and groups, in particular at the project sites of Ste Anne MNP, Ile Cocos MNP, Port Glaud MPA, and Baie Ste Anne
- ? Build local ?communities of practice? on Nature based Solutions related to tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods
- ? Share information with global partners on NbS approaches for tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods

Output 4.1.4: South-South cooperation on ?Blue Economy? with Indian Ocean countries and other SIDS

Activity 4.1.4.1 - Disseminate information on key aspects of the project?s Blue Economy approaches with other Indian Ocean countries / SIDS

? Share information on key lessons learnt / best practices with other countries in the Indian Ocean as well as other Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Activity 4.1.4.2 - Participate in regional / global meetings on Blue Economy and conservation / management of the marine environment

? Support participation of project staff / Seychelles? representatives at regional and global meetings such as the Blue Economy Summit, Indian Ocean Rim Association conferences, SIDS conferences, etc.

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

Section III Strategy (?Alignment with GEF Focal Areas / Impact Programs) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

The project is aligned specifically with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area BD-2-7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species, and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate. The project is focused on improving management of the newly expanded Marine Protected Area estate in the Seychelles in alignment with the Seychelles? Marine Spatial Plan and Blue Economy vision. Given the loss of habitat and fragmentation taking place, all fauna and flora species are in need of protection and strengthened management practices, making the Seychelles a high priority for the conservation of biodiversity of global importance. The archipelago is located within one of the 25 global biodiversity hotspots recognized by Conservation International and in one of the 35 critical regions identified by the World Wildlife Fund ("Madagascar and the West of the Indian Ocean"). The project will contribute to global environmental benefits through the improved management of existing Marine Protected Areas. Key biodiversity conservation results will include: i) protecting endangered and endemic species from extinction (across the PA network, specifically in the project sites); ii) improving sustainable land and coastal use practices for conservation of key species and ecosystems; and iii) providing sustainable, biodiversity-friendly livelihood options. By coordinating a cross-sectoral approach to the project?s outputs and components, and ensuring integration of resource management activities with the Government of Seychelles? ?Blue Economy? strategy and the conservation objectives of the MACCE, the project will ensure long-term socio-economic benefits based on healthy ecosystems.

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

Section IV Results and Partnerships (Expected Results and Partnerships) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated but remains fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

The incremental approach can be summarised as follows: the project will seek to (i) reduce the threat from over-exploitation and further degradation of GOS?s MPA system; (ii) strengthen management of GOS?s expanded MPA system through effective and improved engagement of, and co-management with, communities to achieve biodiversity conservation goals; and iii) promote the development and implementation of nature-based solutions and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods in select sites to benefit local island communities. Without project interventions, the fragmentation of the island habitats and degradation caused by the range of threats identified above will not only continue, but will most likely accelerate as human populations and tourism pressures increase. There will be insufficient investment in protected area management, resulting in the loss of unique biodiversity with significant costs and detriment to Seychelles? national economy.

Table 3: Baseline, Alternative Scenario and related Global Environmental Benefits

Baseline practices	Alternatives to be put in place by the project	Global Environmental Benefits

<p>Lack of coordination and capacity among agencies reduces the effectiveness of MPAs and conservation efforts, and allows ecosystem degradation to continue unchecked due to ineffective management and financing</p> <p>Poor management of MPAs and low capacity to enforce PA laws and monitor biodiversity leads to biodiversity loss from unsustainable marine practices and illegal use and poaching of natural resources</p> <p>Uncontrolled use of marine protected areas and key species continues, resulting in local declines and possible extinctions, particularly given the rate of micro endemism</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation and degradation trends caused by the range of identified threats will continue and likely</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination to address development priorities and conservation needs to reduce negative impacts on the expanded MPA system - Capacity development within key Ministries including MACCE and the responsible Oceans Authority (mandated to manage the MSP) - Development of an Investment Framework and Strategy for the expanded MPA system to ensure financial sustainability - Capacity of SeyCCAT and DBS strengthened to support Blue Economy financing and investment - Improved understanding nationally and at local project sites of the value of biodiversity and improved livelihoods that can arise from its conservation and sustainable use - PA management plans are revised and strengthened for project sites with emphasis on community and private sector engagement for improved conservation and livelihoods - Capacities of PA managers and other partners are strengthened for improved MPA management, in particular for improved surveillance and monitoring - Private sector enterprises, communities and government work together to reduce land-based and sea-based impacts on MPAs - Community-based business ventures provide 'biodiversity friendly' livelihoods at project sites (e.g. sustainable/ecotourism) in project sites - Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management, ecosystem conservation and recovery, and pilot livelihoods enterprises are piloted to address development challenges in project sites and support SDG achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved management and protection of 2,034 hectares of MPAs (see targets and indicators) - 433 hectares under conservation management - Populations of endemic and threatened species at targeted project sites will be protected from loss of habitat and overexploitation - Conservation of other endemic and globally significant species, including turtles, seabirds, sharks, dolphins and other cetaceans - Improved management of MPAs including updated or new Management Plans with sustainable financing - Increase in number of biodiversity-friendly livelihood ventures at project sites - Reduced anthropogenic pressures within and surrounding selected sites
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By strengthening management of the MPA system and addressing systemic changes to enforcement of laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation, the project will enhance the conservation of critical coastal and marine ecosystems and key endemic and threatened species within them, particularly at the project sites (but also potentially at a broader and even national level through improved governance mechanisms), thereby supporting SDGs 14.2 and 14.5. Conservation of these areas, as well as seagrass beds in the productive seascape (in Baie Ste Anne), will increase the economic benefits derived from the sustainable use of marine resources through fisheries and aquaculture, thereby supporting SDG 14.7. Project activities to support local livelihoods through Nature based Solutions in tourism and small and medium enterprises, and the adoption of more sustainable tourism practices, will support SDGs 8.3, 8.9, 12.6, and 12.b. The project will ensure the full participation of women and youth in project activities, and ensure their access to socio-economic benefits and opportunities generated by project activities, thereby contributing to SDG 5.5.

A variety of organizations will act as co-financing partners to the project, including institutions of the Government of Seychelles, civil society organizations and various donor agencies. Total project co-financing amounts to USD 18,047, 959. The co-financing activities are all 'parallel co-financing' and the co-financing partners will manage and monitor their activities, which are complementary to the proposed GEF-funded activities.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

Section III Strategy ('Contribution to Global Environmental Benefits') of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

The project is designed to: i) reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity by strengthening the country's system of marine protected areas in alignment with the Marine Spatial Plan and Blue Economy vision; ii) reverse degradation in, and improve management of, coastal and marine areas with positive impacts for local communities living within and/or adjacent to MPAs; and iii) strengthen capacity and partnerships. The project will promote integrated ecosystem management and implement key priority activities for the sustainable management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem adopted by the nine coastal and island states of the Western Indian Oceans. The project will also contribute to the goals of the CBD in implementing activities identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project will contribute directly to the CBD goal for protection of 10% of the marine area globally, and contribute directly to the fulfilment of the Government of Seychelles' commitment, as delivered at Rio+20, for protection of up to 30% of its marine ecosystems. It will also support the achievement of the post-2020 CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, which will include a target relating to the conservation and effective management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems in the face of accelerating threats.

The project will contribute to delivery of global environmental benefits through: (i) improved management and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems in 4 marine protected areas, including the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks, the Aride Special Reserve, and the Port Glaud Ramsar site (which will be a formal marine protected area by the end of the project), which together will account for 2,034 ha (GEF Core Indicator 2.2); (ii) improved management of seagrass bed

ecosystems in Baie Ste Anne covering 433 ha (GEF Core Indicator 5); and delivery of benefits to 12,226 direct beneficiaries (5,231 female and 6,995 male) (GEF Core Indicator 11).

By strengthening management of the MPA system and addressing systemic changes to enforcement of laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation, the project will enhance the conservation of critical coastal and marine ecosystems and key endemic and threatened species within them, particularly at the project sites (but also potentially at a broader and even national level through improved governance mechanisms), thereby supporting SDGs 14.2 and 14.5. Conservation of these areas, as well as seagrass beds in the productive seascape (in Baie Ste Anne), will increase the economic benefits derived from the sustainable use of marine resources through fisheries and aquaculture, thereby supporting SDG 14.7. Project activities to support local livelihoods through Nature based Solutions in tourism and small and medium enterprises, and the adoption of more sustainable tourism practices, will support SDGs 8.3, 8.9, 12.6, and 12.b. The project will ensure the full participation of women and youth in project activities, and ensure their access to socio-economic benefits and opportunities generated by project activities, thereby contributing to SDG 5.5. Finally, by stimulating recovery (post COVID-19) and growth in a diversified economy, and supporting nature-based livelihoods, the project will deliver social and economic benefits to communities living within or adjacent to targeted marine protected areas in the Seychelles, thereby contributing to alleviating poverty and reducing the exposure of vulnerable communities to climate-related risks, and other social, economic or environmental shocks and disasters (SDG 1.5)

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Section IV Results and Partnerships (?Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up?) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

Innovation: The project will pioneer the first GEF-financed Blue Economy project to be implemented in the Indian Ocean. Specifically, the project will put in place a comprehensive approach to the management of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles in alignment with the national Marine Spatial Plan that will link sectors and partners responsible for coastal and marine ecosystems while increasing local communities' involvement in nature-based livelihoods. By supporting the operationalization of the new Seychelles Oceans Authority (SOA), and facilitating its role in coordinating the MPA management activities of various governmental, parastatal and private/NGO partners, the project will support the Seychelles in piloting an innovative approach to managing a greatly expanded marine PA estate. A high level of Government support for this innovative approach is expected in view of the commitment of the Government to implement both the new Seychelles Strategic Plan and the Marine Spatial Plan (for the management and conservation of marine ecosystems), under the framework of the national Blue Economy Roadmap. In addition, the project will support Seychelles' next pioneering ocean action to protect and manage coastal ecosystems including mangroves and seagrasses, so demonstrating a nature-based solution as a mitigation component of its Nationally Determined Contribution.

Sustainability: Institutional sustainability will be supported by focusing on capacity building in areas of enforcement of MPA regulations, MPA financing, new MPA partnership models, and the technical aspects of Blue Economy approaches. Specific support to the responsible Oceans Authority for the evolving implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan will ensure sustainability post-2020. In terms of financial sustainability, the financing of MPAs is already being addressed by the UNDP-GEF PA Finance project[17], while capacity development to strengthen SeyCCAT's capacity to further mobilize resources and disburse grants effectively to support Blue Economy initiatives will be supported by this project. With increased awareness among decision-makers, supported by tangible benefits from improved ecosystem functions generated through the on-the-ground pilot activities supported by this project, GEF investments through this project are expected to catalyse more resources to sustain, replicate and upscale similar activities.

Scaling Up: The project includes the elements needed for scaling-up its outputs and outcomes, both within the MPA system and the country in general. Replication elements include: 1) development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for reporting on MSP implementation by all relevant stakeholders (Output 1.1.2); 2) the development and implementation of an Investment Framework and Strategy to provide financing for the expanded MPA system nationally (Output 1.1.3); 3) updating of MPA legislation and training of lawyers, judges and magistrates on the handling of environment-related crimes (Output 1.1.4); 4) piloting of partnership agreements between the MPA managers and private hotels (Output 2.1.2); 5) strengthening the capacities of SPGA and other key surveillance and enforcement agencies (Output 2.1.3); 6) extending the use of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) by tourism operators; 7) promote sustainable practices among dive / snorkel operators, including facilitating their possible certification with Greenfins (<https://greenfins.net>) (Output 3.1.2); 8) providing a technical course on sustainable coastal tourism development to diverse stakeholders and developing formal Sector Standards for planning and construction in coastal areas (Output 3.1.2); 9) piloting a participatory management plan for the Baie Ste Anne seagrass beds (Output 3.1.3); and 10) establishing a Nature based Solutions incubator (Output 3.1.4). In addition, the project's innovative approaches for advancing a Blue Economy vision and implementing the Marine Spatial Plan will be highly useful and replicable beyond the Seychelles, as many other small island countries face similar human resource, natural resource and financial challenges for which they are seeking new solutions. Under Output 4.1.4, the project will facilitate South-South information sharing on 'Blue Economy' with other Indian Ocean countries and SIDS (including Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives), with a focus on nature based solutions / business models that have been effectively implemented; successful approaches to large-scale marine management and marine spatial planning; national strategies for monitoring and enforcement of regulations to protect coastal and marine ecosystems; sustainable financing options at both national and regional levels, and the use of sustainable and low-carbon construction approaches and materials for tourism infrastructure.

[1] Hoegh-Guldberg, O. et al. Coral reefs under rapid climate change and ocean acidification. *Science* 318, 1737-1742 (2007).

[2] Hughes, T. P., Graham, N. A. J., Jackson, J. B. C., Mumby, P. J. & Steneck, R. S. Rising to the challenge of sustaining coral reef resilience. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 25, 633-642 (2010).

[3] Boom and bust of keystone structure on coral reefs. Shaun K. Wilson, James P. W. Robinson, Karen Chong-Seng, Jan Robinson & Nicholas A. J. Graham. *Coral Reefs*. 2019.

[4] <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/statistics/tourism>

[5] This estimated total does not include Silhouette Island, for which figures are not available.

[6] This situation should improve as the new online fee collection system supported by the UNDP-GEF PA Finance project becomes fully operational

[7] Government of the Seychelles (2011), Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

[8] Predicting climate-driven regime shifts versus rebound potential in coral reefs. Nicholas A. J. Graham, Simon Jennings, M. Aaron MacNeil, David Mouillot & Shaun K. Wilson. Nature. 2015.

[9] Productive instability of coral reef fisheries after climate-driven regime shifts. James P. W. Robinson, Shaun K. Wilson, Jan Robinson, Calvin Gerry, Juliette Lucas, Cindy Assan, Rodney Govinden, Simon Jennings and Nicholas A. J. Graham. Nature Ecology and Evolution. 2019.

[10] SNPA (Undated) Management plan for the Sainte Anne Marine National Park (2021-2025), Draft for public review

[11] SNPA (2020) Port Launay and Bai Ternay Marine National Park Plan of Management (2019-2023), Final 24.2.2020

[12] GEF-STAP. 2019. *A Theory of Change Primer - a STAP document*. Accessible here: [?Theory of Change Primer?](#)

[13] Commonwealth Secretariat, The Blue Economy and Small States. Commonwealth Blue Economy Series, No. 1, (London: Commonwealth Secretariat 2016), referencing UN Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD] 2014

[14] UN World Tourism Organization (2020c) COVID-19 response: 96% of global destinations impose travel restrictions, UNWTO reports: <https://www.unwto.org/news/covid-19-response-travel-restrictions?fbclid=IwAR3YJtncEvUpNjAAAQqYlaYwcMnQucqCsnBdVm919ILa968vWiv0UAIImVbk> (Accessed: 21Apr2020)

[15] Spenceley, A. (2021) The future of nature-based tourism: Impacts of COVID-19 and paths to sustainability, Luc Hoffmann Institute: <https://luchoffmanninstitute.org/future-nature-based-tourism-report/>; Spenceley, A. (2020) Setting the scene: Impacts of the pandemic on the tourism sector and building back greener, Presentation at UNEP's online side event of the 26th Meeting of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, 9 November 2020

[16] Giordano et al., (2020). Enhancing nature-based solutions acceptance through stakeholders? engagement in co-benefits identification and trade-offs analysis? Science of the Total Environment 713. 136552.

[17] Seychelles? Protected Areas Finance Project (GEF Project ID 5485).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Coordinates for Project Sites

Ste Anne MNP: 4° 37' 14", 55° 30' 10"

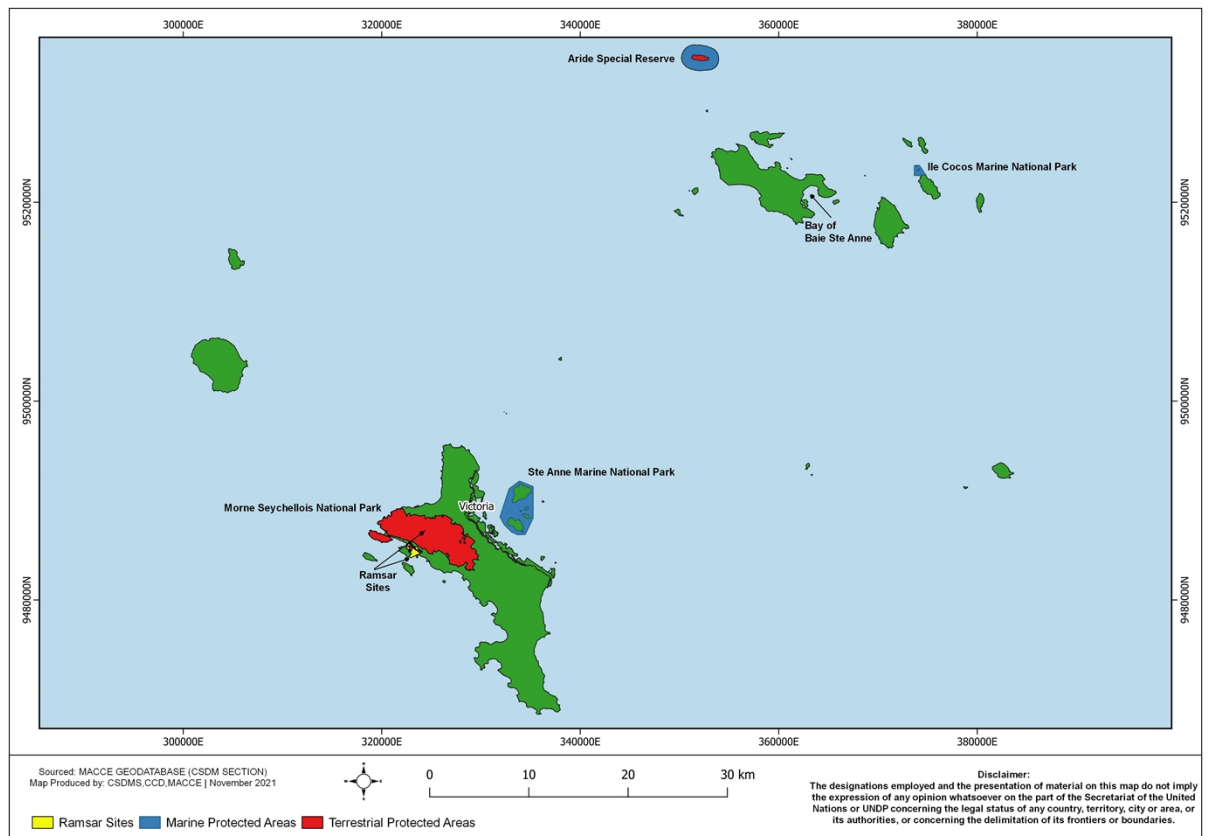
Port Glaud Ramsar Site: 4° 39' 21", 55° 24' 28"

Ile Cocos MNP: 4° 18' 44", 55° 51' 55"

