# Executive Summary

The project “Building Capacity and Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles” has been successful in raising awareness of SLM (sustainable land management) across key sectors in Seychelles, increasing capacity in a range of relevant skills and catalysing reviews / updating of laws and policies to mainstream SLM *inter alia* in agriculture, forestry, national parks. Preparation of a National Action Plan for SLM and an Integrated Financing Strategy by the project should further ensure mainstreaming and assure funding. Project activities supporting development of a new soils testing laboratory, developing an SLM module for training student farmers and an in-service course for farmers, involving staff of the University of Seychelles, also developing capacity in TRASS to offer services to land owners to restore burned land / involve community groups, means that the project will bring long term benefits.

# Project Summary Table

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Title** | **Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles** | | | |
| GEF Project ID: | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  |   PMIS 3360 |  | *at endorsement (US$)* | *at completion (US$)* |
| UNDP Project ID: | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 00048158 (PIMS 3390) | | GEF financing: | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Country | Seychelles | |  | | --- | | IA/EA own: | |  |  |
| Region | Africa | Government | 1,003,000 | 2,094,293 |
| Focal Area | Land Degradation | Other | 512,000 | 547,715 |
| |  | | --- | | Operational Program: | | Sustainable Land Management (SLM) | |  | | --- | | Total co-financing: | | 1,515,000 | 2,642,008 |
| Executing Agency | |  | | --- | | Ministry of Environment and Energy/ Land Use and Habitat | | |  | | --- | | Total Project Cost: | | 2,015,000 | 3,117,008 |
| |  | | --- | | Other Partners involved: | | Ministry of Land Use and Habitat / Ministry of Natural Resources and Industry / Seychelles National Park Authority / Seychelles Agricultural Agency / Plant | |  | | --- | | ProDoc Signature (date project began): | | | 21/06/07 |
| |  | | --- | | (Operational) Closing Date: | | | Proposed: 30/06/11  Actual:31/07/12 |

# Project Description

The granitic islands of the Seychelles are composed of a core of ancient granitic rock which forms the steep uplands, with narrow surrounding coastal plains formed by beach sand. Both types of soils are physically and chemically poor. Over 80% of Seychelles land area is under some form of forest or vegetation cover, though less so on the more urbanized main islands. Land degradation has mainly occurred because of forest fires, clearing of forest for development purposes (agriculture, including plantations; housing; tourist facilities; infrastructure), effects of invasive alien species, unsustainable agriculture, construction practices and landslides / rock falls.

Prevention and control of forest fires is taking place, but needed a comprehensive all-encompassing strategy, including models for rehabilitation of degraded areas. Unsustainable harvesting of forest products was on the increase and made worse because of the lack of forest management models. Invasive alien creepers that are smothering the forest were a relatively new phenomenon of which little was known and no control measures are established. Soil conservation in agriculture was not effectively addressed because of non-conducive lease agreements of state agricultural land, non-effective extension service and the lack of adequate soil testing facilities. Risks of landslides were not well incorporated in land use planning and construction practices. Seychelles had no National Action Plan or Investment Plan for sustainable land management.

The project aimed to increase capacity in prevention and control of forest fires, rehabilitation of degraded areas, control of invasive alien species creepers, development of forest management plans, restoration of degraded agricultural soils and minimizing risks of land movements. It was also designed to mainstream sustainable land management into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks, to support the development of a National Action Plan and Medium Term Investment Plan (MTIP - re-named Integrated Financial Strategy (IFS) during the project).

The objective of the project was to build capacities for sustainable land management (SLM) in appropriate government and civil society institutions/user groups in Seychelles and to ensure SLM was mainstreamed into government planning and strategy development.

The Project “Building Capacity and Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles” was a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Project through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Project has been implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The Project has been supervised by the UNDP Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) and received technical guidance from the Chief Technical Advisor (Johan Robinson - until 2011) and Regional Technical Advisor (Veronica Muthui).

# Evaluation Rating Table

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Ratings:** | | | |
| **1. Monitoring and Evaluation** | ***rating*** | **2. IA** **& EA Execution** | ***rating*** |
| M&E design at entry | S | Quality of UNDP Implementation | S |
| M&E Plan Implementation | S | Quality of Execution - Executing Agency | S |
| Overall quality of M&E | S | Overall quality of Implementation / Execution | S |
| **3. Assessment of Outcomes** | **rating** | **4. Sustainability** | **rating** |
| Relevance | R | Financial resources: | L |
| Effectiveness | MS | Socio-political: | L |
| Efficiency | HS | Institutional framework and governance: | L |
| Overall Project Outcome Rating | MS | Environmental : | L |
|  |  | Overall likelihood of sustainability | ML |

[HS = highly satisfactory, S = satisfactory, MS = moderately satisfactory, L = likely]

[see full details on ratings in Annex 7]

# Summary of Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Based on a careful view of the available information, stakeholder interviews, other consultations, field visits and analysis of output – input correlations, the conclusion is that overall, the project has been a success.

In particular, significant achievements have been reached on:

* Up-dating and improving the enabling legal and policy environment for SLM;
* Preparation and approval of a National Action Plan (NAP);
* Drafting of an Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS);
* Capacity building for extension staff, farmers and land owners in SLM;
* Training of trainers in fire fighting;
* Advancement in developing a dedicated soil testing laboratory in Seychelles;
* Preparation of 15 district-level land use plans;
* SLM now mainstreamed in the activities and policies of key GoS organisations, notably SNPA (Seychelles National Park Authority ) and SAA (Seychelles Agriculture Agency).

However, the project suffered from:

* Human resource issues;
* Problems securing the funds for Component 3 from the Global Mechanism (GM), with the direct affect of delaying the start of work on Component 4, resulting in certain of the Outputs not being completed;
* Lack of an established baseline or final monitoring for some targets;
* Lack of an up-to-date forest inventory;
* Issues regarding the focus of the land use planning activities;
* Persistent poor levels of understanding of SLM.

A number of issues delayed project implementation and **lessons** must be **learned**, for example in ensuring that administrative delays can be avoided, or at least more rapidly overcome. The most damaging to the project was the delay in securing the funding for Component 3 from the Global Mechanism – which prevented completion of Component 4.

There were also human resources issues from which lessons can be learned for the design of future projects in Seychelles and other SIDS (Small Island Developing States). The project design involved a large number of field / technical studies and did not seem to consider the availability and / or expertise available among national consultants. UNDP also faced problems recruiting and retaining an appropriately skilled project manager, again due to the limited pool of suitably skilled personnel in Seychelles.

As part of the project, a questionnaire survey was designed and implemented to collate information about the knowledge and use of SLM among farmers. This was poorly designed and there were some serious short-comings in the survey methodology, which had the then Project Manager (PM) been knowledgeable in SLM this could have been identified and resolved before it was used. This was a missed opportunity – ideally a well-designed questionnaire survey could have been implemented at baseline to guide activities towards the project Outcomes, then again at project closure to quantify the impacts of the project’s training and awareness raising.