

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel



The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility (Version 5)

STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF)

Date of screening: 22 January 2010

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Brian Huntley

I. PIF Information

Full size project **GEF Trust Fund**

GEF PROJECT ID: 3925 **PROJECT DURATION:** 48 months

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 4190

COUNTRY: Seychelles

PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening Seychelles' Protected Area System through NGO Management modalities

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Government of Seychelles (Department of Environment; National Parks Authority) and national NGOs: Nature Seychelles, Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles, Seychelles Islands Foundation, Green Islands Foundation, Island Conservation Society

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS: SO1: SP2 + SP3

II. STAP Advisory Response (*see table below for explanation*)

1. Based on this PIF screening, STAP's advisory response to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency:
Minor revision required

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. STAP welcomes this proposal to update the legislative basis for protected areas in Seychelles and put them on a more sustainable financial footing. STAP requests minor revision to address concerns about possible site selection bias confounding efforts to evaluate the impact of the interventions, if any.
3. STAP is currently undertaking an analysis of the evidence base for the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) for biodiversity objectives inside and outside MPAs. The outcome of this study will be available in 2010 and will be provided to UNDP to inform the development of the full project document.
4. The PIF notes that dozens of islands could potentially be added to the protected area network in the future. This presents an opportunity for the project's monitoring and evaluation framework to incorporate an experimental project design which compares islands included in the project interventions with similar islands that are currently excluded. STAP is willing to advise UNDP on appropriate designs which would establish the efficacy of the proposed interventions, including an assessment of whether the environmental pressures are simply displaced from protected to non-protected areas. Even if long-term impacts cannot be assessed within the four-year project it could still establish a baseline for long-term planning and future interventions. STAP's advisory document on experimental project will be available in 2010¹.
5. Minor points include:
 - a. Component 3, page 2: Is there an existing METT score for the proposed new PA? If it doesn't exist yet and the METT score is zero, a 15% increase is not meaningful, perhaps the target could be a benchmark equivalent to, or 15% better than the average METT score of PAs in Seychelles.
 - b. Paragraph 3, footnote: Note that whale sharks are not generally considered to be cetaceans.

¹ See also <http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/technicalworkshops/MFA/ExpDesign>.