

INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT
GOS-UNDP-GEF
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT
(SLM)

1st-2nd April
International Conference Centre of Seychelles

1. INTRODUCTION

An Inception Workshop was conducted by the Department of Environment (DOE) in collaboration with UNDP on the 1st and 2nd of April at the International Conference Centre of Seychelles (ICCS), as the first activity to address the ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management (SLM)’ UNDP-GEF project (see per Agenda, ANNEX I). The fundamental aims of this workshop was to assist the project team and all stakeholders involved to understand, participate and take ownership of the project’s goals and objectives, and help finalize the preparation of the project’s Annual Work Plan, based on the objectives incorporated in the Logical Framework Matrix. The workshop was attended by an array of stakeholders (see ANNEX II), comprising of Government officials, Steering Committee members, NGOs, Farmers, and the Private Sector.

This report gives an account on the presentations made, discussions and group works that were held during the 1½-days workshop.

2. OBJECTIVES

The goal of this workshop was to introduce the ‘Capacity Development: Sustainable Land Management’ project and identify how this project will contribute and help achieve the national goal of the ‘Environmental Management Plan of Seychelles’ (EMPS) which is “*The promotion, coordination and integration of sustainable development programmes that cut across all sectors of society in the Seychelles*”, as well as the global goal of the UNDP-GEF Targeted Portfolio Project for SLM in LDC and SIDS, of which the project is part of.

The specific **objectives** to be achieved were:

- UNDP-GEF Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in LDCs and SIDS described;

- The Seychelles SLM Project explained and discussed;
- Implementation modalities and responsibilities, including reporting and monitoring, explained and agreed;
- Logical Framework Matrix reviewed and validated;
- Annual Workplan to be finalized and included in the Inception Report

3: PROGRAMME

3.1 The opening of the workshop was done by the Director General of Nature Conservation, Mr Denis Matatiken (in the absence of PS, Mr Didier Dogley from DOE), who welcomed all participants present and gave a brief account on the aim, objectives and expected outcomes of the project. Mr Matatiken also thanked GEF for funding support and the UNDP for assisting with the implementation of the project (see ANNEX III for speech).

The UNDP Programme Officer Seychelles, Ms. Rebecca Loustau-Lalanne (in the absence of Ms. Veronica Muthui, the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor on Land Degradation), gave an introduction on how this project forms part of the Global Portfolio to meet the overall objective of the UNCCD and pointed out the significance of the project for implementation by all stakeholders involved, through the continuous support of the UNDP (see ANNEX IV for speech).

Mr Jan Rijpma, the short-term Consultant for SLM, introduced the agenda for the two-day workshop.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

3.2 UNDP-GEF Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in LDCs and SIDS

The first item on the agenda was a presentation made by Mr Rijpma, on ‘UNDP-GEF Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in LDCs and SIDS’, in regards to its relevance to Seychelles (ANNEX V, Part A)

3.3 Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles: Project Overview

A brief presentation was made by Mr Rijpma on the ‘background, situation analysis, project strategy, budget and implementation’ of the project (ANNEX V, Part B)

3.4 Implementation Modalities, Reporting and Responsibilities

Ms Lalanne gave a presentation on the GEF project cycle in terms of monitoring, reporting, auditing and evaluation (ANNEX V, Part C)

Questions/Discussions

- (a) **Question:** ‘Would the project be audited internally or externally?’ **Answer:** Both
- (b) **Question:** ‘With regards to budget allocation, what is the ratio between the Government and GEF funds?’ **Answer:** 2:1 (respectively).
Co-finance is usually in kind from local counterparts.

