PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: Full-size Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	**Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of Seychelles and its Integration into the broader land and seascape**		
Country(ies):	Seychelles	GEF Project ID:	4717
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	4529
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environment, in collaboration with NGOs and private sector companies	Submission Date:	November 8, 2011 December 6, 2011 December 13, 2011
GEF Focal Area (s):	MULTI FOCAL AREA (BD/LD focal area allocations combined)	Project Duration(Months)	60 months
Name of parent program (if applicable): For SFM/REDD+ [ ]	N/A	Agency Fee ($):	178,550

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives*	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Indicative Financing from the GEF TF ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
BD 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	1.1 Improved management of existing and new protected areas	Increased coverage of threatened ecosystems and threatened species New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems	1,068,493	3,350,000
LD 3: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape.	3.2 Good management practices in the wider landscape demonstrated and adopted by relevant economic sectors.	Government agencies collaborating on SLM initiatives across sectors and at multiple scales Number and types of investment sources in SLM from successfully tested sustainable finance reflow schemes Information on SLM (wider landscape) technology and good practices disseminated	562,100	1,700,000
Project management cost:		from BD: $101,507 from LD: $53,400	154,907	710,000
Total project costs			1,785,500	5,760,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To promote the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Seychelles' Outer Islands by integrating a National Subsystem of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs) into the broader land- and seascape while reducing the pressures on natural resources from competing land uses.

Project Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF TF ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
1. Management effectiveness is enhanced within a sample of coastal and marine protected areas (*IUCN Category I, II*	TA / Inv	*Expansion of core PAs provides increased protection to an estimated 1,152 ha of land area, plus marine area to be determined, thus broken-down:* IUCN Category Ib - Goellettes Island and Banc de Sables (27 ha)	▪ Expansion of the Core PAs of the Outer Islands through upgrading of protection and gazetting: (i) Zoning and boundary demarcation based on land use planning and key data on the seascape (ii) Gazetting of at least 1,152 ha of land area (marine areas surrounding islands to be determined in PPG). ▪ Public-Private-Civil Society PA management	1,068,493 [from BD]	3,350,000

Project Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF TF ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
and VI) operating under innovative public-private-civil society partnership agreements.		IUCN Category II - South Island Farquhar[1] (420 ha) - South Island (Poivre)[2] (137 ha) IUCN Category VI - Alphonse[3] (174 ha) - Desroches (394 ha) *Improved PA management effectiveness in target PAs, measured through 15% increase in PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores* *Direct threats to biodiversity are mitigated and essential ecosystems services are maintained in new PAs covering 1,153 hectares of land and a marine areas to be determined; measured by:* - Reduction in the unsustainable harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products and marine resources. - Zero land conversion in new PAs of Categories I and II and minimal land conversion in new Category IV PAs - Reduced coral fragmentation in protected near-shore sites	Partnership Boards established and provided with a legal basis and operational capacity to manage IUCN category I, II and VI PAs in the Outer Islands with full private sector financial engagement, more specifically in: (i) South Island Farquhar National Park together with Goelettes Island (Farquhar) and Banc de Sables Special Reserves; (ii) South Island (Poivre) National Park; (iii) Alphonse Managed Resource Use PA (174 ha), and (iv) Desroches Managed Resource Use PA (394 ha). *Marine areas to be determined*. ▪ PA infrastructure in Farquhar and Poivre, established and equipped (offices, staff quarters, visitor accommodation, logistics, equipment (electronic radios, boats), staff are deployed, as well as capacitated together with field staff on Desroches and Alphonse Island, ensuring effective PA management support by the key PA agency. ▪ A long term ecological monitoring system is emplaced for IUCN category I, II and VI Outer Islands PAs. ▪ Development and effective implementation of PA Management Plans for South Island Farquhar, Goëllettes, Banc de Sables and South Island (Poivre). ▪ Management plans for Desroches and Alphonse Islands on the sustainable use of the areas are supported with full engagement of responsible partners and effectively implemented, including appropriate institutional arrangements for collaboration and conflict resolution and mechanisms for surveillance and enforcement.		
2. Sustainable Development and CMPA management integrated into broader land/seascape in the Outer Islands	TA	*Pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider land- and seascape are reduced through an integrated natural resource management (INRM[4]) framework, evidenced by:* - Regular application of the LD-PMAT (Land Degradation Focal Area - Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment Tool) with focus on LD3	▪ Spatially-based decision support systems for INRM are available for use in EIA, policy development, cross-sectoral land/seascape planning & management; these support systems contain useful information on the location of critical habitats, the distribution of endangered species, thresholds for the use of natural resources (e.g. land, freshwater, forests, fish), ecosystem resilience and the impacts of climate change ▪ Ecosystem-wide Zoning & Master Plan for the Outer Islands is developed and enforced ensuring the optimal allocation of land resources to generate development benefits and global environmental benefits in tandem.	562,100 [from LD]	1,700,000

[1] Farquhar Atoll is the largest true atoll in the Seychelles, covering an area of about 17,800 ha. There are ten islands, with the two main islands, North Island and South Island, making up 97% of the landmass. They are separated by three small islands known as the Manahas. Three other islands lie in close proximity to each other on the northern rim of the atoll, Déposés, Ile du Milieu and Lapins. Banc du Sables is the most easterly island and Goëllettes is the most southerly.

[2] Poivre Atoll comprises of three islands: Poivre Island (111 ha), South Island (137 ha) and Florentin (7.4 ha). The atoll covers 1,467 ha of reef flats with no central lagoon.

[3] Alphonse Island forms part of a atoll that encloses a lagoon of 540 hectares with peripheral reefs of about 400 hectares.

[4] That is: *"….a conscious process of incorporating the multiple aspects of resource use into a system of sustainable management to meet the goals of resource users, managers and other stakeholders (e.g. production, food security, profitability, risk aversion and sustainability goals)"*. (as defined by Sayer and Campbell (2004) and incorporated into the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy for GEF5).

Project Component	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative Financing from GEF TF ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
		Reduced land conversion in areas important for biodiversity conservation and within ecosystems providing important ecosystem services (water provision and flooding control) as an indirect result of improved land use planning *60 hectares of degraded ecosystems are rehabilitated (IAS controlled)* *Improved systemic capacity and financing for promoting sustainable development in the Outer Island through INRM across the land- and seascape, evidenced by:* - Results of the customised application of the Capacity Development Scorecard with focus on institutional collaboration as well as policy and institutional frameworks. - Engagement of partners such as Islands Development Company and private investors to finance SLM	▪ Legally binding Sustainable Land Management Plans (SMPs) approved for islands that are targeted for development prior to the approval of investment projects. ▪ Institutions with sectoral responsibilities for the development and conservation of the Outer Islands, together with relevant CSOs and engaged private sector partners, are capacitated for coordinating action at the wider landscape level on SLM[5]. ▪ At least 60 hectares of woodland undergo ecosystem restoration on Desroches and Alphonse Islands to counteract on-going and past land degradation (e.g from coconut plantations, fire, unsustainable forest/wood harvesting), ensuring also that cost coefficients are established for ecosystem restoration and the removal of IAS from land areas on other islands. ▪ A 10-year Business Plan is developed and a transparent and independent finance mechanism is operational by project end for ensuring the mobilisation and ring-fencing of financial resources for eradication and control of IAS in the Outer Islands' Subsystem of CMPAs and for restoring degraded land ecosystems.		
Project management Cost			from BD: $101,507 from LD: $53,400	154,907	710,000
Total project costs				1,785,500	5,760,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, ($)

Sources of Co-financing for baseline project*	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing**	Amount ($)
National Government	Environment Department	Grant	160,000
National Government	Seychelles National Parks Authority	Grant	50,000
National Government	Islands Development Company ($200K in-kind)	Grant	1,800,000
National Government	Seychelles Fisheries Authority	Grant	400,000
National Government	Seychelles Islands Foundation ($500K in-kind)	Grant	2,000,000
Private Sector	Companies managing hotels on the islands	Grant	500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	250,000
CSO	Island Conservation Society	Grant	600,000
Total Co-financing			5,760,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)[1]

GEF AGENCY	TYPE OF TRUST FUND	FOCAL AREA*	Country name/Global	Project amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
UNDP	GEF	Biodiversity	Seychelles	1,170,000	117,000	1,287,000
UNDP	GEF	Land Degradation	Seychelles	615,500	61,550	677,050
Total GEF Resources				1,785,500	178,550	1,964,050