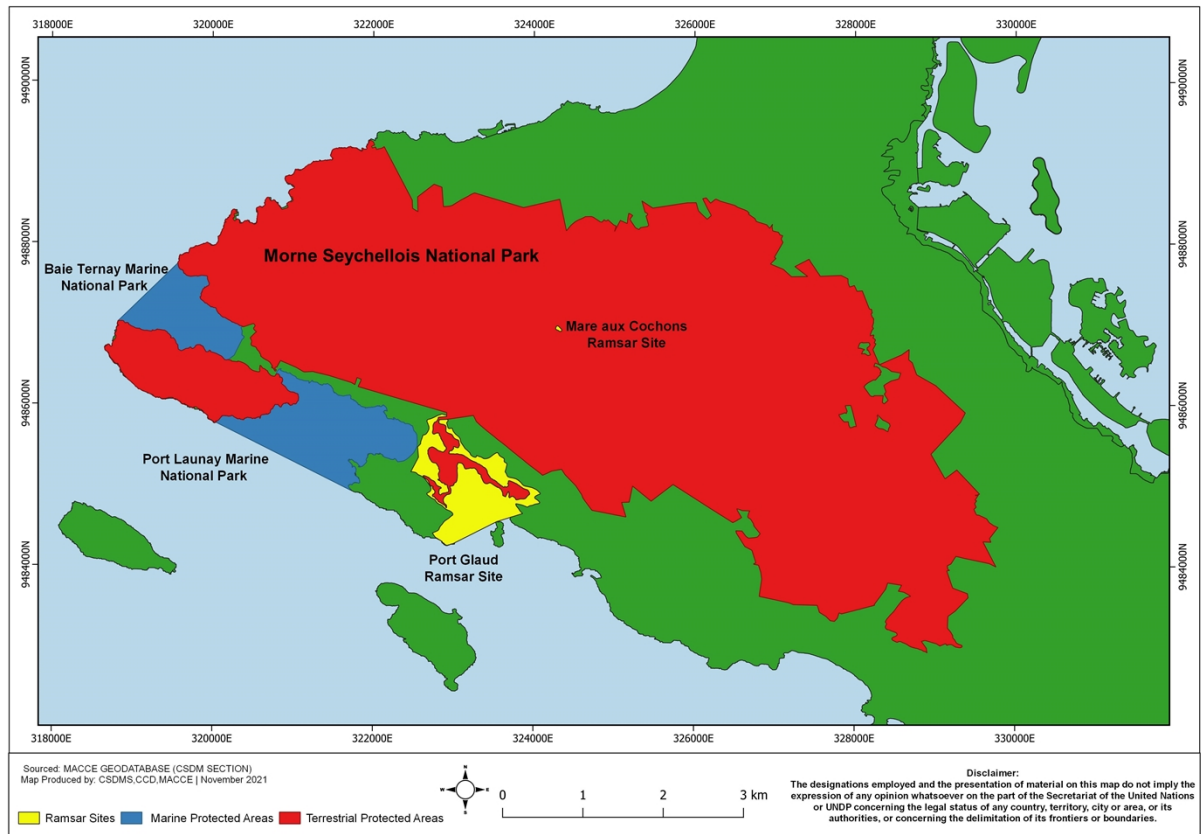
Aride Special Reserve: 4° 12' 49", 55° 40' 00"

Bay of Baie Ste Anne Praslin: 4° 20' 21", 55° 46' 11"

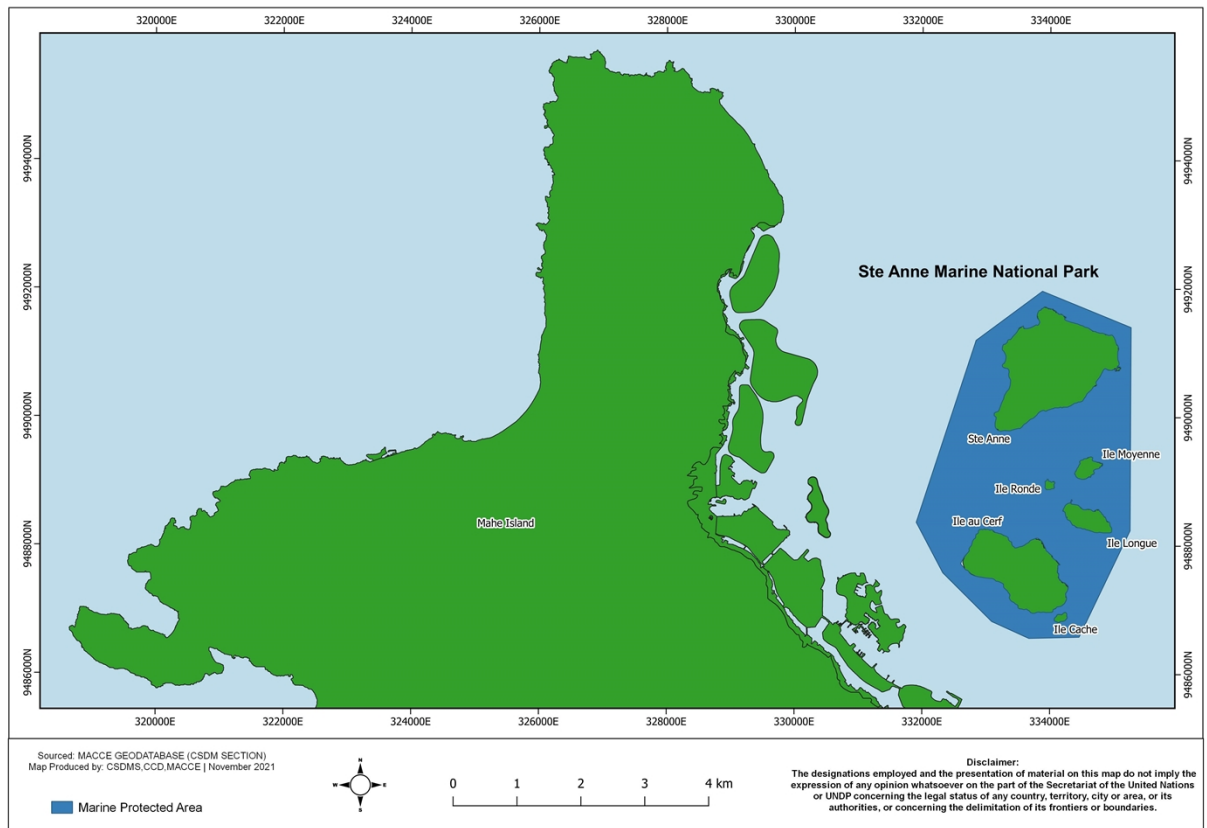
Map 1 - Key Project Sites: Map of the Inner Islands that shows the key project sites (Port Gland Ramsar Site, Ste Anne MNP, Ile Cocos MNP, Bay of Baie Ste Anne, Aride Special Reserve)



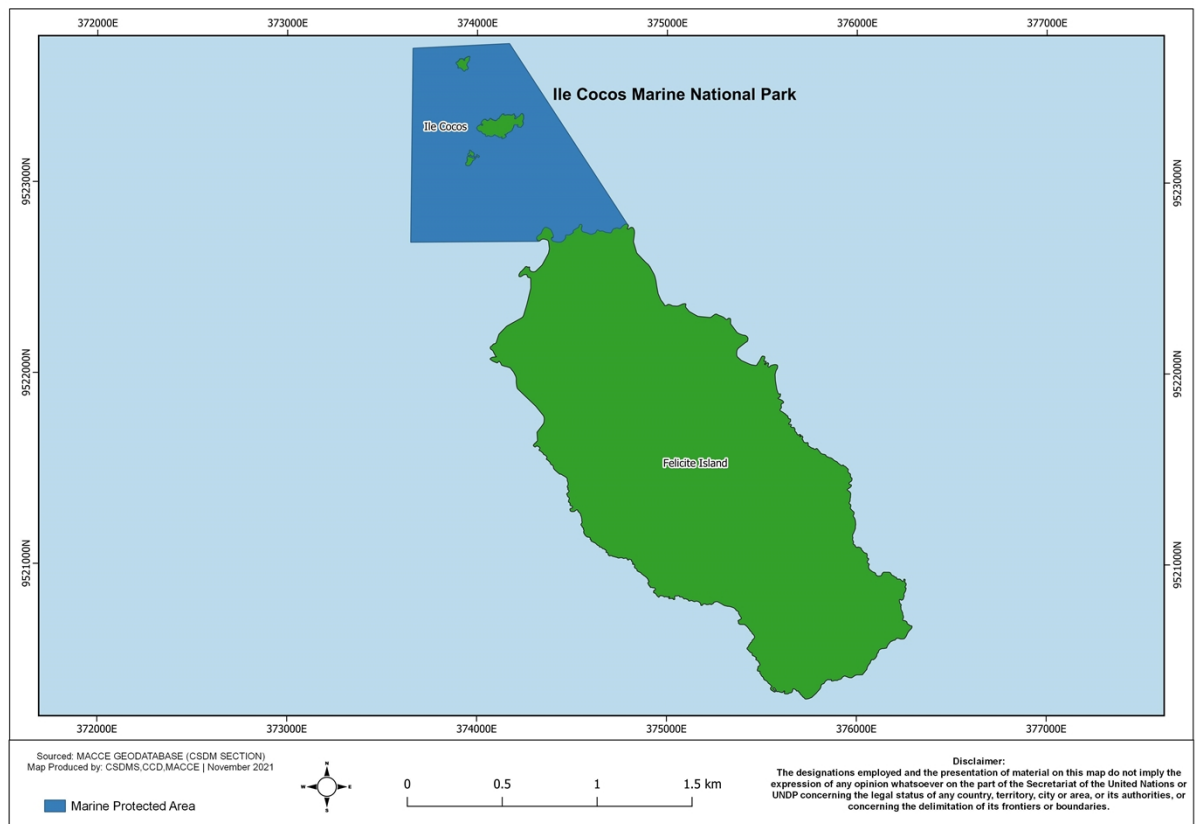
Map 2 - Port Gland: Map showing the Port Gland Ramsar site, with the Morne Seychellois National Park, Port Launay MNP and Baie Ternay MNP also labelled.



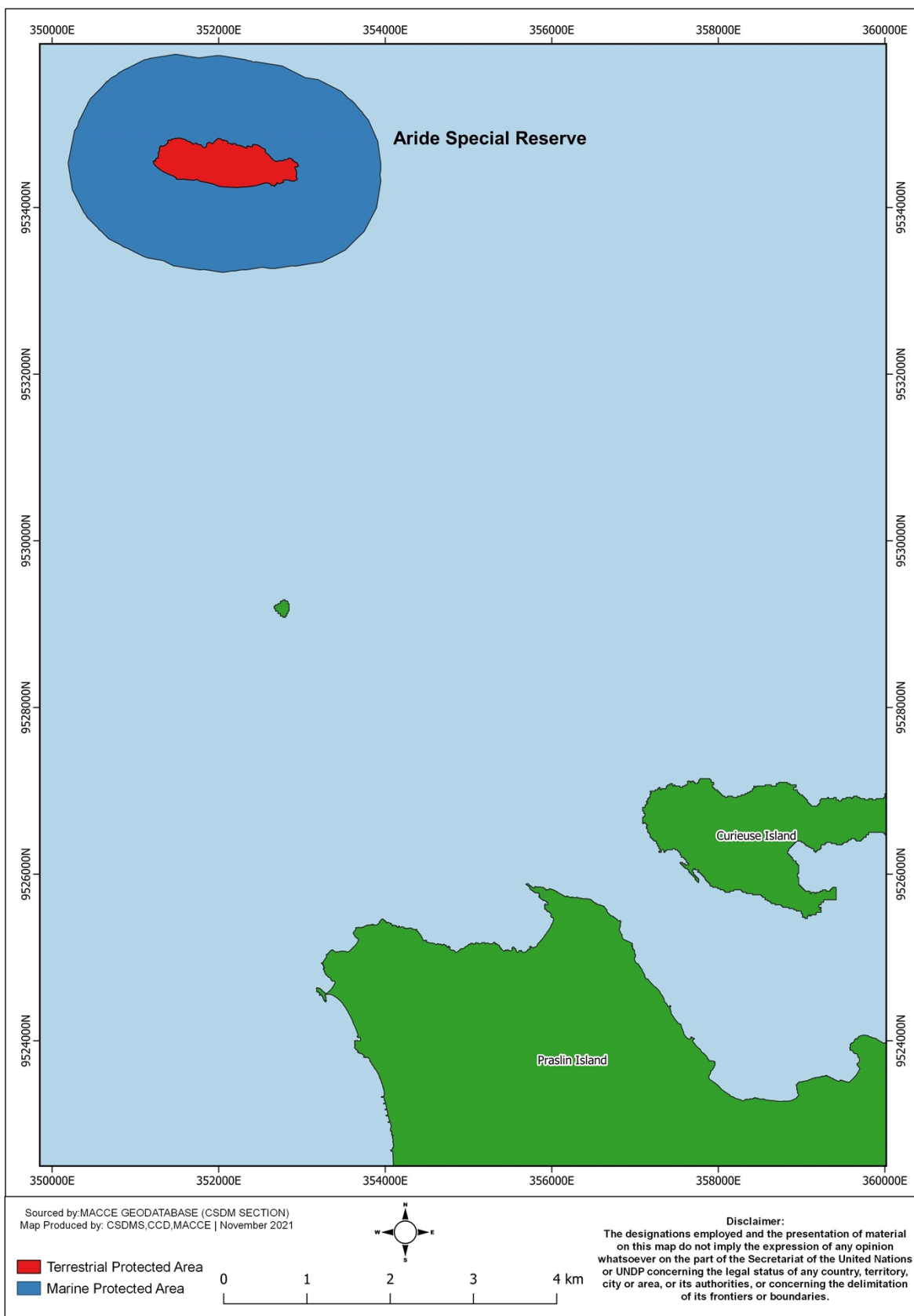
Map 3 - Ste Anne: Map showing the Ste Anne Marine National Park, including islands within the park and its proximity to the nearby main island of Mahe



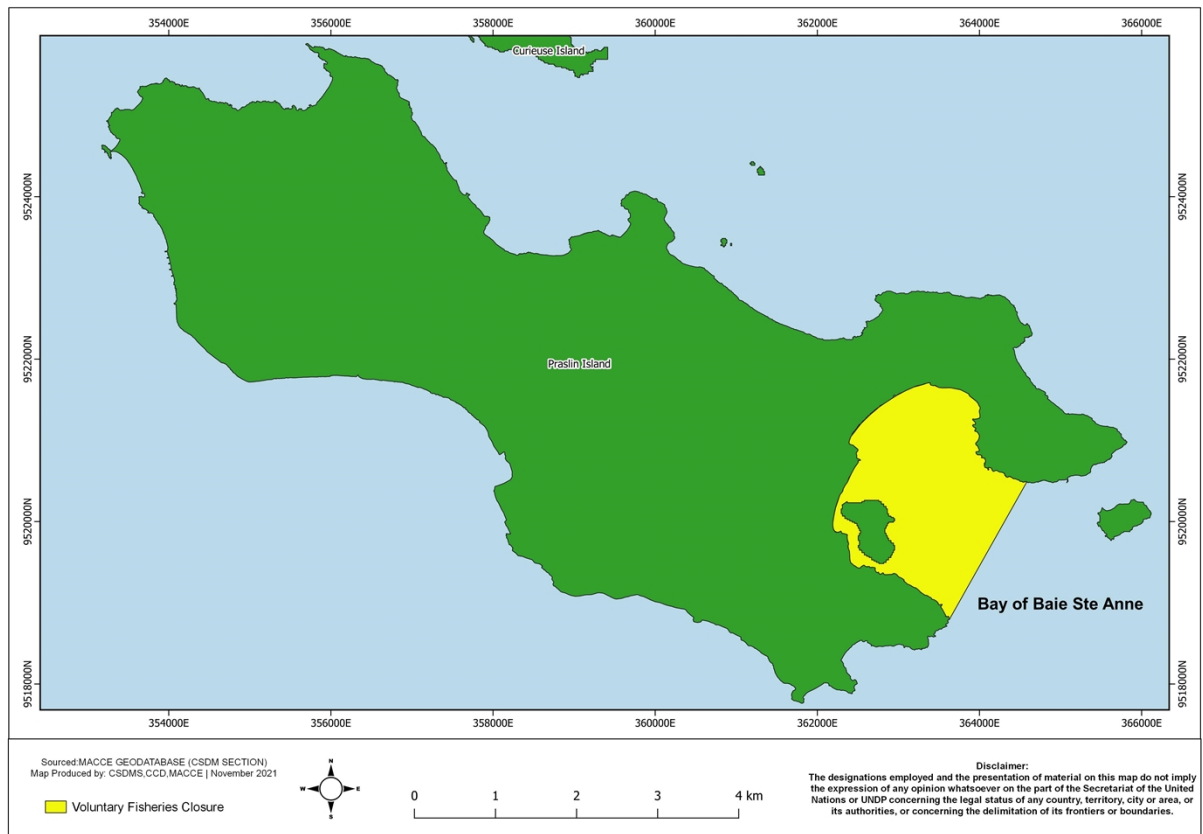
Map 4 - Ile Cocos: Map showing the Ile Cocos Marine National Park, and its proximity to nearby Felicite Island



Map 5 ? Aride: Map showing the Aride Special Reserve, and its proximity to nearby Praslin and Curieuse islands.



Map 6 - Baie Ste Anne: Map showing Baie Ste Anne and the Voluntary Fisheries Closure area within the bay, as well as the nearby Island of Praslin



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

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please find attached the Annex 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

Section IV Results and Partnerships (Stakeholder Engagement) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note. A comprehensive stakeholder analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase. Based on this analysis, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (UNDP Prodoc, Annex 7) that ensures inclusivity during project implementation and participation of all stakeholders has been developed and provides details of the project's action plan for stakeholder involvement and participation. The project approach to stakeholder involvement and participation during project implementation is briefly summarised below.

The project will bring together stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector to ensure participatory planning, decision-making, monitoring and knowledge-sharing. Engagement processes will build on existing institutional frameworks and processes that have legitimacy and credibility and that take local customary norms into due consideration. At a strategic policy level, the project will engage the Seychelles' National Steering Committee / National Climate Change Committee (NSC/NCCC), which provides guidance and inputs for programs and projects in the environment and sustainable development sphere, and is chaired by both Principal Secretaries of the MACCE: principal secretary for the Department of Environment and the one for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. At the institutional / organizational level, the project will engage with the various ministerial and departmental representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations, Academia, Private Sector, and Local Communities / Resource Users who are actively involved in and/or have abiding interests related to conservation, management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas of the Seychelles.

The stakeholder engagement process for this project shall be informed by a set of principles and defining core values based on International Best Practises, that;

- ? There is a level of **commitment** that is established early in the process when there is a need to understand, engage and identify the community;
- ? There is **integrity** during the engagement process that fosters mutual respect and trust;
- ? There is **respect** for cultural belief, rights and values, along with the interest of the stakeholders;
- ? There is **transparency** when community concerns are responded to in a timely, open and effective manner;
- ? There is a level of **inclusivity** that is harboured through broad participation;

- ? There is **trust** that is manifested through open and meaningful dialogue that respects and upholds a community's beliefs, values, and opinions.

The engagement program aims to foster partnerships for an inclusive and effective project implementation, geared towards the development of blue economy activities that promote nature-based solutions. A concerted effort is needed to ensure that benefits from such projects are reaped by all layers of society. The main goal of the engagement program is to inform the stakeholders of the project objectives, proposed activities and expected results and outcomes. During the stakeholder engagement programme, focused efforts will be on engaging directly with relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups at the local level. Affected individuals will be consulted directly or via their representatives, and other influential people within communities. In addition, special efforts will be made to meet with representatives of potentially vulnerable groups if (they are identified at any point) who may not be reached through established structures. All meetings will follow local practices and norms. All affected communities and groups will be made aware of the Project feedback and grievance mechanism.

Prior to any engagement activities, the following actions will occur:

- ? Preparation of standard 'question and answer' sheets tailored for specific stakeholder types (based on 'lessons learnt' analysis and common issues raised in previous engagement);
- ? Planning/design of engagement action(s) with the Project Team and consultants
- ? Selection of individual stakeholders with whom engagement will occur;
- ? Selection of methods for disclosure of information (including such topics as format, language, and timing);
- ? Selection of location and timing for engagement event(s) (avoiding busy work times, which may be seasonal (especially for the identified fisher group) and days/times when special events may be occurring);
- ? Agreeing mechanisms for ensuring stakeholder attendance at engagement event(s) (if required);
- ? Identification and implementation of feedback mechanisms to be employed.

Additional details on stakeholder engagement approaches are found in Annex 7, Section 5

Table 8 highlights the relevant institutions and their mandates and presents potential collaboration and partnerships with the Blue Economy project. Additional information on the interests, affects, and influence of stakeholders is provided in Annex 7, Section 4.

