



Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme

GEF-SGP Country Programme Strategy

Fifth Operational Phase 2011 - 2014

Republic of Seychelles

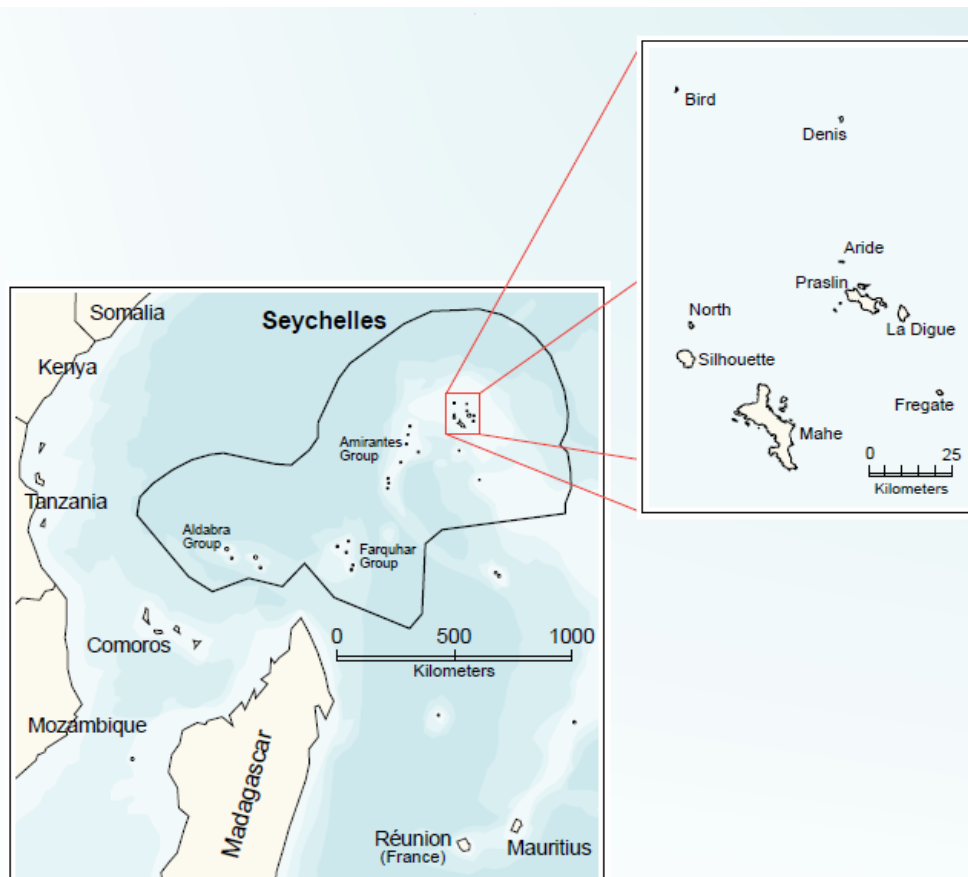


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List of acronyms and abbreviations

BC	Biodiversity Conservation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CC	Climate Change
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPS	Environment Management Plan of Seychelles 2000-2010
FSPs	Full Size Projects
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF SGP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
GoS	Government of Seychelles
HDI	Human Development Index
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IW	International Waters
LD	Land Degradation
MSPs	Medium Size Projects
FSPs	Full Size Projects
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RBMA	Results Based Management Approach
RM	Resource Mobilisation
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2011-2020
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Conference on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

SEYCHELLES SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES
Resources to be invested: US\$1,200,000¹

1. SGP country programme - summary background

1.1 Country background

The Seychelles archipelago comprises of 115 coralline and granitic islands dispersed over 1.3 million square km of Southern Indian Ocean. It boasts a coastline of 747 km with 1,690 km of coral reefs and 29 km² of mangroves. The climate is tropical with average annual rainfall exceeding 1000 mm and average temperature of 26°C. The four (4) largest islands, Mahe, Praslin, La Digue and Silhouette, provide a home to 95% of the population of 86,000 Seychellois.

In 2011 the Seychelles was ranked 52nd on UNDP's Human Development Index². This high rank is due in part to life expectancy of 66.2 years (male) and 76.1 years (female), primary school enrolment ratio of 100% for both boys and girls, adult literacy rate of 92% (both men and women), population growth of 1%, and a real per capita GDP in 2010 of over US\$18,000. In 2009 this position has changed to 57th with a lower per capita GDP of US\$ 16,394.