[5] Proposed target beneficiaries for capacity building activities: Environment Department, Seychelles National Parks Authority, Islands Development Company, Island Conservation Society, Seychelles Islands Foundation, Seychelles Fisheries Authority and tourism enterprises operating in the Outer Islands.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1. THE GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the goals of GEF Biodiversity Strategic Objective One (BD1), which is to improve sustainability of Protected Area systems and GEF Land Degradation Strategic Objective Three (LD3), which is to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. The project seeks to promote the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Seychelles' Outer Islands. It will do so by strengthening protected area management in coastal and marine ecosystems in the Outer Islands region of Seychelles and by expanding this sub-system of PAs. The Government has recently refocused its development program for the Outer Islands through a multi-sectoral approach and with a view to economic development. Within this approach, biodiversity and Sustainable land management (SLM) will play a major role in development, and it will also be a determining factor with respect to the type of developments that will be allowed in different sites in this region. In this context, dealing with pressures from competing land uses across the land- and seascape is paramount. At the wider landscape level, this will include the rational allocation of scarce resouces such as land, soil, water in a manner that is compatible with the fragility of ecosystems in the Outer Islands and their ability to render services. SLM will also be promoted through the the restoration of degraded terrestrial ecosystems impacted by unsustainable activities, including the elimination of IAS. Furthermore, in illustration of the Government of Seychelles' commitment to conservation, it has recently announced the expansion of the PA system. The bulk of this expansion will take place in the Outer Islands. Some of the new areas fall within IUCN Categories I and II, but others are Catogory IV. Within those, it should be possible to demostrate an integrated PA management model that combines conservation and SLM. The focus of this announcement on new PAs was largely on terrestrial areas. Seychelles is now leading the world with more than 50% of its terrestrial territory to be under protected area status once the areas become effectively gazetted. The project will serve to strengthen this commitment, from proclainment to gazettal coupled with management planning and implementation on the ground. This will constitute the the creation of an Outer Islands Subsystem of CMPAs that is fully integrated into the wider land and seascape. It will also see the establishment of the necessary institutional framework and capacity for the management of this Subsystem. This approach will ensure that external threats to the protected areas do not influence the success of conservation results. Management effectiveness will be increased in selected protected areas, focusing on biodiversity conservation as well as SLM practices.

A.2. NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS OR REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS UNDER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS, IF APPLICABLE, I.E. NAPAS, NAPS, NBSAPS, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TNAS, NIPS, PRSPS, NPFE, ETC.:

2. The project is consistent with the following national strategies, plans and reports:

a) A number of national strategies, plans and policies relate specifically to biodiversity conservation. The *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* (NBSAP, 1998), although now somewhat outdated, identifies the country's vision for biodiversity conservation, and its objectives.[6] The NBSAP has two policy objectives relating specifically to PAs: (3.1) 'Consolidating the existing system of PAs, improve knowledge of appropriate classification, configuration and design, and develop, where necessary, legislation, guidelines, systems plans and management plans'; and (3.2) 'Ensuring wider participation in planning and management of PAs, with opportunities for the involvement of NGOs, district-based organisations and the private sector as well as international organisations'. Priority areas for action in the NBSAP include: 'development of a systems plan for the protected area network'; 'preparation of management plans for all PAs that integrate within the systems plan'; 'development of zoning as a management tool'; and 'establishing a lead body for coordination of all PA management, planning, project implementation and monitoring'. The *National Strategy for Plant Conservation, 2005-2010* establishes 5 strategic objectives and 14 targets, of which sub-target 4b (*in situ* conservation) envisages 'viable representation of 95% of threatened flowering plant taxa within protected areas'.

b) *Seychelles Sustainable Land Management Action Plan (2011 – 2020)* has been validated by national stakeholders, yet to be endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers. The proposed project is in line with the Action Plan, in particular in its aims to control over-harvesting of natural products, prevent coastal erosion and conserve wetlands for coastal flooding control.

c) The *Seychelles 2017 Strategy* has the vision of doubling the GDP of Seychelles by 2017 through focused fisheries and tourism expansion programmes, the development of the financial services industry and the resultant growth of other economic sectors. To maintain environmental excellence and international ecological standards in achieving this vision, the strategy envisages, *inter alia* the reform of national environmental legislation to conform with international standards and improvement in the management of natural resources. The *Vision 21: Tourism development in Seychelles* 2001-2010 also encourages protection of natural resources to underpin tourism development.

The Government of Seychelles undertook a National Dialogue Initiative in November 2011 in order to get wide stakeholder input and determine the allocation of the GEF STAR funding[7] to priority projects. During this meeting and subsequent follow-up meetings, it was decided to allocate a part of the Biodiversity STAR allocation as well as the entire Land Degradation allocation to the current project focusing on biodiversity conservation and SLM in Outer Islands. The remaining Biodiversity STAR allocation has been earmaked for a project addressing the sustainable financing of the Protected Area system. The current project was selected as the first to presented as a response to the urgent need to conserve Seychelles' Outer Islands' significant biodiversity, given the fact that only two protected areas

[6] Seychelles has just obtained GEF funding for updating its NBSAP.
[7] System of Transparent Allocation of Resources.

are present in this region, both with primarily terrestrial character and given that ecosystem connectivity and functionality will be lost if not addressed before wider touristic developments take place in the region.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. DESCRIBE THE BASELINE PROJECT AND THE PROBLEM THAT IT SEEKS TO ADDRESS:

3. The Seychelles is an archilepago in the Western Indian Ocean with a landmass of 455 square kilometres, and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering 1.374 million square kilometres. Seychelles consists of 115 islands, which divide into two groups, the mostly granitic islands (the 'Inner Islands') and the outer coralline islands (the 'Outer Islands') *(see map in Annex I)*. The main outer islands are, from North to South, the Amirantes group, Alphonse, Coetivy, and the Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Farquhar groups. All the Outer Islands are of coralline origin and have developed from the slow accretion of coral living in the shallow waters. **The Republic of Seychelles** is a stable democracy with a population of approximately 85,000 inhabitants, most of whom live in the Inner Islands. The country ranks second in Africa in terms of income (GDP per capita was $10,824 in 2010) and it displays fairly high levels of human development (HDI was 0.845 in 2007). Most MDGs have been met and foreign aid has decreased substantially in the past few years. Since the early 1990s, Seychelles transformed its economy from being mostly agrarian (based on cinnamon and copra crops) to becoming chiefly dependent on tourism and fishing (mainly tuna exports). While this shift was responsible for the reasonable levels of welfare that the country achieved, its economy is generally vulnerable to external shocks, such as global economic deceleration, but also piracy, which affects the fishing effort and sea transportation to the Outer Islands. Furthermore, Sechelles is currently grappling with the issue of public debt. Fiscal auterity measures are being implemented to remediate the situation.

4. **Global Biodiversity Signficance.** Seychelles forms part of the Biodiversity Hotspot of "Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands", as defined by Conservation International. A series of islands scattered in the western Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa forms this hotspot, which is characterised by remarkable levels endemism as a result of millions of years evolution in isolation. More specifically on the Outer Islands, the following are the key attributes of this region's marine and coastal biodiversity: i) Extensive mangrove habitats are found in the lagoons of Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Astove Island groups, where they provide important nesting, nursery and resting habitats for a variety of seabird species, as well as nursery grounds for fish; ii) Extensive seagrass beds occur around the Outer Islands (of the 50 globally described seagrass species, 13 are found in the Mascarene Plateau); iii) An estimated 18% of sponges occur in the Seychelles are regional endemics; iv) More than 300 species of Scleractinian corals have been recorded in Seychelles waters; v) Recent offshore sampling identified 55 bivalve species of molluscs, of which 26 were new to the Seychelles and 10 were new to science; vi) Close to 1,000 fish species have been recorded from Seychelles, some 400 of which are associated with reef ecosystems. Examples of endemics are the Seychelles clown fish (*Amphiprion fuscocaudatus*), the Aldabra Giant Tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*), the Seychelles bamboo shark (*Hemiscyllium cf. ocellatum*)[8], and two new species of sharks (*Squalus lalannei* and *Centrophorus seychellorum*) that have recently been described. The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is common in Seychelles waters; vii) Four species of sea turtles forage in Seychelles waters: the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) and the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacae*). both listed as "Critically Endangered", while the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) are listed as "Endangered" by IUCN. Seychelles hosts one of the largest remaining nesting populations of hawksbill turtle in the world and a significant nesting population of green turtles; viii) An important feature of Seychelles is its vast numbers of breeding seabirds on the Outer Islands. Some colonies host more than a million birds and are among the largest in the Indian Ocean and the world (e.g. *Frigate* spp.); ix) The Aldabra group of islands also host a number of endemic birds namely the Aldabra Rail (*Dryolimnas cuvieri aldabrensis*), Abbott's Sunbird (*Cinnyris sovimanga*, with three endemic subspecies: *C. s. aldabrensis* found on Aldabra Atoll, *C. s. abboti* found on Assumption Island, and *C. s. buchenorum* found on Cosmoledo and Astove Islands); x) Over 26 species of Cetaceans (7 dolphin species and 19 whale species) have been observed in Seychelles waters; and xi) Dugong (*Dugong dugong*) sightings have been reported around Aldabra but they have not been studied and little is known about their status. Although the marine fauna of Seychelles remains largely unexplored and the inventory is incomplete, recent surveys have shown diversity to be high. While the terrestrial fauna and flora of Seychelles are quite well studied and understood, the marine biodiversity of this equatorial zone is poorly known. The Outer Islands also host nine (9) Important Bird Areas (as described by Birdlife International), covering 16,100 hectares namely: Etoile Island, Boudeuse Island, African Banks, D'Arros Island, Marie Louise Island, Desnoeufs Island, Islets of Farquhar Atoll, Cosmoledo Atoll and Aldabra Atoll.