Table 4: Stakeholder roles in project implementation

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Government		
Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy (MACCE) - Environment Department	The Environment Department is composed of two divisions: Waste, Enforcement and Permit Division and Biodiversity and Conservation Management Division. The Department has the mandate to take measures to promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment and to contribute towards the sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles. It is also responsible for the promotion of public awareness and community participation in the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment.	The Department oversees the implementation of all environmental related projects, whether nationally or internationally funded. It acts as the overarching custodian of projects and provides the required strategic and technical guidance, project support and staffing where possible. It is also considered as one of the key partners of the project and is instrumental in the development, and implementation the project and its related activities.
Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy (MACCE) - Energy and Climate Change Department	The Department is comprised of the Climate Change Division, which has the responsibility to coordinate climate change related issues. It also includes the Climate Adaptation Management Section (CAMS), which is the section responsible for the implementation of coastal management policies. The section conducts assessments and evaluations of identified problem areas and provide the appropriate design, and quantification for mitigation. It also executes coastal rehabilitation programmes and provides technical assistance to such activities.	The mangrove restoration and coastal rehabilitation activities under the project will necessitate the guidance and oversight of CAMS. The section already has solid partnerships with the Ephelia Resort and Spa and have considerable experiencing in implementing coastal and mangrove restoration.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy (MACCE) ? Programme Office	The MACCE Programme Office will oversee, support, and coordinate donor-funded environmental projects and ensure an independent and effective facilitation between different stakeholders (government, private sector and civil society).	The MACCE Programme Office will be the implementation unit within MACCE for the BE project and will provide project management and support staff. All contracts for experts and consultants will be drafted, determined and approved through this office, as well as disbursement of salaries, allowances and payments. As such, the office will also use a percentage of the final total project cost for administration, supervision and coordination associated with the management of the project.
Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority (SPGA)	SPGA is a new entity that combines the former SNPA and Botanical Gardens. SPGA has the mandate to protect and effectively manage the ecosystems and biodiversity in designated Protected Areas (PAs) that fall under its jurisdiction. These include two national parks, one special reserve, and four marine national parks. It supports the implementation of national conservation policies and obligations under multilateral agreements. SPGA is equally responsible for providing tourism and recreational activities for PA visitors, facilitating and conducting research related to biodiversity and protected areas; promoting education and awareness; implementing sustainable forestry practices; and protecting habitats and ecosystems from anthropogenic threats such as forest fire, pollution and coral destruction. SPGA is supposed to be a self-supporting entity, but it will probably take a few years for it to be fully self-supporting (at present, the botanical gardens cannot cover its own costs).	Key activities under the BE project will be implemented in close collaboration with SPGA, given that there are two project sites located within the marine protected areas (St Anne and Ile Cocos MNPs). As the legally mandated custodians of these two sites, the authority will provide in-kind support and monitor the activities, while the project will provide capacity building support and strengthen the authority's conservation and management activities.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Department of Blue Economy (Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy)	The Department of Blue Economy is responsible for coordinating, promoting and facilitating blue economy activities in Seychelles. It provides strategic direction for effective implementation and is also the responsible body to oversee the completion and implementation of the Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap, both domestically and internationally. The Blue Economy Roadmap is one the foundation documents for the conceptualisation, development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the project.	The Department will be one of the key implementing partners, direct beneficiary and co-financier of the project. Collaborations for innovation within the sector under the project is expected to be conducted in tandem with the Department, as well as other relevant stakeholders.
Department of Finance	The department has a Procurement Oversight Unit (POU) which oversees all allocations of contracts for experts and consultants, and payments for goods and services, through a series of stringent administrative guidelines and procedures. The POU may reject the final selection of contracts and payments made by the Project Management Team, on the basis that the necessary guidelines and procedures were not followed. Such actions have caused significant delays in project implementation in the past.	Will oversee the expenditures associated with the projects, especially the payments of services, goods and the contracting of experts and consultants. Will provide final approval for financial support and annual budgetary allocations for all government departments and agencies, as per the co-financing determined for the project.
Ministry of Fisheries	With the development of the Seychelles Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP), the ministry seeks to ensure that there is a resilient and sustainable fisheries sector to enhance food and nutrition security, while contributing to national economic growth and respecting the natural environment.	The activities proposed in Component 3 of the project will have an impact on this policy and the ministry is thus a key partner in the project design, development and implementation. The ministry will therefore guide the proposed activities to be done in the selected sites to ensure that it is aligned and strengthen the country's capacity and ability to deliver on its food and nutrition security objectives and targets, while ensuring efficiency and sustainability in resource use. One of the roles of the ministry is to ensure that there are functional and able institutions, and human capacity and resilience to address food and nutritional security challenges faced by the country from internal and external shocks.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) (Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry (MIEI))	The division, previously an autonomous institute operates as the umbrella body for all academics, professional associations and individuals for the development, dissemination and promotion of science, technology and innovation.	The division will be collaborating with the project through the Integration of a NbS component into the incubator being developed under an ADB project. The project will assist in the provision of a co-working space for the development of young entrepreneurs which will in turn enable creative ideas to be incubated and commercialized. This will further contribute to the strengthening of the MSME sector.
Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	The Ministry and its local governance structures manage, oversee and coordinate local communities' concerns, engagement in structural and service-based projects undertaken within their specific district boundaries.	Sainte Anne may be considered as part of Greater Victoria and activities there may need the approval and oversight of one of the Central Region district councils. The possibilities are either one of the English River, Mont Buxton or Saint Louis district councils. The District Council Act allows the entities to ensure that citizens have a say in the development and implementation of all projects being implemented in their districts, to ensure accountability, openness, democracy and that there are tangible socioeconomic benefits.
Department of Tourism (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism)	The Department of Tourism is mandated to encourage the development of the tourism industry in Seychelles, whilst reflecting management decisions and interest, prescribing, regulating, maintaining and enforcing the standards to be maintained by the different operators of the tourism industry. It also ensures that the industry is prepared and able to respond to any crisis regarding safety and security of tourists. The Department also the prime advocate for the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL).	The tourism industry and the blue economy sector are co-dependent actors within the economic and social setting of the country. Being the main partner behind the SSTL, partnership with the Department of Tourism is of paramount importance in promoting the uptake of the label by the industry and in providing the required support for project activities under Component 3 of the BE project, focusing on tourism and the marine environment.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC)	NISCC acts as a nodal agency for information sharing and coordination of a broad spectrum of aviation and maritime safety and security activities in the air, land and maritime space. The main role is to share and coordinate maritime information and operations in the safeguard and advancement of the Seychelles' maritime strategic interest. It coordinates activities in the Seychelles waters and serves as a central point to which all maritime information can be requested and promulgated. Ideally, the centre receives most of its information from existing organizations such as SCG, SP, SFA, SCAA, SMSA, SPA and DRDM[1].	As an information sharing and coordination centre, NISCC is central in the implementation and enforcement of the maritime space. The BE project will be supporting this coordinating body through the procurement of essential equipment for monitoring, surveillance and collection of evidence, required for effective coordination and enforcement of the MSP.
Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration	Provides and ensures that all mariners use and enjoy the seas and other water bodies of Seychelles in a safe and lawful manner. The agency supports a safe and efficient marine transportation system and promotes sustainable marine practices.	SMSA will be an active partner in the project's work to support monitoring and enforcement activities in and around marine protected areas
Seychelles Police Force	Maintains law and order, the preservation of peace, the prevention and detection of crime, and the apprehension of offenders.	The police force will be an active partner in the project's work to support monitoring and enforcement activities in and around marine protected areas
Parastatal Entities		
Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)	SeyCCAT was created under the MSP Initiative to manage the blended capital proceeds from the debt conversion, and, in exchange, the Seychelles government committed to improved policies and increased investment around marine conservation and climate adaptation. This includes providing grants, loans and investment funding (including the Blue Grants Fund) for activities to implement the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP).	SeyCCAT is focused on supporting the system of marine protected areas in the Seychelles, sustainable fisheries, climate change adaptation, ecosystem rehabilitation, and blue economy businesses. As such, it will be a valuable partner for the BE project, particularly as it seeks to strengthen MPA management functions by supporting the establishment of the Ocean Authority, which will subsequently be the implementation body of the MSP.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS)	The Bank is a joint venture between the Government of Seychelles and numerous private shareholders. It is the entity currently administering one the components of the Blue Finance, through the form of the Blue Investment Fund (BIF). This is a revolving fund and will be used to extend commercial loans to projects that are aimed at sustainably diversifying and expanding fisheries value chains. DBS also manages Blue Finance, which seeks to promote and finance sustainable fisheries, ocean protection and the Blue Economy by financing fisheries related projects and businesses that are committed to transform the Seychelles fisheries sector to a sustainable basis.	The BIF is instrumental in providing access to capital to the fishery sector, operating as a fundamental building block in the development of the blue economy. There have been significant delays in funds disbursement due to a lack of capacity. The BE project will support the bank through capacity building and training, gearing towards facilitating the disbursement.
Non-Governmental Organisations & Academia		
Island Conservation Society (ICS)	ICS is a registered NGO in Seychelles. ICS owns and manages the Aride Island Nature Reserve, which is managed by ICS head office on a daily basis and the Aride Island Management Committee (AMC), which oversees all aspects of the management of Aride Island Nature Reserve, reporting to and governed by the Board of Trustees of Island Conservation Society.	Aride Island Special Reserve is an MPA that is also a project site and will benefit directly through studies conducted on nesting seabird populations with the objective of improving management approaches to ensure the long-term success of the site. The project will also strengthen enforcement to reduce the current high level of poaching of seabirds and their eggs and will also work on establishing a link between vegetation management on the island and the seabird population.
Praslin Fishers Association (PFA)	PFA is a Community Based Organisation (CBO) which groups fishermen from the island of Praslin, with the aim of initiating fisheries co-management in Seychelles. The association has been in existence for more than 9 years and works in close collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). It has approximately 30 active members and its daily operation is overseen by a democratically elected executive committee. The association has benefitted through many capacity building initiatives over the years of and has already participated in the successful implementation of two of their own projects.	The co-management work conducted by PFA and the authorities have been pioneering and exemplary in the field of artisanal fisheries. The strong collaborations through the implementation of projects have prompted the organisation of more fisher groups around the country led to many conservation projects. PFA will be one of the project partners to restore and effectively manage Seychelles' largest and most diverse seagrass bed in the Inner Islands, providing an important step towards conserving vital fish stocks and protecting livelihoods.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
WiseOceans	WiseOceans Seychelles is a local NGO operating since 2013 and is supported by the wider WiseOceans team. The main goal is to spread awareness on oceans amongst the communities of Seychelles, and to increase knowledge of the marine and coastal ecosystems. WiseOceans projects in Seychelles work with schools and youth groups, as well as resorts and visitors to Seychelles.	With its on-going projects, WiseOceans offers a platform for education and awareness on the marine environment and seek to include wide range of target groups. The BE project will provide additional support to the current initiatives and through the established partnership, contribute directly to actions on the ground.
Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS)	MCSS promotes the conservation of the marine environment through education, research and the implementation of a number of programmes. MCSS has participated in several marine ecosystem management programmes and supported projects on coral predators.	MCSS is one of the few NGOs directly involved in coral reef restoration, specifically at one of the project sites; St Anne MNP. Equipped with the skills and knowledge, the organisation provides the required expertise to further support coral restorations at the project sites.
Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S)	S4S focused on promoting 'green' living and encourage citizens to have vital role to play in helping Seychelles shift towards this ideal. The organisation works in partnerships with government, parastatals, the private sector, and other NGOs working to promote technological, social, economic, and ecological sustainability.	S4S has close working relationships with hotels and the private sector in promoting sustainable development. As one of the avid advocates, the organisation plans to collaborate with the BE project to encourage the uptake of the SSTL, through education and awareness.
Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation (SSTF)	The Foundation's vision is to make Seychelles an international best practice example for sustainable tourism. It acts as a clearing house that deals full-time with sustainable tourism, that connects, collects, shares, lobbies, implements and raises funds for this endeavour and is the main focal point for all sustainable tourism matters in the country.	The Foundation aims to collaborate with the BE project through supporting consultation and training on low-impact tourism products on Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management, identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities, leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.
University of Seychelles (UniSey)	UniSey is the only university in Seychelles and houses the Blue Economy Research Institute (BERI) which is a regional knowledge and research network that facilitates the development of partnerships and research, advances sustainability initiatives, and identifies and coordinates synergies between local and international research partners.	Collaboration between UniSey and the project will enhance efforts in developing a new sustainable tourism policy for the Seychelles, in exploring nature-based solutions for improved tourism management, and in implementing courses on sustainable coastal planning and construction practices.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Island Biodiversity Conservation	IBC is an NGO associated to the University of Seychelles. It manages the UniSey IBC centre, hosted by the University of Seychelles. IBC has been supporting turtle monitoring and research on Ste Anne with the participation of foreign university interns and local students since 2013, in collaboration with SNPA/SPGA and Beachcomber/Club Med hotels.	Continued collaboration with SPGA and Club Med to develop research on turtle biology and ecology, support conservation activities, particularly rehabilitation of nesting habitat, and environmental education on Ste Anne Island.
Moyenne Island Foundation	Manages Moyenne Island National Park, which is inside the Ste Anne Marine National Park. Collaborates with SPGA and likely to be associated to project activities on coral reefs, marine turtles, and ecotourism.	To be determined
Private Sector & Local Communities / Resource Users		
Praslin Fishers Association	The PFA is a Community Based Organisation (CBO) of fishermen from the island of Praslin interested in developing fisheries co-management in Seychelles. The association has been in existence for more than 9 years and works in close collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). It has approximately 30 active members and its daily operation is overseen by a democratically elected executive committee. The association has benefitted through many capacity building initiatives over the years and has successfully implemented several projects.	The co-management work piloted by the PFA and fisheries authorities has been pioneering and exemplary in the field of artisanal fisheries, and has prompted the creation of more fisher groups around the country. The PFA will act as the key project partner to restore and effectively manage Seychelles' largest and most diverse seagrass bed in the Inner Islands in Baie Ste Anne (Praslin), providing an important step towards conserving vital fish stocks and protecting livelihoods.
Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association (SHTA)	A comprehensive association comprising some 150 members encompassing properties from large five-star resort hotels to the smallest guesthouse, airlines, tour operators and the Seychelles Car Hire Operators Association. SHTA's primary focus is to unite all industry stakeholders under one association to be better prepared to defend the interest of the industry and its sustainability as the pillar of the country's economy.	The association has an Interest in mentoring small enterprises to support uptake of SSTL, raise awareness on sustainable tourism practices and NBS both in public and private sector. SHTA also seeks to collaborate with the project by supporting consultation between the project and the sector and advocate for low-impact tourism products and training; e.g.; support for mooring buoys. Their involvement can further consolidate on on-going efforts and provide much needed support to the policy frameworks for implementation of nature-based solutions for tourism.

Stakeholder	Mandate / Programs	Proposed collaboration with Project
Hotels within / adjacent to project MPA sites	A number of hotels are located within or adjacent to the project MPA sites. At the Ste Anne Marine National Park, these include Club Med, JA Enchanted Island Resort, Cerf Island Resort, L'Habitation Hotel, and Eden Bleu Hotel. The Six Senses Zil Pasyon Hotel is located on Felicite island, directly adjacent to the Ile Cocos Marine National Park. The Constance Ephelia Resort and Spa is located directly adjacent to the Port Glaud Ramsar site.	Hotels are potential partners for conservation and resource use programmes carried out by the project, and could be models for co-management and co-financing of conservation programmes in marine protected areas. However, the hotels were not responsive during the PPG phase to efforts to define collaboration with the project, most likely for two primary reasons. First, the uncertainty they face in their operations due to the Covid-19 pandemic has made it difficult for hotels to commit to any medium ? long term partnerships. Second, the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority is currently (Dec. 2021) negotiating new agreements on partnerships with these hotels, and the hotels appear to want to fully define these agreements before engaging with the project. However, during project inception, the project team will be tasked with coming back to the hotels (using materials / proposals developed during the PPG phase) to try to secure their involvement in the project.
Local Residents / Resource Users	Local populations who seek to engage in leisure activities or make use of resources within and around the marine protected areas targeted by this project.	As residents of the project sites, using the marine national parks for a variety of purposes, the residents have a stake in the project. Local resource users / beneficiaries will participate in the identification, implementation and monitoring of socio-economic activities and conservation programmes linked to the project, including participatory assessments of MPA management effectiveness and capacity building efforts to strengthen co-management skills.

[1] Seychelles Coast Guard, Seychelles Fisheries Authority, Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority, Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority, Seychelles Port Authority, Department of Risk and Disaster Management

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Section IV Results and Partnerships (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note. The ***Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan*** is appended as **Annex 9** to the UNDP PRODOC. *Section IV: Project Results Framework* of the UNDP PRODOC also includes gender-disaggregated targets and indicators, with a dedicated budget allocated under **Component 4** to ensure that they are effectively monitored. The project will employ a Project Safeguards Officer and Gender Expert on a part-time (consultancy) basis to monitor implementation of the Gender Action Plan (as part of a broader set of safeguards-related duties) and to make recommendations for adaptive management to ensure that gender is effectively mainstreamed across all areas of project endeavour.

Seychelles National Gender Policy (NGP) was adopted in 2016 with the goal "To provide national guidelines for institutionalising and operationalizing gender as an integral component of our sustainable development"[1]. The National Gender Plan of Action 2019-2023 was completed in April 2019 and serves as a clear roadmap to address present situations of gender inequality in Seychelles.

While tourism is the most important economic sector in the Seychelles, the National Bureau of Statistics does not collect data on private sector employment generally, and thus no data is available on how many men and women are employed in tourism-related sectors. Fisheries, which is the second-most important sector after tourism, contributes 20% to GDP and employing 17% of the population. Total employment in the Seychelles fisheries sector (both formal and informal) is estimated at around 10,000, with significant women's participation.[2] Women make up about half the workforce in processing, cleaning, and trading fish, and are largely concentrated in low-skilled, low-paid, seasonal jobs without health, safety, and labour rights protections. Men are more frequently involved in offshore and high-value fisheries and make up 81% of those involved in fish and aquaculture harvesting. Information provided by the Seychelles Fishing Authority[3] shows that only a handful of women are currently involved in fishing activities, with 24 women registered as boat owners and 5 involved in fishing commercially. Sample data from the fisheries sector, and anecdotal evidence from the tourism sector,

suggests that the following groups of people are most vulnerable in the blue economy, and the following types of interventions should be prioritized:

- helping single mothers by improving food security, water quality and new job opportunities;
- encouraging women to enter into more technological and/or male dominated fields;
- motivating adolescent boys to remain in education or help dropouts to venture into more practical fields;
- supporting unemployed youth, in particular men affected by drug abuse, to get back into livelihood opportunities in the blue economy sectors.

To ensure that the project design and activities fully incorporate and reflect the views of women and provide opportunities for women and girls to benefit from their involvement, a gender analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase. Based on this gender analysis, a comprehensive gender action plan has been developed, including strategies for developing a project Gender Empowerment Strategy, mainstreaming gender across the project components, and carrying out Gender Impact Assessments to support adaptive management. The Gender Analysis and Action Plan are provided in Annex 9 of the UNDP Prodoc.

The project will include activities that will address any gender gaps regarding access to and control over natural resources, as well as strengthen the participation of women in decision-making processes and enhance their income-generating potential. The gender strategy will ensure an inclusive approach throughout the project, and the project Results Framework includes gender-disaggregated targets and indicators, with a dedicated budget allocated under Component 4 to ensure that they are effectively monitored.

Please find attached the Annex 9 - Gender Analysis and Action Plan.

[1] National Gender Policy (2016)

[2] Women's Economic Empowerment in the fisheries in the blue economy of the Indian Ocean, UNWOMEN, 2020, p 91.

[3] Karine Rassool, <https://seyccat.org/gender-and-ocean-karine-rassool/>

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?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

Section IV Results and Partnerships (Private Sector Engagement) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

The private sector will be engaged in the project in several ways and at the national and site levels. Increased access to blue financing through SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund and the DBS Blue Investment fund, through project activities to strengthen the capacities of SeyCCAT / DBS staff, local consultants, and potential applicants in business proposal preparation, as well as institutional capacities to monitor and evaluate funded business proposals, including development of databases and online tools for managing applications and tracking of the performance of businesses that receive grants and/or loans, will help to build the nascent Blue Economy business sector in the Seychelles while ensuring that the Blue Economy has social and ecological sustainability at its core. The project will also work with the Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association, which is interested in: mentoring small enterprises interested in adopting the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label; raising awareness on sustainable tourism practices and NbS both in public and private sector; and facilitating collaboration between the project and the private sector in developing low-impact tourism products and training.

