



ADAPTATION FUND

Project Completion Summary

In accordance with the project agreement, implementing entities are required to submit a project completion report within six (6) months after Project completion, and the final project progress report (PPR) is considered as a project completion report. While the PPRs meet technical requirements, the information is reported by year and its format is not ideal to convey the overall information and knowledge to wider and more general audiences. To supplement this, implementing entities are requested to prepare a project completion summary.

A project completion summary is intended to cover an entire project life in a reader friendly format by compiling submitted single-year PPRs. It also gives implementing entities an opportunity to express and share insights from project implementation, findings, challenges etc. which may not be presented by PPRs and captured by a final evaluation report.

A project completion summary consists of narrative information (Section A) and financial information (Section B). Any other information (Section C) can be added to the report as an option. Most of the contents can be filled in by copy-and-paste from the submitted PPRs. The completion report should be no more than 20 pages (excluding annexes).



ADAPTATION FUND

Project Completion Summary

Section A: Project result and performance

1. Basic information

Title of project/Programme	Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles
Project/Programme category	Ecosystems/ Nature Based Solutions/ Climate Change Adaptation
Project period (if the project was granted an extension, include the original as well as the revised completion date)	6 years October 2014- Sept 2021 Revised Completion Date March 2022 (5 months extension requested due to Covid-19) <i>In May 2019, a project extension was requested as the project duration had been understood to be 6 years at the time of Project Signature, but the system had recorded it until 2019. Technically two extensions were requested – one to address the initial discrepancy in project duration and one for Covid-19.</i>
Country(ies)	Seychelles
Sector(s)	<u>Agriculture/ Climate Change/ Biodiversity/ Environment/ Water</u>
Implementing entity name	<u>United Nations Development Programme</u>
Type of implementing entity (MIE, NIE or RIE)	<u>MIE</u>
Executing entity(ies)	<u>Programme Coordination Unit (Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment)</u>
Amount of financing approved (USD)	\$ 5,950,000 (in U.S. Dollars Equivalent)
Project contact(s)	<u>Oksana Vovk: oksana.vovk@undp.org</u> <u>Penny Stock: penny.stock@undp.org</u>
Date of report	<u>15th Aug 2022</u>

Commented [ps1]: In AF should IP be UNDP and EE be MACCE? The terminology is slightly different. Need confirmation that this is correct

2. Key milestones – Please refer to the overview tab in the latest PPR. For the delay in project implementation and related reasons refer to the lessons learned tab, section on “implementation and adaptive management.”

Project inception	30 th October 2014
Mid-term review (if applicable)	01 st January 2018
Project completion	31 st March 2022
Terminal evaluation	01 st December 2022
If any, delay in implementation and reasons for delay	1. Covid-19 Restrictions during the final year of implementation

	2. Changes in project management staff during initial years of project causing slow start to implementation.
--	--

3. Project overview and description

The Government of Seychelles (GOS), with support from UNDP and funded through the Adaptation Fund implemented the Project: “Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles” (EbA project) from October 2014 – March 2022. The project sought to reduce the vulnerability of the Seychelles to climate change, focusing on two key issues – water scarcity and flooding. The climate change projections in the Seychelles show that rainfall will become more irregular, whilst water supplies in Seychelles are heavily dependent on rainfall. Furthermore, the coastal zone is vulnerable to flooding as a consequence of rising sea surface levels and increased storm surges. The **objective of the project** is to incorporate ecosystem-based adaptation into the country’s climate change risk management system to safeguard water supplies, threatened by climate change induced perturbations in rainfall and to buffer expected enhanced erosion and coastal flooding risks arising as a result of higher sea levels and increased storm surge. This is implemented through 3 components:

Component 1: Ecosystem-based adaptation approach to enhancing freshwater security and flood control in Mahé and Praslin under conditions of climate change.

Component 2: Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches along the shorelines of the Granitic Islands reduce the risks of climate change induced coastal flooding.

Component 3: Ecosystem based adaptation mainstreamed into development planning and financing.

The project was implemented on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) by the GOS-UNDP Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) in association with a number of project stakeholders. ~~The project had an inception date of 30 October 2014, a revised closing date of 30 October 2021, and was extended again until March 2022, to take into account challenges and delays because of the COVID-19 pandemic.~~ The project was funded through a \$5.95 million AF grant, and was nationally executed following UNDP’s National Implementation Modality (NIM). The project team consisted of a Project Manager who leads a Project Implementation Team (PIT) consisting of 3 Technical Advisers / Specialists.