5. **Threats to Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services** in the Outer Islands region of the Seychelles can be classified within the following categories:

- Invasive Alien Species (IAS): Seychelles is typical of remote islands in the susceptibility of its terrestrial biodiversity to IAS. Alien plant species now comprise 57 percent of the total terrestrial flora of the Seychelles, and this percentage is likely to increase with time. IAS out-compete and replace indigenous fauna and flora through predation, elimination of natural regeneration, introduction of diseases and smothering of creepers. Animal IAS like rats, feral cats and other predators can be devastating to seabird colonies on small islands, reducing levels of recruitment. Introduced livestock may inhibit regeneration of native forest; and introduced cats, dogs, common mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) and tenrecs (*Tenrec ecaudatus*) prey upon native species, particularly birds, lizards, caecilians and invertebrates. Entire habitats may collapse or lose functionality if invaded by IAS beyond a certain threshold. The marine ecosystem is also highly vulnerable to IAS. This threat is exacerbated by coral bleaching, as it is alleged that affected and damaged reefs constitute relatively "empty" and thereby ideal ecosystems where invasive marine species can thrive. The spread of

[8] Believed to be a new species.

marine species into the Outer Islands region is of increasing concern due to the increase in commercial shipping and recreational boating in this area.

- Development and Overharvesting of Resources: Most of the indigenous forests of the Outer Islands were lost to overharvesting, mainly for fuelwood purposes and building purposes, and to clearfelling, making way for extensive coconut plantations as copra was a major export commodity of the Seychelles. Fuelwood exploitation and in some cases charcoal production continues today, and with the demise of the copra export, the land is not used optimally with continued loss of biodiversity and soil fertility. These result in a major impoverishing of ecosystems and of inherent inter-species relations. In the marine environment, poaching is an important problem for species such as turtles, whale sharks, large groupers and other fish have been greatly diminished by overfishing. Physical damage to marine habitats can result from fishing activities such as bottom trawling. Tourism facilities are mostly situated on the environmentally sensitive coastline and on the smaller islands. Impacts from tourism are associated with the construction or physical development period of new infrastructure, as well as during ongoing tourism operations. Marine ecosystems found in bays and shallow coastal waters protected by reefs are especially susceptible to sedimentation and pollution.
- Climate Change: As a Small Island Developing State, the Seychelles is threatened by the impacts of climate change, including an increase in the frequency of tropical storms and sea level rise. Both the biodiversity of the Outer Islands and the functionality of certain ecosystems are especially vulnerable to environmental variations associated with changes in sea level, increased sea temperature and ocean acidification, all of which can be traced to the increase of atmospheric CO2. During the first half of 1998, the coral reefs of the inner granitic islands were affected by the worst mass coral bleaching event in the Indo-Pacific region to date, caused by a mass of warm water spreading over the entire Indian Ocean. Coral morality due to bleaching was on average 85-90%, although the Outer Islands were less affected.[9] Further, impacts on the marine environment specifically, may be felt across ecosystems like mangroves and seagrass beds due to changes in sea level. Sea level rise also affects the fauna and flora of terrestrial habitats. With increased coastal flooding, the salinity levels of the soil increases, leading to the dying off of some plant species. Certain species (e.g. Abbott's day gecko (*Phelsuma abbotti*), endemic to northern Madagascar/southern Seychelles) only occur in habitats of less than 2 meters above sea level. With the loss of the habitat due to sea level rise, the survival of these species will be threatened.

6. **The PA system.** Protected areas and their integration across the land/seascape are the principal means of protecting Seychelles' high biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of land and associated resources for multiple uses. Seychelles has an existing system of 23 formal protected areas (which includes the areas listed in Table 1) covering a total area of 53,743 ha, of which 20,943 ha (~47.6% of the total landmass) is terrestrial and 32,800 ha (~0.024% of the EEZ) marine. The Aldabra Special Reserve and the African Banks Protected Area are the only protected areas that currently exist in the Outer Islands region of Seychelles. Seychelles is planning to increase its terrestrial representation to above 50% within the next couple of years and to integrate terrestrial Areas of High Biodiversity into the national protected areas system in the coming years.

Table 1. The Protected Areas Estate of Seychelles

Designation Type *IUCN Category*	Official Name	Management Authority	Terrestrial Area (hectares)	Marine Area (hectares)	Total Area (hectares)
Special Reserve *Cat. Ib*	Cousin Special Nature Reserve	Nature Seychelles	27	1,200	1,227
	Aride Island Special Nature Reserve	Island Conservation Society	68	0	68
	Aldabra Atoll Special Nature Reserve	Seychelles Islands Foundation	15,260	23,100	38,360
	La Digue Special Veuve Reserve	Seychelles National Parks Authority	21	0	21
	Recif Island Special Reserve	Department of Environment	13	0	13
	Vallee de Mai	Seychelles Islands Foundation	19	0	19
National Park *Cat. II*	Silhouette Island National Park	Silhouette Foundation	1,860	3,045	4,905
	Moyenne Island National Park	Private	9	0	9
	Morne Seychellois National Park	Seychelles National Parks Authority	3,123	0	3,123
	Praslin National Park	Seychelles National Parks Authority	530	0	530
Nature Reserves *Cat. IV*	Beacon, Booby, Boudeuse, Etoile, Ile aux Vaches, Les Mamelles, King Ross	Department of Environment	10	0	10
Protected Area *IUCN Cat. II*	Iles Cocos, Ile La Fouche, Ilot Platte	Seychelles National Parks Authority	1	0	1
	African Banks	Ministry of National Development	2	3	5
Marine National Park *Cat. II*	Baie Ternaie	Seychelles National Parks Authority	0	3,045	3,045
	Curieuse	Seychelles National Parks Authority	0	1,176	1,176
	Port Launay	Seychelles National Parks Authority	0	158	158
	St. Anne	Seychelles National Parks Authority	0	1,073	1,073
		TOTALS	20,943	32,800	53,743

* See Annex II for more information on PAs to be gazetted in the Outer Islands.

7. **The baseline project.** Seychelles' Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy (MHAETE) has the mandate to conserve the country's biodiversity and to sustain the important services that ecosystems provide to the people of Seychelles. The Department of Environment (DoE) of MHAETE is at the forefront of this effort by providing policy leadership and the implementation

[9] Although it is not possible to attribute a single isolated climatic event to climate change, scientists assume that events such as coral bleaching caused by increases in the oceans' temperature will likely become more frequent with climate change. Healthy coral reefs are generally less susceptible to bleaching.

of targeted programmes in sustainable living and biodiversity conservation. Seychelles National Parks Authority is the national institution responsible for the management of all National Parks and Marine National Parks in the country. Islands Development Company (IDC) is a subsidiary of the Government of Seychelles charged with development and management of the Outer Islands. IDC uses the local NGO Island Conservation Society (ICS) as their main implementing partner for carrying out a number of conservation activities on the Outer Islands. ICS's activities include conservation and restoration of island ecosystems, sustainable development of islands, and awareness of their vulnerability. The Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) is a parastatal and has the mandate to manage both of Seychelles' World Heritage sites (Aldabra Special Reserve and the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve). The Seychelles Fisheries Authority is the government body responsible for the management of renewable marine resources. Additional to the management of the protected area system, there is concerted effort to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity into the tourism and fishing industries and incorporate biodiversity concerns into land use planning processes. Work is also undertaken by the Seychelles Agricultural Agency to address the introduction of additional IAS into Seychelles through improved prevention measures at points of entry. Seychelles is equally in the process of demonstrating effective models for protected area management by non-governmental organisations, and enable their inclusion into a strengthened protected area system. Furthermore, there have been important achievements in terms of applying SLM principles to national policies, plans and practices and to enhance capacity for promoting SLM. Most of the environmental work mentioned is concentrated on the Inner Islands of Seychelles, where the bulk of the human population is concentrated.[10] However, there are planned efforts to extend the knowledge on land and resource use to the Outer Islands region. The Ministry of Land Use and Housing is planning to undertake detailed aerial photography of all the inner islands and some Outer Islands, namely Coetivy, Platte, Desroches, D'Arros, Poivre, Alphonse, Farquhar, Assumption, Cosmoledo, Astove islands as well as the entire Aldabra Group, during November 2011. High quality satellite imagery will be procured for the outstanding islands. The aerial photographs and satellite images will be used to map the islands accurately and as basis for detailed land use planning. Yet, two key aspects stand out: (1) large swaths of land in the Outer Islands have been degraded due to unsustainable activities in the past (logging, coconut plantations as copra); (2) the current efforts and practices of biodiversity mainstreaming, protected area management and SLM are not enough to ensure the sustainable development of the Outer Islands, under the prevailing scenario of land use trends, threats to biodiversity and to ecosystem services.