At the site level, the process to expand the Port Glaud Ramsar site and the Ile Cocos MNP will be done through a highly consultative process with the involvement of key stakeholders from the area as well as the residents. At the Ile Cocos MNP, the project will work in close collaboration with the boat charter operators that usually bring tourists to the site and to the Six Senses Hotel on nearby Felicite Island (there are no other facilities or inhabitants on the island) to come up with the optimal design for the boundaries of the expanded MPA. At the Port Glaud Ramsar site, the project will work with the Port Glaud Environmental Club (PGEC), as well as local residents who participate in the management of the adjacent Port Launay and Baie Ternay Marine National Parks, which are designated as a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).

Finally, a number of hotels are located within or adjacent to the project MPA sites and constitute potentially important partners for the achievement of project goals. These include Club Med Ste Anne, JA Enchanted Island Resort, Cerf Island Resort, L'Habitation Hotel, and Eden Bleu Hotel at the Ste Anne Marine National Park; the Six Senses Zil Pasyon Hotel located on Felicite island and directly adjacent to the Ile Cocos Marine National Park, and the Constance Ephelia Resort and Spa, located directly adjacent to the Port Glaud Ramsar site. These hotels are potential partners for conservation and resource use programmes carried out by the project, and could be models for co-management of conservation programmes within marine protected areas.

During the PPG phase, although travel and meeting restrictions caused by the pandemic greatly inhibited the ability of the project design team and partners such as MACCE and SPGA to meet with and engage private hotel partners, communications with hotel representatives were conducted virtually, and the hotels were able to communicate some information on potential areas of interest for collaboration and some details on their in-house projects for environmental conservation (see Annex 17c). Based on this, specific proposals for collaboration with three hotel partners (Club Med Ste Anne; Six Senses Zil Pasyon, and Constance Ephelia Resort and Spa) were completed and presented during the PPG phase (see Annex 17c). However, the hotels were unable during the PPG phase to commit to specific areas of collaboration with the project, most likely for two reasons. First, the uncertainty they face in their operations due to the Covid-19 pandemic has made it difficult for hotels to commit to any medium or long term partnerships. Second, the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority is currently (Dec. 2021) negotiating new agreements on partnerships with these hotels, and the hotels appear to want to fully define these agreements before engaging with the project. Nevertheless, during project inception, the project team will seek to advance partnerships with hotels (using materials / proposals developed during the PPG phase) to try to secure their involvement in the project.

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):

Section IV Results and Partnerships (Risks) of the UNDP PRODOC is fully aligned with the original Concept Note.

A summary of the overall risks to implementation of the project is presented in the table below and in the UNDP Prodoc (Table 6, and Annex 5: UNDP Risks Register). The social and environmental safeguard risks that the project might trigger are presented in the table below and in the UNDP Prodoc (Table 7, and Annex 4: Social and Environmental Screening Procedure). The overall social and environmental safeguards risk is rated as Substantial. The ESMF (UNDP Prodoc Annex 8) identifies the steps that will be followed during the inception/implementation phases for the completion of stand-alone management plans as justified based on the results of the SESP for the moderate and high risks identified, including an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and an effective project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The risks presented by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change were identified through focused risk assessments, the results of which are presented in Annex 11b (climate risk screening) and Annex 17h (for COVID-19) of the UNDP Prodoc, with key issues summarized below. In addition, a detailed assessment of potential climate change impacts on project activities and pilot sites, and strategies for integrating climate resilience into project implementation, is provided in Annex 17f (Climate Impacts and Mitigation) of the UNDP Prodoc.

Summary of COVID-19 Risks

? Surges in COVID-19 infections may disrupt project implementation and ability to carry out field-based work and stakeholder engagements due to risks to health (of project staff / consultants and partners, community members, and other stakeholders)

? A continued (or recurring) downturn in tourism due to the global impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic may compromise the viability of tourism-related livelihoods activities and limit the interest / ability of tourism operators to act as project partners

? A reduction in the availability of Government funds, as a result of prolonged economic impacts of COVID-19, may result in reduced budget allocations for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan and/or the expanded MPA systems

? Prolonged economic slowdown and supply chain disruptions may lead to increased costs and availability of outsourced services and equipment

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Summary of Climate Risks

? Surface runoff events will become more intense in the rainy season, with potentially devastating impacts in terms of sedimentation in coastal and marine ecosystems.

? Increases in rainfall intensity may result in reduced water capture in existing storage facilities and could also pose health risks.

? Extreme weather events are likely to produce storm surges that can severely impact coastal ecosystems, as well as possibly increasing the frequency and severity of cyclones.

? Coral reef ecosystems may not be able to re-establish in many places if bleaching events continue on a regular basis

? Sea level rise poses a very significant threat to coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds; increased coastal flooding could raise the salinity levels of the soil and damage water tables; sea level rise may also lead to coastal erosion impacting infrastructure especially tourism and roads

? Longer dry seasons will affect water resources, ground water recharge and the availability of water for consumers and the ecosystem.

? Flooding may pose risks to tourism infrastructure, roads and human safety, and coastal erosion may require the use of hard engineering measures to protect coastal tourism infrastructure.

Table 5: Summary of Overall Risks to Project Implementation

Risk	Risk assessment [1] (I = impact; L = likelihood)	Risk Mitigation Measures
Potential disagreements on governance issues (e.g. governance of areas designated under the MSP)	Low (I=4; L=1)	The project will support several actions to improve governance and strengthen collaboration among partners involved with the management of MPAs designated under the MSP, including: building the institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority, which has been designated by the GoS as the agency responsible for ocean governance and inter-agency coordination for MSP implementation (Output 1.1.1); establishing an inter-sectoral strategic coordination mechanism to provide broad oversight of and facilitate the MSP implementation process (Output 1.1.2); and strengthening the capacity of MPA management authorities and other agencies to implement monitoring and enforcement programs at MPA sites, including supporting the NISCC as a coordinating centre for monitoring and enforcement. In addition, the detailed stakeholder engagement plan (Annex 7) will guide stakeholder coordination during project implementation.
Institutional knowledge and capacity remain weak for the management of the entire national PA landscape	Moderate (I=4; L=2)	Project activities have been designed specifically to address this risk and provide capacity building and training to Government, NGO, academic and community stakeholders involved in MPA management. Technical and scientific expertise will be drafted in from the region (and internationally) to build PA management skills. In addition, the project will support the establishment and operation of an Information System for Protected Land/Seascape Management Plans, where all relevant management authorities will upload their management plans and populate information on key management indicators, which will allow MACCE to track and coordinate the implementation of activities among the various management plans and ensure that management objectives and targets are aligned (Output 2.1.4).

Lack of financial means to hire necessary personnel to manage the MPA system, carry out activities in the field, and ensure sustainability of the MPA system	Moderate (I=4; L=2)	The project will support the development and implementation of an Investment Framework and Strategy to provide financing for the expanded MPA system (Output 1.1.3). In addition, the project will support an update of Seychelles' Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP), and carry out training workshops on the identification of biodiversity financing options, resource mobilisation and project proposal preparation, which will further support funding for the MPA system (Output 1.1.6).
Conflicts among community stakeholders regarding access to natural resources	Moderate (I=3; L=2)	In line with the SES, the project will provide training to institutions / organizations responsible for enforcing regulations on the use of natural resources in marine protected areas that will include human rights training, a system of monitoring and compliance, and a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is available to all community members. In addition, a Code of Conduct aligned with UNDP SES will be developed in which enforcement officers involved in law enforcement within the MPAs will be trained. The GRM and monitoring system will ensure that the Code of Conduct is being implemented. In addition, through the Process Framework that will be done during expansion of the MPAs (Output 2.1.1) and updating of the Management Plans (Output 2.1.4), stakeholders will be engaged to ensure public approval and acceptance of any new restrictions on access to natural resources.
Altered livelihood activities of local fishing communities if and when voluntary closures and other management actions are employed to recover valuable seagrass beds and better manage fisheries in Baie Ste Anne.	Moderate (I=4; L=2)	Since 2019, Baie Ste Anne has been the site of a pilot project in which local fishermen have voluntarily agreed to close some areas to commercial trap fishing during six months of the year. This project, led by the Praslin Fishers Association (PFA), has proved successful and has gained support from fishermen and the general public. The project will support the PFA in continuing this initiative, while also working to conserve the seagrass beds that are critical habitat for the target fisheries, thereby providing direct benefits to the fishers (results from fish catch made within the closure area two years after implementation of the closure showed a significant increase in fish size, fish weight and catch per unit of effort). In addition, extensive consultations with fishers at the site during the PPG phase, and assessment of potential impacts on current levels of access, were incorporated into the project design, and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan sets out a process for engagement and consultation with communities across all stages of the project.

Climate change impacts, including sea level rise, coral bleaching, coastal erosion, and more frequent and severe cyclones, could impact project outcomes	Moderate (I=4; L=2)	A key component of the project is the development of sustainable use and livelihood options designed to reduce stresses on ecosystems within MPAs (MSP Zone 1) as well as outside PAs (MSP Zone 2), thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Co-management of coral reefs and mangroves to attenuate storm damage, degradation and over-exploitation, as well as development of tourism and fishery models that incorporate reef conservation in their business models, will demonstrate GOS's commitment to provision of a healthy ecosystem to attract tourists, sustain the livelihoods of fishers, and mitigate against the effects of climate change. PPG assessments considered climate vulnerability and how to integrate climate resilience into project design and implementation. Demonstrations of nature-based solutions can be a key tool in addressing climate change.
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A detailed Risk Register for the project, which will be used to track and manage risks throughout implementation, is appended in Annex 5. The Project Manager (PM) will monitor these risks and report quarterly on their status to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS Risk Register, which will be regularly updated to ensure ongoing adaptive management of risks. Risks will be flagged as 'High' when the impact and probability are high (i.e. when impact is rated as 5, or when impact is rated as 4 and probability is rated at 3 or higher). Management responses to high and substantial risks will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR.

An analysis conducted during the project development phase via UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) (Annex 4) identified potential environmental and social risks that could be triggered by the project if appropriate avoidance, mitigation or management measures are not in place, and outlines further risk assessment measures and management plans that must be put in place. This screening resulted in an overall social and environmental risk categorization of 'Substantial' for the Project. An ESMF has been developed based on this project risk categorization to specify the additional assessments of potential impacts and development of risk management measures to be undertaken by the Project Management Unit, in line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Within the first three months of the project, an independent safeguards expert will be contracted to develop an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Building on consultations carried out during the project development phase, a Grievance Redress Mechanism will be put in place - with relevant training provided to project staff and other key role players. These plans will form a framework for implementation and monitoring throughout the project with quarterly reports and annual project implementation reports (PIRs), including evaluations for the mid-term review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE).

Table 6: Summary of environmental and social safeguard risks

<i>Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	<i>Risk assessment [2] (I = impact; L = likelihood)</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i>
Risk 1: Project activities focused on strengthening and implementing management at the project sites could impact current access to and use of natural resources, as may legal instruments, plans and strategies prepared by the project	Substantial I = 4 L = 3	As specified in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the project, any new legislations, plans and strategies that may be prepared/amended (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 2.1.2) will undergo a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to ensure that livelihoods impacts are considered. In addition, the expansion of Iles Cocos Marine National Park to include F?licit? (Activity 2.1.1.1), the expansion of Port Glaud Wetland Ramsar site (Activity 2.1.1.2), and the updating of MPA Management Plans (Output 2.1.4) will each undergo an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Process Framework (PF) to ensure a participatory approach during development and to assess this risk will be implemented in a participatory manner. The results of these assessments will be integrated in the updated Management Plans and where found to be needed during the PF implementation, a Livelihoods Action Plan (LAP) will be prepared.
Risk 2: MPA management authorities, local government agencies and community organizations might not have the capacity to properly enforce regulations and access restrictions leading to human rights infringements and potential conflict	Moderate I = 3 L = 3	<p>The project will work closely with key surveillance and enforcement agencies to strengthen their capacity to undertake surveillance of activities taking place in MPAs and to enforce MPA regulations. The capacities of these agencies will be developed in formulating and executing MPA monitoring and enforcement strategies and plans. The increased capacity will enable these organisations to formulate and adapt their enforcement strategies to changing conditions in the field and will ensure that they can be more proactive in deterring breaches of MPA regulations, rather than being reactive (Output 2.1.3). In line with SES, the training will include human rights training, a system of monitoring and compliance, and a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is available to all community members. In addition, a Code of Conduct aligned with UNDP SES will be developed in which enforcement officers involved in law enforcement within the MPAs will be trained. The GRM and monitoring system will ensure that the Code of Conduct is being implemented.</p> <p>Through the PF that will be done during expansion of the MPAs (Output 2.1.1) and updating of the Management Plans (Output 2.1.4), stakeholders will be engaged to ensure public approval and acceptance of any new restrictions.</p>

<p>Risk 3: Project activities and approaches might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit</p>	<p>Moderate I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>A gender analysis was carried out during the PPG phase along with development of a gender action plan to ensure that the needs of, and roles played by, both genders are considered in project design and implementation, and that women participate effectively in project activities. The gender analysis has taken into consideration women's use of natural resources (terrestrial and coastal) in order to identify any potential disproportionate impacts that project activities could have on women, together with proposed mitigation activities.</p> <p>A gender action plan was developed during PPG to build on this participation and remove potential constraints that might limit women's access to information, effective participation in decision-making, and their equitable chances to benefit from the project's contribution to local development.</p> <p>In addition, and as part of Activity 4.1.1.3, the project will conduct gender impact assessments with a focus on empowerment-for-all across the project. The main and guiding questions for this activity to be asked during project implementation are: i) are the assumptions and information regarding the characteristics, needs, and interests of men and women, which informed the initial project design, still valid; ii) have any challenges or barriers arisen during project implementation hindered the equal participation of men and women in activities, decision-making processes, and the distribution of resources and benefits; iii) does the implementation team have gender expertise and a gender focal point; and iv) are partner organizations aware of and trained to address gender inequalities among beneficiaries.</p> <p>All the SESAs and ESAs that will be undertaken for the project will take into account gender aspects during assessment of risks associated with the relevant activities.</p>
<p>Risk 4: Harvesting of natural resources at the MPAs and for the pilot NbS may have a negative impact on coastal and marine ecosystems through depletion of resources</p>	<p>Moderate I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Activities related to sustainable nature-based livelihoods (Output 3.1.4) will undergo a SESP during project implementation to determine potential environmental and social risks and propose management measures. The project will set exclusionary criteria to rule out Substantial/High risk projects.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier, the new/updated Management Plans for the MPAs (Output 2.1.4) will have undergone an ESIA/PF that will consider impact of resources depletion and propose mitigation measures that will be integrated in these plans. The ESIA will measure the ecosystem's capacity to 1) provide viable livelihoods / entrepreneurial opportunities, and 2) continue to provide critical ecosystem services even if harvesting takes place. This entails evaluating sustainable collection levels of natural resource, such as wood products, seaweed, grass and reed products and fish resources (mangrove whelks, mangrove crabs, demersal fish) at specific sites.</p>

<p>Risk 5: The project will engage in coral reef and related ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation in critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas that may inadvertently lead to negative impacts on habitats through improper practices and /or the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS)</p>	<p>Moderate I = 4 L = 2</p>	<p>Concerns about negative impacts on target ecosystems through coral reef and related ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation, and the introduction of IAS, in targeted areas can be addressed through a SESA process during development of coral reef restoration strategy and restoration plan (Output 3.1.3). The SESA will ensure that only viable, well-managed activities take place in conditions meeting strict criteria (such as ICRI Restoration Guidelines for coral restoration). The strategy will also ensure that the only climate-resilient native species will be used during restoration demonstrations.</p>
<p>Risk 6: Project areas could be sensitive to increased storms, flooding and habitat degradation as a result of climate change</p>	<p>Substantial I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>As mentioned in the ESMF, the ESIAs that will be undertaken for the expansion of the two MPAs (Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2) and updating of the Management Plans (Output 2.1.4) will assess the risk of climate change events on the various areas to ensure these have been taken into account during delineation of the expanded areas. The assessment will also propose mitigation and adaptation measures to be integrated into the various MPA Management Plans. In addition, Output 1.1.5 will develop the capacity of Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) staff and local consultants on proposal preparation and fund raising for marine conservation and climate change adaptation. Climate change risks will also be investigated during the SESA process for development of coral reef restoration strategy and restoration plan (Output 3.1.3).</p>

<p>Risk 7: Spread of respiratory diseases (such as Covid-19) among workers and community during project activities</p>	<p>Moderate I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>The project will ensure that staff are prepared and trained to carry out their work safely in the Project office(s) and with partners and communities, including provision of equipment where it can reduce risks, increasing opportunities for remote work where required; and ensuring national quarantine and isolation recommendations are adhered to (where still applicable). The use of necessary protective measures (e.g. masks and other personal protection equipment) and compliance with required social distancing measures will be standard for all project personnel and activities. In addition to national guidance on limiting the spread of Covid-19, WHO guidelines[3] will be applied during all project activities especially those that require close personal interactions, including guidelines on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hand hygiene - Respiratory hygiene - Physical distancing - Reduce and manage work-related travel - Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection - Risk communication training and education - Management of people with Covid-19 or their contacts <p>An updated assessment of the status of the pandemic in Seychelles, and its associated risks and impacts in the project's targeted landscapes, will be made during the development of the project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) - which is a requirement under the UNDP SES Policy - with full COVID-19 mitigation and management plans relevant to SES Standard 3 (Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions) incorporated into the resultant Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).</p> <p>During project inception, UNDP will assist the project team in accessing remote project supervision and M&E tools/options that have been rolled out in various development agencies (including those developed for DRM ? Disaster Risk Management; FCV countries ? Fragile, Conflict and Violence programs) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The project will develop measures to increase the flexibility of project management approaches. For example, the project will support PMU staff and key partners with remote internet access options, and UNDP will assist the project management team in developing, planning and executing virtual meetings and working groups as needed, and the project will support stakeholders in having access to such events.</p> <p>(Note: additional details on mitigation of risks associated with Covid-19 are provided in Annex 17h)</p>
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Risk 8: Working conditions and labour standards of private sector (including third party contractors) hired to implement specific activities in Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks are not consistent with UNDP SES Standard 7	Moderate I = 4 L = 2	All private sector entities that may be contracted through the project (e.g. under Activities 3.1.3.2 and 3.1.3.3), will develop and abide by Labour Management Procedures as described in the ESMF to ensure they are in line with UNDP SES Standard 7.
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[1] Rated on a scale of 1-5, where 5 = critical and 1 = very low.

[2] Rated on a scale of 1-5, where 5 = critical and 1 = very low.

[3] WHO (2020). Considerations for public health and social measures in the workplace in the context of COVID-19 (accessed at <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1277575/retrieve>)

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.

Section VII Governance of the UNDP PRODOC details the governance and implementation arrangements for the project. These may be summarised as follows:

Implementing Partner

The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. 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. 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:

The following responsible parties and their expected roles have been identified as part of the project preparation activities. It should be noted that the responsible parties will not be part of the project steering committee to avoid a conflict of interest. Potential contractual arrangements will be assessed and prepared in line with UNDP's POPP.

? SPGA: The Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority was established in 2021 (combining the former Seychelles National Parks Authority and the Botanical Gardens) and has responsibility for the management of many terrestrial and marine protected areas in the country. A Service Contract will be signed and implemented with SPGA for (i) activities to strengthen the management of the Ste Anne and Ile Cocos Marine National Parks; and ii) activities to reduce pressure on ecosystems from tourism activities at Ste Anne and Ile Cocos MPA sites.

? Management of Aride Special Reserve (there will be a competitive recruitment to engage a Responsible Party to deliver planned outputs on Aride): A Service Contract will be signed and implemented for activities to (i) strengthen management of the Aride SR, including: a) assessing population trends and the current status of the various seabird nesting populations on Aride, and based on the results, proposing new management measures; b) improving the efficiency and reliability of field data collection in the Aride SR; c) supporting the development of a surveillance and enforcement strategy and plan for the Aride SR; and d) updating of regulations for the Aride SR.