3.5 Logical Framework Matrix: Objectives, Indicators, Risks & Risk Management

The presentation mainly looked at the main components of the Logical Framework Matrix (LFA) in terms of the goal, objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities and risk assumptions for the implementation of the project (ANNEX V, Part D)

Questions/Discussions

- (c) **Indicators-** ‘Will the project take care of geological and landslides surveys?’ **Answer:** No, however the project will take care of capacity building which would allow surveys to be undertaken. French-funds will contribute as co-finance for those.
- (d) **Baseline-** Point noted that information exists for landslides and rock falls for the main granitic islands.
- (e) **Indicator-** Participant disagreed on the baseline information for Agricultural area under improved soil conservation practices to being 0ha. **Suggestion:** Better baselines to be input as the existing systems were poorly functional.
- (f) Question was raised with regards to new investment plans. FAO new investment program for the Indian Ocean to be discussed in Outcome 4 groupwork.
- (g) **Indicator-** other projects are looking into the issue of landslide risks. Examples were given and request was made for their reports to be incorporated as baseline information.
- (h) Define the term ‘**Sustainable Forest Harvesting**’ in the local context. **Answer:** Sustainable Forest Harvesting would look at the Coco-de-Mer trade, latanier and raffia use in the artisanal sector.

- (i) Sustainable Forest Harvesting figures were questioned. The latest figures are from the year 2000 and this only accounted for less than 1% of GDP. The importance of this activity as a priority was further questioned. **Answer:** There is a lack of existing figures or strategic data to give an indication of the future use of forest products, given more timber are being harvesting harvested from local forests due to the increased cost of importation.
- (j) Capacity for tackling forest fires, cost effective techniques for re-forestation for small islands and scheme for sustainable harvesting all exists but needs to be updated.
- (k) Knowledge of Sustainable Forest Management and importation of timber products from unsustainable forests to local markets for small islands should be used.
- (l) **Comment:** Issue of sustainable forest management should not be looked from a GDP level but rather to its impact on land degradation. Existing forest fire fighting capacity acknowledged, but there are too many lacks and gaps to effectively manage damages from forest fires. This project is looking at intermediate forests and not necessarily coastal low land forests, but it should look at plantations at different levels of topography.

3.6 Introduction to working groups

The main item on the agenda comprised of groupwork, which was facilitated by the project team, to enable stakeholders to actively take ownership of the project's objectives and allow them to work on the LFA and the drafted Workplan for SLM (ANNEX V, Part E).

Questions/Discussions:

- (m) During groupwork, discussions heavily centred on the understanding of the NAP and what it should entail. Draft copies of NAPs already developed were distributed as examples.
- (n) Funding for the NAP was questioned. TEMATEA online portal can be used for the development of the NAP as well as provide some funds to develop the NAP. Other source of funding could also come from the Global Environmental Management of MSP (Interim the NAP through SLM and use the MSP EMS to fund the long term NAPA)
- (o) Legislation review should purely come from GOS recurrent budget and no project capital should be used for that process

Comment [v1]: What is this? There are discussions with Global Mechanism (GM) to provide finance for the NAP, but I have not heard of Global Environment Management!

Comment [v2]: NAPA normally means the National Action Plan on Adaptation (to climate change, and is not related to land degradation or sustainable land management. Is this the same meaning here?)

4. PLENARY & NEXT STEPS

Representing the UNDP, as the implementation agency, Ms.Lalanne presented the next steps:

- The Inception Workshop Report, to document the proceedings and outcomes
- The Inception Report, to reflect the outcomes of the workshop, emphasise on the updated Logframe and Workplan to send to RCU and the UNDP CO and upload on ALTAS
- Proposal for next Steering Committee Meeting (May'08?)
- Start the implementation of activities

Questions/Discussions

- (p) Note of concern regarding NGO fund allocations. NGO member queried the disbursement of funds to NGOs, as the project seems to be largely public sector focused. Tender process to be further elaborated during the project steering committee meeting.
- (q) The Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF) was concerned about their representation in the project SC since they presently manage more than 20% of forest products in the country. An NGO member on the SC agreed to involve and consult with SIF on the project SC meetings. The SLM consultant also made further clarification that SIF would be represented as an NGO in the process.

