



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
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<u>From:</u>	Ahmed Djoghlaif GEF Coordination Office UNEP	<u>Room:</u> Q-203
<u>Subject:</u>	Comments on World Bank Medium Sized Project Proposal: "Seychelles: Management of Avian Ecosystems".	

The following are UNEP-GEF's comments on the above-mentioned World Bank Medium Sized Project.

1. The project integrates wildlife and ecosystem conservation very well, is generally well laid out, but some more information on stakeholder identification and participation might be needed.
2. Some more details about previous, ongoing and planned Government activities concerning avian habitat and ecosystem conservation might also be useful.
3. The information on long-term sustainability, also financial, is not very detailed.
4. A very large proportion of the budget is going to planning and consultants, while the amount allocated to public awareness is very small, especially taking into account that the Public Awareness Campaign is expected to last the whole implementation period of 36 months. In general, the budget lines for activities are very small, while the administration and planning component is very dominant.

Best regards

cc: Rafael Asenjo, UNDP
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MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT BRIEF - BIRDLIFE SEYCHELLES**PROJECT SUMMARY**

1. Project name: Management of Avian Ecosystems in Seychelles	2. GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented: Seychelles	4. Country eligibility: Seychelles signed the CBD on June 10, 1992 and meets all other eligibility requirements.
5. GEF focal area(s): Biodiversity	6. Operational program: Forest Ecosystems (2), Coastal, Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems (3)
7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs: The project is a key component of "Goal 1: General measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use" in the NBSAP - National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan for Seychelles (1997).	
8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Endorsed: March 24 1998	

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Project rationale and objectives: Goal: to manage threatened ecosystems in Seychelles; objectives: restoration of Granitic Seychelles Endemic Bird Area and associated biodiversity	Indicators: (a) Improvement in the conservation status of threatened endemic birds and associated biodiversity (b) Establishment of a program of habitat and island restoration
10. Project outcomes: (a) global impact on threatened biodiversity status and management; (b) replicable management models for tropical island biodiversity conservation (c) capacity established in Indian Ocean for field-based management of threatened biodiversity (d) socio-economic values of rare and threatened biodiversity established, modeled and fully integrated within Government priorities	Indicators: (a) increase in the quality of island ecosystems as measured by native habitat area ('00 ha) and exotic taxa reductions (mammals/birds) (b) increase in population size (>25%) and geographical range increase for three threatened endemic bird taxa (c) increase in knowledge of limiting factors for the three endemic bird taxa (d) increase in number (>6) of trained nationals in island restoration and species recovery (e) increase in earnings from tourism related to biodiversity as measured by revenue contributions (f) increase in awareness of the value and importance of Seychelles biodiversity as measured by media coverage/ Govt. budget allocations

<p>11. Project activities to achieve outcomes:</p> <p>(a) upland forest endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$110,000)</p> <p>(b) coastal wetland endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$90,000)</p> <p>(c) coastal plateau forest endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$97,000)</p> <p>(d) socio-economic model of island restoration and management for birds (US\$40,000)</p> <p>(e) assessment of potential islands and their habitats for restoration for 'globally threatened' birds (US\$191,000)</p> <p>(f) initial implementation of assessment recommendations on one island (US\$ 311,000)</p> <p>(g) public awareness (US\$50,000)</p> <p>(h) project management (US\$172,000)</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>(a) Pathfinder meetings. Scops owl, flycatcher, magpie-robin population and breeding surveys, habitat associations and feeding ecology. Recovery programs for these 3 and action plans for 4 other threatened EBA taxa</p> <p>(b) island and habitat assessment reports and staff training completed</p> <p>(c) one island partially restored and translocations of two 'critically endangered' taxa prepared</p> <p>(d) publicity and MOUs with Ministry of Environment & Transport and key tourism operators/island owners completed and increase in bird-related tourism.</p>
<p>12. Estimated budget (in US\$):</p> <p>GEF: US\$740,000</p> <p>Co-financing: US\$221,000 BirdLife Seychelles</p> <p>Government: US\$100,000</p>	
<p>TOTAL: US\$1,061,000</p>	
<p>INFORMATION ON INSTITUTION SUBMITTING PROJECT BRIEF</p>	
<p>13. Information on project proposer: BirdLife Seychelles - see attached description</p>	
<p>14. Information on executing agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Seychelles - see attached description</p>	
<p>15. Date of initial submission of project concept: November 14th, 1997</p>	
<p>INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</p>	
<p>16. Project identification number: SC-GE-50975</p>	
<p>17. Implementing Agency contact person: Mehrnaz Teymourian</p>	
<p>18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s): Linkage to ongoing Environment and Transport project, and Environment Management Institution Development Fund.</p>	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT RATIONALE & OBJECTIVES