? DSTI: **The Division of Science, Technology & Innovation within the Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship & Industry;** operates as the umbrella body for all academics, professional associations and individuals for the development, dissemination and promotion of science, technology and innovation. A Service Contract will be signed and implemented with DSTI for activities to (i) design and implement an Enterprise Incubator stream for Nature based Solutions? within the MSME incubator to develop and scale-up innovative business opportunities based on NbS, with a focus on women and youth.

? PFA: The Praslin Fishers Association is an association of approximately 30 fishermen from the island of Praslin, with the aim of promoting fisheries co-management in Seychelles. A Service Contract will be signed and implemented for activities to (i) develop and implement community-led management of important seagrass beds in Baie Ste Anne, Praslin.

Project stakeholders and target groups:

The project stakeholders, their interests and their role in the implementation of the project were identified as part of its preparation, and a stakeholder engagement plan was developed (Annex 7). The project will ensure a meaningful, effective and informed participation of these stakeholders across the project

interventions, in part by establishing / strengthening the following mechanisms: a strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan; participatory development processes for the expansion of two MPA sites (Iles Cocos and Port Glaud); a system for sharing surveillance and enforcement data among enforcement agencies, and a network of agency focal points to drive changes in the way that MPA enforcement is undertaken at the national level; establishment / operation of an Information System for Protected Land/Seascape Management Plans at MACCE; establishment of platforms and networks to bring together existing stakeholder associations and groups, in particular at the project sites of Ste Anne MNP, Ile Cocos MNP, Port Glaud MPA, and Baie Ste Anne; and the building of local ?communities of practice? on Nature based Solutions related to tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods.

The effective participation of the various stakeholders will be the responsibility of the Project Manager following the guidelines provided in the stakeholder engagement plan. The Project Safeguards Officer / Gender Expert will ensure that relevant information reaches women and youth and put in place favourable conditions for their active participation in project activities that concern them. The project provides for training and support for local community members to promote the effectiveness of participatory processes, particularly through structures such as fishers' associations and parks co-management committees. Participation will also be encouraged by a targeted communication strategy to keep all concerned stakeholders informed of planned project activities.

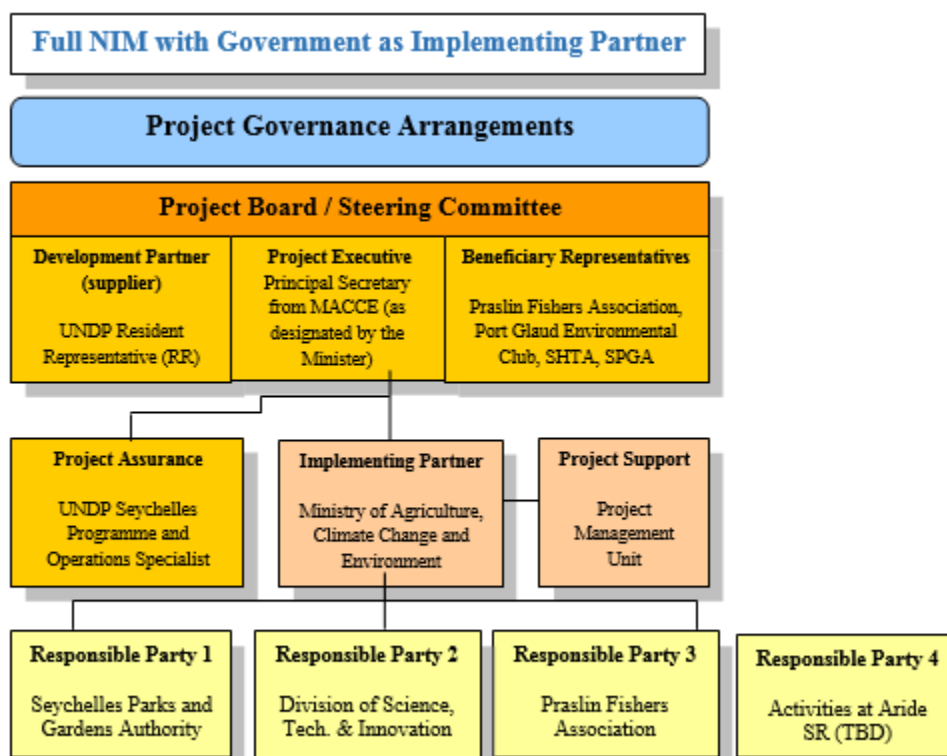
UNDP:

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.

A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

Project governance structure

The project organisation structure is as follows:



The UNDP Resident Representative 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 representative of the UNDP Country Office 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.

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-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.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:

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.

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 Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager'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 manager 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:

•**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: Principal Secretary from Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment as designated by the Minister: PS Rebecca Loustau Lalanne or PS Denis Matatiken (Primary and Alternate)

•**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: Praslin Fishers Association, Port Glaud Environmental Club, SHTA, SPGA

•**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 Resident Representative Ms. Amanda K. Serumaga

In addition to the above, the following organizations will be included on the Project Board: UNDP, MACCE, Tourism, SPGA, Blue Economy and/or Ministry of Seychelles, TNC or representative of the MSP process, Attorney General's Office, SeyCCAT, DBS, PFA, PGEC (to be confirmed at Inception)

- a) **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 Manager. 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/are: UNDP Programme and Operations Specialist ? Oksana Vovk (or as designated by UNDP RR)

b) **Project Management ? Execution of the Project:** The Project Manager (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 project manager 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. The project manager will be supported by the Chief Programme Officer of the MACCE Programme Office (formerly the GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit), who provides technical oversight and support to donor-funded programs and projects implemented by MACCE[1].

- A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is Chief Programme Officer (MACCE Programme Office) and the Project Manager (To be identified)

[1] The Chief Programme Officer in the MACCE Programme Office is fully funded by the Government of Seychelles through at least 2028. Other staff within the office, including a Finance Manager and eventually others, will be funded through contributions from the various donor-funded projects implemented by MACCE, although depending on the size of the portfolio of donor-funded projects, MACCE may need to contribute some of its own funds to cover the costs of these other staff.

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.

The project scope and strategy are based on the outcomes of a National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) carried out during end 2018 - early 2019 to establish priorities for funding from GEF-7. The Project is consistent with, and contributes to the implementation of a number of national policies, strategies, plans and reports focused on conservation and sustainable development in the Seychelles, including:

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiative: The MSP initiative is a government-led process facilitated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and various other partners. It is co-financed through a US\$1 million grant from Oceans 5 to TNC and started its operation in 2014. The MSP can be divided into two distinct phases: the Planning Phase (2014-2022) and the Implementation Phase (2021-2036). One of the primary baseline activities of the Planning Phase was to draft a new Marine Spatial Plan, that would be supported through an established Fund. This led to the creation of the Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) to oversee and fund activities identified as priorities under the MSP initiative, with a particular focus on operationalizing new MPAs. Funding for the SeyCCAT came from an initial \$21.6 million sovereign debt swap for the Government of the Seychelles, in exchange for a commitment to invest in climate adaptation and marine conservation projects in the country. The Initiative is now moving towards the implementation phase and to date, both SeyCCAT and the MSP Core Team have mobilised additional resources to support its concurrent activities. However, the institutional mandate for implementation of the MSP is still unclear. A Seychelles Oceans Authority Bill was drafted in 2020 to provide the legal framework for the establishment of an institution to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the MSP. The bill outlines the functions and governance framework for the proposed authority, but has yet to be enacted. Similarly, management authority for the expanded MPA system created by the MSP is yet to be agreed upon. However, field surveillance and enforcement are expected to be led by the National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC), which is a nodal agency established to coordinate and manage activities within the maritime sector, and includes officers from government agencies such as the Coast Guard, Air Force, and the Seychelles Fishing Authority, making it a logical venue for taking on the role of enforcing regulations of the expanded MPA system.

Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap (2018-2030): The Blue Economy Roadmap 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). The roadmap paves the way for an integrated approach on an ocean-based economy, founded on the three main pillars of sustainable development: economy, environment, and society. Structured on 7 overarching Blue Economy principles which include economic efficiency, sustainability, social equity, resilience, innovation, transparency and accountability and partnerships, the roadmap strives for the creation of sustainable wealth, sharing prosperity, and securing healthy, resilient, and productive oceans.

National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019-2023: The NDS operates as the overarching national document that guides the strategic direction for the country's development over the duration of five years. Structured on sustainable, accountable, and transparent economic development objectives within a framework of good governance practices, the strategy advocates for a shift in focus towards intentionally building human capital and improving opportunities for the poorest 40 percent of the population. In doing so, the document identifies the Blue Economy sector as a tool that can be maximised to achieve such goals, through innovation within the sector, while promoting sustainable development principles. Additionally, one of the main pillars upon which the strategy has been developed 'Environmental Sustainability and Resilience',

makes provision for the effective management of the coastal and marine environment. The NDS also encompasses the principles of the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) and further consolidates on maintaining the high levels of biodiversity found within these realms.

Seychelles Biodiversity Finance Plan: The plan comprises of a comprehensive list of innovative Biodiversity Finance solutions, specifically tailored for Seychelles, seeking to address resource mobilisation, realigning expenditures on biodiversity, avoiding future expenditures and maximising cost-effective spending. The provided solutions have been driven by the notion that the private sector operators should be more engaged, and it is expected that those who benefit the most from or pose most threats to biodiversity should be contributing more towards biodiversity conservation.

Seychelles Protected Areas Policy (2013): The PA policy sets out the commitment made by the President of the Republic of Seychelles at the Rio+20 conference^[1] in 2012 to protect at least 50% of its terrestrial area and 30% of its marine environment. The PA Policy is designed to achieve an effective and multi-use protected area system that is representative, comprehensive and balanced, to maintain the highest quality examples of ecosystems within the country by engaging all stakeholders. The Policy makes provision for a new PA legislation to be developed to strengthen PA management and enforcement. The Policy also sets out the operating principles for the interpretation, development and implementation of the MSP. This policy will be reinforced by the new Nature Reserves and Conservancy Bill, that is expected to be enacted and come into force in the immediate future.

Seychelles Tourism Master Plan Destination 2023: A strategy for sustainable tourism growth: The tourism master plan seeks to balance the objectives of economic returns, environmental protection/conservation and socio-cultural integration in tourism development, and to undertake a series of measures to support the development of sustainable tourism. The master plan highlights that, "Sustainability certifications are important to promote sustainable performance and inform potential tourists of the sustainability credentials of a destination's tourism sector." ^[2] Ecotourism and the blue economy are both considered key targets in the master plan.

Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy (2019): The Fisheries Policy is designed to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management and conservation so that the sector continues to play a key role in the sustainable development of the country and the socio-economic well-being of the Seychellois nation. It also sets the policy objectives and priority actions that the Government will implement towards the achievement of these objectives.

Seychelles Coral Reef Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2021): The overall objective of the Policy is to set the policy direction for the conservation of Seychelles coral reefs. It has 13 policy statements covering issues related to governance, research, valuation of ecosystem services and coral reef restoration among others. The Strategic Action Plan lists the priority actions to be implemented under five different work programmes along with the recommended timeline and lead agencies.

Project activities are also fully in line with Seychelles obligations towards various regional agreements, including the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, and with priorities identified in the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of Coastal and Marine Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities, the Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of the WIO Large Marine Ecosystems (WIO LME SAP, 2014) and the Seychelles Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (MEDA) and the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Western Indian Ocean.

^[1] <http://www.uncsd2012.org>

[2] Seychelles tourism master plan part II: Destination 23: A strategy for sustainable tourism growth, http://www.tourism.gov.sc/lib/TOURISM_MASTER_PLAN_PART_2_TOURISM_SECTOR_STRATEGY_DESTINATION_2023.pdf

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.

Several information management systems will be established by the project that will help to disseminate knowledge to diverse groups of stakeholders, including: an online platform for reporting on implementation by various partners of the Marine Spatial Plan (Output 1.1.2); an online system for consolidating and sharing information on public and private biodiversity and climate change adaptation expenditures (Output 1.1.6); and the Information System for Protected Land/Seascape Management Plans (Output 2.1.4). To strengthen support at the local level for nature based solutions related to sustainable tourism, ecosystem management and restoration, and entrepreneurial livelihoods activities, the project will develop and implement an environmental awareness campaign for schools; carry out awareness raising of tourism sector stakeholders to increase their understanding of the fragility of coastal and marine ecosystems and the potential negative impacts that tourism can have on those ecosystems; and support a buy local campaign to encourage Seychellois to 'buy locally', including products and services developed by local entrepreneurs through the NbS incubator (Output 3.1.5).

Under Output 4.1.3, the project will support the development and dissemination of a diverse set of knowledge-sharing mechanisms and products related to Seychelles Blue Economy, the MSP process, and the newly expanded MPA system, including the creation and sharing of technical, policy and planning products based on information generated and lessons learned from project activities under Components 1-3, as well as rapid assessments and policy briefs to support decision-making, all of which will be made available on the MACCE Programme Office website and disseminated through media, scientific publications and on-line tools. The project will also establish platforms and networks to share lessons learned among stakeholder associations and groups; work to build local 'communities of practice' on Nature based Solutions related to tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods; and seek to share information with global partners on NbS approaches for tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods; e.g. through the Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean (TACSO).

Under Output 4.1.4, the project will facilitate South-South cooperation and information sharing on 'Blue Economy' with other Indian Ocean countries and SIDS (including Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives), with a focus on nature based solutions / business models that have been effectively implemented; successful approaches to large-scale marine management and marine spatial planning; national strategies for monitoring and enforcement of regulations to protect coastal and marine ecosystems; sustainable financing options at both national and regional levels, and the use of sustainable and low-carbon construction approaches and materials for tourism infrastructure. The project will also support participation of project staff / Seychelles' representatives at regional and global meetings such as the Blue Economy Summit, Indian Ocean Rim Association conferences, SIDS conferences, etc.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Section VI Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the UNDP Prodoc provides a more detailed description of the project's approach to M&E, including a detailed Monitoring Plan. *Annex 3: Multi Year Work Plan* of the UNDP Prodoc also provides an overview of the timelines for M&E activities.

The main M&E instruments that will be used by the project are: (i) the METT Tracking Tool; (ii) the Project Results Framework; and (iii) independent qualitative reviews.

The project will implement the following suite of M&E activities:

- host a project inception workshop and generate a comprehensive Inception Report;
- collect and collate monitoring data to report on project performance indicators in the Project Results Framework (PRF), including updating of the METTs;
- prepare the annual PIR and update the Atlas Risks Register;
- monitor and report on the implementation of the project's Gender Action Plan and conformance to the project's Environmental and Social Safeguards;
- prepare and submit quarterly and annual progress reports;
- host regular Project Board meetings;
- undertake project mid-term and terminal evaluation reviews.

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation.

The budget (and indicative timeline) for M&E activities is summarized below:

Table 7: M&E Budget

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	5,000	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	20,000	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of 1) Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment; 2) Environmental and Social Management Plan; 3) Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	112,000	On-going
Supervision missions	None	Annually
Learning missions	None	As needed
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	47,000	June 2025
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	57,000	February 2028
TOTAL indicative COST	241,000	Equivalent to TBWP component (M&E)

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)?

Overall, the project will deliver benefits to 12,226 direct beneficiaries (5,231 female and 6,995 male), including persons who benefit from various forms of capacity building, as well as persons residing in communities adjacent to or within sites (Port Glaud, Baie Ste Anne and Ste Anne MNP) where the project will pilot nature-based solutions and carry out localized threat reduction of threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems (see details in UNDP Prodoc; Table 10). In addition, by strengthening the conservation of critical coastal and marine ecosystems, including seagrass beds in the productive seascape (in Baie Ste Anne), the project will increase the economic benefits derived from the sustainable use of marine resources such as sustainable fisheries. Project activities to support Blue Financing mechanisms, the development of Nature based Solutions in tourism and small and medium enterprises, and the adoption of more sustainable tourism practices, will provide economic / business opportunities for local residents. The project will also ensure the full participation of women and youth in project activities, and ensure their access to socio-economic benefits and opportunities generated by project activities. Finally, by stimulating recovery (post COVID-19) and growth in a diversified economy, and supporting nature-based livelihoods, the project will deliver social and economic benefits to communities living within or adjacent to targeted marine protected areas in the Seychelles, thereby contributing to alleviating poverty and reducing the exposure of vulnerable communities to climate-related risks, and other social, economic or environmental shocks and disasters.

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			

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.

Please find attached:

Annex 4: Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Annex 8: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 8 - ESMF-Seychelles 6316	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 4_SESP-Seychelles 6316	CEO Endorsement 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): 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 8.9, 12.6, 12.b, 14.2, 14.5, 14.7				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNPAF): Strategic Partnership Framework (2019-2023): Outcome 1: ?By 2023, the Seychelles economy is diversified and provides varying investment opportunities in the blue economy?; Output 1.1 Policy and Legislative policy framework for management and monitoring of investment in the blue economy strengthened				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline (2021)	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective: To conserve globally significant biodiversity through effective management of Seychelles? Marine Protected Areas system and the promotion of nature-based solutions as pillars of the Blue Economy	<u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator (11):</u> Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	6,000 (2,500 Women / 3,500 Men)	12,226 (5,231 Women / 6,995 Men)
	<u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator (2):</u> Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares): Ste Anne MNP, Ile Cocos MNP, Aride SR, Port Glaud Ramsar site	1,924	1,924	2,034
	<u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicator (5):</u> Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares): Baie Ste Anne	0	433	433
Component 1	Strengthening the political and institutional framework for effective implementation of Seychelles? Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and management of the expanded MPA system			

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened strategic, political and institutional framework and capacity to implement Seychelles' MSP and govern the expanded MPA system	Project Indicator 1: # of strategic documents and plans produced and in use in support of MSP and expanded MPA system implementation	3 existing strategic documents in place ? MSP Policy and Action Plan, designated MSP zones, MSP costing analysis.	5-year Strategic Plan for the ?Oceans Authority? and Investment Framework and Strategy for the expanded MPA system finalized and adopted	5-year Strategic Plan for the ?Oceans Authority? and Investment Framework and Strategy for the expanded MPA system under implementation
	Project Indicator 2: # of technical capacity development trainings implemented for key agencies in MSP implementation	0 technical capacity development trainings implemented.	6 technical capacity development trainings organised	16 technical capacity development trainings organised
	Project Indicator 3: # of online IT support systems set-up and in use for improving data management, information dissemination and transparency in MSP implementation	1 IT support system (SeyCCAT) in use	1 additional IT support system in use	6 additional (7 total) IT support systems in use
	Project Indicator 4: % annual reporting of MSP implementing agencies to the responsible Ocean Authority	0% (MSP reporting has not started)	50% of MSP implementing agencies reporting to responsible Ocean Authority	100% of MSP implementing agencies reporting to responsible Ocean Authority
	Project Indicator 5: % increase of the public aware of Seychelles' vision and strategy for the Blue Economy, MSP and MPA system	TBD (baseline has to be established at the start of the project)	25% increase over baseline assessment	100% increase over baseline assessment