However, this does not reflect the economic woes brought about by unsustainably high international debt at 125% of GDP, high inflation and large financing gaps. In July 2008, the government defaulted on a Euro amortizing note worth roughly US\$80 million, leading to a downgrading of Seychelles credit rating by Standard and Poors to "SD" (selective default) category. Seychelles requested an International Monetary Fund (IMF) Stand-By Arrangement in November 2008 and in 2010, the IMF approved the Extended Loan Facility for an additional 3 years as the country embarked on wide range structural fiscal and monetary economic reforms, including the floatation of the local currency, the Seychelles Rupee (SCR). Severe fluctuations in the value of the Rupee continue: from a massive depreciation of 50% to the US dollar in November 2008, from 1:8 to 1:16, after 2 years of appreciation to SCR10 to the dollar, it is now back on depreciation slide. Currently the rate is almost SCR14:1\$.

Tourism and fisheries are two of the main pillars of the country's economy. Both sectors contribute over 40 percent towards the Gross National Product with tourism leading economic growth. However, the ongoing global financial crisis and the intense European

¹ The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing

² HDR 20010/2011

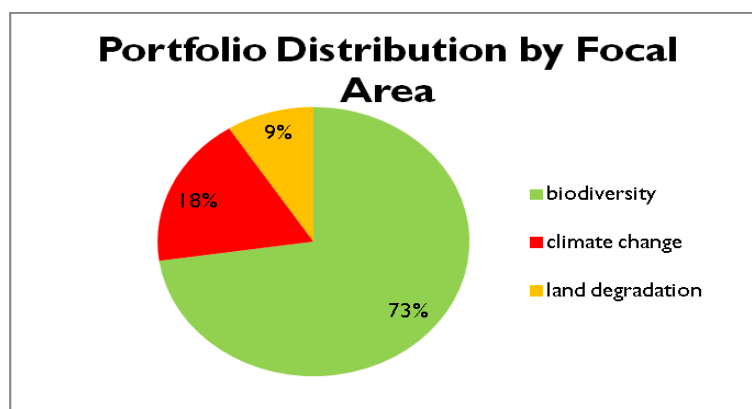
crisis is affecting tourism figures as Europe constitutes the major share of the tourism market. The unfavourable exchange rate between euro and the US dollar does not help the trade balance sheets as the decreasing receipts in Euros fail to match importation costs in US dollars. The new threat of pirates in the Indian Ocean and increasing activity in the Seychelles territorial waters is showing a marked effect in reduced landed catch from purse seiners, lower revenue from port activities as seiners and cruise ships avoid the Seychelles ports.

Traditional fishermen have had to abandon the more lucrative fishing grounds found further ashore leading to lower catches and less fish on the local market and so higher prices for residents. These may have effects on the poverty indicators.

1.1 Country Programme background

The Seychelles SGP was approved in the GEF Council meeting of June 2007 and after a two-year delay, the NC was appointed in 2009. The Programme was formally launched in August 2010 with the signing of its first 5 projects. Since then, it has approved another 5 projects till the end of OP4 in December 2010.

Figure 1. Projects' distribution among focal areas and level of co-financing during OP4



No of Projects	GEF-SGP Funding	Co-financing		Total
		Cash	In-kind	
10	490,062	172,333	105,508	277,841=

1.2 Resource mobilization

As a new programme coming in the last year of the 4th Operational Phase, SGP worked to approve as many projects from qualified NGOs while at the same time reaching out to non-environmental NGOs. This approach was successful in obtaining all environment NGOs to submit project proposals.

At project level using a differential approach to requirements of co-financing, the NSC decided to enforce a higher contribution from established NGOs, and lower contribution level from newly formed CBOs/NGOs. The reason for this was to encourage the participation of newer groups in international donor funded programmes. In GEF4 SGP

Seychelles committed \$490,000 and raised an additional \$277,841 in cash and in-kind co-financing.

In GEF 5, Seychelles is classified as a Category 1 programme with an allocation of \$1.2 million. SGP will continue with the same approach while making the main thrust of the country programme strategy to mobilize community groups to tackle environment problems at community level by assisting groups with putting in the required structures to enable access to SGP grants.

This might sound a simple task: however the constraints for a country which has had over 30 years of socialist rule where all responsibilities for the welfare were undertaken solely by the state with minimal personal effort are extensive. This has created an inherent lethargy in communities with little incentives to take responsibility and tackle the basic problems they face. To further complicate the situation, following this period, there has been a rapid transition to a well developed market system with little time for adjustment between far left socialism and adapted capitalism. This has brought about a paradigm shift as the rapid monetization of the economy has not boosted civil society involvement in voluntary activities. It is thus an uphill battle for SGP to work with those same communities to convince them of their own abilities and responsibilities to undertake community projects on a voluntary basis.

