

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10279
Project Name:	ISLANDS - Caribbean Child Project
Countr(ies):	Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Latin America and Caribbean
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

ISLANDS - Caribbean Child Project

Country

Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Latin America and Caribbean

GEF ID

10279

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

BCRC Caribbean

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/9/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 4th PIR

Objective

To prevent the build-up of materials and chemicals in the environment that contain POPs and Mercury and other harmful chemicals in SIDS, and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and materials in SIDS

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

11,990,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,801,687.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

5/28/2021

Agency Approval

6/14/2021

Implementation Start 7/21/2021	First Disbursement 8/25/2021
Expected MTR 10/31/2025	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/31/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The ISLANDS Caribbean Project is on its fourth year of implementation and has a total expenditure to June 2025 of 30% of the total budget.

The ISLANDS Child Project is being executed synergistically with the GEF 10472 Child Project due to the similarities across the components and many of the activities of both projects. The first project activity commenced in Q1 2023 and currently activities under ten (10) of the 12 outputs are ongoing with work currently underway to initiate the activities under the remaining two (2) outputs in the second half of 2025.

Component 1 Preventing the Future Build-Up of Chemicals Entering SIDS. Under Output 1.1, a draft model policy and model legislation were developed and in July 2024, they were presented for validation. The final version of the model policy and model legislation is expected by September 2025. To assist the adoption and eventual implementation of the model policy and model legislation, nine (9) draft national strategies and roadmaps were developed and discussed at national workshops held between December 2024 and April 2025. The final national strategies and roadmaps are expected by September 2025. Under Output 1.2, the training needs assessment activity was completed with five terms of references being developed to fill the gaps identified by the completed needs assessment. Work to engage experts to provide the identified training areas was initiated in Q2 2025. Additionally, the activity on the six pre-identified training topics on pesticides registration was completed in May 2025 and the work to develop an Effect-Cause-Action Global (ECA-G) tool for Highly Hazardous Pesticides in the Caribbean began in December 2024. The consultancy for the Digital Learning Hub started in February 2025 with the first course on the Hub to be completed by the end of August 2025. Under Output 1.3, the activities to improve the capacity of customs and border control agencies for the identification of trade in restricted and prohibited hazardous chemicals, products containing chemicals and waste began in February 2025 and we expect work on the development of a formal mechanism for inter-institutional collaboration and communication amongst relevant agencies, such as Customs and regulatory bodies, to start in August 2025. Under Output 1.4, the GHS activity was successfully completed in the first half of 2025 and culminated in a well-received training workshop held in Guyana in February 2025. Additionally, the two draft (2) voluntary CARICOM Regional Standards were finalised and approved during the meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development under CARICOM in June 2025 and nine (9) roadmaps to assist the countries with the adoption of the standards were developed. Under Output 1.5, the FAO activity to develop a manual for bio-pesticides registration was completed in April 2025 after the completion of a training workshop in March 2025. Additionally, the procurement phase for the work to train and build capacity on Consumer Risk Assessment for Maximum Residue Limits and to train and sensitise stakeholders within the agricultural sector on sustainable procurement got underway. We hope to have these activities kicked off in the second half of 2025. Under 1.5, work for the activity that will focus on sustainable procurement, assessing alternatives to PFAS, POP-PBDEs, SCCPs/PCBs/PCNs and mercury added product, and providing training, has begun. We hope to have a terms of reference for this work completed and shared with the project countries during Q3 2025.

Component 2 Safe Management and Disposal of Existing Chemicals, products and materials. Under Output 2.1, the assessment phase (including national missions) for the identification of stockpiles to inform the development of management and disposal strategies was completed with the final national mission to the Dominican Republic being completed in April 2025. In June 2025, a regional workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss management/disposal strategies and prioritisation of waste streams to be disposed of under Activity 2.1.2. Under Output 2.1, work to complete the FAO activity to develop a Pesticide Stock Management System Application was initiated with the terms of reference being developed and reviewed by the FAO. Under Activity 2.1.3, the assessment phase on the current management practices for Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) in the

project countries was completed as well as the selection of the country to pilot test the application and preliminary work on the communication strategy, products and app development. Under Output 2.2, work began to engage a consultant to complete the Output's activities with the development and review of the terms of reference. The engaged consultant is expected to begin work in July 2025. Additionally, under Output 2.2, work to complete the FAO activity on Empty Pesticide Container Management was initiated with the terms of reference being developed, reviewed and advertised. We hope to start this activity in the second half of 2025.