Traditional approaches to conservation have tended to concentrate action on a few large, charismatic and threatened animals. Such programs for single 'flagship species' are important in raising public awareness and alleviating specific threats, but rarely confront the larger scale fundamental problems associated with the general loss of biodiversity. For this reason, conservation programs for the 21st century are increasingly focused at the ecosystem level (Bibby *et al* 1992). This is the rationale for this proposal.

The catastrophic ecological impacts of human colonisation in Seychelles since the 1700s have led to the extinction of many endemic taxa and reduced much of the remainder to endangered relict populations (Shah *et al* 1997). Native habitats have been subject to gross modification by introductions of exotic trees and shrubs. In particular, many island habitats have been converted to coconut plantations for the production of copra. The introduction of mammalian predators, particularly feral cats, black and brown rats have been implicated in the local extinction of many large invertebrate, reptile and bird taxa. Avian predators such as barn owl, which was introduced to control rats in coconut plantations, and those which predate nest contents such as Indian myna have also had serious impacts. This situation is summarized in Table 1 which shows that of the 41 islands or archipelagos greater than 10 ha. that constitute Seychelles, over 60% have extensive coconut plantations and only six are entirely free of predatory mammals and there are currently no predator-free islands over 100ha.

The accidental introduction of exotic pathogens and their vectors is another significant threat facing island taxa, particularly those inhabiting the remotest islands which are unlikely to have evolved any immunity to such organisms. Failure of repeated reintroduction attempts of Seychelles magpie-robin to Aride may have been caused in part by disease and has highlighted the current lack of knowledge of this often-neglected area of conservation biology.

Some recent general economic valuation work has been completed in the framework of the GEF-funded Seychelles Biodiversity Assessment (Shah, 1997). More precise socio-economic values now need to be measured. If demonstrated, they will improve the status of biodiversity conservation within Government expenditure priorities. Island restoration costs and benefits will be measured using this project and Cousin island Special Reserve, owned and managed by BirdLife Seychelles, as models.

Table 1. Ecosystem modification in Seychelles as measured by the presence of exotic taxa

Seychelles islands and island complexes > 10 ha listed by size and presence/absence of coconut plantations, introduced predators and presence or recently extinct 'critically endangered' birds. *Coco* Coconut; *Ccat* feral cat; *Rrat* black rat; *Rnor* brown rat; *Atri* Indian myna; *Talb* barn owl; Islands free of cat and both rat spp. in bold.