The CPS will aim at educating the potential partners and donors, be it international or local, as to how the Small Grants Programme works and its approaches, requirements and its niche, as well as its aims and objectives and the importance of the potential roles they can play in achieving these results. Local partners like NGOs will be targeted with particular focus on reaching out to small and vulnerable communities and showing how their contributions, however small, can have an impact on the Country development programme

2. SGP country programme niche

As much as a host of conventions have been signed and ratified by Seychelles, all influencing national policies in environment management, the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles, make provisions for an individual's right to a clean and ecologically-balanced environment; it also makes it the State's duty to preserve, protect and improve the environment under Article 38. It is also recognized that it is the legislative duty of every citizen of Seychelles to protect, preserve and improve the environment under article 40(e). This basic right will be reinforced by contributions of all SGP projects which will strive to support to the conventions the country has signed as listed below.

Here follows the list of environment related conventions signed and ratified by the Seychelles:

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1992
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	1998

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1992
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st - 2000, 2 nd - 2011
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	-
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1997
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2011
Stockholm Convention (SC)	17 Feb 2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2005
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	Not Applicable
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2005
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Not undertaken
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	-

2.1 During the last 2 years of implementation of the last Country Programme Strategy, the NSC noted in its last annual review, the SGP constraints in getting more projects approved, and more funds committed and disbursed to local communities are as follows:

- 1 – Nascent NGO sector in the Seychelles
- 2 – Increase access of communities to SGP funding
- 3 - Difficulty in developing and writing good project proposals;

GEF SGP will use OP5 resources to facilitate and engage with Government to open up activities for implementation by NGOs by maintaining a constant level of advocacy in national fora, and a higher level of individual meetings with Government officials. This ‘opening’ up of activities will be both by assisting in the provision of an enabling environment and working with Government in sensitive areas to obtain permission. Such an area will be in the focal area of chemicals management. This is particularly important as Seychelles was a centrally ran economy for over 30 years with little scope for civil society participation. Building understanding and trust in sensitive areas where the NGO community can contribute to achieving of Government initiatives, national policies are pre-requisites for the success of the country programme. This will be undertaken over the course of GEF 5 by making effective use of:

UNDP Resident Coordination Functions: During the UNDP Resident Representative missions to the Seychelles islands, the UNDP RR normally meets with key government officials including Ministers. It is through these meetings that the UNDP RR will advocate on behalf of GEF SGP.

Government representatives on NSC: This is represented by two entities listed below:

- **Department of Environment** in provision of technical support in SGP projects

- Community Development, by seeking the buy-in of the Minister for Community Development for replication of SGP projects in small communities or ‘kanton’ with the facilitation of the District Administrators offices.
- GEF Focal Points: greater participation in raising GEF profile in the country through the media, in facilitating the participation of other Government agencies and ministries at an operational level and get political buy-in from all stakeholders

One particular case worth elaborating on is the thematic area of Chemicals, previously known as POPs. The National implementation plan of the POPs, although completed by Government of Seychelles with the assistance of UNIDO in 2004 has not been implemented in any part, despite the Government’s best intentions. This has been largely due to limited human resources. The GEF SGP country programme is proposing to use its resources to facilitate and support the implementation of some parts of NIP for POPs suitable and within the capacities of NGO and CBO’s in the country. Discussions with particular NGOs have been ongoing for the past 2 years with very little success. The NSC has agreed and advised the intention within this operational phase, to approach a number of NGOs to work in consortia. This might address some of the capacity gaps in project management but not necessarily lack of capacity in the subject matter. It is also the intention to encourage closer networking of local NGOs with appropriate international networks. For chemicals, discussions have taken place with representatives of the IPEN network which will aim to build capacity remotely. Combined, this will probably lead to more success in having projects developed in this thematic area.

2.1 Geographical Focus

The geographical focus for CPS of OP4 was the whole of Seychelles as was determined by the stakeholder consultations held in November 2009 which was based on the following criteria:

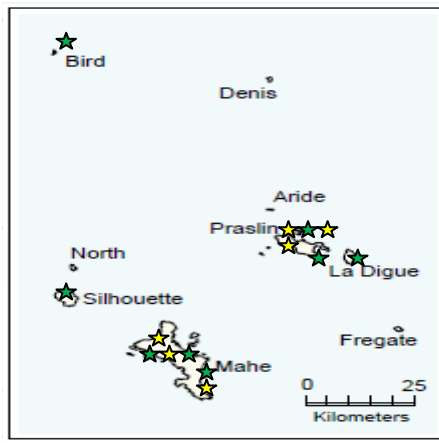
- Participants’ perceptions of the most pressing environmental problems facing Seychelles at this time (stakeholders’ consultative workshop on November 13th 2009)
- Capacity, expertise and activities of currently existing NGOs and CBOs in Seychelles
- Current gaps regarding environmental knowledge or action being addressed
- Suitability for implementation by civil society organizations (rather than government)
- The GEF thematic focal areas
- These were further reinforced in the terminal review of the EMPS 2000-2010 (Environment Management Plan of Seychelles). This review which was lead by an international consultant with the support of a local consultant held extensive consultative workshops, one-on-one meetings, focus groups with all professionals in the environment conservation sector; economics and planning; finance, energy. The extensive national stakeholders involvement in the review was over a period of two years 2010-2011. Recommendations captured the the success, failures of the EMPS

but also defined the process for the development of the new EMPS (the new Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2011-2020) which would guide environment management in the Seychelles over the next 10 years.

Based on documentation of the extensive consultations of the review, having gone through one full year for grant making and experiencing the limited project uptake, the NSC has decided against limiting the geographical focus of SGP. And so it will remain the whole of Seychelles for OP5. This is in line with Government policy with regards to the definition of the Seychelles for coastal zone management where all the islands of Seychelles are considered part of the coastal zone.

During OP4 the concentration of SGP projects were on the islands of Mahe and Praslin, the 2 main island in terms of size and population (represented by yellow stars). It is the intention in OP5 to further build on that to increase impact of the SGP programme, as well as spread the reach of SGP across the smaller inhabited islands' communities. This is represented in Fig 2 as green stars.

Figure 2: locations of SGP projects in the Seychelles



2 SGP Niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities

Seychelles has been involved in biodiversity conservation for over 60 years. This may well be one of the reasons for the rich flora and fauna of global significance. Today biodiversity conservation remains one of the country's priorities and so the Seychelles SGP's programme and portfolio will reflect this. It is the intention of this GEF5 CPS to diversify the portfolio of projects to include not only a national priority but a SIDS priority: climate change mitigation. Other aspects of the Seychelles SGP niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities as applicable above, and the OP5 project objectives for the focal areas, as relevant are outlined in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<p>Conserve and manage terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity to ensure sustainable use and equitable benefits to the people</p> <p><i>SSDS Biodiversity: Goal 1</i></p>	<p>Engage more community groups in sustainable use of economically valuable biodiversity; Nature trails,</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p>Enhanced actions on Finance, Technology Transfer & Capacity building to support action on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p><i>SSDS Climate Change: Goal 1</i></p>	<p>Increase the use of renewable energy sources (solar, biogas) by supporting adoption of sustainable lifestyle choices (car pooling, house building, waste, etc)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p>To promote Sustainable Energy Demand and Supply</p> <p><i>SSDS Climate Change: Goal 1</i></p>	<p>Support reforestation, marine carbon sinks to decrease Seychelles' contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p>	<p>Achieve sustainable forest management using an ecosystem approach which further strengthens its multiple ecosystem services</p> <p><i>SSDS Biodiversity: Goal 1</i></p>	<p>Improve soil conservation practices which enhance food security by enhancing local production & consumption of local/organic food crop</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<p>Develop and implement an integrated approach to management of the coastal zone</p> <p><i>SSDS Land Use, Coastal Zones and Urbanization : Goal 2</i></p>	<p>Improve capacity of local NGOs to participate in regional projects, e.g. monitoring of migratory marine species</p>
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<p>Solid waste is managed in an integrated and environmentally safe manner - Promote safe management of hazardous waste</p> <p><i>SSDS, Water, sanitation and waste management – Goal 3</i></p>	<p>Improved public awareness of sources of POPs and their impacts on human health and the environment</p>

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.</p>	<p>To provide life-long learning experiences to empower all levels of society to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.</p> <p>Promote research in EFS and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all EFS programs and campaigns</p> <p><i>SSDS Education for Sustainability: Goal 1</i></p>	<p>Increase the number of registered CBO's in OP5</p> <p>Enhance and strengthen capacities of community-based organizations which is almost non-existent, to engage in consultative processes, and ensure adequate information flows to local communities.</p>
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<p>Reinforcing gender balance, encourage alternative livelihoods</p>	<p>All projects strengthened with income generating components while ensuring gender balance.</p>

3. Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP

3.1 Capacity Development

Capacity development has been given top priority in SGP OP5 with funds available for one capacity building grant of up to \$50,000. SGP Seychelles will make use of this grant to enhance and strengthen the capacities of community-based organizations to engage in national consultative processes, such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for large infrastructural developments, since this is a contentious issue which has a direct impact on the local environment and local communities. Another topical issue that the capacity development grant will address is that of Seychelles' failure to meet its reporting obligations under the numerous conventions it has signed and ratified, and how CBOs can support the process.

