

A Ridge-to-Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

9431

Countries

Seychelles

Project Name

A Ridge-to-Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles

Agenices

UNDP

Date received by PM

5/17/2019

Review completed by PM

7/2/2019

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF

CEO Endorsement

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

There are changes: mainly on the wording of outputs, with simplification, and transfer of the text and explanations in the description of the result framework. These changes are justified.

Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement The project structure was approved at PIF level and is appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs.

Response to Secretariat comments

3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Addressed.

Response to Secretariat comments

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Addressed.

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Yes. this project is built on other baseline programmes and projects that address the management of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles, and is designed to create synergies and establish strong collaboration and partnerships with many of them.

Addressed.

Response to Secretariat comments

9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Not a plan per se, but there is a knowledge strategy focusing on: (i) improving knowledge and information collection and management systems to enhance awareness about best practices on implementing Ridge to Reef approaches through communication, documentation and dissemination; (ii) strengthening policies that support conservation and sustainable use of upland forest, mixed use agricultural lands, aquatic ecosystems, and marine and coastal resources; (iii) ensuring gender considerations mainstreamed into watershed and natural resource planning and management; and (iv) monitoring and evaluating project investments to ensure that these are meeting project outcomes and contributing to the sustainable development of the Seychelles.

In addition, KM will be used to promote the Ridge to Reef approach, also with other Islands (Pacific, Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros).

Addressed.

Response to Secretariat comments

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

GEFSEC

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

STAP

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

GEF Council

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

Convention Secretariat

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement NA

Response to Secretariat comments

Recommendation

12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

However, please address the minor comments below:

- The table A was corrected. cleared.

- The value for carbon is the same in the Exact tool and the request for CEO endorsement (146,178 metric tons), but a different value is available in the portal. Please, correct.

June 6, 2019: The carbon information has not been updated. Please, correct.

June 20, 2019: All comments addressed. The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

July 16, 2019:

PPO reviewed this FSP CEO endorsement and found the issue of UNDP, as implied in the project document, to carry out some executing functions for the project without any official request from the Government. PPO highlighted those quotes pertaining to the issue below. We would need to request more clarification from UNDP.

PROJECT BOARD

The Project Board (also called Project Steering Committee) co-chaired by MEECC and UNDP is responsible for making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendations for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project level grievances. 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. In case a consensus cannot be reached within the Board, final decision shall rest with the UNDP Programme Manager.

Senior Supplier: The Senior Supplier is an individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project (designing, developing, facilitating, procuring, implementing). The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. The Senior Supplier role must have the authority to commit or acquire supplier resources required. If necessary, more than one person may be required for this role. Typically, the implementing partner, UNDP and/or donor(s) would be represented under this role. The Senior Supplier for this project is the UNDP Seychelles Programme Manager who may delegate this role to the senior UNDP CO staff. Specific Responsibilities the Senior Supplier (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board) are following:

- Make sure that progress towards the outputs remains consistent from the supplier perspective and adheres to the GEF policies and criteria;
- Promote and maintain focus on the expected project output(s) from the point of view of supplier management;
- Ensure that the supplier resources required for the project are made available;
- Contribute supplier opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes;
- Arbitrate on, and ensure resolution of, any supplier priority or resource conflicts.

Response to Secretariat comments

Thank you for your comments.

The value for carbon has been amended in the portal accordingly.

1 July 2019

Many thanks for the technical clearance. We have filled in the focal area outcomes in the Table A as well as in the CEO ER. **As for the Programming of funds column, we are not able to fill it in due to the system restrictions.** 'For the GEF-6 projects that were migrated from PMIS to the Portal and are now being submitted for CEO endorsement/approval, if in PMIS the Programming of funds column was not filled in in the first place, then Agencies may not be able to fill it in now in the Portal.'

3 Sept 2019

Sections A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination in the CEO ER and in the prodoc (p.111-118) have been amended to reflect the role and functions of UNDP.

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Context

Like many small island states, the Seychelles is highly dependent on the healthy functioning of both its terrestrial and marine ecosystems for its economic development and social well-being. A significant proportion of the country's economy depends on natural ecosystem services, including productive marine ecosystems for fisheries and pristine and diverse terrestrial and marine ecosystems to sustain the all-important tourism industry.

Seychelles is in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Region, which has been classified as one of the world's "*global biodiversity hotspots*". Some 7,200 species of animal, plant and fungi have been recorded in the Seychelles, including several flagship species, such as the Aldabra giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantes*) and the coco-de-mer palm (*Lodeicea maldivica*). Endemism is comparatively high (between 50-88% for different animal groups in general, approximately 45% for plants and 48% for birds). Seychelles is a globally important storehouse of marine biodiversity, with some 1,000 fish species recorded and particularly high levels of fauna diversity and endemism. Much of the marine biodiversity is associated with reef ecosystems.

The project is designed to: 1) reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity, 2) reverse land degradation in areas outside of formally protected areas and in productive lands, and 3) strengthen capacity and partnerships to promote integrated ecosystem management based on the R2R approach.

Project

The project objective is to manage and conserve the flow of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystem services in targeted islands of the Seychelles for multiple benefits through the Ridge-to-Reef approach.

To achieve this objective, the project is developed on the following components: 1) Expansion of marine and terrestrial protected areas of the Seychelles' Inner Islands (focused on KBAs and coastal MPA sites along the west coast of Mahe island, and on Praslin and Curieuse islands, also with the use of Temporal Protected Areas to protect natural habitats and species affected by a seasonal pattern), 2) Strengthened management of upland KBAs and adjacent areas to enhance the flow of ecosystem services through the R2R approach (sustainable land and forest management and restoration to reduce erosion, sedimentation and nutrient run-off impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems), 3) Promoting the 'Ridge to Reef' approach, R2R, through knowledge management, ecosystem health monitoring and inter-sectoral coordination, and 4) Knowledge Management, M&E and Gender Mainstreaming.

At the policy and strategic level, the project will unite the three most important spatial and resource planning processes in the country, namely the Marine Spatial Plan (for the seascape), the Seychelles Strategic Plan (for the landscape), and national and district level Land Use Plans.

GEF strategy

The project is developed under GEF6 BD and LD strategies.

Global Environment Benefits

The project will contribute to improve SFM and watershed management on 11,712 ha, support protection of 2,235 ha of KBA, improve management of marine protected areas on more than 1,421 ha, restore 100 ha of forests and 20 ha of mangrove, and create 5 new Turtle Temporal protected areas. These activities will improve the carbon balance with expected gains of 145,000 tCO₂e of GHG emissions avoided/sequestered over a 20-year period.

Country Priorities

The project idea was included in the outcomes of a National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) carried out in 2015, with a call for a project dealing with “A Ridge to Reef approach to landscape and seascape planning and management in Seychelles”.

Innovation, Sustainability & Scaling up

The project is innovative, proposing the first Ridge to Reef approach in the Indian Ocean, and implementing the option of Temporal Protected Areas. Sustainability is searched within the reinforcement of planning and capacities at the local and national levels. Mainstreaming the approach in the Marine Spatial Plan, the Seychelles Strategic Plan, and District Land Use plans is a first path for scaling up.