4. Results and key outcomes (Alignment with the Adaptation Fund core impact indicators – Number of Direct Beneficiaries reached including women; Trainings conducted including women trained, Early Warning Systems (EWS); Assets Produced, Developed, Improved, or Strengthened; Natural Assets Protected or Rehabilitated i.e. hectares of natural habitats/ meters of coastlines) – Please refer to the “Performance at completion” in the Results Tracker section in the last PPR to extract this information.

Please see attached EBA Results Tracker PDF

5. Issues, challenges, and mitigation measures (Environmental and social risks, gender considerations and other risks) – Please refer to the lessons learned tab in the PPR, specifically the section on “Implementation and Adaptive Management.”

To mitigate the environmental risks where applicable the EBA project undertook an Environmental Impact Assessment. In the last year of project implementation the study took place for the Glacis Noire wetland on Praslin to assess the feasibility of a watershed. The recommendations stemming from the EIA will be followed through the scoping mission. Similarly, the project looked to revegetate and reforest watershed catchments with native and endemic species reducing the impact of invasives in the area.

Although the project objective did not have a specific gender focus, it aimed through training and workshops to be gender responsive and transformative. While women’s empowerment is seen as a key result of the project and visibly so with their leadership and participation in committees, the project worked with youth and other community groups such as senior citizens and those differently abled in engaging them on coastal wetland rehabilitation and other reforestation and ecosystem-based approaches. Following the recommendations of the Gender Action Plan commissioned in 2019, the project worked closely with other institutions to broaden and mainstream EBA practices and heighten the impact of project led activities within communities.

6. Lessons learned (Best practices, adaptive management, what worked during the implementation and what did not, what corrective actions were taken during implementation, what are the ways to improve the intervention) – Please refer to the lessons learned tab in the PPR, specifically the section on “Implementation and Adaptive Management.”

In the final year (12-18 months) of implementation the project was impacted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in several operational and implementational challenges that were beyond the control of the project team. This included budget revisions due to fluctuations in the currency rates; restrictions of movement in place by the Public Health Authorities limiting workshops, trainings, and on-site monitoring in many instances. Whilst delivery of workshops/trainings continued online, there was reduced participation due to high costs associated with internet access and connectivity issues.

The delay in the final tranche being disbursed due to late reporting, impacted project implementation in the final quarter with adjustments being made to various activities and owing to the costs associated with currency fluctuations.

At project inception there were some delays in the recruitment of the Project Implementation Team and the original project manager resigned after 8 months and as the new project manager came on board, the team required time to get fully operational. One of the key challenges was that project indicators were too broad and at inception were not fully analyzed in terms of being able to monitor them. The Mid-term evaluation provided the necessary recommendations to focus on areas of weakness, improve delivery and identify shadow indicators that were more in line with project objectives, outcomes, and outputs and that could be evaluated and tracked for the remainder of the project life cycle.

The project was envisaged to end in 2020 when it was signed in 2014, and an initial extension was requested for it to end in October 2021 with an additional 5 months being requested to accommodate for the delays caused by COVID-19. The AFB recognizing that COVID-19 impacts had been significant provided for a 12-month blanket extension for global projects. The EBA project ended in March 2022.

7. Innovation: description of any innovative practices or technologies that figured prominently in this project – Please refer to the lessons learned tab in the PPR, specifically the section on “innovation”

The EBA project developed and applied innovative solutions towards addressing the issues of water scarcity and drought demonstrated through the watershed restoration works and construction of the gabion barrages. Not only were these solutions environmentally friendly but they were also more cost effective than traditional construction methods and provided natural filtration systems from upland water sources.

While the innovation in the context of the EBA project in itself did not rely on technology driven solutions, its impact on climate adaptation and building community resilience in itself through natural, eco solutions is to be lauded. The construction of gabion weirs within watersheds has enabled the community to actively adopt similar practices in the area and manage the sustainable use of these water resources.

The Terminal Evaluation report highlights this as a key innovation in the application of nature-based solutions in tackling climate change.

8. Description of the vulnerable communities and social groups affected by the project, and how they have been engaged and empowered – You might want to refer as well to the section on “community/national impact” in the lessons learned tab of the PPR.