In a more general context, the country programme will put particular emphasis on capacity building in small NGO's and community-based organizations as these are under-developed in the Seychelles. This will be done by regional standalone seminars and others in relation to project proposals development. The country programme will make full use of the SGP Planning Grant facility to develop capacity in CBOs for preparing their project proposals.

It is certain that capacity developed will remain in the civil society sector because people volunteering their time and effort in NGO activities tend to be on hand to offer their services to their own or other NGOs as necessary. It is also clear that the country programme will have to start small, concentrating in making a few demonstration projects a success. It is only once we have visible success that the programme will be able to convince other CBOs to take part in the capacity development for their own sub-districts. Again, it will be the success of individual projects, and communication of those success to the national media that other CBOs will be convinced of local benefits with long term improvement in their livelihoods.

3.2 Poverty reduction

Seychelles enjoys a high living standard; however with the IMF-led economic reforms patches of poverty have been noted. It is unfortunate that Seychelles is only now getting technical assistance from UNDP to establish a poverty monitoring system with the National Statistics Bureau and Welfare Agency. This system will eventually provide disaggregated data on poverty, which is sorely lacking at present. Poverty is a sensitive issue in the Seychelles and carries political connotations. As such it needs to be handled carefully - The SGP programme will address this cross cutting theme through income generation initiatives within its portfolio. From the above mentioned limitations, the SGP programme aims to have at least 50% of approved projects to have an income generating component with the aim of long term sustainability of the project and increasing incomes of project beneficiaries.

3.3 Gender:

Women and men in Seychelles enjoy full economic, political and civil rights. Seychelles is among the top countries in the SADC region to have met targets for women representation at all decision making levels. Currently there are 35 percent women in the National Assembly, 15 percent at ministerial level and 45 percent at chief executive and middle management levels. However, the low capacity of institutions with responsibility for gender mainstreaming continues to hamper efforts aimed at achieving gender parity. Other constraints are more reliable national statistics, lack of sex disaggregated data, gender difference, economic areas and sharing parental responsibilities.

The SGP in preparation and reviewing of the projects will strive to bring about positive results by a two-fold approach:

1. The voluntary NSC members are trained in national gender issues, making a direct link between gender and global environmental benefits. They in turn will put the same message out in their respective sectors and this will have an exponential effect in the communities they live, work and influence.
2. In preparation, review and monitor the implementation of projects the country programme seeks to raise awareness of the uniqueness of the Seychelles gender issue and educate communities on ways of reinforcing gender balance in the field of environment protection.

4. OP5 Country Outcomes, Indicators and Activities

Table 3. Results Framework

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes, and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<p>2.1 Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes/seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations</p> <p>2.2 increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<p><i>Hectares of production landscapes/seascapes applying sustainable use practices</i></p> <p><i>Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status</i></p> <p><i>Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with improved or maintained conservation status</i></p>	<p><i>Project reports, SGP Global database, site visit form</i></p>	<p>13</p>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Climate Change: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<p>3.1 Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level</p>	<p><i>Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Renewable energy measure</i> • <i>Energy efficiency measure</i> <p><i>.Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies</i></p>	<p><i>SGP Database, project reports, national reports</i></p>	<p>2</p>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Climate Change: support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<p><i>5.1 Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest types</i></p> <p><i>5.2 restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forests land</i></p>	<p><i>Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices.</i></p> <p><i>Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices</i></p>	<p><i>National report, project reports, SGP Database</i></p>	<p>2</p>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Land Degradation: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<p><i>6.1 Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro and forest ecosystems and ecosystem functionality</i></p>	<p><i>Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices.</i></p> <p><i>Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated</i></p> <p><i>Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices</i></p>	<p><i>National report, project reports, GEF FSP reports, SGP Database</i></p>	<p>2</p>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: International Waters: support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<p><i>8.1 Effective and climate resilient</i></p>	<p><i>Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed</i></p>	<p><i>National report, project reports, SGP Database</i></p>	<p>3</p>

<i>community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated</i>	<i>sustainably Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided</i>		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Chemicals: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<i>Improved community level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally friendly sound manner and mitigate environmental contamination</i>	<i>Tonnes of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release</i>	<i>National report, project reports, SGP Database</i>	<i>2</i>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Capacity Development: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities (No of Projects)
<i>10.3 Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environment issues 10.4 Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions</i>	<i>Quantity and quality of SGP knowledge base, and use of knowledge base; quantity and quality of contributions to knowledge fairs, conferences, publications and research</i>	<i>See section 5 below</i>	<i>1</i>

5. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation are different but overlapping processes that allow for the maintenance of financial accountability, sustainability, allow for replicability, and provide opportunities for eliciting and communicating lessons learnt during implementation. GEF SGP firmly believes in participative monitoring and evaluation and sees it as a process which enables capacity building, understanding and application of lessons learnt. M & E will be done at two levels which feed into one another: project level and programme level.