8. The Outer Island region of the Seychelles has no full time residents with most enterprises relying on shift workers. A number of new tourism enterprises have been established in recent years e.g. on Desroches, Alphonse and Farquhar Islands. These are all luxury accommodation facilities on the islands with private ownership and where each establishment offers a limited number of beds and high levels of service.[11] The fishery industry operates mainly from Victoria, Mahe. The Government of Seychelles is in the process of diversifying the economy and the Outer Island region has been identified as a target area for the expansion and development of the following economic activities: i) Tourism, ii) Agriculture, iii) Forestry; and iv) Fishing. All these industries involve the use of—and sometimes exploitation of—natural resources. Sites with abundance of natural resources will be targeted to be developed first. These sites are often the ones that harbour biodiversity and they are therefore important for conservation. Tourism development has already taken place on Desroches Island and Alphonse Island, with expanding tourism establishments in place. Alphonse Resort is currently undergoing upgrading, while on Platte Island a new tourism development is taking place. A number of other islands have been earmarked for tourism development, including Assumption, Astove, Cosmoledo, Farquhar, Marie Louise, Desnoeufs, Providence and Remire Islands and African Banks. Agriculture and aquaculture has started on Coetivy Island with plantation forestry planned for a number of islands. The allocation of private sector enterprises on Outer Islands is done in a consultative manner. The Islands Development Company identifies the required enterprise and develops a tender document stipulating the services required. This is advertised through the National Tender Board and a private sector company selected using predetermined criteria. A long-term lease is entered into between the private company e.g. tourist/lodge management company and IDC. Prior to any physical development to be undertaken on the islands, plans need to be approved by the Planning Authority and must include a full-scale EIA. Fishing pressure around the Outer Islands is also increasing and will increase as fish stocks in the Inner Islands are being depleted. It is estimated that approximately USD 50 million will be invested in the Outer Island in the next 5 years. Of these, at least some USD 5 million will be dedicated to the sustainable development of the Outer Islands, particularly for safeguarding and protecting biodiversity and for ensuring the sustainable management of land/natural resources. In the business-as-usual scenario, most of this amount will be focused on the management of the Aldabra Special Reserve. Yet, there is room for expanding the investment targeted to conservation and SLM, if the enabling framework is in place.

9. There are currently only two fully gazetted protected areas in the Outer Island region namely i) the Aldabra Special Reserve (15,260 hectares terrestrial and 23,100 hectares marine) and ii) the African Banks Protected Area (2 hectares terrestrial and 3 hectares marine). The Aldabra Special Reserve remains funded and administered by the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF), with an operational budget of US$745K/annum. Funding for Aldabra Special Reserve will continue to be cross-subsidised from revenue generated in the SIF-managed Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve on Praslin Island. The African Banks Protected Area is effectively a 'paper park' as no active conservation management occurs at the site. Research and ecological monitoring has been mainly carried out by Seychelles Islands Foundation (in Aldabra Special Reserve) and by D'Arros Research Centre (on the private island D'Arros). Efforts and mechanisms to involve private sectors in conservation financing has started, but only really successful on private islands. The Alphonse

[10] The bulk of the population, economic activities and other forms of development are concentrated mostly on the narrow coastal plains of the three main granitic islands of Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. Mahé in particular has about 90% of the total population, with some 40% located on the east coast in a belt of 7 km by 1 km to the south of the capital, Victoria.

[11] Desroches counts on 262 beds on privately owned cottages, 10 luxury retreats with 10 beds each planned and build as it gets sold. Alphonse has currently 40 beds and the new exclusive lodge being built will have 18 guest rooms (36 beds) and will have six (6) residential villas (private ownership).

and Descroches Foundations have been formed where the tourism operators pay a conservation levy in a fund managed by the Foundations. For both Alphonse and Desroches Islands, the foundations have entered into agreements with Island Conservation Society (ICS) and are providing funds for ICS-employed permanent staff to be based on the islands and undertake conservation work. This investment is currently limited to $60K per island per year.

10. The Government of Seychelles has recently announced their decision to proclaim another nine terrestrial protected areas of which eight are in the Outer Island region, namely 1) South Island Farquhar National Park (420 ha); 2) Goëlletes Island (Farquhar) and Banc de Sable Special Reserves (27 ha); 3) Grand and Petite Polyte Cosmoledo Special Reserve (22 ha); 4) Grand Ile (Cosmoledo) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (142 ha); 5) Saint Françoise and Bijoutier National Park (39 ha); 6) Assumption Island National Park (482 ha); 7) Desnoufs Island Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (39 ha); and 8) South Island (Poivre) National Park (137 ha) (*See Annex II for description of sites and biodiversity status*). The area of marine protection will remain only around the Aldabra Special Reserve, with no interconnectivity established between the different sites.

11. Within this framework, there is a need to incorporate the multiple aspects of resource use into a system of sustainable management of land/seascape and biodiversity conservation. Not all of the plans for developing Outer Islands are spatially compatible. There are several competing interests and different possibilities of composing mosaics of land uses. Yet, there is no system of prioritising and analysing trade-offs. There is no system for taking into consideration the fragility of the Outer Islands' ecosystems and their susceptibility to degradation at the wider landscape levels. At the same time, healthy and more or less intact ecosystems, especially within CMPAs, can act not just as centres of biodiversity, but they can help sustain the part of Seychelles economy that is based on biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is a need to transform decision-making and to influence investments in the Outer Islands before land conversion and resource utilisation processes are able to irreversibly compromise the natural endowments of this outstanding region of Seychelles.

12. **The long-term solution.** The proposed solution is to overlay biodiversity management needs into the spatial development framework and investments for the Outer Islands. However, a number of barriers stand on the way to achieving this solution.

Barriers	**Elaboration**
PA managers in the Outer Islands region face a number of operational, financial and capacity constraints for ensuring the effectiveness of their conservation efforts.	With the expansion of the protected area system in the Outer Islands of Seychelles, the operational management of the new protected areas will have to be necessarily addressed. At present, the vast majority of formal protected areas in Seychelles are exclusively managed by the government, mainly through Seychelles National Parks Authority, and with little or no participation from other stakeholders in their planning and management. This is being partly addressed by a new UNDP/GEF project, where the NGO management modality is being tested in the Inner Islands region. Still, many sites in an expanded system will have a management deficit if solutions that are tailor-made to the Outer Islands' region are not found. The bottom line is that SNPA does not currently manage any protected areas, nor does it have adequate human or financial resources to ensure, all by itself, the effective management of the protected areas in the Outer Islands. This situation with staffing and capacity at SNAP is not likely to change dramatically in the next year or so, due to austerity measures imposed on public spending. Hence, once the new areas are created, lack of deployed staff and infrastructures at the sites will be an immediate hindrance for an effective management of the new CMPAs. Also, some of the new areas in the CMPA Subsystem for the Outer Islands would be better aligned with IUCN Category VI (i.e. managed resource PA)[12], while others may, in the future fall under Category V (i.e. protected landscape/seascape). The lack of existing official protected areas under a range of protected areas categories with different management objectives is a clear hindrance to the effective conservation of biodiversity within the Outer Islands region at large. Also, SNPA has no experience in managing PAs within categories V and VI, and little experience in overseeing PA management by other partners. Furthermore, Desroches and Alphonse Islands are not official protected areas; they are, though, managed as *de facto* protected areas by the Island Conservation Society under the oversight of the Desroches Foundation and the Alphonse Foundation respectively. The currently available funding to ICS is inadequate to rehabilitate degraded landscapes and seascapes and to reintroduce previously native species to the islands. Also, the lack of official PA status for Desroches and Alphonse is a hindrance in terms of accessing external funding. Finally, all stakeholders involved in PA management in the Outer Islands face organisational capacity constraints (government and non-government, private sector, NGOs and resource users).
Lack of an overarching framework for promoting sustainable development in the Outer	A key barrier for ensuring the sustainability of current and future developments and the protection of ecosystems in the Outer Island is the lack of an integrated natural resource management framework among the key responsible agents. Planning and implementation of SLM and conservation measures are carried out on piecemeal basis. It does not take into consideration the impact of developments at a wider scale. Nor does it consider the ecological sensitivity of certain habitats and the need to create continuity between strategic policies relating to ecosystem resilience, climate change and conservation of biodiversity, and action 'on the ground'. Also, authority is scattered among different entities. With few exceptions, these entities have very limited capacity to integrate biodiversity and

[12] IUCN category VI does not exist in Seychelles current legal framework for PAs. The on-going legislation reform with focus on land and environmental management will take this into consideration. Only when this process is completed will the gazettal of sites under this category become a possibility.