	<p><u>Project Indicator 6:</u> Increase effectiveness of Seychelles' blue financing sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Disbursement of the USD 12 million DBS Blue Investment Fund (BIF) for blue financing projects in Seychelles ? # of BGF applicants trained in project proposal preparation ? Database and on-line dashboard to manage BGF application process as well as BGF projects under implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? USD 2.4 million (20%) disbursed ? 40 persons / year ? SeyCCAT has limited capacity to monitor and evaluate BGF applications or projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? USD 9 million (75%) disbursed ? 50 persons / year ? Database and on-line dashboard design complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? USD 12 million (100%) disbursed ? 60 persons / year ? Database and on-line dashboard operational
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	<p>Output 1.1.1. Institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority developed for effective governance of Seychelles' MSP process and expanded MPA system</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: A strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan is established</p> <p>Output 1.1.3: Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: Legal / regulatory framework and judicial / law enforcement capacities strengthened to support MSP implementation and effective conservation of coastal and marine areas</p> <p>Output 1.1.5. Capacities of Blue Economy financial services institutions (including Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust and Development Bank of Seychelles) strengthened.</p> <p>Output 1.1.6 Capacities developed for the new Biodiversity Finance Unit to support implementation of Seychelles' Biodiversity Finance Plan.</p> <p>Output 1.1.7 Public understanding and awareness of Seychelles' vision and strategy for the Blue Economy, MSP and MPA system are enhanced.</p>			
Component 2	Strengthening management effectiveness of Seychelles' expanded MPA system			
Outcome 2.1: Expansion and strengthened management of four	<p><u>Project Indicator 7:</u> Expansion of two MPA sites: Existing Ile Cocos MNP and newly designated Port Glaud MPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ile Cocos MNP: 86 ha ? Port Glaud Ramsar site: 124 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ile Cocos MNP: 86 ha ? Port Glaud Ramsar site: 124 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ile Cocos MNP: 120 ha ? Port Glaud MPA: 200 ha

priority conservation sites	<u>Project Indicator 8:</u> MPA landscape at 4 sites covering 2,034 ha (includes area of expanded MPA sites) under improved management, as demonstrated through increased METT scores	? Ste Anne MNP: 51 ? Ile Cocos MNP: 42 ? Aride SR: 70 ? Port Gland: 41	? Ste Anne MNP: 54 ? Ile Cocos MNP: 45 ? Aride SR: 73 ? Port Gland: 46	? Ste Anne MNP: 59 ? Ile Cocos MNP: 50 ? Aride SR: 75 ? Port Gland: 51
	<u>Project Indicator 9:</u> Increased # of successful enforcement actions across 4 project sites ? # of illegal activities detected / year (baseline is for Aride SR and Ste Anne MNP; no data exists for Ile Cocos or Port Gland sites) ? # of police cases opened / year as a % of the number of poaching incidents ? # of successful convictions as a % of total arrests for poaching incidents involving seabirds and turtles within MPAs	? Illegal activities: 55 ? Cases opened: 0 ? Convictions: 0	? Illegal activities: 40 ? Cases opened: 10% ? Convictions: 10% of arrests	? Illegal activities: 25 ? Cases opened: 20% ? Convictions: 25% of arrests
	<u>Project Indicator 10:</u> Number of MPA site conservation management plans produced / updated and under implementation	3 site management plans (Aride, Ste Anne, Port Gland)	1 site management plan produced (Ile Cocos)	3 site management plans updated and under implementation (Aride, Ste Anne, Port Gland)

	<p><u>Project Indicator 11:</u> Populations of key species at pilot sites remain stable or increase: ? % increase in mean live hard coral cover at sample sites in Ste Anne and Ile Cocos MNPs due to increased protection (assumes no major coral bleaching events take place during the project)</p> <p>? % increase in # of breeding pairs of two shearwater species at Aride SR (Tropical Shearwaters-TS, and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters-WtS) (target figures subject to changes in food availability and climate change impacts on env. conditions)</p>	<p>? Live hard coral cover: TBD at project inception</p> <p>? TS (39,123 pairs); WTS (14,361 pairs)</p>	<p>? Live hard coral cover: 20% increase</p> <p>? Shearwaters: 1% increase</p>	<p>? Live hard coral cover: 30% increase</p> <p>? Shearwater: 5% increase</p>
	<p><u>Project Indicator 12:</u> Two MPA business/financing plans produced/updated</p>	<p>1 site with existing business/financing plan (Aride)</p>	<p>0 business/financing plans produced</p>	<p>1 updated business / financing plan (Aride) and 1 new business / financing plan (for both Ste Anne and Ile Cocos)</p>
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	<p>2.1.1: Expansion of two MPA sites (Iles Cocos and Port Gland) and development of regulations and partnership agreements</p> <p>2.1.2: Strengthening of management at four MPA sites (Iles Cocos, Port Gland, Aride and Ste Anne)</p> <p>2.1.3. Capacities of MPA management authorities and other agencies to implement monitoring and enforcement programs at MPA sites</p> <p>2.1.4. Management Plans and business/financing plans developed/updated and implemented in project sites</p>			
Component 3	Investing in innovative nature-based solutions to development			

Outcome 3.1 Innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 4 sites	Project Indicator 13: # of SSTL certified tourism ventures (hotels + tour operators) in the project sites	1 (Constance Ephelia Resort & Spa)	30% of tourism ventures	70% of tourism ventures
	Project Indicator 14: Sustainable tourism policy developed and adopted by Government of Seychelles	0	Policy developed	Policy adopted by government
	Project Indicator 15: Improvements in biodiversity in project sites: ? % increase in number of turtle nesting attempts in Ste Anne MNP (due to restoration of native vegetation undertaken, as well as increased monitoring and enforcement as part of Component 2) ? Area of Tape Seagrass (<i>Enhalus acocroides</i>) (m2) in Baie Ste Anne ? % live hard coral cover (m2) in Ile Cocos MNP due to restoration (in the absence of any mass coral bleaching events) ? Area of mangrove coverage in Port Glaud effectively protected (including newly restored areas)	? 3-year (2015-2017) moving average of turtle clutches laid: 294 ? To be determined in Y1 ? To be determined in Y1 ? 78%	? Turtle clutches laid: 5% increase ? 3% increase ? 5% increase ? 1% increase	? Turtle clutches laid: 10% increase ? 6% increase ? 20% increase ? 3% increase

	<p><u>Project Indicator 16:</u> Reduced negative environmental impacts from tourism development and visitor activities at 3 project sites (a) St Anne MPA; (b) Ile Cocos; (c) Port Glaud:</p> <p>? # mooring buoys at target sites</p> <p>? # people trained on coastal adaptation and management</p> <p>? # of building code violations at target sites</p> <p>? % coral colonies with physical damage</p>	<p>? Total 4 (a=1; b=3; c=0)</p> <p>? 0</p> <p>? To be determined in Y1</p> <p>? To be determined in Y1</p>	<p>? Total 35 (a=15; b=14; c=6)</p> <p>? 12</p> <p>? 20 % decrease</p> <p>? 40 % decrease</p>	<p>? Total 35 (a=15; b=14; c=6)</p> <p>? 24</p> <p>? 50 % decrease</p> <p>? 80 % decrease</p>
	<p><u>Project Indicator 17:</u> Increased NbS entrepreneurs and products:</p> <p>? # youth supported on NbS in the incubator</p> <p>? # adults (at least 60% women) supported on NbS in the incubator</p> <p>? # new commercially viable NbS products created (defined as products with established business plans and monitored financial returns)</p>	<p>? 0</p> <p>? 0</p> <p>? 0</p>	<p>? 25</p> <p>? 25 (15 women; 10 men)</p> <p>? 5</p>	<p>? 75</p> <p>? 75 (45 women; 30 men)</p> <p>? 10</p>

Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	3.1.1: Strengthen policy frameworks for implementation of nature-based solutions for tourism 3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems 3.1.3: Nature-based solutions for ecosystem management / restoration identified and piloted with private sector and local communities leading to recovery of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems 3.1.4: Communities living adjacent or with access to priority conservation areas benefit from sustainable nature-based livelihoods (with focus on women and youth) 3.1.5 Education and Awareness Raising on NBS and sustainable tourism for the public, private sector and visitors			
Component 4	Effective gender mainstreaming, knowledge management and M&E			
Outcome 4.1: Improved sharing of information among stakeholders and partners to strengthen ownership and management of natural resources	Project Indicator 18: # of knowledge products disseminated to relevant national, regional and global stakeholders	0	At least 10 knowledge products produced and shared	At least 15 additional knowledge products produced and shared
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	4.1.1 Gender empowerment strategy developed and used to guide project implementation, M&E at pilot sites 4.1.2 Participatory M&E and learning framework developed and implemented at pilot sites 4.1.3 Lessons learned through participatory M&E and gender empowerment are used nationally and shared internationally 4.1.4 South-South cooperation on 'Blue Economy' with Indian Ocean countries and other SIDS			

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).

GEF Council Review

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
Comments from Canada		

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
It will be important for this project to identify what strengthened capacity and frameworks will look like and how it can be measured.	<p>A number of project indicators will measure strengthened capacities and frameworks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Project Indicator 1: # of strategic documents and plans produced and in use in support of MSP and expanded MPA system implementation (<i>Target: 5-year Strategic Plan for the ?Oceans Authority? and Investment Framework and Strategy for the expanded MPA system under implementation</i>) ? Project Indicator 2: # of technical capacity development trainings implemented for key agencies in MSP implementation (<i>Target: 16 technical capacity development trainings organised</i>) ? Project Indicator 3: # of online IT support systems set-up and in use for improving data management, information dissemination and transparency in MSP implementation (<i>Target: 4 additional (5 total) IT support systems in use</i>) ? Project Indicator 4: % annual reporting of MSP implementing agencies to the responsible Ocean Authority (<i>Target: 100% of MSP implementing agencies reporting to responsible Ocean Authority</i>) ? <u>Project Indicator 6</u>: Increase effectiveness of Seychelles? blue financing sources; sub-indicator: Database and on-line dashboard to manage BGF application process as well as BGF projects under implementation (<i>Target: Database and on-line dashboard operational</i>) ? <u>Project Indicator 8</u>: MPA landscape at 4 sites covering 2,579 ha (includes area of expanded MPA sites) under improved management, as demonstrated through increased METT scores (<i>Target: increased METT scores</i>) ? <u>Project Indicator 14</u>: Sustainable tourism policy developed and adopted by Government of Seychelles (<i>Target: Policy adopted by Government</i>) 	GEF CEO ER, Annex A (Project Results Framework)
The project description/proposal should clarify how the project will facilitate conservation of biodiversity through effective management of the Seychelles? protected areas system via strengthened frameworks and capacity.	<p>Under Component 2, the project will focus on expanding the area of two existing marine protected areas in the Inner Islands (Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site) and on strengthening the management effectiveness of those sites as well as two other MPAs in the Inner Islands (the Ste Anne MNP and the Aride SR) in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, through improved management practices on the ground and new / updated management plans for each site. For the Ile Cocos MNP, the primary goals are to expand and better manage the site in order to protect important coral reefs and to better control the impacts from tourism and marine resource harvesting. For the Port Glaud Wetland, the primary goals are to expand and better manage the site in order to encompass and conserve a greater diversity of wetland habitats and to link the area with two adjacent PAs in order to create one contiguous zone of protection from the ridge of the mountain to the seabed at the bottom of the reef slope. For Aride island, the focus will be on improving conservation of globally significant nesting seabird populations, including reducing the current high level of poaching of seabirds and their eggs. For the Ste Anne MNP, the project will focus on strengthening regulations and enforcement capacities to ensure that the MNP continues to sustain ecosystem services and protect eco-tourism values in the face of continued development and increasing visitation to the MNP. In addition to these site-specific interventions, the project will also undertake a program of capacity development for both general MPA management as well as for monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of MPAs for the organisations responsible for the management of MPA sites as well as partner agencies such as the NISCC, Marine Police, the Seychelles Coast, SFA, SMSA, Seychelles Licensing Authority, etc. An important component of the project will be to improve the coordination among enforcement agencies and to clarify the existing institutional roles and operational protocols so as to strengthen enforcement.</p>	GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Component 2
Comments from Germany		

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
<p>The second project component aims at expansion and better management of four priority MPA sites. In addition to the expansion of MPAs, consideration should be given to ways of consolidating MPAs by connecting protected systems to ensure ecological connectivity for migratory species and genetic diversity.</p>	<p>In terms of ecological connectivity, the expansion of the Port Glaud Ramsar site will expand that site to the boundaries of the Morne Seychellois National Park, which will create a contiguous zone of protection from the top of the Seychelles' highest mountain peak all the way to the base of the reef slope. This will produce benefits in terms of ecosystem / watershed protection, and will directly benefit species such as the Seychelles river eel (<i>Anguilla sp.</i>) that lives in rivers but migrates to the sea to reproduce. In terms of migratory species, the project sites at Aride island is well known for its large population of seabirds with around 1.25 million seabirds nesting on the island annually, including the world's largest colonies of lesser noddies (<i>Anous tenuirostris</i>) and Audubon's shearwater (<i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>), as well as the Indian Ocean's largest population of Roseate terns (<i>Sterna dougallii aridensis</i>) and a large number of other breeding seabirds. In terms of marine genetic connectivity, the four MPAs in question are within 20 miles of each other, which means that they are close enough to have genetic connectivity through larval supply in the case of fish and benthic species such as corals and shells, and through adult movement for migratory megafauna like turtles. No activity is planned on creating conservation corridors among these sites but the conservation actions that are being planned will improve management of those sites and the species within, which means that they will be healthier and have greater potential of genetic exchange among the other projects sites as well as other sites within the Seychelles' MPA network that are not part of the project. Finally, it is important to note that the proposed project is designed to build on several prior and active GEF-funded projects in the Seychelles (PA Finance ? GEF ID 5485 and Ridge to Reef ? GEF ID 9431; NGO Modalities ? GEF ID 3925; and Outer Islands ? GEF ID 4717) that have expanded the country's terrestrial and marine protected areas system and addressed issues of ecological connectivity within the system and a systemic approach to conservation of migratory species. The focus of the proposed project is to build on these past projects, as well as the country's recently completed Marine Spatial Planning process (phases 1 and 2), to strengthen critical sites within the existing national system of protected areas.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Component 2</p>

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
<p>The third component focuses on innovative nature-based solutions to support livelihoods and sustainable development in 3 sites. In view of the complexity of the ecosystems under consideration and the various pressures that threaten them, we would like to propose to cooperate with research organizations in identifying and piloting NbS.</p>	<p>As noted under Component 3, the project will work closely with research partners to identify and pilot Nature based Solutions. Most importantly, the Division of Science Technology and Innovation (DSTI) within the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, and the Department of Blue Economy will take the leading role during the project in designing and implementing the "Enterprise Incubator stream for Nature based Solutions". In addition, the University of Seychelles will take the leading role during the project in adapting / supplementing its existing Certificate course on Coastal Management and Adaptation to include modules on nature-based solutions designed to address the negative environmental impacts of coastal tourism development.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Component 3</p>

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
<p>As climate change is described as one of the mayor threats to Seychelles' ecosystems and in particular to coral reefs, reduction of this threat should also be addressed within the partnerships with the private sector, e.g. by promoting and increasing efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of hotels, tour operators, etc., instead of focusing only on local threats.</p>	<p>As part of its work on strengthening the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL), the project will work with SPGA and the Energy Commission (the commission has 4 certified energy auditors-in-training) to undertake baseline biodiversity and energy system audits of tourism establishments in the project sites to measure biodiversity and GHG emissions; based on these audits, recommendations will be made for biodiversity improvements and climate mitigation measures. Data from the audits will also be used to make the business and environmental case for more sustainable practices^[1] and participation in the SSTL; the energy audits will seek to demonstrate the magnitude of GHG emissions at hotels and improvements that could be made through energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Partnerships with individual hotels to increase their participation in PA management and reduce their ecological footprints were also sought during the PPG phase, but the significant impacts on their business operations and uncertainty about their future engendered by the Covid-19 pandemic made it impossible to finalize any agreements with individual hotels during the project preparation. Nevertheless, such partnerships will be pursued again starting at project inception, with the hope that agreements can be established now that Seychelles tourism industry is operating at close to normal levels again.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Component 3</p>

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
<p>In the context of sharing knowledge and South-South cooperation on Blue Economy with Indian Ocean countries and other SIDS, an exchange with (1) the recently started GIZ project ?Regional Ocean Governance Initiative West-Indian Ocean?, focusing on cross-sectoral multi-actor approaches for strategy development and problem solving to improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the WIO region and (2) the partnership project ?Coastal Ecosystem Monitoring in Cabo Verde? (funded by the BMZ initiative MeerWissen ? African German Partners for Ocean Knowledge), aiming at knowledge-based sustainable development of the coastal zone and the</p>	<p>Regarding the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project, the WIOGI project was just commencing during the preparation phase for the proposed GEF 7 project, but opportunities for collaboration and information sharing between the two projects will be sought during project implementation. In particular, the project will seek to collaborate / learn from the WIOGI project?s Component 1 (Strengthening regional policy dialogue ? regional ocean governance and information management strategies), which has clear linkages to the governance activities under Component 1 of the GEF 7 project, and Component 2 (Enhancing private sector engagement at the regional level), which has clear linkages with efforts under the GEF 7 project to enhance private sector participation in PA management (Component 2) and develop Nature based Solutions with private sector involvement (Component 3).</p> <p>Regarding the Coastal Ecosystem Monitoring in Cabo Verde (CEM_CV) project, this is an interesting project that should provide useful models and lessons learned for the GEF 7 project on the technical aspects and processes for coastal ecosystem monitoring, particularly as such activities relate to and inform management of coastal and marine natural resources. During project implementation, UNDP will facilitate communications with the CEM_CV project to further explore relevant opportunities. Additional information at: https://meerwissen.org/partnership-projects/cem-cv#:~:text=The%20Coastal%20Ecosystem%20Monitoring%20in,Cabo%20Verde%20to%20support%20evidence and https://www.oscm.cv/news-details/ocean-science-centre-mindelo-oscm-mindelo-cabo-verde.html.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Component 4</p>

GEF Council Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
Comments from UK		
UK in Seychelles has commented that they have worked closely with Govt of Seychelles in the past on the Blue Economy and would hope to find opportunities to work in the margins of the proposed GEF project to take forward the UK's objectives on climate change and COP 26 preparations.	UNDP can confirm that this project aligns very well with the strategic objectives of the UK on climate change. Specifically, at a national level, the project aligns with the objectives of the £500M Blue Planet Fund, which was launched at the G7 meeting in June 2021 and supports developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty. It puts tackling climate change and the loss of biodiversity as the UK government's highest international priority and contributes to the UK government's commitment to increase its international climate finance support to at least £11.6 billion over the next 5 years. At least £3 billion of this will be invested in climate change solutions that protect, restore, and sustainably manage nature and deliver strong outcomes for poverty reduction. The UK's impact and investment in Seychelles mirrors this commitment and aligns with this project Objective and Outcomes. Partnership with the UK will be sought during project inception to identify and potentially joint implement actions on the ground, including with SEYCCAT, which is a Convening Agent for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). Notably, UK is a donor and UNDP is a founding partner of GFCR. Unfortunately, COP26 had already taken place by the time the first iteration of this Review Sheet was shared. However, as COP27 nears, possible opportunities for collaboration and advocacy on key messages will be identified and actioned.	GEF CEO ER

STAP Review

STAP Review Comments	Notes on how to respond	Changes in Documents
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Theory of Change:

? The first component includes numerous outputs related to institutional strengthening, coordination, capacity building, increased public awareness, etc. ? all of which may be necessary but could be more clearly articulated through a Theory of Change that seeks to explain how these elements, along with components 2-4 are related. What are the underlying assumptions and what strategies or processes are in place to change course if assumptions prove untrue? See Theory of Change Primer (Dec 2019) for more guidance.

? No formal theory of change (ToC) is presented in this document; nor a logical framework. One has the impression that this project is primarily meant to build on and help to implement ongoing efforts by the Government of Seychelles and other related projects by filling in some key gaps such as improved management, including regulations and enforcement.

? Project interventions are meant to complement these efforts by providing incentives for communities and the private sector to engage in income generating activities that minimize land and sea-based impacts on the MNP. This is an important Component; however, the least well developed and articulated

A formal Theory of Change and a Results Framework have been included in the project document package. A summary of the Theory of Change (including the underlying assumptions) is provided below; additional details (including the ToC diagram) are provided in the UNDP Prodoc.

The project's Theory of Change (ToC) summarizes the activities through which the project will achieve its intended outcomes, intermediate states, and overall development objective. The ToC describes a set of causal linkages between the services and products to be delivered by the project (outputs), immediate outcomes, and medium and longer-term impacts arranged logically to form impact pathways.[2] The assumptions that connect the early, intermediate and longer-term outcomes and impacts are also indicated in the diagram and are described more fully below.