5.1 Project Level

Monitoring allows all stakeholders to monitor and keep track of project activities during the life of the project. The periodic collection and analysis of data, by means of site visits, interviews etc, serves the purpose of ensuring that each project is achieving its objectives and also gives early warning if corrective actions are required to improve efficiency of the project.

The Seychelles CPS will seek to have each approved project contain an agreed Monitoring and Evaluation plan which will be useful so that from the outset, all participants in the project are made aware of their responsibility for monitoring which will increase community ownership of the projects. A good M& E Plan requires smart indicators based on sound and quantifiable baselines. The Seychelles CPS recognizes that obtaining good baseline information may be problematic for some community groups. As such, the CPS will consider proposals with M&E inbuilt into them as a preliminary project activity or may be part of the planning grant activities, as allowed by GEF SGP.

There will be a minimum of 2 monitoring visit and a final evaluation visit at the end of the project. In many cases, the initial monitoring visit will be timed to coincide with the first progress report, to evaluate and show inadequate progress, improper use of funds, etc one or two additional monitoring visits will be made to ensure corrective actions are undertaken and project is back on approved track.

5.2 Stakeholders Participation.

A participative monitoring programme is favoured by the GEF SGP stakeholders of Seychelles as it allows the participants themselves to assess and voice their perception of the impact of the project on the community itself, and the immediate environment. It also allows discussions which broaden the impact by showing the connection of the project to global environment benefits in the GEF thematic focal area.

Method: Project implementers and their partners will decide among themselves a group combining both to be present on site visits at monthly intervals during project implementation. And once or twice a year NSC Members will accompany the NC on official monitoring visit which will coincide with reporting/disbursement schedule.

NSC, which represents a broad range of SGP stakeholders: Government & NGO, will participate in monitoring visits with all Members, or selected few depending on Member's interest/expertise and availability/costs of transportation.

Data collected will be written on the standard SGP Site visit monitoring Form which is simple and captures salient information. Other information to corroborate the ones in the forms will be available in project progress reports. NC interviews with project partners will be transcribed and a copy given to Grantee for their records. The country programme aims at obtaining copies of all news reports from national television and radio, featuring SGP projects. This will serve as a national media databank documenting progress of the project as well as dissemination for outreach purposes by project implementers. The country programme will keep these as a record of project outputs and will be used to promote SGP nationally collate and this will serve as a powerful communication tool at knowledge fairs of SGP projects.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection ³	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i> ⁴)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

5.3 Programme Level

Given that Seychelles is relatively small in size, and that most projects are expected to be on the four main residential islands of Mahe, Praslin La Digue and Silhouette, the National Coordinator and selected members of the NSC and stakeholder ships shall visit each project after receipt of first progress report and before approving the second disbursement of funds. This is to ensure project funds are being used as planned, undertake trouble shooting and

³ Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

⁴ To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

provide onsite advise as well as verifying that projects are indeed achieving expected results. For projects on the main island of Mahe where the NC is based, it is expected that the NC will visit project sites and project activities more frequently and on a regular basis. This will serve not only as monitoring but will show a continual engagement with the community groups which will contribute in maintaining a high level of mobilization of project partners.

Synergies will be sought and harnessed with other donors running programmes in areas, such as the IUCN Mangroves For the Future (MFF), the larger GEF projects and site visits taken at the same time, as much as possible so as to reduce M&E costs at programme level, and act as capacity building for the NC; while at the same time, building networking alliances among practitioners.

Project and site visit reports will be fed into the SGP database, ATLAS payment systems, quarterly 4-in1 financial reports, the NC annual Performance and Review Assessment, the Country Programme Review: all of which are used by the Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) to monitor and assess the country programme’s financial accountability and the portfolio of projects.