Barriers	Elaboration
Islands, including systemic capacities and availability of critical information / knowledge and funding.	SLM into their work. Also, while the development of the Outer Islands can and should capitalise from the capacity of these different entities, the lack of an overarching framework for consultation on the use of land, seascapes and associated resources contributes to the accelerated simplification, fragmentation and degradation of various ecosystems. With respect to the management of competing land uses at site level, the weak link in a number of EIA processes in Seychelles is the deficiencies in mechanisms of due diligence. These are necessary for ensuring that adequate measures are effectively taken over time for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating and, if needed, compensating for land degradation and biodiversity loss. Finally, at the heart of SLM issues, is the issue of finance. The restoration of degraded habitats, including through the systematic removal and fight against IAS is costly. Seychelles is yet to make advances towards sustainably financing the maintenance of essential ecosystem services through this route.

B. 2. INCREMENTAL /ADDITIONAL COST REASONING: DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADDITIONAL (LDCF/SCCF) ACTIVITIES REQUESTED FOR GEF/LDCF/SCCF FINANCING AND THE ASSOCIATED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ASSOCIATED ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF) TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT:

13. The Government of Seychelles is requesting GEF support through this project to remove, in an incremental manner, the existing barriers to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Seychelles' Outer Islands by integrating the country's subsystem of CMPAs into the broader land- and seascape and by reducing the pressures on natural resources and scarce land from competing land uses. Two components are planned:

Component 1: ***Management effectiveness is enhanced within a sample of coastal and marine protected areas (IUCN Category I, II and VI) operating under innovative public-private-civil society partnership agreements.***

Among all sites in the Outer Islands targeted for the gazettal, the Government has indicatively identified four proposed coastal and marine protected area complexes as GEF supported sites, two in the Farquhar Group, one in the Amirantes Group and one in the Alphonse Group. The choice of sites was based on ecological and logistical criteria. The marine area for these new sites remains to be defined. Selected sites will benefit from measures of enhancing PA management effectiveness. Initial selection of pilot CMPAs are: 1) Proposed South Island Farquhar National Park (*IUCN Cat II*) and Goellettes Island and Banc de Sable Special Reserves (*IUCN Cat Ib*), Farquhar Group (together 447 hectares terrestrial, size of marine area to be decided), 2) South Island (Poivre) National Park (*IUCN Cat II*), Amirantes Group (137 hectares terrestrial, size of marine area to be decided), 3) Desroches Island Resource Use Protected Area (*IUCN Cat VI*), Amirantes Group (394 hectares terrestrial, size of marine area to be determined), and 4) Alphonse Island Resource Use Protected Area (*IUCN Cat VI*), Alphonse Group. Public-private-civil society partnerships boards for PA management will be established to oversee the management of the CMPAs. Ecosystem conservation programmes will be duly planned and implemented, preferably through partnership involving public, private and civil society entities. These may be turtle conservation, eradication of invasive species, and reintroductions of endemic species (defining targets and arrangements will be done during PPG). Protected area infrastructure will be installed and staff will be deployed and capacitated through training and equipment to increase the effectiveness of management action in the newly proclaimed areas. Long term ecological monitoring systems will be developed ensuring the continual improvement of management effectiveness, but also to gauge the resilience of the protected areas against outside pressures and emerging threats. Management plans will be developed for the restricted use protected areas (South Island-Farquhar, Goëllettes Island, Banc de Sables and South Island-Poivre), with business/financial planning forming an integral part of these plans. The existing management plans for Desroches and Alphonse Islands on the sustainable use of the areas will be brought in line to the new declarations and supported through effective implementation. These management plans will also address appropriate arrangements for collaboration and conflict resolution as well as mechanisms for surveillance and enforcement. Further, the management plans will be targeted to include both climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Under the adaptation strategies, specific mention will be made of ecosystem based adaptation approaches to reduce the vulnerability of islands to water scarcity, coastal flooding and, where possible, coral bleaching.

Component 2: ***Sustainable Development and CMPA management integrated into broader sea/land planning in the Outer Islands, Seychelles.***

The project will address a key barrier related to the fragmented approach to natural resource management in the Outer Islands region through the development of a framework, within which the management of CMPAs becomes integrated into the broader sea/land planning. First and foremost, the support to INRM will be strengthened by making key spatial data and information available through open access systems. Through these 'decision support systems', any planner or developer will be able to determine where critical habitats are, which threats these habitats are suffering, whether a given site has a PA status and what the predominant land and seascape use are. This framework will create an enabling environment, within which legislation pertaining to the sustainable development of the islands can be enacted, and EIA procedures and due diligence can be enforced. It will also provide useful information for the management of CMPAs in the Outer Islands. Based on the key products from the spatially based decision support systems, the project will promote a participatory exercise of Ecosystem-wide Zoning and preparation of a Master Plan. This will imply consultations on which areas should be dedicated to conservation and which to development, including what kind of development. The final Master Plan will be approved by Cabinet and it will ensure that these areas can better withstand emerging threats such as climate change and

increased competition for resources. Resilience of ecosystems to these threats will be a key consideration.[13] It will also create a good basis for managing the areas for conservation, ecosystem services and by strengthening positive synergies with other uses of biodiversity that may influence the ecology of these areas. Ecosystem wide zoning will also look at trade-off and approaches to infrastructures and tourism on the islands and the control of alien invasive species associated to sector-related increased maritime traffic. Guidelines to investors will be made available on how the Zoning & Master Plan can be implemented on the ground. Enforcement of implementation of land use planning will be done at a finer scale through Sustainable Land Management Plans (SMPs). These will be a requirement to developments in the Outer Islands that can potentially degrade the land. SMPs will need to approved by the independent Planning Authority Commission and they will be legally-binding to ensure effectiveness of management actions. From the point of view of capacity building for SLM, the project will incise on institutional mandates, cohesive policies, principles for strengthening the management capabilities of the different management authorities and guidelines for links with sector planning. All of these actions will ensure that the terrestrial and surrounding marine areas of the designated tourism development islands are planned as an integral part of the wider land/seascape of the Outer Islands. On the ground, the project will restore degraded land in Desroches and Alphonse. The functionality of forests on these islands, where remnants of woody vegetation still occur, will be restored through fire protection, removal of alien invasive species and rehabilitation of degraded areas. These demonstration sites will be used as examples for the development of other outer islands. Cost coefficients for restoration will be calculated, including the removal of IAS and the prevention of re-invasion. The minimal area for restoration will be around 60 ha. Co-financing will come into play for this activity and for scaling up restoration activities. Finally, a 10-year Business Plan will be developed and a transparent and independent finance mechanism will be operational by project end for ensuring the mobilisation and ring-fencing of financial resources for eradication and control of IAS and ecosystem restoration activities in the Outer Islands' Subsystem of CMPAs.

14. **Global benefits.** The GEF funding will secure protection to critically important biodiversity in the Outer Islands' region of Seychelles. It will deliver global benefits through the expansion of the PA network, the restoration/rehabilitation and the improved conservation of the habitat of endemic species such as the Seychelles clown fish (*Amphiprion fuscocaudatus*), the Seychelles bamboo shark (*Hemiscyllium cf. ocellatum*), the Aldabra Rail (*Dryolimnas cuvieri aldabrensis*), Abbott's sunbird (*Cinnyris sovimanga*); as well as endangered species such as the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacae*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the dugong (*Dugong dugong*). In particular, extensive mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, lowland broadleaved forest and coral reefs will be conserved and, where possible, rehabilitated. With the proclamation of the protected areas mentioned in Annex III and the protection status to be afforded to Alphonse and Desroches Islands, the percentage of land in Seychelles under protected areas status will be above 50%, the highest percentage worldwide. The designation of these areas will also include three Important Bird Areas. The improved land/seascape management over a large geographical area will safeguard soil and water resources on the islands, increase carbon stocks, reduce GHG emissions, and protect biodiversity.