Island	Size(ha)	<i>Coco</i>	<i>Ccat</i>	<i>Rrat</i>	<i>Rnor</i>	<i>Atri</i>	<i>Talb</i>
Aldabra Atoll	15380	P	P	P	P	A	A
Mahé	15252	A	P	P	P	P	P
Praslin	2756	A	P	P	P	P	P
Silhouette	1995	A	P	P	P	P	P
Assumption	1171	P	P	P	P	A	A
La Digue	1010	A	P	P	P	P	P
Coetivy	931	P	P	P	P	A	A
Farquahar Atoll	799	P	P	P	P	A	A
Astove	661	P	A	P	P	A	A
Cosmoledo	470	A	A	P	P	A	A
Desroches	394	P	P	P	P	A	A
Curieuse	285	A	P	P	P	P	A
Félicité	268	P	?	P	P	P	A
St Anne	219	P	P	P	P	P	P
Frégate	219	A	A	A	P	P	A
North	210	P	?	?	?	P	A
Alphonse	174	P	P	P	P	A	A
Providence	157	P	P	P	P	A	A
D'Arros	150	P	P	P	P	A	A
Denis	143	P	?	P	P	A	A
South Island	137	P	A	P	P	A	A
Cerf Island	127	A	?	?	?	P	A
St Joseph's Atoll	122	P	A	P	P	A	A
Poivre	111	P	P	P	P	A	A
Bird	101	A	A	P	A	P	A
Marianne	94.7	P	?	P	P	P	A
Grande Soeur	84	P	?	P	P	P	A
Ille Thérèse	73.9	A	?	?	?	P	A
Aride	69.3	A	A	A	A	A	P
Conception	60	A	?	?	?	P	A
Ile Plate	54	P	P	P	P	A	A
Marie Louise	52.5	P	A	A	A	A	A
Desnoeuß	35	A	A	?	?	A	A
Petite Socur	34	P	?	P	P	P	A
African Banks	30	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cousin	28.6	P	A	A	A	P	A
Remire	27	P	P	P	P	A	A
Cousine	25.7	P	A	A	A	P	A
Long Island	21.2	A	?	?	?	P	A
Recife	20	A	?	?	?	A	A
St François	17	P	A	A	A	A	A

According to the Seychelles Biodiversity Assessment, the native avifauna of Seychelles is amongst the richest in the western Indian Ocean islands and shows both Asian and African ancestry. Evolution in isolation has produced 15 species and 18 sub-species of birds unique to Seychelles. This endemic avian species richness within such a small land area has resulted in both the granitic islands and Aldabra being listed among the 218 'Endemic Bird Areas' (EBA) of the world (Stattersfield *et al* 1998). The EBA concept is an ecosystem approach to conservation which has gained international recognition and identifies global conservation priorities for birds. Bibby *et al* (1992) and Stattersfield *et al* (1998) both show that there is a high degree of congruence between EBAs and areas of high levels of endemism and species richness for other plant and animal groups. Hence, it is assumed here that successful avian ecosystem management should result in restoration of other biodiversity. Hence, the project rationale is to manage and restore ecosystems within Seychelles by the management and

restoration of threatened endemic species within the Granitic Seychelles EBA (Table 2). The priorities are the ecosystems of three of the four 'critically endangered' taxa (Collar *et al* 1994) all occupying important and threatened habitats. These are upland forest (Seychelles scops owl), coastal wetland (Seychelles black paradise flycatcher) and coastal plateau forest (Seychelles magpie-robin). The Seychelles white-eye occupies secondary forest habitats and is not considered here. Successful avian ecosystem management should thus result not only in the restoration of these threatened bird populations but also other biodiversity. Monitoring of habitats, and other fauna and flora associated with these taxa will measure the value of this approach.

Table 2. Island ecosystem modification resulting in present day distribution patterns of endemic birds in the Granitic Seychelles EBA from Stattersfield *et al* (1998) P Present, I Introduced, X Extinct, R Reintroduced. Those in bold are classified as 'critically endangered' by Collar *et al* (1994). * Extinct. **Extinct in Seychelles.

Granitic Seychelles Endemic Bird Area														
Species (ordered geographically)	Habitat	Arde	Praslin	Curieuse	Cousin	Cousine	Félicité	Marianne	La Digue	Silhouette	Mahé	Conception	Fregate	Other EBAs SAs
<i>Acrocephalus sechellensis</i>	Coastal plateau forest	I	-	-	P	I	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Terpsiphone corvina</i>	Coastal wetland	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	P	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Foudio sechellarum</i>	Coastal plateau forest	P	X	-	P	P	-	X	X	-	-	-	P	-
<i>Copsychus sechellarum</i>	Coastal plateau forest	I	X	-	I	I	-	X	X	-	X	-	P	-
<i>Alectroenas pulcherrima</i>	Forest	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Nectarinia dussumieri</i>	Forest, secondary growth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
<i>Collocalia elaphra</i>	Various: caves (breeding), forest and wetland (feeding)	-	P	-	-	-	X	-	P	-	P	-	-	-
<i>Falco araea</i>	Upland forest, lowland plantations	-	R	-	-	-	X	X	P	P	P	-	-	-
<i>Hypsipetes crassirostris</i>	Forest, gardens	-	P	-	-	-	P	X	-	P	P	P	-	-
<i>Zosterops mayottensis</i> **	Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	P
<i>Pstipacula wardi</i> *	Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
<i>Onus insularis</i>	Upland forest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-
<i>Zosterops modestus</i>	Secondary forest, gardens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	-	-
Total		5	5	2	5	5	3	2	5	4	7	4	4	-

