

Management Response

Project Title: SEYCHELLES' PROTECTED AREAS FINANCE PROJECT

UNDP PIMS ID: 4656

GEF ID: 5485

Terminal Evaluation Completion Date: 3rd September 2021

Date of Issue of Management Response:

Prepared by: GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit

Contributors: PA finance steering committee

Cleared by: GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit, UNDP Country Office Seychelles, Project Steering Committee

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 1. Ensuring (necessary) final project results achievement				
1.1 SeyCCAT and MSP process to finalize the outstanding items of this project, including most notably the Financing Plan updating and the solutions there-in (including revisiting the WTP and PES), the biodiversity economic valuation study.				
Management response: ¹				
Fully Accept. The Management fully agrees with this recommendation and note that a) is duly directed to SEYCCAT and the SMSP process for the update of the Financing Plan and the economic valuation study. The management also notes that both organizations have been able to leverage funding for the same. b) Additionally work is being undertaken under SWIOFISH3 for Blue carbon assessment for mangroves and Evaluation of Ecosystem Goods and Services for Seychelles' Protected Area System under SMSP. The project is also exploring whether biodiversity economic study will be undertaken under GEF7 projects.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking ²	
			Comments	Status ³
a) Updating the Financing plan(containing financial solutions)	By Dec 2021	MACCE (SeyCCAT and SMSP*)	Funding secured by SeyCCAT activity planned for 2021 PAF Project facilitated TOR development	initiated
b) Concluding biodiversity economic valuation study	By May 2022	MACCE/SWIOFISH3	Blue Carbon Assessment for Mangrove	Initiated

¹Select one: Fully Accept, Partially Accept, Reject

²Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC).

³Select one: Not initiated, Initiated, Completed, Completed, No longer applicable

* SMSP is an initiative being led by GoS

	By 2021	MACCE/SMSP/TNC	Systems in Seychelles Evaluation of Ecosystem Goods and Services for Seychelles' Protected Area System(SwioFish3 funded)	Initiated
	By 2021	PCU	Project proposing to include ecosystem evaluation study to consultant developing GEF7 project and pitched for the uptake of the TEMPA study explored under project	Initiated
<p>Terminal Evaluation recommendation 1. Ensuring (necessary) final project results achievement</p> <p>1.2 Maximise institutional coordination between SeyCCAT, MSP, Biodiversity Finance Unit, Blue Economy GEF-7 Project, Climate Finance to drive project results and build stronger financing for protected areas (also linked to ecosystem resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Management response: Fully accepted. The BioFin Unit with MACCE is intended to have an over-arching role in terms of coordinating all biodiversity related projects in the Seychelles (including financial solutions identified in the BFP), and mainstreaming all such projects into Seychelles' economic planning and annual budgetary processes. However, at present the BFU is understaffed (only 1 staff position has been funded) and has an inadequate level of capacity to implement its mandate. The upcoming GEF7 project proposes to support the BFU to undertake this mandate.</p>				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
a) Project Support to build up capacity of the BFU unit	Ongoing- GEF7 project being developed	MACCE- BioFin Unit (BFU), support from GEF7	GEF7 project to build The capacities of BFU to support the implementation of Seychelles'	Initiated

			Biodiversity Finance Plan.	
b) SeyCCATs Fundraising and partnership manager to support BFU unit	2021	SeyCCAT	SeyCCAT to work with BFU to build capacity and to work together in a more complementary way for the next two years.	Not initiated (however currently there are ongoing preliminary discussions)
Terminal Evaluation recommendation 1. Ensuring (necessary) final project results achievement				
1.3 Finalise the institutional assessment of the SPGA and drive project results achieved for SNPA, maintain and build on infrastructural, structural and capacity support built by project				
Management response: Fully Accepted.				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
a) Finalise the institutional assessment support	Completed in July 2021	SPGA/PCU		completed
b) Handover of SNPA output to SPGA CEO	Completed in September 2021	PAF project		completed