Under the baseline scenario (described in preceding sections), despite significant advances in MPA management and marine spatial planning, coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles remain vulnerable to a number of threats, which if not addressed will lead to the continued fragmentation and degradation of island habitats and loss of vital ecosystem services critical for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development, particularly as human populations and tourism pressures increase

The project's objective is to conserve globally significant biodiversity through effective management of Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas system and the promotion of nature-based solutions as pillars of the Blue Economy.

This will be achieved through four interlinked outcomes: strengthened strategic, political and institutional framework and capacity to implement Seychelles' MSP and govern the expanded MPA system; expansion and strengthened management of four priority conservation sites; innovative nature-based solutions support livelihoods and sustainable development in 4 sites; and improved sharing of information among stakeholders and partners to strengthen ownership and management of natural resources

Assumptions. Several assumptions were identified which condition the achievement of the results intended under each of the project outcomes:

Outcome 1	<p>Assumptions A1</p> <p>? The preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services remains a priority for national and local authorities as well as international partners who agree to continue supporting Seychelles' MSP process, the expansion and strengthening of the MPA system, and the mobilization of required financing</p> <p>? New mechanisms to support the coordinated management of Seychelles' coastal and marine environment, including the responsible Oceans Authority, the strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan, strengthened laws and regulations and judicial / law enforcement capacities, are widely supported by key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders</p>
Outcome 2	<p>Assumptions A2</p> <p>? Seychelles pending Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act is enacted, enabling the designation of new MPA sites</p> <p>? Environmental conditions, in particular climate change impacts, do not degrade targeted coastal and marine ecosystems to a degree that project outcomes / targets cannot be achieved</p> <p>? MPA management authorities and other key agencies (NISCC, Coast Guard, Police) are willing to coordinate strategies and resources in order to effectively implement surveillance and enforcement programs to conserve the</p>

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<p>Nature Based Solutions ? Challenges, Opportunities & Lessons Learned</p> <p>? The title of the project includes the term "Nature based Solutions?"; and several specific interventions are proposed under Component 3. However, the project does not recognize challenges specific to NbS related to cost-effectiveness, potential trade-offs and synergies, barriers, etc. and would benefit from a review of literature and lessons learned from other NbS that could significantly impact the success or failure of this project.</p> <p>? It is not clear that the project has considered the economics and practicalities of NbS vs. non-NbS (i.e. tourism) including issues of equity</p> <p>? This project fills in gaps of previous and ongoing projects and proposes new activities related to NbS. More work is needed to understand lessons learned from past NbS-based projects (GEF and non-GEF) as this is not apparent.</p>	<p>1) The GEF STAP has identified a series of persistent NbS challenges from peer-reviewed literature.[3] These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Focusing on environmental rather than societal challenges because they are proposals for GEF projects. This has been addressed and incorporated within the Project's Theory of Change (see Prodoc section III Strategy). ? Co-benefits are less prominent than global environmental benefits, which are GEF's core mandate. This has been addressed in the project by emphasizing co-benefits to Seychellois, including improved local fisheries due to improved mangrove and seagrass conservation. ? Monitoring and evaluation, where learnings are not reported. The project will address this previous gap within Component 4 which will document lessons learned from the NbS activities. <p>Lessons learned from NbS approaches worldwide are reviewed in Annex 17d (section 3).</p> <p>2) Some of the "issues of equity, cost-effectiveness, institutional context, etc." in the Seychelles include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Equity, regarding the limited involvement of local people throughout the tourism value chain (with a reliance in imported consumables, and expatriate labour), and domination of Seychellois elites among the major tourism companies, rather than support for MSMEs and entrepreneurs. This will be addressed through the incubator support in Output 3.1.4. ? Cost-effectiveness is challenged by high import costs of materials and equipment to the Seychelles (due to its context as a remote small island nation), rather than producing home-grown products. This will be addressed through the incubator in Output 3.1.4 to support NbS innovation among MSMEs and entrepreneurs. ? The institutional context is strong in the Seychelles, with capable and effective government institutions coupled with strong local NGOs. This this context, and the roles of stakeholders in project implementation, is described in the Prodoc, Table 5. <p>3) The project design, particularly outputs 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 will apply NbS and address these issues, as follows:</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</u></p> <p><u>Activity 3.1.2.3 will Strengthen capacities to support the application of nature-based solutions at MPA sites through building knowledge and technical capacity in coastal monitoring, engineering and nature-based protection. The project will adapt and supplement the existing UniSey Certificate course on Coastal Management and Adaptation with modules on nature-based solutions designed to address the negative environmental impacts of coastal tourism</u></p>	<p>UNDP Prodoc, Annex 17d</p>
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<p>Nature Based Solutions ? Previous Programs in Seychelles</p> <p>? Baseline is clear in terms of increased number/ha of MPAs. Less clear for NbS which will be piloted in 3 project sites. Have NbS been piloted previously and if so, what has been the result? Is this the first attempt?</p>	<p>NbS activities have taken place in the past in the Seychelles, including the creation of organic fertiliser from waste seaweed, and the piloting of Blue Barriers:</p> <p>? Seaweed Seychelles: Seaweed that washes up on beaches in the Seychelles causes various problems including: aesthetics for tourists/hotels; a bad smell when decomposes; and hatchling turtles get caught en route to the sea from their nests. Seaweed Seychelles collects this material, and creates 100% organic seaweed plant growth promotion. There is potential to scale up, but there are challenges with collection (Seychellois have limited interest in collecting it; hotels are dumping or burying rather than requesting its collection) and distribution (e.g. promoting Seychelles as totally organic; changing farmer behaviour and purchasing habits).</p> <p>? Blue barriers: Blue Barriers consist of an artificial reef structure forming a barrier to deliver effective coastal protection, combined with coral restoration operations to maximize the ecosystem rehabilitation, improving the marine environment and creating co- benefits for the ecosystem, recreation and businesses. The concept requires the construction of a submerged breakwater, using natural material and mimicking the natural reef environment, to immediately reduce wave run-up, and in parallel, the development of a living coral reef on top of the barrier creating a natural coral reef ecosystem. A World Bank-funded Blue Barrier project in the Seychelles is evaluating different coral restoration techniques in pilot sites through a pre-feasibility study. This includes technical description of erosion challenges in 5 sites on main beaches (outside protected areas) around Mahe and Praslin. At the time of ProDoc submission, the pre-feasibility study was not finalized.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to Annex 17d, section 5 and Table 4.</p>	
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Nature Based Solutions ? Project Approaches and Community Benefits & Equity

? The project could also benefit from clarity and more detail about how local communities will benefit from proposed NbS in a fair and equitable way (see for example Principle 4 of Cohen-Shacham, E. et al., (2019). Core Principles for successfully implementing and upscaling Nature-based Solutions. Environmental Science and Policy 98: 20 ? 29

The GEF7 project will seek opportunities to support NbS that provide incentives for communities to engage in income generating activities that minimize land and sea-based impacts on marine national parks and biodiversity. Furthermore, NbS concepts supported will need to demonstrate clear potential to:

- ? provide economic returns (direct and indirect benefits to the Seychelles economy);
- ? produce demonstrable benefits for coastal / marine ecosystems;
- ? have some potential for replication and upscaling,
- ? support local communities living adjacent or with access to priority conservation area; and
- ? focus on women and youth.

The project will also apply principles highlighted in the ?Ecosystem approach to nature-based solutions?[5] including Principle 4, that ?NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation. NbS interventions for food and water security, or disaster risk reduction, frequently provide services for governments and communities distant from the site but can entail loss of opportunities for those living in or near the services? source.?

For more information, please refer to Annex 17d, Table 2 and section 4.

Previously, roll out of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) has focused on large hotels and resorts. The project will facilitate the expanded uptake of the SSTL particularly by small hotels and operators within or in areas adjacent to the selected project sites, making its application more equitable. In order to support the Department of Tourism?s mentoring of hotels on sustainable tourism practices, the project will develop and share data and analyses that demonstrate the business case for SSTL certification for both large and smaller tourism operations.

Also, as indicated above, under Output 3.1.4, the proposed GEF project will partner with DSTI, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, and the Department of Blue Economy to design and implement an ?Enterprise Incubator stream? for Nature based Solutions within the MSME incubator, focusing on supporting youth and women, to develop and scale-up innovative business opportunities based on nature-based solutions. This collaboration will be equitable, by identifying potential candidates that are under the age of 35, and emphasize gender equity through a ratio of equal participation by men and women.

The project will also support implementation of the Seychelles Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap (2018-2030), which is structured on 7 overarching Blue Economy principles which include economic efficiency, sustainability, social equity, resilience, innovation, transparency and accountability and partnerships, the roadmap strives for the creation of sustainable wealth, sharing prosperity, and securing healthy, resilient, and productive oceans. Project activities will reinforce the overarching principles and strategic direction set forth by the roadmap and contribute directly to actions on the ground.

<p>Nature Based Solutions ? Project Conceptual Approach</p> <p>? Nature based Solutions is in the title of the project; however, little information is provided on specifics aspects of NbS beyond the general IUCN definition.</p> <p>? This is the first GEF-financed project under the Blue Economy plan. NbS have the potential to be innovative; however, they are not described in detail here and it is not clear that project proponents have a strong understanding of how NbS differ practically from other interventions.</p> <p>? It's not clear how the indicators in Component 3 relate specifically to NbS. Management could be a form of NbS but is covered in component 2 as well. More work is needed to understand how NbS are different from non-NbS and how to measure.</p>	<p>The project design, particularly outputs 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 incorporate NbS frameworks, namely:</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Nature-based solutions for improved tourism management identified and piloted in innovative partnerships with private sector and local communities leading to reduced localized threats in vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>? This Output will address NbS Principle 1 (NbS embrace nature conservation norms (and principles); Principle 2 (NbS can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges (e.g., technological and engineering solutions); and Principle 4 (NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation).</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Nature-based solutions for ecosystem management / restoration identified and piloted with private sector and local communities leading to recovery of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>? In particular this Output applies NbS Principle 3 (NbS are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge) and Principle 7 (NbS recognize and address the trade-offs between the production of a few immediate economic benefits for development, and future options for the production of the full range of ecosystem services.)</p> <p>Output 3.1.4: Communities living adjacent or with access to priority conservation areas benefit from sustainable nature-based livelihoods (with focus on women and youth)</p> <p>? In particular, this output applies NbS Principle 4 (NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation).</p> <p>More context on the IUCN NbS framework is described in Annex 17d, section 1.</p> <p>Examples of NbS approaches worldwide are reviewed in Annex 17d, section 2, and the types of NbS that will be supported through the project (and are applicable in the Seychelles) are described in Annex 17d, section 4.</p>
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<p>Climate Risk Screening: Finally, as Seychelles is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, it will be important to undertake a detailed climate risk screening (see STAP guidance on climate risk screening at https://www.stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening)</p>	<p>A Climate Risk Screening was completed (Annex 11)</p>	<p>UNDP Prodoc, Annex 11</p>
<p>Baseline Information: Baseline is clear in terms of existing area of MPAs and proposed expansion and improved METT scores (though not clear what are existing METT scores). Also no baseline information for enforcement issues such as arrests, trials and convictions, etc.</p>	<p>Baseline METT scores, as well as baseline information on the number of illegal activities detected / year, the number of police cases opened / year, and the number of successful convictions for violations of environmental regulations, have been provided in the Results Framework.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Annex A (Project Results Framework)</p>

<p>Maps</p> <p>? A map would be helpful to show how the new proposed protected areas relate to proposed pilot sites.</p> <p>? Coordinates are provided for Seychelles but not for specific MPAs or project sites. Maps are helpful ? particularly the second one; however, it would be even better if the proposed MPAs and NbS project sites could be identified as layers on top of the land cover map. See Earth Observation and the GEF ? Section A1.0 (p. 64) for recommendations on providing geo-referenced information.</p>	<p>The following maps have been provided:</p> <p>Map 1 - Key Project Sites: Map of the Inner Islands that shows the key project sites (Port Glaud Ramsar Site, Ste Anne MNP, Ile Cocos MNP, Bay of Baie Ste Anne, Aride Special Reserve)</p> <p>Map 2 - Port Glaud: Map showing the Port Glaud Ramsar site, with the Morne Seychellois National Park, Port Launay MNP and Baie Ternay MNP also labelled.</p> <p>Map 3 - Ste Anne: Map showing the Ste Anne Marine National Park, including islands within the park and its proximity to the nearby main island of Mahe</p> <p>Map 4 - Ile Cocos: Map showing the Ile Cocos Marine National Park, and its proximity to nearby Felicite Island</p> <p>Map 5 ? Aride: Map showing the Aride Special Reserve, and its proximity to nearby Praslin and Curieuse islands.</p> <p>Map 6 - Baie Ste Anne: Map showing Baie Ste Anne and the Voluntary Fisheries Closure area within the bay, as well as the nearby Island of Praslin</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Annex E</p>
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<p>Replication: The project has ?significant potential? for replication in other small island countries in the region and even globally but beyond that there is no specific vision of how this will be scaled.</p>	<p>The project includes the elements needed for scaling-up its outputs and outcomes, both within the MPA system and the country in general. Replication elements include: 1) development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for reporting on MSP implementation by all relevant stakeholders (Output 1.1.2); 2) the development and implementation of an Investment Framework and Strategy to provide financing for the expanded MPA system nationally (Output 1.1.3); 3) updating of MPA legislation and training of lawyers, judges and magistrates on the handling of environment-related crimes (Output 1.1.4); 4) piloting of partnership agreements between the MPA managers and private hotels (Output 2.1.2); 5) strengthening the capacities of SPGA and other key surveillance and enforcement agencies (Output 2.1.3); 6) extending the use of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) by tourism operators; 7) promote sustainable practices among dive / snorkel operators, including facilitating their possible certification with Greenfins (https://greenfins.net) (Output 3.1.2); 8) providing a technical course on sustainable coastal tourism development to diverse stakeholders and developing formal Sector Standards for planning and construction in coastal areas (Output 3.1.2); 9) piloting a participatory management plan for the Baie Ste Anne seagrass beds (Output 3.1.3); and 10); establishing a Nature based Solutions incubator (Output 3.1.4).</p> <p>In addition, the project?s innovative approaches for advancing a Blue Economy vision and implementing the Marine Spatial Plan will be highly useful and replicable beyond the Seychelles, as many other small island countries face similar human resource, natural resource and financial challenges for which they are seeking new solutions. Under Output 4.1.4, the project will facilitate South-South information sharing on ?Blue Economy? with other Indian Ocean countries and SIDS (including Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives), with a focus on nature based solutions / business models that have been effectively implemented; successful approaches to large-scale marine management and marine spatial planning; national strategies for monitoring and enforcement of regulations to protect coastal and marine ecosystems; sustainable financing options at both national and regional levels, and the use of sustainable and low-carbon construction approaches and materials for tourism infrastructure.</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Part II, Section 6</p>
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<p>Stakeholder Roles</p> <p>? Roles are clearly outlined. However, one risk is ?potential disagreements on governance issues? to be mitigated through stakeholder engagement plan. This plan should detail how the project builds ownership among stakeholders and what are the mechanisms for communication or knowledge sharing. Are the processes structured in a way that enhance stakeholder agency and empowerment, address conflict and future scenarios of uncertainty?</p> <p>? For the NbS component in particular, it would be good to review case studies and literature related to stakeholder engagement. See for example, Giordano et al., (2020). Enhancing nature-based solutions acceptance through stakeholder engagement in co-benefits identification and trade-offs analysis? Science of the Total Environment 713. 136552.</p>	<p>With regard to any potential disagreements on the governance of areas designated under the MSP, the project will mitigate this risk by strengthening the institutional, technical and financial capacity of the responsible Oceans Authority, which has been designated as the responsible government institution for inter-agency coordination of ocean governance and MSP implementation issues (Output 1.1.1), by establishing a strategic coordination mechanism for implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan to provide broad oversight of and facilitate the MSP implementation process (Output 1.1.2).</p> <p>More generally, stakeholder roles and participation processes are described in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8), including the following processes:</p> <p>Mechanisms for communication or knowledge sharing</p> <p>? The project will ensure that communication channels are clearly outlined and explained during stakeholder engagement to ensure maximum knowledge and information sharing.</p> <p>? During engagement with stakeholders, the project team will assess meetings using a feedback evaluation form or asking questions to participants in order to ensure that messages are being conveyed clearly. The team will also conduct debriefing sessions and visit stakeholders for their inputs on project progress.</p> <p>? The results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to project- affected and broader stakeholder groups through validation workshops, quarterly monitoring and progress reports and in cases where appropriate, through newsletters and public meetings.</p> <p>Processes that enhance stakeholder agency and empowerment</p> <p>? During the stakeholder engagement programme, focused efforts will be on engaging directly with relevant stakeholders. Affected individuals will be consulted directly or via their representatives and other influential people within communities.</p> <p>? Special efforts will be made to meet with representatives of potentially vulnerable groups if (they are identified at any point) who may not be reached through established structures.</p> <p>? Particular attention will be paid to adverse impacts on vulnerable/disadvantaged groups who, because of their social position, may be vulnerable to changes brought about by project activities or excluded from project benefits. Local consultants and Project Team members who are cognisant of the national context will be included as much as possible to mitigate the effects of unfamiliarity and to ensure inclusivity.</p> <p>? All meetings will follow local practices and norms, and Creole will be used in addition to English as required.</p> <p>? Stakeholders will be made aware of the existence and role of the Project Board, and the contact details of the Project Team will be made available to all parties</p> <p>Processes that address conflict and future scenarios of uncertainty</p> <p>? The project team will proactively identify potential conflicts and risks that may arise and inform the Project Board, to ensure that the necessary planning can be done to prevent or mitigate any conflicts and risks</p>	<p>GEF CEO ER, Expected Results, Outputs 1.1.1 ? 1.1.2</p> <p>UNDP Prodoc, Annex 8</p>
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<p>Knowledge Management: Knowledge management is embedded in Component 4 along with gender mainstreaming and M&E. The KM aspect is fairly standard (see above). Indicators are not precise (?Effective lessons learning and knowledge management within and beyond the project?). A major weakness has to do with describing how communication and outreach would be implemented to consolidate support at the local level for the proposed NbS.</p>	<p>Several information management systems will be established by the project that will help to disseminate knowledge to diverse groups of stakeholders, including: an online platform for reporting on implementation by various partners of the Marine Spatial Plan (Output 1.1.2); an online system for consolidating and sharing information on public and private biodiversity and climate change adaptation expenditures (Output 1.1.6); and the Information System for Protected Land/Seascape Management Plans (Output 2.1.4). To strengthen support at the local level for nature based solutions related to sustainable tourism, ecosystem management and restoration, and entrepreneurial livelihoods activities, the project will develop and implement an environmental awareness campaign for schools; carry out awareness raising of tourism sector stakeholders to increase their understanding of the fragility of coastal and marine ecosystems and the potential negative impacts that tourism can have on those ecosystems; and support a buy local campaign to encourage Seychellois to ?buy locally?, including products and services developed by local entrepreneurs through the NbS incubator (Output 3.1.5).</p> <p>Under Output 4.1.3, the project will support the development and dissemination of a diverse set of knowledge-sharing mechanisms and products related to Seychelles Blue Economy, the MSP process, and the newly expanded MPA system, including the creation and sharing of technical, policy and planning products based on information generated and lessons learned from project activities under Components 1-3, as well as rapid assessments and policy briefs to support decision-making, all of which will be made available on the MACCE Programme Office website and disseminated through media, scientific publications and on-line tools. The project will also establish platforms and networks to share lessons learned among stakeholder associations and groups; work to build local ?communities of practice? on Nature based Solutions related to tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods; and seek to share information with global partners on NbS approaches for tourism development, ecosystem management / conservation, and livelihoods; e.g. through the Tourism Action Coalition for a Sustainable Ocean (TACSO).</p> <p>Under Output 4.1.4, the project will facilitate South-South cooperation and information sharing on ?Blue Economy? with other Indian Ocean countries and SIDS (including Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives), with a focus on nature based solutions / business models that have been effectively implemented; successful approaches to large-scale marine management and marine spatial planning; national strategies for monitoring and enforcement of regulations to protect coastal and marine ecosystems; sustainable financing options at both national and regional levels, and the use of sustainable and low-carbon construction approaches and materials for tourism infrastructure. The project will also support participation of project staff / Seychelles? representatives at regional and global meetings such as the Blue Economy Summit, Indian Ocean Rim Association conferences, SIDS conferences, etc.</p> <p>Finally, the following indicator related to knowledge management has been included in the Results Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Indicator: # of knowledge products disseminated to relevant national, regional and global stakeholders ? Mid-Term Target: At least 10 knowledge products produced and shared ? End of Project Target: At least 15 additional knowledge products produced and shared 	<p>GEF CEO ER, Part II, Section 8; also Results Framework</p>
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[1] See IUCN (2008) Biodiversity: My hotel in action: A guide to sustainable use of biological resources: https://www.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_hotel_guide_final.pdf