Component 3 Safe management of products entering SIDS/closing material and product loops for products. The activity involving the assessment and feasibility study for E-waste management in the Caribbean region is currently ongoing under Output 3.1. Investigations as to how the last two (2) activities of this Output can be completed have also begun. In April 2025, the training workshops for three (3) of the GEF 10279 project countries was held to build capacity for the management of End-of-Life Vehicle (ELVs). Work to finalise the outstanding deliverables (for example, the assessment reports and facility reports) is underway and should be completed in the second half of 2025. Under Output 3.3, work to initiate the execution of the pilot project to improve plastic waste management begun with the pilot design plan being updated based on national feedback. Additionally, work to complete Activity 3.3.2 continued, with the terms of reference being updated and re-advertised and a consultant being engaged in May 2025.

Component 4 Knowledge Management and Communication. Materials to support some ongoing activities were developed and preparation to expand the Chemicals and Waste Awareness raising campaign continued. Work with the Communication, Coordination and Knowledge Management Project (GEF 10266) also continued.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

From July 2024 to June 2025, challenges around project implementation have included:

- Delayed procurement of consultants for some activities. In some instances, no bids were received necessitating the revision of terms of references followed by their subsequent re-advertisement with extended submission deadlines. In order to secure regional capacity development, the combination of international and regional experts consortia is always preferred and prioritised. Due to managing this condition, there have also been issues with the slow approval of identified bidders under some of the FAO activities to ensure that the best suited consultant is engaged. The review and finalisation of terms of references for some activities has also taken more time than initially anticipated, resulting in extended procurement processes.
- Delayed submission of deliverables by consultants and extended review periods for deliverables by project countries has slowed some project activities. This is being proactively managed by the Executing Agency to ensure timelines are kept to.
- Personnel turnover including staff from the Centre with greater institutional knowledge of the project and local representatives on the National Working Groups who support project execution.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in advancing stakeholder engagement across national, regional, and sub-regional levels to ensure meaningful participation, alignment with project objectives, and long-term sustainability. These efforts were undertaken in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Handbook developed under the GEF 10266 Global Child Project.

1. Coordination Meetings and Consultations

- Virtual Meetings with National Working Groups (NWGs) were held on a bimonthly or quarterly basis to support implementation coordination, progress tracking, and planning.
- A Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting took place on 16–17 October 2024, to assess project execution and identify synergies between the GEF ISLANDS Projects 10279 and 10472 in participating countries. This meeting took place in Belize one of the nine project countries under the GEF 10279 project.

- Although no Interim PSC Meeting was convened during this period, a comprehensive progress brief was circulated to all key stakeholders to maintain information flow and accountability.
- Monthly coordination calls were held with the CCKM team under the GEF 10266 Global Child Project, supporting knowledge sharing and cross-component coherence.

2. National and Regional Stakeholder Engagement

- National Working Groups (NWGs) were updated and mobilized in most project countries with the support of national focal points, in line with the approved stakeholder engagement plans.
- National stakeholder missions were conducted to facilitate participatory data collection, build trust, and reinforce ownership of project activities.
- Engagements with regional and sub-regional institutions included:
 - i. The CARICOM Secretariat
 - ii. The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)
 - iii. The Sub-regional FAO Office in Barbados
 - iv. The EU Office and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) in Barbados, to raise awareness on GEF ISLANDS-related activities and explore potential synergies.

3. Private Sector Engagement

Dedicated engagement efforts were undertaken with private sector stakeholders to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration. This included meetings with:

- Carnival Cruise Line
- Private scrap metal dealers under Output 3.2 to strengthen the environmentally sound management of end of life vehicles.
- Amber Cove Cruise Port, in the Dominican Republic, under Activity 3.3.1, to support the development of sustainable plastic waste management solutions in the national cruise ship sector.

4. Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination

- National Capacity Building Workshops and Stakeholder Consultations were implemented under Activity 2.1.1 across all twelve (12) project countries to build institutional and technical capacity.
- National Strategy and Roadmap Workshops under Output 1.1 engaged multisectoral stakeholders to review, validate, and refine the draft national strategies and roadmaps.
- Workshops and training sessions were conducted under several project components to disseminate findings and validate national-level data.
- Under Activity 4.1.3 (Tide Turners), school-based presentations and beach cleanups were organized as part of youth engagement and environmental awareness campaigns.

D. Gender Equality

The project continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to gender equality and inclusivity during the reporting period, embedding gender considerations across planning, implementation, and stakeholder engagement processes.

Key progress in gender mainstreaming included:

- **Balanced Representation in National Working Groups (NWGs):** The formulation and composition of NWGs across project countries actively prioritized gender balance. Efforts were made to ensure that both women and men were

equitably represented, particularly in leadership and decision-making roles, thereby fostering inclusive dialogue and participation in national implementation processes.

- **Integration of Gender Criteria in Procurement Processes:** All **Terms of Reference (ToRs)** issued for project activities during the reporting period explicitly included gender mainstreaming requirements. These requirements encouraged not only the recruitment of gender-balanced teams but also the integration of gender-responsive approaches in activity design and delivery.
- **Encouraging Gender-Responsive Proposals from Bidders:** Consultants and firms invited to submit proposals for project activities were specifically encouraged to:
 - a. Assemble **gender-diverse teams**, ensuring equitable participation of women in both technical and leadership positions;
 - b. Demonstrate an understanding of **gender dynamics** within the relevant project contexts;
 - c. Outline clear and actionable strategies for maintaining gender equality throughout project implementation.
- **Institutionalizing Gender Considerations Across Activities:** Gender sensitivity and inclusivity were consistently reinforced during project planning and consultations. Wherever possible, facilitators and moderators of workshops and national stakeholder meetings promoted equal opportunities for participation, voice, and influence.

While there is still scope to further deepen gender analysis and develop gender-disaggregated data sets for all project components, the steps taken during this period reflect a deliberate and evolving approach to ensuring that gender equality is not treated as an add-on, but as a core operational principle within the GEF ISLANDS project framework.

E. Knowledge Management

During the reporting period, learning activities included outreach via school visits and stakeholder workshops, with content amplified through social media across countries participating in the Plastic Tide Turners Challenge (PTTC).

Coordination with the CCKM project led to new tracking templates and the expansion of the LEARN platform on the GEF ISLANDS website for sustainable digital engagement.

Progress also continued on the development of the Digital Learning Hub (DLH).

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	

Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Port of Spain. Trinidad and Tobago	10.66668	-61.51889	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Amber Cove in Puerto Plata Province. Dominican Republic	19.831331	-70.772995	

Location Description:

Amber Cove facilities. Solid Waste Assessment (sampling and characterisation) Area

Activity Description:

Assessment phase data collection under Plastic Waste Management in the Dominican Republic (Activity 3.3.1)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Georgetown. Guyana

6.80448

-58.15527

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Basseterre. Saint Kitts and Nevis	17.2955	-62.72499	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Paramaribo. Suriname	5.86638	-55.16682	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

National Working Group Meetings

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Saint John's. Antigua and Barbuda	17.12096	-61.84329	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

National Working Group Meetings

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bridgetown. Barbados	13.10732	-59.62021	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

National Working Group Meetings

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Belmopan. Belize	17.25	-88.76667	

Location Description:

Capital of participating country

Activity Description:

National Working Group Meetings

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Pesticide Control Board. Belize	17.1855872	-89.0123957	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Nutritional Security. Barbados	13.0768675	-59.5704446	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ministry of Tourism. Dominican Republic	18.4313958	-69.985211	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ministry of Infrastructure. St Lucia	13.9767683	-60.9863534	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Minister of the Environment. Barbados Office	13.1408094	-59.6118127	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ministerio del Medio Ambiente. Dominican Republic	18.4327044	-69.9858609	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	10279 - PIR_2025