B.3. DESCRIBE THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS, AND HOW THESE WILL SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT BENEFITS (GEF TRUST FUND) OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF). AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION, READ MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE GEF:

15. All citizens of Seychelles will indirectly benefit in economical terms from the implementation of the project. This is due to the fact that fishing and tourism are the major production sectors that carry the economy. The promotion of sustainable development in the Outer Islands region through these sectors will ensure the provision and maintainance of additional and much needed taxes to the Government in order to improve public infrastructure and create jobs. The project will engender a paradigm shift from unsustainable to well planned and collaborative sustainable use of natural resources in the Outer Island region, ensuring the continued development of the Seychellois people. In the absence of measures to develop the region sustainably, as proposed herein, these essential sectors will not be able to harness their full economic potential domestically, but also in the global economy, and to maintain these socio-economic benefits in the long-term. Further, tourists come to the Seychelles to enjoy the exceptional beauty of the country and its beaches. The sustainable development of the Outer Islands region will ensure that these amenities are protected in the long-term. With respect to gender, a recent study (2011), undertaken by Plan International and the Royal Commonwealth Society, ranked Seychelles high on gender equality (fifth highest among the 54 Commonwealth member countries). Based on this ranking, Seychelles is well positioned to ensure that both men and women will benefit from the socioeconomic benefits to be derived in the long-term as a result of a viable, growing 'green' economy in the Outer Islands region of Seychelles.

[13] In order to withstand some of the threats towards the conservation of biodiversity in the Outer Islands, especially the threat of Climate Change, increasing the resilience of ecosystems is hugely important. Resilience can be improved by conserving a mosaic of ecosystems (larger scale) which are interconnected. By conserving these mosaics of inter-connected ecosystems, areas that are degraded by threats (e.g. coral bleaching) slowly recover, while other functioning ecosystems provide services and structure to build on (Devisscher, T. 2010. *Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Africa. Rational, Pathways, and Cost Estimates. Sectoral Report for the AdaptCost Study. Stockholm Environment Institute*). Resilience of ecosystems therefore can be improved by harnessing positive interactions between ecosystems that stabilize community dynamics, ecosystem functions, and the structure of neighbouring ecosystems. By broadening the scale of the intervention through the spatial arrangement of ecosystems these positive interactions can be optimized (Halpern, B.S., Silliman, B.R., Olden, J.D., Bruno, J.P. & Bertness, M.D. 2007. Incorporating Positive Interactions in Aquatic Restoration and Conservation. Front. Ecol. Environ. 2007:5(3):153 – 160.)

B.4 INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE, PROPOSE MEASURES THAT ADDRESS THESE RISKS TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED DURING THE PROJECT DESIGN:

Risk	Rating	Management Strategy
Increasing incidents of piracy limits implementation of at-sea project activities	High	In terms of the PA and SLM work on the ground, the project will focus on islands which count on adequate access by air and known important biodiversity. Hence, low risk access to sites is a key criteria for site selection. It is also estimated that Seychelles spends about €2.3 million/annum on anti-piracy patrols and surveillance by the Seychellois coast guard to secure its ocean territory. This is supplemented by considerable technical and financial support from the international community. Further, the UN constantly assesses country and localised risk in all areas where it operates through the unified UN Security System. The benefits of this system are extended to NGO staff. During the project preparation UN Security will be consulted on risks linked to specific sites and movement of staff. During both project preparation and implementation, the system of security clearances will be enforced for any project related field deployments.
Marine and terrestrial ecosystems are not sufficiently resilient and their biological and physical integrity is incrementally compromised by the effects of global and regional climate change	Moderate	The design of a more representative, comprehensive and adequate system of CMPAs in the Outer Islands, as well as the sustainable development over a wider seascape, will seek to integrate the CMPA subsystem into the country's evolving climate change adaptation strategy. The removal of threats, pressures and stresses that impact on the biodiversity of this region, will ensure that ecosystems are more resilient to the impacts of climate change and therefore less vulnerable to its effects. E.g. healthy and less fragmented coral is more resilient to bleaching. The whole work of designing CMPAs will take ecosystem resilience and emerging threats to biodiversity into consideration, climate change being a major one. The project will establish sea/landscape scale buffer areas and where possible, corridors connecting PAs, which can act as a safeguard for PAs agaist the undesired effects of climate change by allowing biodiversity to alter distribution patterns in response to increased climate variability effects. PA expansion is in and on itself a climate change adaptation strategy.
Conflicts and misunderstandings among public institutions, private sector partners, NGOs and resource users undermine partnership approaches and implementation of cooperative governance arrangements	Moderate	Where possible, formal agreements/MOUs will be used to define roles and responsibilities. Training will be provided to stakeholders on governance and conflict resolution. Activities will be designed and implemented in a win-win manner, beneficial to all, as far as possible. The sustainable development of the region will be emphasised with arguments that are supported with long-term economic forecasts. UNDP has a number of useful examples of partnerships agreements. The Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) Project has already a number of standing partnerships, some of which are relevant for this project. Synergies will be actively sought.
Recommendations of the Ecosystem-wide Zoning & Master Plan meet difficulties in being enforced and Sustainable Land Management Plans (SMPs) do not become legally binding – in other words, these products are developed, but not used.	Moderate	The government of Seychelles fully backs the proposals contained in this PIF. More specifically, it acknowledges the need to strengthen EIA and the consultation process that precedes the allocation of land to development projects in the Outer Islands, especially those with a potential negative impacts on the environment. The Spatially-based Decision Support Systems for INRM, the Ecosystem-wide Zoning & Master Plan for the Outer Islands and the Sustainable Land Management Plans (SMPs) will be essential tools in this regard. Enforcement is already embedded in the output concerned with the Master Plan. The SMPs are also foreseen to be legally binding instruments. The project will ensure that the Master Plan for the Outer Islands is approved by Cabinet, in the same way the Land Management Plan for the Inner Islands was also approved by Cabinet. In addition, the project will work towards making SMPs a requirement to developments in the Outer Islands that can potentially degrade the land. The SMPs will need to approved by the independent Planning Authority Commission to ensure their effectiveness and legal force.

B.5. IDENTIFY KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AS APPLICABLE:

16. The project will be executed by the Environment Department on behalf of the Government of Seychelles. The Environment Department is the CBD National Focal Point and will specifically be responsible for implementation of component 1 of the project. Other government institutions that will be involved in the project are Seychelles National Parks Authority, Island Development Company, Island Conservation Society, Seychelles Fisheries Association and Seychelles Islands Foundation. Other interested ENGOs will be invited to participate in the implementation of certain components and activities under the two components. Existing hotel management companies on the Outer Islands will be involved.

B.6. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

17. UNDP is implementing several GEF projects in Seychelles focusing on different themes. The proposed project will build on the experiences and lessons learned from past and on-going initiatives and catalyse them into the context of the Outer Islands. The "*Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Production Sector Activities*" project lessons' on involvement of the private sector in joint management of ecological sensitive sites, the acceptance and field-testing of the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label and the co-management of fisheries areas with artisanal fishermen are all initiatives that will be furthered and optimised under the proposed project. The GEF Project "*Mainstreaming Prevention and Control Measures for Invasive Alien Species into Trade, Transport and Travel across the Production Landscape*" is developing policy and legislation to control influx of IAS into the Seychelles. The project is also field-testing cost-effective measures of eradication and lessons learned will be incorporated into the eradication projects on the Outer Islands.

