

MID-TERM REVIEW

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

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. 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

MTR Submission

3/13/2026

Actual MTR

7/29/2025

Expected Completion

12/31/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The project is strategically relevant, addressing structural challenges faced by SIDS and aligning with national priorities and global frameworks. Its design is robust, featuring strong governance, financial and monitoring systems, gender mainstreaming, and sustainability strategies, while promoting knowledge sharing through the

ISLANDS CCKM Child Project. However, its ambitious scope relative to time and resources, reliance on regional indicators, unclear exit strategy, and weak private-sector engagement present notable gaps. Implementation has faced delays and activity overload, limiting outcome-level impact despite progress on trainings, technical assessments, and policy roadmaps. Foundational sustainability is strong, with draft policies and regulatory frameworks offering long-term potential, but these are not fully operationalized, and institutional and financial sustainability remain fragile due to limited cofinancing, staff turnover, and political changes. Collaboration among UNEP, FAO, and BCRC-Caribbean has been constructive, supported by NPAs that improved national coordination, though structural constraints and turnover slowed implementation. Stakeholder engagement was inclusive with strong gender integration, but private-sector involvement and outreach to marginalized groups were limited. Financial management complied with standards, though low expenditure reflects procurement delays and capacity constraints. Monitoring systems are functional but serve reporting more than adaptive management. Communications advanced through the newly launched Digital Learning Hub and the May 2025 ISLANDS Forum, yet systematic knowledge exchange across SIDS remains constrained by geographic and language barriers. Overall, while the project demonstrates strong design and relevance, sustainability and effectiveness depend on addressing structural gaps, political and financial commitment, strengthening ownership, and improving practical application of outputs.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was broadly inclusive, with strong gender integration and high female participation in decision-making in the design phase. At implementation, the project used a multi-tiered approach through National Working Groups (NWGs) in nine countries, chaired by government focal points to coordinate activities, validate outputs, and consult ministries responsible for environment, waste management, agriculture, health, customs, and standards. Stakeholders participated in meetings, workshops, and awareness campaigns, and reviewed draft reports and technical documents. Beyond government actors, engagement included civil society groups, indigenous communities, youth organizations, gender-focused NGOs, research institutions, private sector actors, regional bodies such as CARICOM and CROSQ, and international organizations including UNEP and FAO. Consultants provided technical assessments and model legislation. While NWGs ensured structured engagement, private sector participation was weak and inconsistent, with reluctance to share data and concerns about implementation delays. Outreach to indigenous groups was limited in some areas due to remoteness of groups, and people with disabilities were not engaged. Overall, engagement was well-planned and inclusive, but improvements are needed to strengthen private sector involvement, collect disaggregated data, and develop strategies for underrepresented groups.

C. Gender Equality

Gender-responsive measures were integrated into project design and implementation, including procurement processes, activity planning, and stakeholder engagement. The project incorporated gender and vulnerable group considerations in all components, as outlined in the Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming Plan. During implementation, NWGs prioritized gender balance, ensuring women's active participation in leadership and decision-making roles, and Terms of Reference for activities included gender mainstreaming requirements. Consultants were encouraged to propose gender-diverse teams, and workshops promoted equal participation for women and men. Despite these efforts, the absence of a dedicated gender consultant limited systematic monitoring against the Project Results Framework. The gender-disaggregated data collected in the 2025 PIR recorded 15,973 direct beneficiaries at midterm (6,211 men and 9,762 women), compared to the CEO endorsement target of 2,901,636 beneficiaries (50% male, 50% female). Overall, gender integration reflects mainstreaming across design and implementation, but further efforts are needed to operationalize these principles comprehensively.

D. Knowledge Management

Component 4 focuses on regional coordination, knowledge management, communication, and linkages with the ISLANDS CCKM Child Project, which is responsible for collecting, managing, and disseminating knowledge generated across all ISLANDS Child Projects and implementing the Programmatic Communication Strategy. Progress on the project's Knowledge Management Approach includes the launch of the Digital Learning Hub and the revitalization of the ISLANDS knowledge platform under the ISLANDS CCKM Child Project, which have strengthened outreach and stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders participated to several trainings and workshops, which have improved technical capacity and sense of ownership. SIDS participated in the ISLANDS Forum in May 2025, which was the first gathering opportunity since the inception of the ISLANDS programme. Despite these efforts, systematic knowledge exchange across SIDS remains limited due to geographic and language barriers, and lessons learned are not yet consistently shared between regions through the ISLANDS mechanisms. FAO integrated awareness raising into training sessions and guidance materials, contributing to knowledge dissemination on pesticide-related issues. While progress has been made in developing platforms and embedding communication in activities, adaptive management actions are needed to overcome connectivity and language challenges and to ensure that good practices and lessons learned are captured and shared more effectively.

III. Core Indicators

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

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

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

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)

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 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
0.00	451.60	0.00	0.00

Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)		152.00	0.00	
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride		3.70	0.00	
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether		6.90	0.00	
Highly Hazardous Pesticides		220.00	0.00	

Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
	69.00	0.00	

Indicator 9.3 Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
	9	0	

Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
	9	0	

Indicator 9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
	52,595.00	0.00	

Indicator 9.7 Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.8 Avoided residual plastic waste

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced

Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at PIF)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at MTR)	Grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ (Achieved at TE)
	319.00	0.00	

Indicator 10.1 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
	9	0	

Indicator 10.2 Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented (Use this sub-indicator in addition to Core Indicator 10 if applicable)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (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		1,450,818	9,762	
Male		1,450,818	6,211	
Total	0	2,901,636	15,973	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Antigua and Barbuda/Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,100,000.00	689,900.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Barbados/The Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	264,100.00	145,952.91
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Belize/Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	737,500.00	631,239.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Guyana/Environmental Protection Agency	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	323,500.00	150,517.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Saint Kitts and Nevis/Solid Waste Management Corporation, Saint Kitts	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	925,000.00	50,562.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Saint Kitts and Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	112,400.00	
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Saint Lucia/Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	619,500.00	130,377.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Saint Lucia/Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	558,300.00	
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Suriname/Cabinet of the President, Coordination Environment/National Environmental Authority	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,310,000.00	1,848,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Gov of Trinidad and Tobago	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,720,500.00	33,871.57

Other	BCRC Caribbean	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600,000.00	480,000.00
Other	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00	
Private Sector	Carnival Cruise Line	Grant	Investment mobilized	20,000,000.00	
Donor Agency	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00	
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,271,060.00	
Recipient Country Government	Dominican Republic	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		539,443.00
Total Co-financing				47,041,860.00	539,443.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

No further risks identified at the time of MTR

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	10279 - MTR Report_FINAL
Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	10279 - Appendix 7 - COVID19 additional questions
Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	10279 - Appendix 7 - SRIF