<p>Terminal Evaluation recommendation 2. Sustaining and further catalyzing results for Theory of Change impact</p> <p>2.1 Develop information dissemination strategy to share best practices (and generally more in terms of overall GEF spending and results achievement under projects developed), integrate PCU and GEF work more strategically into the work programme of MACCE</p>				
<p>Management response: Fully accepted, MACCE to ensure that sufficient importance is given from project development and implementation. Given number of active projects being run from PCU, MACCE is currently reassessing the role and future of PCU.</p>				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
MACCE to reassess role and future of PCU and ensure adequate attention on coordination and information dissemination is included in project from inception	ongoing	MACCE, UNDP and PCU		initiated
<p>Terminal Evaluation recommendation 2. Sustaining and further catalyzing results for Theory of Change impact</p> <p>2.2 Partnerships for enhanced resilience Build coordination and partnership for enhanced resilience and mutual supportive environment. System fragmentation will risk system resilience and needs to be dealt with.</p> <p>(1) Use Advisory Board (from 2018) platform under the Nature Reserve and Conservancy Bill</p>				
<p>Management response: Fully accepted. Action still within drafted Bill.</p>				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
Ensure advisory board platform still under latest version of the Nature Reserve and conservancy Bill	ongoing	MACCE as leader & Project partners.	MACCE to inform date that bill will be passed	initiated

(2) Bring in external expertise on depth facilitation/conflict resolution in the set up and the first focus of the meetings to deal with recurrent barriers to moving forward that only depth facilitation processes will have a chance to resolve.

Management response: partially accepted. There are some provisions within the nature reserve bill, but it may take longer to actually realize the in depth facilitation process as roles and responsibility still needs to be defined

a) Activity to be considered for GEF7 project development	Completed	PCU	Proposals have been shared with consultant developing GEF7 project	initiated
b) Define the roles and responsibilities as needed within the provisions of the Nature Reserve Bill to ensure a depth facilitation/conflict resolution mechanism		MACCE, SMSP?	Activity may be considered for implementation of the SMSP	

(3) At project level, any project that includes partnerships for the entire system, an umbrella agreement could be signed by all partners agreeing to mutual cooperation and support toward the system before individual agreements are taken forward

Management response: partially accepted with reservations. SMSP process may incorporate such an agreement towards a PA system approach. MOUs may be explored for standardization, but need not be legally binding. Furthermore partners capacities are at different levels so other avenues will need to be explored

a) Concept to be considered by MACCE(e.g. moving forward with the implementation phase of the SMSP initiative)		MACCE	Feasibility and practicality of such approach needs to be further explored	Not initiated
b) Draft standardized MOUs for possible future applications prior to project implementation		MACCE	To be discussed with other partners	To be initiated in 2022

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 2. Sustaining and further catalysing results for Theory of Change impact

2.3 Make nature’s value visible in the economic agenda

(1) Integration of Natural Capital Accounting in the National System of Accounts (through consultative discussions with NSA and UNDSA) (international technical and financial support option through UNDSA)

Management response: Management does not fully accept this recommendation although the merit of this recommendation is acknowledged. The main constraint is the capacities of national bodies such as the National Bureau of Statistics and other relevant bodies to integrate environmental valuation into the National System of Accounts. Management could not fully agree on a decision until these were discussed with other agencies.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
a) Discussion with NBS, MFTEP, CBS and MACCE to further discuss the potential for data collection and integration of Natural Capital Accounting	In 2022	UNDP/MACCE can engage with Statistics Office, liaise with international partners through UN like UNDSA and UNEP	main concern is the amount of resources available at National Bureau of Statistics and opportunity to connect	Not initiated
b) BioFin should have already initiated such activity, outcomes can be expended and shared as part of BFU objectives		UNDP/MACCE(BFU)		Not initiated

(2) Conduct case-study of economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in two sectors that the government is focusing on under its economic diversification plan of the IMF reform, namely fisheries and agriculture, and then through tourism (depending on necessity building on MSP economic valuation study) (international technical and financial support option through UNEP The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Office).

Some of this could form part of existing work, and other under new work (external support to set this up is very likely, e.g. Natural Capital Accounting through United Nations Statistics Division –

already some work has been done here for SEEA accounts for fisheries with the National Statistics Office in Seychelles in 2016, through the TEEB Office in UNEP links could be made for accounting, as well as for case studies (e.g. TEEB AgriFood for agriculture), all of which would strongly support re-financing for protected areas as a system.

Management response: Management does not fully accept this recommendation although the merit of this recommendation is acknowledged. The main constraint is the capacities of national bodies and other relevant bodies, discussions to conduct case studies will need to be had with the various sectors.

a) Depending on findings of the SMSP costing and financing option exercise for implementation, this activity can be further explored		MACCE (SMSP), SeyCCAT?	Activity may be funded by SeyCCAT	Not Initiated
b) Activity to be presented to NBS to understand feasibility		UNDP/MACCE can engage with Statistics Office, liaise with international partners through UN like UNDSA and UNEP	main concern is the amount of resources available at National Bureau of Statistics and opportunity to connect	Not initiated