In particular, this project will benefit from experiences in the practical application of eradication measures and the frameworks in place to avoid new invasions in the sensitive ecosystems of the Outer Islands. The project "*Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles*" is developing methods for rehabilitation of degraded lands, while the newly-started project "*Strengthening Seychelles' protected area system through NGO management modalities*" will develop a terrestrial protected area systems plan for Seychelles. The project will collaborate actively with the "*Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) Project*" benefitting from the results of their studies in the development of decision support systems for INRM and in with respect to mutually benefitting partnerships developed by the ASCLME. This project will complement this plan by developing additional information, mainly on the marine ecosystems and based on this develop a CMPA systems plan for the Outer Islands. The EU is further supporting the eradication of IAS in and around Aldabra Special Reserve under the "*Mainstreaming the Management of Invasive Species in Seychelles' World Heritage Sites*" project. The Seychelles has submitted a project concept "*Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in Seychelles*" to the Adaptation Fund and the concept has been endorsed. The development of the Full Proposal has started and project implementation is expected to start in July 2012. The project will focus on rehabilitation of ecosystems that provide water provision and coastal flooding prevention services to the populations of the three main granitic islands: Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. The lessons learnt from the adaptation project will be directly benefit the management of the outer islands, as rehabilitation is a key aspect of Component 2 of this project. Finally, lessons will also be learnt from the UNDP/GEF *Reclassification and Effective Management of the National Protected Areas System* (REMNPAS) in Zambia with respect to the establishment of Public-Private-Civil Society PA Partnership Boards. The REMNPAS has been successful is doing so for two demonstration sites. Although a very different setting, the Outer Islands can benefit from the REMNPAS experience and from native Seychellois experiences of collaborative schemes involving the government entities, the private sector and civil society.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

18. The present project will benefit from, as well as contribute to, UNDP's past and current work in Seychelles, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. 'Protected Areas' are one of UNDP's signature programmes and the agency has a large portfolio of PA projects across Africa dealing with PA institutional and management strengthening and PA network expansion, and implementing strategies attuned to the African reality. Likewise, UNDP's has demonstrated expertise in promoting SLM practices with a vast portfolio of project with accent on Africa. The UNDP Country Office in Mauritius, which covers both Mauritius and Seychelles, counts on at least three professional staff dedicated to the environment portfolio (plus support from operations and senior management). The UNDP 'satellite office' in Seychelles will be strengthened as from early 2012 with one senior national officer to be based in Mahe and who will be 100% dedicated to covering Seychelles, plus a programme assistant. This will provide better support still to UNDP projects in Seychelles, many of which are GEF financed. The UNDP Country Office is supported by the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Africa, wich will help overseeing the implementation this project, relying on UNDP's country-level coordination experience in integrated policy development, human resources development, institutional strengthening, and non-governmental and community participation.

C.1 INDICATE THE CO-FINANCING AMOUNT THE GEF AGENCY IS BRINGING TO THE PROJECT:

19. UNDP will provide $250,000 in as co-financing to this project in the form of a grant. Part of these funds will be managed under the same budgetary award as the project. UNDP and the government will leverage the co-financing necessary for meeting the minimum targets proposed under this PIF.

C.2 HOW DOES THE PROJECT FIT INTO THE GEF AGENCY'S PROGRAM (REFLECTED IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS UNDAF, CAS, ETC.) AND STAFF CAPACITY IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW UP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

20. UNDP has in 2011 developed a Country Programme Document for Seychelles (2012 – 2026), with three national priorities or goals: 1) Supporting inclusive growth and restoring the country on a sustainable growth path, 2) Promote environmental sustainability in Seychelles, and 3) Build capacity of State and Non State actors to improve and strengthen governance capacity in Seychelles society, with particular emphasis on the area of human (including gender) rights, for the sustainable and equitable development of Seychelles. Although all three priorities or goals have reference to sustainable development, the second goal is of particular significance to the project. The Country programme outcome is: By 2016, the governance systems, use of technologies and practices and financing mechanisms that promote environmental, energy and climate-change adaptation have been mainstreamed into national development plans. The Outcome indicator is: Area of terrestrial and marine ecosystems under improved management or heightened conservation status increased by 50 per cent by end of 2016 with a target of marine protected area coverage increased to more than 37,500 hectares and terrestrial to more than 26,000 hectares.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).

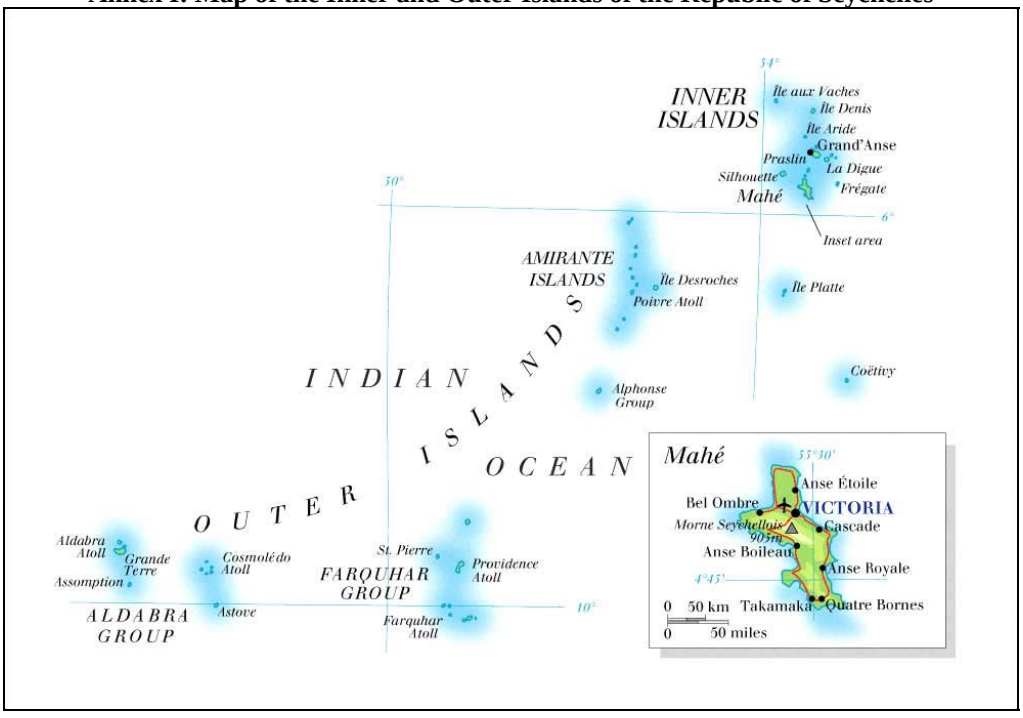
NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(Month, day, year)*
Mr. Didier Dogley	GEF Operational Focal Point Principal Secretary, Environment Department	Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy	August, 24th, 2011

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date *(Month, day, year)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Yannick Glemarec UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator		December 13, 2011	Fabiana Issler, Regional Technical Advisor for Biodiversity, Africa, UNDP GEF	+27-12-3548182	fabiana.issler@undp.org

Annex I: Map of the Inner and Outer Islands of the Republic of Seychelles



Annex II: Localities and biodiversity significance of areas in Outer Island region approved by cabinet of ministers for protected area designation[14]