5. CLOSING

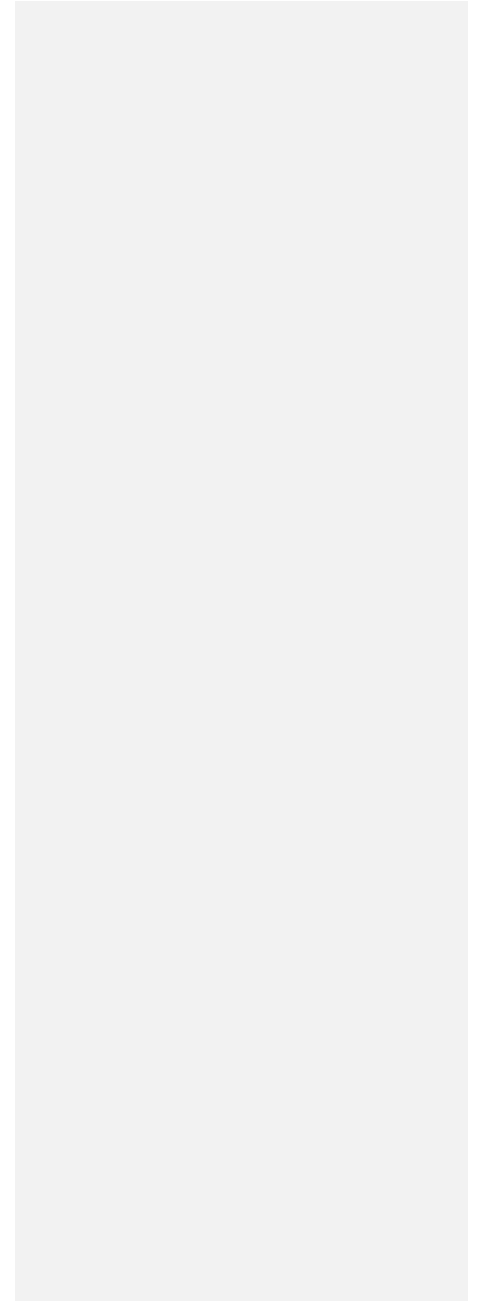
The chair, Mr Matatiken, thanked all participants for turning up and stressed on the continued involvement of all stakeholders for the successful implementation of the project and that all consulted members and participants should endeavour to submit any comments on the draft reports.

The Consultant added a few remarks on the smooth and satisfactory running of the inception phase and the implementation of the workshop as per draft guidelines obtained from the country offices.

On behalf of the UNDP, Ms Lalanne apologised for the absence of some key technical backings for the workshop and mentioned that the Regional Technical Advisor, Ms Veronica Muthui, will be arriving in Seychelles soon to further assist the Project Manager.

6. OUTCOME

The goal of the workshop was achieved, in that the Stakeholders were given the opportunity to understand and own the project, so that it could be effectively implemented and to ensure that Sustainable Land Management could be practiced and mainstreamed into the national development in Seychelles.



ANNEX I:**OUTLINE OF AGENDA (1st April 2008):**

TIME	TOPIC	RESOURCE PERSONS / FACILITATORS	MATERIALS / METHOD	CHAIR
08:45 – 09:00	Registration	DOE		
09:00 – 09:20	Opening	Mr. Denis Matatiken, Department of Environment (DOE), Director Nature Conservation Ms.Rebecca Lalanne, UNDP Programme Officer, Seychelles		DOE
09:20 – 09:30	Objectives & Agenda of Workshop	Jan Rijpma, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint ▪ Agenda 	