This approach is preferred by the Seychelles and is fully described in this CPS. The Seychelles CPS will seek project proposals that will provide for at least one outreach material to be produced at the end of the project, demonstrating the expected impact of the project after closure. Dissemination will be encouraged within the project itself at half-yearly intervals to coincide with public awareness activities/for a both of the project and to the wider community. This will be achieved through a final dissemination workshop/field activity which will involve national media. The result will be collated and at programme evaluation, this will be disseminated at national level via national fora as organized by appropriate ministries of Government, and the GEF SGP itself.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum four per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ⁵	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

⁵ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

6 Knowledge Management Plan

The objective of SGP's Knowledge Management efforts is to replicate good practices by building on lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects. Knowledge at project level will be collated on a continuous basis as monitoring of the project takes place through interviews with grantees and project partners. These are captured in progress reports, site monitoring reports and end of project evaluation report.

Tacit knowledge will be turned into explicit knowledge material which will be shared with all project partners through leaflets and other outreach material to be developed by the project participants themselves, and under SGP operational budget. All projects will be encouraged to plan for a dissemination workshop/seminar at the end of the project – that gives grantees opportunity to present their lessons learnt. This also serves as capacity building for the grantees in organizing, delivering and presenting to a national stakeholder group. This will then feed into national fora e.g. the environment management framework, the SSDS where NGOs and government are represented.

The Seychelles SGP plan for knowledge management and communication are through:

- Seychelles SGP Projects Factsheet – this gives a quick overview of all SGP Seychelles projects, their status of implementation and is to be shared to all stakeholders.
- SGP Newsletter – half yearly update on SGP Programme news; project articles, lessons learnt.
- SGP web page – Operational Phase 5 will see the development of SGP web page where all projects information will be displayed. All SGP application forms will also be uploaded for ease of reference.

6.1 Knowledge Fair Grant

GEF 5 has made available one grant of up to \$50,000 for the specific purpose of funding the planning, organizing of knowledge fairs which will promote grantee projects at programme level. This grant will be awarded on the same basis as the general guidelines of normal project application. Given the small number of active NGOs with the appropriate capacity in the Seychelles to undertake this grant, CPMT authorization will be sought to allow for waiver of some qualifying criteria to allow better wider access to more NGO or CBO groups. The knowledge fairs will also allow better networking between SGP grantees as they come together to display their project achievements.

A number of considerations need to be taken into account for this grant to be most effective: the size of the event and the timing:

- is a one off knowledge fair more effective than a number of small mini-fairs?
- Timing: at the start of the operational phase or at the end?
- to coincide with a national event when there are crowds of public already mobilized?
- or a dedicated event for SGP Fair which focuses on SGP and does not dilute effectiveness of SGP in larger national events.

In order to avoid the disadvantages of both, the Seychelles country programme will hold 2 fairs, instead of one due to the small number of projects to start with:

- 1 To coincide with a national event in the middle of the operational phase in 2012. This will allow projects approved in the first cycle to display their achievements. Although small, this will serve the purpose of raising awareness of SGP at national level, and hopefully convince other communities of what they can do to help themselves.
- 2 In a dedicated event at the end of the operational phase in 2014 – this will be a bigger event with an additional 30 projects being represented.

National media reports, grantee satisfaction surveys, public surveys will all be compiled for the use of CPMT in promoting SGP achievements at global level and international donors' fora.

6.2 Use of Knowledge to inform and influence policy

The Environment Management Plan EMPS 2000-2010 was the principal mechanism for addressing national and international environmental concerns with the goal 'the *promotion, coordination and integration of sustainable development programmes that cut across all sectors of society in the Seychelles*. Having been prepared at an end in 2010, the successor to the EMPS is now the Seychelles Sustainability Development Strategy 2011-2020 with a vision to *realise a knowledge-led and innovation-driven approach to sustainable development that guarantees an increasing quality of life inclusive of the natural environment, and achieves balance between the social and economic needs of present and future generations whilst conserving the integrity of the natural capital*. The SSDS will be implemented under the guidance of a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee where civil society, government ministries and implementing agencies are all represented. GEF SGP will use its representation on the steering committee to advocate and influence national policies.

Knowledge generated from SGP projects will be used to inform and proactive attempts made to influence policy at the national level. Key policies which SGP will concentrate on will be include:

Environmental education and awareness targeting communities: Pronouncements from the President of the Republic of Seychelles calling on local communities to take responsibility of coastal areas especially in the face of climate change has provoked a new challenge to the authorities: Communities lack empowerment, skills set or inclination to take on such responsibility which has been traditionally undertaken by Government. SGP Seychelles will use its experience in the country and will call upon other experiences available within the global programme to address these issues and eventually lead in the development of national policies that speaks of tested and proven community initiatives.

Climate change mitigation: Issue of importance to SIDS, especially in the buildup to Rio, SGP will help inform the development of government policy in this through a project approach. Lessons learnt, experience of community groups.