References

Bibby, C.J., Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J., Heath, M.F., Imboden, Ch, Johnson, T.H., Long, A.J., Stattersfield, A.J. & Thirgood, S.J. 1992. Putting Biodiversity on the Map: priority areas for global conservation. ICBP, Cambridge.

Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. & Stattersfield, A.J. 1994. Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds. BirdLife Conservation Series No. 4, Cambridge.

Shah, N.J. (ed.) 1997. Seychelles Biodiversity Assessment. Ministry of Environment /IUCN/ UNEP. The Republic of Seychelles

Shah, N.J, R.A. Payet & K.L Henri, 1997. Seychelles National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Ministry of Environment/IUCN/UNEP. The Republic of Seychelles.

Stattersfield, A.J, M.J. Crosby, A.J. Long & D.C. Wege, 1998. Endemic Bird Areas of the World. BirdLife Conservation Series No. 7, Cambridge.

CURRENT SITUATION

Brief outlines of the current state of knowledge and future needs of the three ecosystems holding threatened endemic birds are summarised below:

Coastal plateau forest

This habitat was the first to be modified by colonists and little remains of the native forest. It is an important habitat for the Seychelles magpie-robin *Copsychus sechellarum*. This taxa is also confined to predator-free islands, hence restoration of its population will have significant benefits for other susceptible fauna, such as endemic reptiles and large invertebrates. The magpie-robin is considered the highest bird conservation priority, and has been the subject of a BirdLife International Recovery Plan since 1988, since when the population has been increased from 20 to nearly 70 birds. This has been achieved by a variety of conservation management techniques including supplementary feeding to boost output of young and management of insecticides, which has reduced adult mortality. In addition, translocations by BirdLife from the remnant population on Frégate to both Cousin and Cousine have increased the range as well as the population size. The population remains very vulnerable to stochastic extinction processes as well as the threat of recently introduced brown rats on Frégate. There is an urgent need to establish populations on at least two more predator-free islands and increase the population to over 100 birds. This, if achieved, will have significant biodiversity benefits.

Coastal wetland

This ecosystem has also been severely modified by drainage and pollution and has been invaded by exotic plants. The largest marsh is found on La Digue and provides critical insect food for the rare endemic Seychelles black paradise flycatcher *Terpsiphone corvina*. Input into the establishment of priorities for management of the La Digue wetland, and restoration of others is an important conservation priority and will benefit the flycatcher as well as endemic terrapins and invertebrates. The flycatcher population is estimated at 70 pairs and it is threatened by both forest and marsh loss from development. No attempt to translocate the species to other islands has been attempted but Curieuse Island has been suggested. The species appears to tolerate the presence of feral cats and both rat species. It nests on the ends of thin branches over water but data on adult and juvenile survival and factors limiting the population are unknown. There is a need for research to identify similar habitats in Seychelles, which might support new populations as well as better knowledge of breeding and feeding ecology. The impact of both habitat loss and predation needs to be assessed. There is an urgent need to establish a new population on at least one other island and this will involve wetland creation or enhancement and management.

Upland forest.

The upland forests hold some of the best remnant endemic vegetation since these have been the least disturbed of habitats. The Seychelles Scops owl *Otus insularis* is confined to this habitat and is the least known of the endemic bird species. There is an urgent need to conduct basic research to gain an understanding of both breeding and feeding ecology and hence important habitat associations such that forest management can be improved.