09:30 – 09:45	UNDP-GEF Targeted Portfolio Project for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in LDCs and SIDS	Jan Rijpma, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint ▪ Hand-out 	
09:45 – 10:15	Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management in Seychelles: Project Overview	Jan Rijpma, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint ▪ Hand-out 	
10:15 – 10:30	Break Tea – Coffee			
10:30 – 11:00	Implementation Modalities, Reporting and Responsibilities	Ms Rebecca Lalanne, UNDP Programme Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint; ▪ Hand-out ▪ Q&A + Discussion 	
11:00 – 12:00	Logical Framework Matrix: Objectives, Indicators, Risks & Risk Management	Jan Rijpma, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint; ▪ Hand-out ▪ Posters ▪ Q&A + Discussion 	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch			
13:00 – 13:15	Introduction to Groupwork: Workplan Outcome 1	Jan Rijpma, Consultant Audrey Zelia, Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint; ▪ Hand-out 	UNDP
13:15 – 14:45	Groupwork: Workplan Outcome 1: Outputs 1.1 – 1.7	Denis Matatiken, DOE Rebecca Lalanne, UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions ▪ Group Discussions; ▪ Flipcharts 	

14:45 – 15:30	Presentations Groupwork: Workplan Outcome 1	Group reporters; Jan Rijpma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentations ▪ Flipcharts ▪ Q&A + Discussion 	
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary: Workplan Outcome 1	DOE; UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion; ▪ Closing of the day 	

OUTLINE OF AGENDA (2nd April 2008):

TIME	TOPIC	RESOURCE PERSONS / FACILITATORS	MATERIALS / METHOD	CHAIR
08:30 – 08:45	Introduction to Groupwork: Workplan Outcomes 2, 3, 4	Jan Rijpma, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PowerPoint; ▪ Hand-out 	DOE / UNDP
08:45 – 10:15	Groupwork: Workplan Outcomes 2, 3, 4	Jan Rijpma; Project Manager; DOE; UNDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questions ▪ Group Discussions; ▪ Flipcharts 	
10:15 – 11:00	Presentations Groupwork: Workplan Outcomes 2, 3, 4	Group reporters; Jan Rijpma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentations ▪ Flipcharts ▪ Q&A + Discussion 	
11:00 – 11:30	Plenary: Workplan Outcomes 2, 3, 4	DOE; UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion 	
11:30 – 12:00	Plenary & Next Steps SLM Project	Jan Rijpma, Consultant DOE UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion; ▪ Closing 	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch			

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT
1	Didier Dogley	PS DOE	d.dogley@env.gov.sc ; l.rose@env.gov.sc
2	Denis Matatiken	DOE Director Nature Conservation	d.matatiken@env.gov.sc
3	Rebecca Lalanne	UNDP Programme Officer, Seychelles	Rebecca.lalanne@undp.org
4	Jan Rijpma	Consultant	rijpma@intelvision.net
5	Audrey Zelia	Project Manager, Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management	ajzelia@gmail.com
6	Joe Rath	UNDP intern	Joseph.rath@undp.org
7	Selby Remie	Director Nature Conservation, DOE	s.remie@env.gov.sc
8	Alice Mascarenhas	Project Officer, DOE	a.mascarenhas@env.gov.sc
9	Begum Nageon	National coordinator	b.nageon@pps.gov.sc
10	Mermedah Moustache	Director General Crop Development Promotion	pgr@intelvision.net
11	Antoine Moustache	Special Adviser	antmoust@seychelles.net
12	Gilbert Portlouis	Director Agricultural Extension	extserv@seychelles.net
13	Linetta Joubert	Director agricultural land Managerment	Linetta.joubert@prpv.org
14	Damien Riquet	Project Manager UNDP Early	damien.riquet@undp.org