The project has provided opportunities to improve the livelihoods of the communities, especially the water users in the target watersheds.

The farmers have been the direct beneficiaries of the project with the increased availability of water all year round in Baie Lazare which is a predominantly agricultural district.

This is as a direct result of the improvement of the ecosystem services from the EBA approach to wetland rehabilitation piloted by the EBA project. Five watershed committees have been successfully s(g) the organizational structure and functions of Water Management Area Committees up with members actively participating on a purely voluntary basis to support watershed protection and management in their resident community. The project has engaged women, men, youth, and the elderly in the project activities, making it a gender-inclusive, community-based effort. Family dynamics have been involved and strengthened as a result of community-based activities organized by the wetlands and community engagement specialist team. The project has successfully built the capacity of local community members to operate as local community-based organizations whose future role

will now be analyzed as possible Water Management Area Committees in the new Water Bill being developed through the new consultancy. The successful revegetation of the riverine, riparian and wetland ecosystems have been purely a community-based initiative coordinated by the EBA project. The resident communities at large spearheaded by watershed committees in the target watersheds have led the tree planting and removal of invasive vines in these water catchments. Private contractors were enlisted only to assist for a few weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions in the latter part of this project cycle in quarter 2. Two watershed committees have already registered as NGOs or Community-Based Organizations and the remaining three are in preparator phase, with their constitutions in place and other documents.

The GOS-GEF-UNDP Ridge to Reef project has started working in 2 of the water catchments of the EBA project, therefore forest management and capacity building as well as watershed management plan implementation will be followed up and further implement through this project for the next 4 years. The EBA project have set up 5 watershed committees that are being registered as Community Based Organizations in the targeted watersheds. These committees have already been recognized by the Ministry, and the potential exists for them to be considered as having a role to play as possible water management area committees in the new Water Bill being developed in quarter 3.

Better communications between the project team and the stakeholders in the development sectors, including officers in the same department. Better coordination of joint project work needing support from the different sections in the department of environment and climate change, being in the same ministry and from other development sectors such as agriculture, transport. Earlier joint monitoring task force could have been set up as an in-house mechanism to jointly monitor project sites relevant to the wetland unit's work and coastal adaptation section's work. More advice should have been provided at the onset and a more robust mechanism for evaluation should have been set up. It is not standard operational procedure for a project team to undertake both monitoring and evaluation of a project.

9. Description of how long-term institutional and technical capacity for effective adaptation has been strengthened – Please refer to the lessons learned tab, section on “readiness interventions.”

The readiness interventions are applicable to NIEs that received one or more readiness grants through the Adaptation Fund. However the Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment (MACCE), has not accessed readiness grants during the life-cycle of the project.

One of the key challenges for MACCE remains the human capacity. As a small island state, Seychelles faces the perpetual challenge of human capacity within its institutions given the small working population. It is expected that MACCE will reinforce its capacities within the structure of the Programme Development and Coordination Unit to access funding and implement climate adaptation projects through focused interventions building on the immense lessons learned from the project.

10. An overview of complementarity and/or coherence of with other climate finance sources in the context of this project (synergies with other projects, national plans etc.) – Please refer to the lessons learned tab, section on “complementarity and coherence”.

The Ecosystem Based Adaptation project was a flagship project in terms of Climate Change Adaptation and Nature based solutions in the Seychelles. It built on the strategic vision outlined in the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2012-202, which aimed to promote sustainable growth being mindful of the need to “conserve the integrity of the Seychelles natural environment for present and future generations”. In conjunction with the SSDS and other relevant ongoing initiatives at the time the EBA project was successfully able to deliver community resilience (especially the farmers) against climate change, enhance growth of natural ecosystems in natural watersheds and provide climate solutions against conditions of drought and flooding.

The EBA project complemented the Eu funded GCCA+ Component B demonstration project on La Dignes as well as the work undertaken under Component A to mainstream climate strategies into national planning. The work done under the EBA project has laid the foundation for vertically funded projects under existing and upcoming GEF cycles. The UNDP-GEF funded project on Ridge to Reef builds on the lessons learned under EBA providing sustainable solutions to farmers and replicating the successes of watersheds across other parts of Seychelles.

Furthermore Seychelles’ Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), lays emphasis on the need to provide nature based and climate adaptation solutions towards reducing climatic impacts on the Seychelles archipelago.