BirdLife Seychelles Setup

BirdLife Seychelles was established in January 1998 and will move to becoming a local Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) with a full membership structure in the next two years. BirdLife Seychelles now manages all the projects and programs in the country that were formerly the responsibility of BirdLife International, including Cousin Special Reserve. BirdLife Seychelles receives core funding from its UK Partner, the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) and will receive technical, scientific and policy support from the BirdLife International global partnership. The new Country Program Director is a national with long experience of biodiversity conservation in Seychelles and has worked on several GEF and World Bank funded projects in the past. BirdLife Seychelles was invited to contribute to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Seychelles funded by the GEF and supported by UNEP and IUCN and this project is included within the list of projects in the Action Plan.

BirdLife Seychelles Experience and Achievement

BirdLife has managed Cousin since it was bought in 1968. It has provided a model for island ecosystem recovery programs based on the successful recovery of the Seychelles warbler *Acrocephalus sechellensis* between 1968 to 1993, principally by the restoration of coastal plateau forest. In addition, successful translocations of Seychelles magpie-robin from Frégate to Cousin and Cousine, as part of an ongoing recovery program since 1990, have shown the value of this technique. Hence, BirdLife Seychelles and her BirdLife partners, have built up experience of the methods required to undertake both ecosystem and single species recovery programs, as well as establishing partnerships with New Zealand mammal eradication and Mauritius Wildlife Foundation captive-breeding specialists. BirdLife has also built a strong relationship with Government, particularly the Ministries of Environment, Tourism, and Culture & Education, through training, education and scientific programs and has helped develop skills and capacity within the Division of Conservation, Marine Parks Authority, Wildlife Clubs and schools.

Restoration expertise comes from work on Cousin Island where a coconut planted island has been restored to an ancestral forest. Predator eradication stems from work with Seychelles magpie-robin on Frigate and Cousine where cats have successfully been eradicated and recent work with New Zealand Dept. of Conservation on attempted rat control. Recent experience of RSPB, the UK partner in designing the cat control program for Ascension Island, is also relevant.

The model for much of the proposed work on stems from research and conservation programs on Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie-robin implemented largely by BirdLife International in the past. Contractors by ICBP/BirdLife have included Dr. Jeff Watson in the 1970s report on status of the Flycatcher, in the design of a management plan for a flycatcher reserve on La Digue and reports on Scops Owl status. Several other BirdLife contractors, notable Adam Gretton and Jan Komdeur, have also worked on the Flycatcher. Dr. Jan Komdeur worked on Seychelles Warbler from 1981-1994, rescuing population from only 29 birds up to more than 1,000. Also birds have been translocated to two other islands, one of the few translocation attempts that have succeeded in the world. Dr. Gerard Rocamora has recently completed a two-year BirdLife project on monitoring program for priority taxa, including critically endangered species and priorities for further research. The Seychelles

BirdLife magpie-robin recovery plan has successfully recovered a population of 20 birds to 70 individuals since 1988 and has involved translocation to three other islands.

Hence, BirdLife Seychelles can draw on its history of expertise in conservation research identifying limiting factors; conservation management to recover populations, involving habitat management, translocation, predator control and supplementary feeding. This is paralleled by only a few other countries, notable New Zealand, with whom Birdlife is working in partnership.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

- The project will improve the management and restoration of three ecosystems and their threatened endemic bird taxa and have a global impact on threatened endemic biodiversity.
- The project will result in a short list of potentially restorable islands and initial action taken to restore at least one of these and preparations made for the successful translocation of at least one of the three endemic bird taxa.
- It will provide replicable management models for tropical island habitat and bird conservation
- Training and partnerships will increase the capacity for field-based management of threatened ecosystems throughout the Western Indian Ocean.
- The socio-economic values of biodiversity will be measured, modeled and used to integrate conservation within future Government decisions on island development.