		Warning and Disaster Management	
15	Cliff Alisop	DOE Focal Point Praslin	c.alisop@env.gov.sc
16	Veronique Bonnelamme	DG Ministry national development: Land Use	vbonnelame@mluh.gov.sc
17	Alain De Commarmond	Director Environmental Engineering Division	a.deco@env.gov.sc
18	John Nevill	GIF	office@gif.sc
19	Frauke Fleischer-Dogley	SIF	ceo@sif.sc
20	Andrew Jean-Louis	Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S)	jeanlouis.andrew@gmail.com
21	Serge Benstrong	Farmers Association	sergebenstrong@seychelles.sc
22	Steve Lalande	LUNGOS	lungos@seychelles.net
23	Jenny Ah-Kon	Craftspersons /Artisan	jennie@seychelles.net
24	Arthur Bresson		
25	France Sophola	DRDM	fsophola@statehouse.gov.sc
26	Kirstin Henri	Nature Seychelles	projects@nature.sc
27	Gilbert Madeleine	SBS	
28	Patrick Samson	SEYPEC	p.samson@seypec.com
29	Garry Coopoosamy		
30	Keven Nancy	MENRT	
31	Eric Sophola	DOE	e.sophola@env.gov.sc
32	Joanne Benoiton		jayla4eva@hotmail.com
33	Patrick Joseph	SEYPEC	p.joseph@seypec.com

ANNEX III**OPENING SPEECH: MR MATATIEN, DG OF NATURE CONSERVATION**

Invited guest, participants good morning,

Land degradation and desertification is a global issue, which threatens the livelihoods of over 1 billion people in more than 110 countries. The United Nations Convention of Desertification or UNCCD for short is a global response to this shared problem. Its objective is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification. Since it came into force in 1996, over 193 countries have signed and ratified it, including Seychelles.

Land degradation is a pertinent issue in the Seychelles, which contributes to desertification. According to the text of the Convention, 'desertification is defined as the degradation of soils or more broadly as the degradation of natural resources namely; land, vegetation and water'. Being party to the Convention, the country has the obligation to combat land degradation.

In Seychelles, forest fire is identified as one of the main causes of land degradation. Forest fires can arise naturally following severe drought or by our own negligence. Historically, natural forest fires were common on the inner granitic island, particularly on Praslin and Curieuse. It has been estimated that more than 80% of the land were affected as a result of forest fires. The evidence, which occurs in the form of scars on the hill tops and hill side are still evident with very few plant species successfully colonise this impoverish habitat.

Deforestation is also another cause of land degradation. It can occur as result of exploitation of forest products in an unsustainable way. In the past, large areas of vegetation cover on Mahé were cleared for timber to be used for boat building, as fuel wood to power the cinnamon distilleries and to give way to agricultural crops such cinnamon and vanilla. Today, many forest products such as, timber, latanier leaves and coco-de-mer being harvested unsustainably. There is also an increasing demand for local woods, because imported woods are insufficient to meet local demands. Therefore, these forest products should be harvested in a sustainable manner.

However, our forests are under continuous threat from alien invasive creepers which smother trees, shrubs and any other vegetation in the area, depriving them of the necessary sunlight and resources they need to survive. If not control, it will lead to significant changes in our vegetation cover and will threaten our biodiversity.

The impact of deforestation coupled with development and unsustainable agriculture, has led to the loss of topsoil and impoverishment of the soil. Furthermore, it has led to an increase in runoff which eventually finds its way to the coast causing flooding of the coastal plane, as has been evident in the last decade.

We need to bear in mind that we cannot isolate our selves from climate change. The country has experienced several extreme weather events in the last decade as well as significant increase in coastal erosion, part of the natural ecosystem that we depend greatly on for our tourism industry. Therefore we need to take appropriate action to stop or control factors that result in the degradation of our land.

The issues of land degradation are being addressed by the Sustainable Land Management project, which forms part of the GEF Portfolio of projects on sustainable development for less developed countries and Small Island Developing States. Seychelles has received US \$ 500, 000 to implement the sustainable Land Management Project.

The Project is expected;

- To build individual and institutional capacity for sustainable Land Management,
- To mainstream Sustainable Land Management into economic and sectorial development
- To complete a National Action Plan which is a key instrument in the implementation of the UNCCD
- To complete and implement a Medium term Investment plan

The long term goal of the project is to ensure that 'Sustainable land management is practice and mainstreamed into national development in Seychelles'.

You are gathered here today to learn more about the project, implementation modalities and responsibilities and to agree on reporting and monitoring of the activities. You will have the opportunity to participate in the implementation of the project.