Fisheries sector: SGP will put particular emphasis on empowerment of fishermen which in turn improves interaction with the Seychelles Fishing Authority to give fishers greater participation in decision making in fisheries co-management strategy.

Capacity Development for glass recycling: Addressing the cross cutting themes of capacity development, SGP programme in Seychelles will put together a written document a case consisting of various papers to the Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Social affairs, and eventually the Cabinet of Ministers to address the status of trainees in glass recycling. This topic came to the forefront during the implementation of one of the SGP projects in glass blowing/casting where trainees are not recognized officially on national trainee programmes by Government and thus are not supported financially as trainees in other sectors are. It is hoped this will have a direct impact on the future of glass recycling in the country, and so reduce the amount of glass going to the landfills while increasing capacity issues in a targeted manner.

6.3 Replicating and up-scale good practices and lessons learned from SGP projects.

At the end of the OP5 programme, SGP Seychelles will hold a national dissemination seminar/workshop for all grantees, project participants and partners. Face to face interaction between the different project groups will facilitate knowledge sharing and lead to better or improved project proposals as new proponents learn from existing projects. By the end of the three years of this CPS, it is expected that Seychelles SGP will have established a Knowledge Network for grantees, project participants, registered communities, technical experts, participants from non-GEF funded projects, which will become a forum for the continued exchange of good practice in environmental management in the Seychelles.

Intended beneficiaries include project teams, CPS partners, Government for:

- Analysis of lessons learnt to generate new knowledge
- Dissemination of knowledge products and services through the existing SGP and other national mechanisms
- Knowledge uptake to ensure that knowledge products and services are used and, if necessary, adapted and further improved to suit local conditions

7 Resource Mobilization Plan

Given that Seychelles SGP does not have STAR funds approved for its OP5 operations, the need to match the GEF 1:1 ratio in co-financing requirements may be difficult to achieve. Contributions from partner NGOs will need to be acquired at higher proportions to compensate for this shortfall. The SGP has developed detailed guidelines on how to calculate the in-kind financing and this will be given to all potential grantees which are considering making applications in order to better capture the real cost of in-kind contributions to projects. This is especially important because this is the main contribution by project partners. As in the previous CPS for Seychelles, the NGOs are expected to contribute more than CBOs in their proposed proposals. The co-financing ratios are revised upwards as follows:

- NGO- 50% cash and in kind co-financing
- CBO- 30% cash and in kind co-financing

7.2. Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships will be a priority for the Seychelles country programme to ensure maximum synergy between existing programmes in the Seychelles. It is noted though that as a Net Contributor Country (NCC) for UNDP, the Seychelles has no core resources for UNDP track funds, and only one UN agency is present onsite, the World Health Organization.. Other financial institutions like the World Bank, pulled out of the country some 20 years ago and are only back in support of macro-economic reforms and do not support programmatic activities. Given the size of Seychelles and high costs of operation, almost all bilateral donors are based and operating from Mauritius or Kenya with only the British, French and Chinese having a nucleus unit present in Seychelles. Efforts will be made to form closer partnerships with resident partners and engage further with the Australian, and American embassies within the country.

Possibility however exists for partnerships with large public companies with local operations in the country such as Barclays Bank, Cable & Wireless, Seychelles Breweries and etc. to take advantage of their corporate social responsibility policies in which possibilities of collaborations could be found. The challenge with these partnerships in the local context remains the mode of implementation which ensures that each donor receives exclusive recognition for their activities in a small market like in Seychelles. Clear operational modalities that handle this uniqueness will be exhaustively discussed and agreed by all parties in lieu to preparing the agreements of engagements.

Annex 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

The following represent the core set of project level indicators for OP5:

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs ○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably ○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal ○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately ○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release
Community Based Adaptation (CBA)	
CBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of households, businesses engaged in vulnerability reduction or adaptive capacity development activities, as a proportion of households in the community or region targeted by the project. ○ Percent change in stakeholders' behaviors utilizing adjusted practices or resources for managing climate change risks. ○ Number of beneficiaries of project receiving training in implementation of specific adaptation measures or decision-support tools

SGP OP5 results indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of CBA “lessons learned” from the project
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment	
Cross-cutting	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) ○ Number of days of food shortage reduced ○ Number of increased student days participating in schools ○ Number of households who get access to clean drinking water ○ Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) ○ Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). <p>Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered ○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported ○ Number of women-led projects supported ○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place

ANNEX 2

Map showing the whole of Seychelles as the Geographical focus of the SGP in OP5.