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL INPUTS

In order to achieve project objectives, the following activities will be implemented:

1. Input to ecosystem management for upland forest, coastal wetland and coastal plateau forest through action plans for 7 threatened endemic bird taxa and recovery programs for Seychelles Scops owl, Seychelles black paradise flycatcher and Seychelles magpie-robin (US \$ 297,000).
2. Socio-economic model of island restoration and management for biodiversity (US\$40,000)
3. Production of an assessment of the potential of islands to support translocated populations of threatened biodiversity, especially endemic bird taxa. Part of this assessment will be a desk study to produce a short list of about 10 islands. A large part of the work will involve collection of field data on soils, habitats, invertebrate biomass, disease profiles, predator numbers, physical, technical and human constraints and reports prepared (US\$191,000)
4. Restoration of one island initiated by eradication of exotic predators and initiation of habitat management plan (US\$210,000).
5. Translocations prepared for two 'critically endangered' taxa to the restored island (US\$101,000).
6. Public awareness campaigns including workshops/seminars, media coverage, public outreach activities and regular periodic newsletters to be prepared by BirdLife Seychelles (US\$50,000)
7. Project monitoring administration, will be ensured by a Project Coordinator paid by the project and assisted by staff in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry's Project Administrator and the Project Accountant have been involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity Convention GEF that closed on December 31, 1997 (US\$172,000)

The activities, locations, index measures and outputs are listed below:

Activities	Locations	Index Measurement	Outputs
Upland forest endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$110,000)	Mahé	2 pathfinder meetings Scops owl 100% population survey, habitat associations and 10% breeding survey Yr 1 & 2.	2 action plans and one recovery program
Coastal wetland endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$ 90,000)	La Digue	2 pathfinder meetings Flycatcher 100% breeding survey, habitat associations and feeding ecology reports Yr 1 & 2	2 action plans and one recovery program
Coastal plateau forest endemic bird area action plans and research (US\$97,000)	Fregate, Cousin BirdLife Seychelles	3 pathfinder meetings Magpie-robin feeding ecology and habitat associations Yr 1,2,3	3 action plans and one recovery program updated
Socio-economic analysis of island restoration for biodiversity (US\$40,000)	Mahé, Cousin	1 report completed Yr 1	Report
Assessment of the potential of islands to support translocated populations of threatened biodiversity (US\$191,000)	41 islands & archipelagos >10ha	100% desk survey Yr 1 3 island reports Yr 1 7 island reports Yr 2	One overall report and 10 island reports
Initial restoration phases of one island by eradication of exotic predators and initiation of habitat management plan (US\$210,000)	1 of 10 islands >10ha	50% clearance of exotic mammals from 1 island Yr 2 Habitat plan prepared Yr 3	MOU with island owners and Govt. Eradication's undertaken
Preparation for translocation of two endemic taxa to restored island (US\$101,000)	1 of 10 islands >10ha	2 translocations prepared Yr 3	Donor birds identified; equipment established; personnel trained.
Awareness component (US\$50,000)	Mahé, Praslin, La Digue	Yrs 1,2,3	Articles, TV programs, News
Project management (US\$172,000)	BirdLife and Min. of Foreign Affairs	Yrs 1,2,3	Project properly implemented

recently, BirdLife has had a consultant working with MoE on a monitoring manual for threatened birds and had a Conservation Trainer within the former conservation and National Parks section from 1992 and 1994. The Seychelles magpie-robin recovery program has been operational since 1988 and has involved close partnerships with Government and island owners and managers of Frégate, Aride and Cousine as well as the involvement of Cousin.

BirdLife International played a key role in the creation and support of the WildLife Clubs of Seychelles in 1993, and has produced a book on birds for the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as displays in the Natural History Museum. It has maintained a Seychellois BirdLife Representative in the country since 1975. The organization currently funds 12 full time staff in Seychelles, of whom one - the Manager of Cousin Special Reserve - is the longest serving employee of BirdLife International.

The BirdLife Seychelles strategy stems from the Country Program strategy which evolved at two workshops, one at RSPB (the UK BirdLife International partner) in December 1996 and one in Seychelles in May 1997. The latter was a full ZOPP workshop with 25 local participants from Government, NGOs and other agencies. All participants, as well as the Seychelles government believed that to optimize its successes in Seychelles, BirdLife International needed to establish a permanent program office locally. Subsequently, RSPB has funded the establishment of the BirdLife Seychelles office in Victoria and three core staff (Country Program Director, Seychelles Magpie-Robin Project Coordinator and Country Program Assistant).