[2] GEF-STAP. 2019. *A Theory of Change Primer - a STAP document*. Accessible here: [?Theory of Change Primer?](#)

[3] See GEF (2020) Nature-based solutions and the GEF: A STAP Advisory Document, December 2020, Available at: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Nature-based%20Solutions%20and%20the%20GEF-FINAL_web.pdf?null=

[4] Anon (2019) Support to Blue Economy MSMEs Seychelles, Technical Assistance request, Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)

[5] Cohen-Shacham, E., Walters, G., Janzen, C., Maginnis, S., (2016) Nature-Based Solutions to Address Societal Challenges. Gland, Switzerland: International Union for Conservation of Nature. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2016.13.en>.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 150,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Remaining Balance</i>
Preparation of Inception Report and consolidation of work plans	25,000	23,746	
Collect baseline/situational analysis on the Seychelles tourism sector and conduct feasibility assessments on the use of nature-based solutions and sustainable 'blue business' tourism models with a view to reducing localized threats in vulnerable and marine ecosystems.	15,000	12,795	
Conduct Stakeholder Mapping and detailed capacity assessment of the MSP and relevant partner agencies and review of the Blue Economy sector and explore emerging partnerships	20,000	18,087	
Stakeholder Meeting and presentation of Draft Prodoc	30,000	33,516	
Completion of Required Annexes and documents including Risk Assessment, Gender Action Plan, Co-Financing Commitment and others	15,000	14,490	

Validation Meeting and finalization of the Prodoc at National Level	20,000	19,030	
Formulation and Submission of the UNDP-GEF project document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	25,000	27,430	
Total	150,000	149,094	906

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Please note the maps are uploaded in GEF Portal within Part II. Project Justification, 1b. Project Map and Coordinates.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Responsible Entity: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)

Expendi ture Categor y	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USD eq.)	Respons ible Entity
		<i>Compo nent 1</i>	<i>Compo nent 2</i>	<i>Compo nent 3</i>	<i>Compo nent 4</i>	<i>Sub- Total</i>	<i>M& E</i>	<i>PMC</i>		
Equipme nt	IT and other equipment for PMU (4,792)					-		4,792	4,792	MACC E

Equipment	Mooring buoys for Ste Anne and Ile Cocos MNPs (40,000; SPGA)Information kiosk in the Port Glaud MPA for visitor outreach and education (30,000)Mooring buoys for Baie Ste Anne (20,000)Start up funding support to develop NbS business concepts, including equipment for R&D, prototypes, etc. (140,000; DSTI)			230,000		230,000			230,000	MACCE
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Equipment	Purchase of surveillance equipment (15,000; Aride) Purchase of boat, engine and associated operating / monitoring equipment for park operation (50,000; SPGA Ste Anne) Construct ion of a floating pontoon to act as an SPGA ranger base (25,000; SPGA Ste Anne) Installatio n of solar powered surveillance cameras with data links at important turtle rookeries and other spots (20,000; SPGA Ste Anne) Installatio n of VMS on patrol boats with links to dashboard (7,500; SPGA Ste Anne) Equipme nt and maintenance for coral reef monitoring programme (20,000); equipment and maintenance for seagrass monitoring programme (20,000); equipment and testing for water-quality monitoring programme (SST, turbidity, nitrate, phosphate, faecal coliforms, BOD, COD) (10,000); total =	440,000			440,000			440,000	MACCE
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Equipment	Purchase of satellite imagery for mapping at Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (10,000) Purchase of security kits for MPA rangers (\$10,000; SPGA Ste Anne) Demarcation of reef passages into Cerf Island (materials = 15,000, installation = 15,000, maintenance = 5,000); total = 35,000 (SPGA Ste Anne) Demarcation of Ste Anne MNP (materials = 20,000, installation = 20,000, maintenance = 5,000); total = 45,000 (SPGA Ste Anne) Purchase of security kits for MPA rangers (5,000; SPGA Ile Cocos) Employee handbook with all relevant information that MPA rangers and conservation officers need to know for their work (5,000)		110,000			110,000			110,000	MACCE
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Equipment	<p>Zoning of visitor activities in Ste Anne MNP, including signage demarcating reef passages to Cerf Island; signage for closures of main turtle nesting beaches; signage on areas where fish feeding is allowed (9,000; SPGA Ste Anne)</p> <p>Demarcation of nursery and coral reef restoration sites (15,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)</p> <p>Setting up of seawater temperature monitoring array and annual data downloads (10,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)</p> <p>Education and awareness in support of coral reef recovery plan (5,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)</p> <p>Assess optimal density of Black spine sea urchins for promoting coral recruits survival (30,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)</p> <p>Bi-annual experimental survey of fish catch in the Baie Ste Anne trap fishery from the voluntary fisheries closure zone (25,000; PFA)</p> <p>Pilot project with PFA on restoration of Tape Seagrass (<i>Enhalus</i></p>			109,000		109,000			109,000	MACCE	
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Equipme nt	IT hardware for MSP implementation reporting platform (10,000)IT hardware for Blue Grants Fund (10,000)IT hardware for DBS Blue Investment Fund (\$10,000)	30,000				30,000			30,000	MACC E
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Equipment	Purchase of IT infrastructure to support Open Foris data collection tool (20,000; Aride)i2 threat intelligence analysis platform software and license (to be managed by the NISCC in order to analyse patterns of boat movement at sea and thereby improve detection of illegal activities) (30,000)Equipment for electronic reporting system (8,000; SPGA Ste Anne)Equipment for electronic reporting system (8,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)IT and communication equipment for SPGA Marine National Parks command centre (30,000; SPGA)Improve SPGA ICT infrastructure to allow for better archiving and storage of data from monitoring activities (15,000; SPGA)		111,000			111,000			111,000	MACCE
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Equipment	Maintenance costs for boat and operating/ monitoring equipment (25,000; SPGA Ste Anne)Maintenance of boats and other operational equipment (15,000; SPGA Ile Cocos)		40,000			40,000			40,000	MACCE
Contractual services-Individual	Chief Technical Advisor (3,500 / week * 12 weeks / year * 6 years = 126,000)	126,000				126,000			126,000	MACCE
Contractual services-Individual	Chief Technical Advisor (3,500 / week * 12 weeks / year * 6 years = 126,000)MPA Regulations / Surveillance / Enforcement Expert (11,000 / month * 24 months = 264,000)		390,000			390,000			390,000	MACCE
Contractual services-Individual	Project Safeguards Officer / Gender Expert: (\$1,500 / week * 8 weeks/year * 6 years = 72,000)				72,000	72,000	72,000		144,000	MACCE
Contractual services-Individual	Turtle monitoring on St Anne MNP beaches in partnership with St Anne residents and SPGA (25,000)			25,000		25,000			25,000	MACCE

Contractual services-Individual	Management of Aride Special Reserve (Responsible Party to be determined): Sub-activity 1.1: Assess population trends and current status of the various seabird nesting populations on Aride and propose new management measures based on the results: Mapping of seabird colonies (10,000); analyse annual seabird census data between 1988 until 2023 for Sooty tern, Lesser Noddy, Brown Noddy, Fairy tern, and Roseate tern (50,000); analyse annual Wedge-tailed and Tropical Shearwater census data between 1988 until 2023 (30,000); analyse breeding success data for Fairy tern, White-tailed Tropicbird, Lesser Noddy, Brown Noddy data between 1988 until 2023 (40,000); analyse roosting frigate bird population data between 1988 until 2023 (30,000); data analysis to investigate possible linkages between seabird populations and	565,800			565,800			565,800	MACCE
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Contractual services-Individual	Project Manager: 72 months * 2,200/month * .75 = 118,800 (only 75% funded with GEF project funds; other 25% funded by GOS) Finance Manager: 72 months * 2,300/month * .20 = 33,120 (only 20% funded with GEF project funds; other 80% funded by other projects)					-		151,920	151,920	MACCE
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Contractual services-Individual	<p>Responsible Party (Praslin Fishers Association): Monitoring of seagrass beds and water quality inside the bay of Baie Ste Anne (25,000); maintain and monitor mooring buoys in Baie St Anne (12,000); total = 37,000</p> <p>Responsible Party (Division of Science Technology and Innovation): Identify candidates for NbS incubator stream; provide participants with information on successful NbS approaches; establish mentoring system to support incubator participants (40,000); Provide support to incubator applicants in developing NbS businesses, including R&D, prototypes, licensing, business planning, protection of intellectual property, brand verification, etc. (110,000); total = 150,000</p>			187,000		187,000		187,000	MACCE
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Contractual services-Company	<p>Company / NGO for Tourism Policy: Development of a sustainable tourism policy for the Seychelles (12,000); consultation meetings on sustainable tourism policy (3 * 1000 = 3,000); total = 15,000</p> <p>Company / NGO for Tourism Certification: Support uptake of the SSTL in and around the project sites, including: a feasibility study regarding mandatory certification; case studies that demonstrate the business case for SSTL certification; development of a marketing plan for the SSTL and associated awareness raising materials (19,500); baseline energy audits of tourism establishments at the project sites (6,000); baseline biodiversity audits of tourism establishments at the project sites (6,000); total = 31,500</p> <p>Company / NGO for MPA Tourism Development: Feasibility study for low-impact tourism</p>			590,100		590,100		590,100	MACCE	
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Contractual services-Company	<p>Company for Safeguard Assessments: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Expansion of Iles Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site, and related Environmental and Social Management Plans (possibly including a process Framework) (40,000);</p> <p>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for updated MPA Management Plans at 4 sites, and related Environmental and Social Management Plans (possibly including a process Framework) (20,000); total = 60,000</p> <p>Digital Company for MPA IT Systems: Provide cloud computing space in support of the electronic reporting system (25,000); technical support to SPGA staff for setting up required IT system and for management of the dashboard (15,000);</p> <p>Capacity building in the use of i2 threat intelligence analysis platform software</p>	245,000			245,000			245,000	MACCE
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Contractual services-Company	<p>Digital Company for MSP Reporting Platform: Develop online MSP implementation reporting platform (30,000); training workshop on use of the online MSP implementation reporting platform (3,000); total = 33,000</p> <p>Digital Company for BD Financing Platforms: Develop and test BGF portal and associated web interface (40,000); train SeyCCAT staff in the update and maintenance of BGF portal (3,000); develop, test and commission DBS loans portal and associated web interface (40,000); train DBS staff in update and maintenance of database and portal (3,000); develop, test and commission self-reporting system on BD & CC expenditures (30,000); total = 116,000</p> <p>Company / NGO for Environmental Education: Undertake Knowledge, Practice, and Awareness survey and produce report (60 days * 1000000)</p>	254,000				254,000			254,000	MACCE
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Contractual services-Company	Internet, Website maintenance; other IT support; telephones, etc. (37,042)					-		37,042	37,042	MACCE
International Consultants	International Consultant to lead Mid Term Review process (10 weeks * 3,500/week, inclusive of travel costs = 35,000)International Consultant to lead Terminal Evaluation process (12 weeks * 3,500/week, inclusive of travel costs = 42,000)					-	77,000		77,000	MACCE
International Consultants	NbS Livelihoods Expert: Desk-based analysis of successful NbS systems that support livelihoods in other SIDS and coastal states and are applicable to the Seychelles; development of a guidance document to support operation of the NbS Incubator based on this analysis; on-going guidance and technical support to the NbS Incubator (60 days * 650/day = 39,000)			39,000		39,000			39,000	MACCE

International Consultants	<p>Ocean Governance Expert: Training workshops for responsible Oceans Authority staff in ocean governance and inter-agency coordination for MSP implementation (fee: 40 days * 700/day = 28,000; per diem: 20 days * 300/day = 6,000; travel = 5,200; total = 39,200)MPA Financing Expert: Investment Framework and Strategy for financing the expanded MPA system (fee: 30 days * 700/day = 21,000; per diem: 8 days * 300/ day = 2,400; travel = 2,000; total 25,400)Environmental Crimes Legal Expert: Training workshops on prosecution of environmental crimes; and on judging environment conservation-related crimes (fee: 60 days * 700/day = 42,000; per diem: 16 days * 300/day = 4,800; travel = 4,000); total = 50,800)Blue Grants Project Appraisal Expert: 1) Training on project appraisals (fee: 30 days *</p>	173,800				173,800			173,800	MACCE
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Internati onal Consulta nts	Wetland Conservation & Monitoring Expert: Training of Wetlands Unit staff in wetland inventory and monitoring, economic analyses of wetlands and their services, etc. (fee: 40 days * 600/day = 24,000; per- diem: 16 days * 300/day = 4,800); travel = 7,200; total = 36,000)MPA Legal Enforcement Expert: Feasibility study to assess whether MPA rangers can / should be granted enforcement powers similar to those of the police (fee: 25 days * 700/ day = 17,500; per- diem: 10 days * 300/day = 3,000; travel = 3,000); total = 23,500		59,500			59,500			59,500	MACC E
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Local Consultants	<p>Coral Reef Conservation Expert: Development of mooring buoy action plan, including designation of sites, maintenance, guidelines for yacht mooring and anchoring, briefings for yacht operators and skippers for Ste Anne and Ile Cocos MNPs (feet: 35 days * 400/day = 14,000)</p> <p>Seagrass Beds Conservation Expert: Preparation of participatory management plan for the Baie Ste Anne seagrass beds (30 days x 400/day = 12,000); training PFA members on monitoring of fisheries, seagrass beds, water quality, and environmental crimes (40 days x 400/day = 16,000); total = 28,000</p>			42,000		42,000			42,000	MACCE
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Local Consultants	Environmental and Social Assessment Expert: SESAs for strategies, plans and legislation that may be proposed / amended under Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 2.1.2 and 3.1.3 (75 days * 400/day = 30,000)National Consultant to support Mid Term Review process (8 weeks * 1,500/week = 12,000)National Consultant to support Terminal Evaluation process (10 weeks * 1,500 week = 15,000)					-	57,000		57,000	MACCE
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Local Consultants	<p>MPA Habitat and Activity Mapping Expert: Habitat and activity mapping and participatory selection of area for expansion at Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (fee: 60 days * 400/day = 24,000)MPA Legal Expert: Prepare nomination files and update regulations for Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (60 days * 400/day = 24,000); Review and update regulations for Ste Anne MNP (25 days * 400/day = 10,000; total = 34,000)Wetland Monitoring Expert: Biodiversity inventory and updating of the Ramsar site information sheet (65 days * 400/day = 26,000); preparation of Ramsar country review report (20 days * 400/day = 8,000); training for community members in marine and coastal habitat monitoring (25 days * 400/day = 10,000); implementation of habitat monitoring programme (35 days * 400/day = 14,000); total = 58,000.</p>	116,000			116,000			116,000	MACCE
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Local Consultants	<p>OA Strategic Plan Expert: Preparation of a 5-year Strategic Plan for the responsible Ocean Authority (fee: 25 days * 400/day = 10,000)MSP Coordination Expert: Revision of ToR for High Level MSP Implementation Committee and ToR for Technical Working Groups (fee: 4 days * 400/day = 1,600)MPA Legal Expert: Training in drafting MPA legislation/regulations (30 days * 400/day = 12,000); revise text of outdated MPA legislation and regulations (fee: 40 days * 400/day = 16,000); total = 28,000Blue Financing Projects development & evaluation expert: Training for SeyCCAT staff and local consultants on project monitoring, assessment and evaluation (fee: 40 days * 400/day = 16,000); training for DBS staff on BGF concept notes, full proposals preparation and project implementation (fee: 30 days * 400/day =</p>	96,000							96,000	96,000	MACCE
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Training, Workshops, Meetings	Inception workshop (5,000)Workshops associated with development of safeguard management plans and/or associated training (8,000)					-	13,000		13,000	MACCE
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Training, Workshops, Meetings	Validation workshop for Oceans Authority Strategic Plan (2,000); workshop for ocean governance and inter-agency liaison and coordination (14,965); mock training exercises on inter-agency liaison and coordination (10,000); training workshops for OA staff on site management plan preparation, monitoring, reporting and review (10,000), resource mobilization and budgeting (10,000), and public education, stakeholder communication and outreach campaigns (10,000); total = 56,965 Meetings of the High Level MSP Implementation Committee (10,000); meetings of the MSP Technical Working Groups (30,000); total = 40,000 Validation of the MSP Investment Framework and Strategy (3,000) Workshops costs for training of SeyCCAT staff and local consultants on project	153,965					153,965			153,965	MACCE
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Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops for PFA members on monitoring of fisheries, seagrass beds, water quality, and environmental crimes (4,000)			4,000		4,000			4,000	MACCE
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops for presentation of gender strategy, and gender sensitivity training for key project stakeholders (8,000)Hosting of meetings at project sites of platforms and networks to bring together existing stakeholder associations and groups where lessons learned and experiences can be shared (10,000)Hosting of meetings for local communities of practice on Nature based Solutions (10,000)				28,000	28,000			28,000	MACCE

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops for selection of area for expansion at Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (4,000)Capacity building in the use of the Open Foris data collection tool for Aride Conservation Officers (5,000; Aride)Training workshops in visitor interactions for SPGA rangers at Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (20,000); training workshops in MPA surveillance and enforcement Ile Cocos MNP and Port Glaud Ramsar site (20,000); workshops to train community members adjacent to Port Glaud Ramsar site in marine and coastal habitat monitoring (5,000); workshops for training of wetlands unit staff in wetland inventory and monitoring, economic analyses of wetlands and their services, etc. (3,000); visibility event to sign co-management agreement for Port Glaud site (4,000); total = 52,000Training workshops and field sessions in	133,000			133,000			133,000	MACCE
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Travel	Local travel costs for monitoring of the project,s gender action plan (2,000)Travel costs of project staff and national stakeholders to attend regional / global meetings (30,000)				32,000	32,000			32,000	MACCE
Travel	M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework (20,000)Local travel costs for the project,s safeguards activities (2,000)					-	22,000		22,000	MACCE
Travel	Travel and lodging (one month stay) for MPA wardens/rangers at a professionally run MPA overseas to develop capacities in surveillance and enforcement strategy and planning (25,000)		25,000			25,000			25,000	MACCE
Office Supplies	Office supplies, stationary, other consumables (2,880)					-		2,880	2,880	MACCE
Other Operating Costs	Vehicle maintenance and fuel (4,224)					-		4,224	4,224	MACCE

Other Operating Costs	HACT Audits & Spot Checks (6 years * 5,000/year = 30,000)HACT Micro-Assessment of Responsible Party for Aride (5,000)					-		35,000	35,000	MACCE
Other Operating Costs	Equipment for online conferencing facilities for DBS Blue Investment Fund (5,000)	5,000				5,000			5,000	MACCE
Other Operating Costs	Event to sign co-management agreement for Ste Anne MNP (2,000; SPGA); visibility event to sign co-management agreement for Ile Cocos MNP (4,000; SPGA); total = 6,000Preparation and distribution of leaflets to raise awareness of park visitors regarding coral reefs (8,000)		14,000			14,000			14,000	MACCE

Other Operating Costs	Printing of knowledge products, including technical, policy and planning products developed under Components 1-3 (5,000); printing of rapid assessments and policy briefs (2,000); production of publications, print media and electronic media for project knowledge management / communications (15,000); total = 22,000; Printing of information products key aspects of the project, s Blue Economy approaches with other Indian Ocean countries / SIDS (10,000)				32,000	32,000			32,000	MACCE
Total		838,765	2,249,300	1,226,100	164,000	4,478,165	241,000	235,858	4,955,023	

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.

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).