Let me thank GEF for the financial support and UNDP for assisting with project implementation.

I also wish to thank all participants and I hope you have fruitful deliberations during this inception workshop.

I will like now like to declare the Inception Workshop officially open.

Thank you

ANNEX IV

UNDP INTERVENTION IN SLM BY M.S LALANNE

Ladies and Gentleman, Good morning

I would like say a few words on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Technical Advisor on Land Degradation, Ms Veronica Muthui who unfortunately is unable to be with us today due to last minute changes to her flight schedule. She will however be visiting the Seychelles later on in the month to provide further support with the inception phase to the programme stakeholders, through the Programme Manager, Ms Audrey Zelia and the project team.

As you are all aware, this medium-size project is the first of its kind in Seychelles, funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) under its thematic focal area of 'Land Degradation' and under the Global portfolio on 'Sustainable Land Management' stemming from the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

This project is important for many reasons; but two of them stand out:

1. It is an enabling activity under the UNCCD; which should be used as a catalyst to link the country to other sources of financing for SLM (such as adaptation and carbon finance):
2. Sustainable land management is a relatively new focus area in the UNDP GEF. Previously, sustainable land management was only addressed if "it presented part of the problem" to the focal area of biodiversity and international waters. This was not only unfortunate, but it means that unlike the case for those "older focal areas", there are no strong institutions for supporting a programmatic approach to land degradation in the countries supported by GEF.

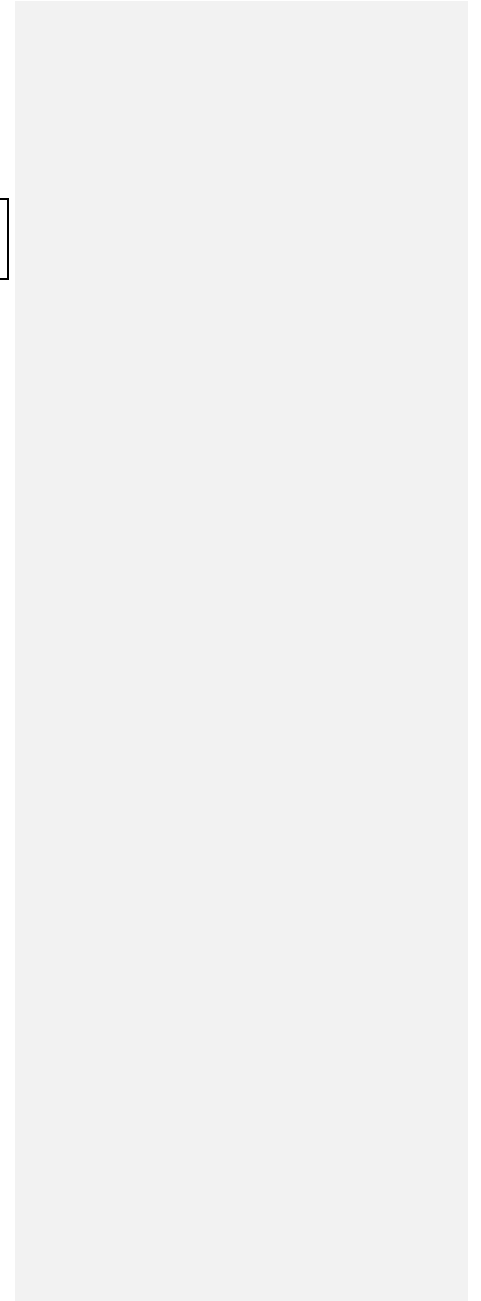
This project will therefore assist Seychelles to mainstream the principles of the UNCCD into national development process and, more importantly, to unleash its enormous potential in mobilizing resources for further work on SLM, and particularly to link sustainable land management to climate change. We all know that the issue of climate change has become more evident, and no land management initiative today can ignore the crucial issue of adaptation. There is also an increasing amount of international capital flows available to assist countries to deal with climate change, particularly through carbon finance.