Incremental Cost Assessment

Without GEF support, BirdLife Seychelles and the Seychelles Government would have been able to implement a Baseline Avian Conservation Program consisting of selected short-term survival measures and costing \$249,000. This would not have been sufficient to ensure the long-term survival of the taxa, which requires ecosystem restoration.

Under the GEF Alternative, research will be conducted on the factors threatening survival of the target taxa and on the necessary components of a recovery and long-term survival plan. These plans will then be translated into action through implementation of a habitat restoration program.

The total cost of the GEF Alternative is \$989,000 and the incremental cost for which GEF assistance is requested is \$740,000.

INCREMENTAL COST MATRIX

	Baseline	Alternative	Increment (Alternative - Baseline)
Global Environmental Benefits	—	740,000	740,000
Domestic Benefits	321,000	321,000	0
Costs	321,000	1061,000	740,000

The benefits derived from managing the avian ecosystems currently under critical threat in Seychelles are not primarily domestic in nature. The endemic avian fauna has significant intrinsic value globally – the birds are classified as ‘Globally Threatened’ - and will require significant resources to be stabilized at sustainable levels. A country that has set over 40% of its territory under nature protection has demonstrated its strong commitment to conserving and protecting its biodiversity. The development benefits forgone due to this exclusion of these areas for human production activities are significant.

The national benefits of nature protection have long been recognized and are integral parts of government policy. The main revenue earner in the Seychelles economy is the tourism industry and the ecotourism segment is an important part of this industry. The value of some of the critically endangered taxa is, however, difficult to quantify for the national economy. When extinction takes place it is not only the nation that loses some of its assets, but also the global community. The current project will require significant national input, and the involvement of many organizations, including Government and private landowners.

BUDGET: Estimated Breakdown of Costs by Budgetary Component (US\$000)

Components	GEF	BirdLife Seychelles	Government of Seychelles
Preparation: PDF A			
Project Management	48.0	54.0	90.0
Consultants and Field teams	339.0	102.0	
Training		30.0	
Public Awareness	25.0	25.0	
Equipment	109.0		
Travel	179.0		
Monitoring & Evaluation	40.0	10.0	10.0
TOTAL	740.0	221.0	100.0

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The project will be executed and all activities managed by BirdLife Seychelles. A Project Coordinator will be recruited to manage and oversee all aspects of the project. A project steering committee will be organized. Advice regarding strategies and approaches for design and implementation of project activities will be sought from the steering committee. Criteria for awarding of subcontracts and procurement of equipment will be determined at the start of the project by BirdLife Seychelles and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ratified by the steering committee. All sub-contracts and key staff appointments will be subject to public tender and or advertisement. A core staff of one economist and one accountant at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will ensure the financial processing of the project, including disbursements and keeping of the accounts for the review of independent auditors.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

DURATION OF PROJECT (IN MONTHS): 36						
ACTIVITIES	PROJECT- MONTHS					
	0	6	12	18	24	30
	36					
Upland forest endemic bird area research	-----]					
Coastal wetland endemic bird area research	-----]					
Coastal plateau forest endemic bird area research	-----]					
Assessment of potential islands	-----					
Socio-economic analysis of island biodiversity value	-----]					
Coastal plateau forest endemic bird area action plans	-----]					
Initiation of island restoration	-----]					
Translocation preparations	-----					
Public Awareness Campaign	-----					

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN*Stakeholder Identification*

The key stakeholders for this project are island owners, managers and inhabitants, key Government departments, particularly the Ministry of Environment, and parastatals, Wildlife Clubs and conservation organizations. Nationals are currently working for BirdLife Seychelles on Cousin, and for other partner organizations on key islands including Cousine, Aride, and Frégate.

Information Dissemination and Consultation

Following on from the participatory workshops initiated by the NBSAP, BirdLife Seychelles will host a workshop at the outset of the project and thence host 6 monthly seminars. Full media involvement is planned. The project structure allows for continuous consultation with local groups and feedback will be channeled through the project steering group.