Official name, area and IUCN Category	Location and Topography[15]	Flora and Fauna[16]
South Island Farquahr National Park 4.20 sq km IUCN Category II Goëlettes Island (Farquhar) and Banc de Sable Special Reserves 0.27 sq km IUCN Category Ib	South Island Farquhar forms part of the Farquhar Atoll. Farquhar Atoll lies 770 kilometres south-southwest of Victoria, Mahe. The atoll is the largest atoll in Seychelles, covering an area of about 17,800 ha. There are ten islands. The two main islands, North Island and South Island, make up 97 percent of the landmass of 799 hectares. These are separated by three small islands known as the Manahas. Three other islands lie in close proximity to each other on the northern rim of the atoll, Déposés, Ile du Milieu and Lapins. Banc du Sables is the most easterly island and Goëllettes is the most southerly island. The lagoon has a maximum depth of 14.6 metres.	The islets of Farquhar (excluding North, South and the Manahas) have been designated as an Important Bird Area. Goëllettes is the most interesting for birds. It is almost treeless but covered in grasses and a few low ***vouloutye*** bushes [*Scaevola sericea*]. There is a huge seasonal colony of about 200,000 – 400,000 pairs of sooty tern [*Onychoprion fuscatus*] and around 100,000 pairs of brown noddy [*Anous stolidus*]. In 1897 Commander Stuart Farquhar discovered a small colony of roseate terns in one corner of the island, but visits to Goëlettes by ornithologists have been so rare that it was more than 100 years before roseate terns were reported on Farquhar Atoll for the second time (by Island Conservation Society). In 2006, Island Conservation Society recorded a previously unknown colony of black-naped terns [*Sterna sumatrana*] at Banc de Sable. Aldabra has the largest total population of this species in the African region but Banc de Sable with 10 – 20 breeding pairs has the largest population on any one island in the region. Black-naped terns also breed on Goëllettes. Studies by Seychelles Fishing Authority have shown that the abundance of some grouper species is about three times greater than in the north Amirantes and up to thirty times that of the granitics. In particular, the density of Napoleon Wrasse [*Cheilinus undulatus*] is phenomenal. It may be the highest in the world, possibly rivalled only by numbers in the Cocos Keeling. On the edge of the reef, at certain times of year, there are spawning aggregations of thousands of camouflage grouper [*Epinephelus polyphekadion*] and brown-marbled grouper [*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*]. This is in sharp contrast to other parts of the world where many aggregations have totally collapsed. Farquhar is also an important nesting site for turtles. Other fauna of interest includes the gold-dust gecko [*Phelsuma latisauda*] and coconut crab [*Birgus latro*].
Grande Ile (Cosmoledo) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 1.42 sq km IUCN Category Ib Grand and Petite Polyte Cosmoledo (part of the Cosmoledo Atoll) 0.22 sq km IUCN Category Ib	Cosmoledo Atoll lies 1,045 kilometres west of Victoria, 35 kilometres north of Astove and 115 kilometres southeast of Aldabra. It is a raised coral atoll of 460 hectares land and a lagoon of 14,500 hectares measuring 15 kilometres from east-west and 12 kilometres north-south and up to 8.2 metres deep. Geologically, it is the twin of Astove, standing on the same volcanic basement measuring 85 kilometres from north to south and 52 kilometres from east to west and rising from a depth of over 4 kilometres. The two peaks join at a depth of around 1 kilometre. Unlike the steep wall of Astove, the sea floor falls gradually to about 50 metres over a distance of up to a kilometre then more steeply reaching 500 metres in about 1.5 kilometres. Two main passes lead from the ocean to the shallow lagoon, one northwest of South Island and one (Grand Passe) between Pagode and Grand Ile (or Wizard). Om the eastern coast, elevated reef rock forms undercut headlands mirroring the waves of the sea and separated by sandy beaches. There are sand dunes in the north and south, rising to about 10 metres. The Constitution names 19 islands	Cosmoledo is an Important Bird Area. Seabirds include a globally significant populations of masked booby [*Sula dactylatra*] of the subspecies *melanops*, red-footed booby [*Sula sula*] of the subspecies *nubilosa* (at 1.1 million pairs, this is the largest colony in Seychelles). Other breeding seabirds include masked booby [*Sula dactylatra*], brown booby [*Sula leucogaster*], red-tailed tropicbird [*Phaeton rubricauda*], white-tailed tropicbird [*Phaeton lepturus*], great frigatebird [*Fregata minor*] and black-naped tern [*Sterna sumatrana*]. Seven land bird species that still survive on Aldabra have been wiped out but could be reintroduced one day. Five other remain: Souimanga sunbird [*Cinnyris sovimanga*], Madagascar turtle dove [*Streptopelia picturata*], Madagascar white-eye [*Zosterops maderaspatana*], Madagascar cisticola [*Cisticola cherina*] and pied crow [*Carvus albus*], the first three being endemic races. There are also significant numbers of egrets and herons. The lagoon dries extensively at low tide and is an important feeding ground for migratory waders, including Crab Plover [*Dromas ardeola*]. The flora is similar to that of Aldabra, with fewer species but including several plants endemic to the group. On the raised limestone ***bwa-d-amann*** [*Pemphis acidula*], ***bwa zak*** [*Sideroxylon inerme cryptophebia*] and ***ficus*** are typical, while the beach crest vegetation is similar to that of other outer islands mainly ***vouloutye*** [*Scaevoal sericea*] and ***bwa taba*** [*Tournefortia argentea*] and ***bwa matlo*** [*Suriana maritima*]. As on Aldabra there are areas of tall mangrove, especially on the lagoon of Menai. Lizards include Bouton's snake-eyed skink [*Cryptoblepharus boutonii*] and Madagascar banded lizard [*Zonosaurus madagascariensis*], the latter found nowhere else in Seychelles. Green turtle [*Chelonia mydas*] nest in reasonably large numbers, despite decades of exploitation and poaching in the present. The reefs are spectacular and offer some of the best diving in Seychelles. Despite the years of exploitation, Cosmoledo remains the finest unprotected site in Seychelles. Island Conservation Society have conducted surveys of key species and eradicated rats from Polyte and Grand Ile. The potential for further conservation and rehabilitation programmes is huge.

[14] These areas only cover those proposed protected areas for which existing categories is available. Desroches and Alphonse Island will be considered once protected areas categories have been gazetted for IUCN Category VI. The UNDP/GEF "Strengthening Seychelles' protected area system through NGO management modalities" project is currently undertaking work to legislate appropriate categories for the expansion of the PA system.
[15] Verbatim from Skerrett, A.; Pool, T.; and Skerrett, J. 2010. *Outer Islands of Seychelles*. Islands Development Company and Island Conservation Society.

Official name, area and IUCN Category	Location and Topography[15]	Flora and Fauna[16]
	although there are also a number of unnamed islands. Menai is the largest island.	
Desnoeufs Island Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 0.35 sq km IUCN Category Ib	Desnoeufs lies 325 kilometres southeast of Victoria and only 12 kilometres southeast of Marie Louise, its nearest neighbour. It has an area of 35 hectares. The island has a sandstone core, which spreads out in concentric circles visible from the air.	The island is almost treeless, covered in grasses and other low-growing plants. It is classified by Birdlife International as an Important Bird Area, mainly due to its huge seasonal colony of sooty terns. The island may once have had the largest sooty tern [*Onychoprion anaethetus*] population in Seychelles estimated at 1.8 million pairs in 1966, 1.2 million pairs in 1979 but only 500,000 pairs by the 1990s. Eggs are collected from about two-thirds of the island. There are also large numbers of wedge-tailed shearwater [*Puffinus pacificus*] and brown noddy [*Sula leucogaster*] together with a few masked boobies [*Sula leucogaster*] (though numbers have markedly declined from earlier decades). Both hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*] and green turtle [*Chelonia mydas*] nest at Desnoeufs.
Saint Françoise & Bijoutier National Park 0.39 sq km IUCN Category II	St. François Atoll covers 5,400 hectares of which about one-third is lagoon and two-thirds reef flats. There are two islands, Bijoutier in the north, 405 kilometres southwest of Victoria and St. François in the south, a further 5 kilometres distant.	There is a small breeding population of 10 – 15 pairs of black-naped tern [*Strena sumatrana*]. Migratory bird numbers are huge and include globally significant numbers of crab plover [*Dromas ardeola*] and Saunders' tern [*Strena saudersii*]. Seychelles' largest concentrations of wimbrel [*Numenius phaeopus*], ruddy turnstone [*Arenaria interpres*] and grey plover [*Pluvialis squatarola*] have also been recorded here. The only land bird is the house sparrow [*Passer domesticus*] and this is its southerly outpost in Seychelles. Significant numbers of hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*] and green turtles [*Chelonia mydas*] nest on St. François and Bijoutier, and the waters of the atoll provide important foraging habitat for immature turtles of both species.
Assumption Island National Park (partial) 4.82 sq km IUCN Category II	Assumption lies 1,140 kilometres southwest of Victoria. With an area of 1,171b hectares, it is the largest outer island of Seychelles after Aldabra. It is kidney-shaped landmass of 6 kilometres of length and up to 1.6 kilometres in width. It is situated just 30 kilometres southeast of Aldabra. The limestone rock rises to a maximum of 6 metres above sea level, while dunes in the southeast are up to 18 metres high.	Apart from a race of Souimanga sunbird [*Cinnyris sovimanga*], endemic birds have all been exterminated, including a race of flightless rail and other similar to those surviving on Aldabra. Alien birds have been introduced including red-whiskered bulbul [*Pycnonotus jocosus*] and Madagascar fody [*Foudia madagascariensis*]. These species could threaten Aldabra's endemic birds should ever they cross the short stretch of water between the islands. Assumption was probably never thickly wooded. Tortoise turf [a complex of 21 species and herbs that have adapted to grazing by tortoises, being generally "dwarfed" and seeding closer to the ground to avoid seeds being eaten by the tortoises] is dominant on cliffs and on the seaward side of the dunes, growing more densely than at Aldabra due to the absence of a large tortoise population to browse upon it. There are three indigenous species of lizard: a race of Abbott's day gecko [*Phelsuma abbotti sumptio*] (endemic to Assumption), the common house gecko [*Hemidactylus frenatus*] and Bouton's snake-eyed skink [*Cryptoblepharus boutonii*]. The only indigenous mammal is the insectivorous Mauritian tomb bat [*Taphozous mauritianus*]. Giant tortoises [*Aldabrachelys gignatea*] were wiped out soon after settlement but have been reintroduced. Turtles breed in good numbers though significant fewer in numbers than in the past.
South Island (Poivre) National Park 1.37 sq km IUCN Category II	Poivre lies 270 kilometres southwest of Victoria and comprises an atoll of three islands: Poivre Island (111 hectares), South Island (137 hectares) and Florentin (7.4 hectares). The atoll covers 1,467 hectares of reef flats with no central lagoon, and is 3.5 kilometres wide in north tapering to 2 kilometres in the south.	The reef flats attract migratory waders and resident herons. The islands of Poivre atoll host significant numbers of nesting hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*] and some green turtles [*Chelonia mydas*], while the waters provide foraging habitat for significant numbers of juvenile turtles.