At national level the Department of Agriculture has replicated the construction of the first small gabion-retaining weir as modelled by the EBA project, to provide filtration and steady flow of fresh water from the Les Canelles River, for the farms affected by saltwater intrusion at Anse Royale.

The opportunity exists for the Department of Climate Change to replicate and scale up techniques pioneered through the EBA project and by including the lessons learned whilst developing concepts for future climate adaptation projects.

The technical expertise provided by the EBA project’s Hydrologist has enabled the Project Utilities Corporation to integrate adaptation interventions and climate proof some of their water tank storage sites.

Prolonged rainfall and changes in weather patterns in recent months have caused areas where flooding and/ landslides. Using the EBA techniques and providing hands on training in the construction of gabion weirs has built the capacity of national institutions such as the PUC to provide low-cost solutions towards addressing issue of flooding and landslides and boosted skills in the labor market.

There are lots of synergies to apply nature-based solutions across all of the islands to ensure that the safeguards of the islands can use environmentally friendly, sustainable approaches that will enable communities and ecosystems to thrive.

The GOS-UNDP-GEF Ridge to Reef project is a fully scaled project that is already operational and replicates many of the approach of the AF-funded EBA project. The Ridge to Reef project is already supporting the development of the watershed management plans for Baie Lazare and Anse Royale and strengthening fire-fighting capacity of local stakeholders and fire-fighting practitioners on Praslin. The Climate Adaption Management section of the Department of Climate Change and the Public Utilities Corporation will build on the lessons learned from the wetland enhancement and wetland rehabilitation work piloted by the EBA project. The NGOs will learn how to upscale voluntary work in the environmental sector by observing the dynamics of the newly created watershed committees of the EBA project.

11. Sustainability, scalability, and replicability – Please refer to the lessons learned tab, section on “climate resilience measures.”

The main lessons from the EBA project's implementing climate adaptation measures in the Seychelles maybe summarized as follows:

- (1) There is requirement for full time technical staff and for outreach to ensure that EBA approaches and methods can be trialed, and lessons learned are effectively captured and shared with stakeholders;
- (2) The project's research component and information on climate change impacts needs to be widely disseminated for public consumption and integrated into university/school curriculum for future students.
- (3) Community-based participatory approach, stakeholder and community engagement should be adopted early for more effective plans, strategies, and implementation.
- (4) The results from the project outputs on how to use an EBA method to adapt to climate change needs to be supported in-country, to enable information to be shared with policy makers.
- (5) All relevant stakeholders need to be involved, not just the community, but information must be suited to the stakeholder group being engaged with.
- (6) Politicians, Sectoral level policy makers, planners need to be targeted with suitable material, site visits, visual outputs, especially if they see the visual outputs on the ground (pictures, leaflets).
- (7) Successful methods should be replicated through other incoming projects, especially to build-on existing project outputs.
- (8) The development sector providing ecosystem services to the public and resident communities are important stakeholders that should be engaged early ge.g. Water Utilities company, Department of Agriculture and Environment, Public Health departments in the context of health issues such as the COVID-19, polluted wetlands, littering in project watersheds.
- (9) Experience with natural disasters such as forest fires is beneficial to prepare for climate adaptation, such as the knowledge of the fire fighters and National Parks rangers.
- (10) Regional cooperations can be strengthened if project teams reach out to an Embassy, as they can send practitioners to do audit to identify gaps and capacity needs analysis. These regional cooperations provide training opportunities for local practitioners, facilitated by the project.

Section B: Project expenditure

(The use of spreadsheet is recommended to avoid numerical errors.)

- Project budget
- Actual expenditures
- Variance notes

Section C: Appendices (optional)

- Participants list of an inception workshop.
- Key project staff list

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Betty Victor: Project Manager- EBA (preceded by Selby Remy as PM)

James Millett- Scientific Advisor- Forestry

Johan Mendez- Hydrologist

Rajelle Barbe- Community Engagement Specialist

PROGRAMME COORDINATION UNIT

Elke Talma: Programme Coordinator for the PCU preceded by

Andrew Grieser Johns- Programme Coordinator, PCU

Fabrina Molle- Finance Manager

- Results tracker
- Reports and other publications- *Please refer to website for full set of documents.*
- Websites:
 - www.pcusey.sc- All project related documentation can be found on the following website.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/GOS.UNDP.GEF.PCU/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/EBasey.sc/>: Dedicated project social media account
- Any other resources