Media will be involved throughout the project, including newspaper, radio and TV. In addition, overseas media will be informed through progress reports, newsletters and contacts through the BirdLife International partnership.

Social and Participation Issues

This will be addressed through the socioeconomic analysis of the project.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

BirdLife Seychelles through a Project Coordinator and the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the oversight of the project steering committee, will undertake monitoring of the project. About US\$10,000 has been allocated for the evaluation through management and supervision components. This will include data on performance indicators, a mid-term review, a description and analysis of stakeholder participation in the project design and implementation and an explanation of how the monitoring and evaluation results will be used to adjust the implementation of the project, if required, and/or to replicate project results throughout the region.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

This section will be added after review by the GEF council

PROJECT CHECKLIST

PROJECT ACTIVITY CATEGORIES			
Biodiversity	Climate Change	International Waters	Ozone Depletion
Prot. area zoning/mgmt.: x	Efficient prod. and distr.:	Water body:	Monitoring:
Buffer zone development:	Efficient consumption:	Integrated land and water:	Country program:
Inventory/monitoring: x	Solar:	Contaminant:	ODS phaseout:
Ecotourism: x	Biomass:	Other:	Production:
Agro-biodiversity:	Wind:		Other:
Trust fund(s):	Hydro:		
Benefit-sharing:	Geothermal:		
Other: socio-economic valuation: x	Fuel cells:		
	Other:		
TECHNICAL CATEGORIES			
Institution building: x			
Investments: x			
Policy advice: x			
Targeted research: x			
Technical/management advice: x			
Technology transfer:			
Awareness/information/training: x			
Other:			

DETAILED BUDGET: Estimated Breakdown of Costs by Budgetary Component (US\$000)

Activity	Component	GEF	Gov. Sey.	BirdLife Seychelles
Project management	Project coordinator	48	0	24
	Seychelles Government staff ¹	0	100	0
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>24</i>
Upland forest EBA research	Lead specialist	48	0	0
	Specialist	10	0	0
	Vehicle	10	0	0
	Vehicle running costs	5	0	0
	International flights	5	0	0
	Equipment	12	0	0
	Management & supervision	10	0	10
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>
Coastal wetland EBA research	Lead specialist	48	0	0
	Specialist	10	0	0
	International flights	5	0	0
	Equipment	7	0	0
	Management & supervision	10	0	10
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>
Coastal plateau forest EBA revision of SMR plan and prod of action plans	Lead specialist	0	0	72
	Specialist	0	0	10
	Management & supervision	10	0	5
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>87</i>
Socio-economic analysis	Specialist	40	0	0
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Island assessment	Specialist entomologist	24	0	0
	Specialist disease ecologist	10	0	0
	Field team x 4	30	0	0
	Accommodation & subsistence	15	0	0
	Training	0	0	10
	Transport	15	0	0
	International flights	17	0	0
	Equipment	25	0	0
	Disease/other analysis	35	0	0
	Management & supervision	0	0	10
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>
Initial restoration projects	Specialist consultants	10	0	0
	Coordinator	36	0	0
	Field team x 2	24	0	0
	Local labor	24	0	0

¹ This includes allocation of project staff within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and field staff within the Ministry of Environment, as well as project monitoring and evaluation.

Activity	Component	GEF	Gov. Sey.	BirdLife Seychelles
Initial restoration projects <i>(continued)</i>	Helicopter & specialist equip.	20	0	0
	Poison bait & traps	10	0	0
	Accommodation & subsistence	30	0	0
	Training	0	0	5
	Transport	15	0	0
	International flights	16	0	0
	Management & supervision	10	0	10
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
Translocation preparations	Specialists	0	0	20
	Coordinator	15	0	0
	Local labor	10	0	0
	Accommodation & subsistence	20	0	0
	Training	0	0	5
	Transport	15	0	0
	International flights	11	0	0
	Management & supervision	0	0	5
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>	
Public Awareness Campaign	Materials and Equipment	25	0	25
	<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25</i>
Total		740	100	221

Total GEF	740
Total BirdLife Seychelles	221
Total Government of Seychelles	100