Although the project document was signed nearly a year ago (in June 2007), we are pleased to be present today at the Inception Workshop, which is an opportunity for stakeholders, current and future, to assess and validate the Workplan. We are pleased to note that Seychelles, one of the few Small Island Developing States, implementing such a project has as outcome the building of institutional and individual capacity, development of an Action plan and investment plan which will hopefully ensure the sustainability of the seeds being sown through the implementation of the project. Today is but the first step.

UNDP values the contribution and the role played by the farmers, the landowners, the policy makers, Non-State actors, the consumers and producers to the dynamic and often volatile process of management of our natural environment. These are the real owners of the land; these are the people who will make a real difference! We are here to support them.

With that said I have just to wish you all a most productive workshop.

I thank you



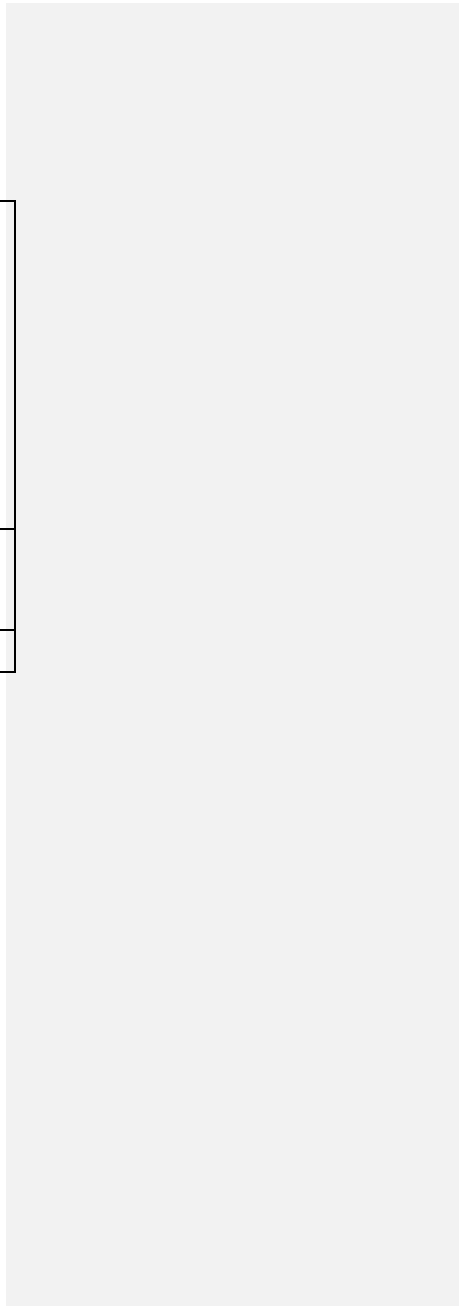
ANNEX VI

WORKPLAN + INDICATORS

_____ Timeline

OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	Respon- sible	Stakeholders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE								INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTION
					Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Y R 2	Y R 3	Y R 4					
OUTCOME 1: INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR SLM ENHANCED																
OUTPUT 1.1: Capacities for forest fire prevention, detection and suppression are strengthened																
1.1.1. Conduct forest fire risk assessments, including drought occurrence, spatial analysis, <u>fuel analysis</u> , identification of priority areas to be protected, etc.	DOE, Land Use Director of Lands	DRDM, Local Communities, Emergency services (Police, fire brigades)	Local Consultant (s) Forest Fighter expertise, Technical Assistance										Baseline information on forest fires and rehabilitation documented and disseminated No. Professionals trained in managing: Forest fires Fire prevention and control strategy /	No baseline information on forest fires and rehabilitation available (Existing/to be reviewed) Estimated trained professionals : Forest fires: 2 persons Fire Contingency	Complete collection and compilation of baseline information on forest fires and rehabilitation Trained professionals available: Forest fires: 6 Comprehensive Fire prevention and control strategy /	Continued interest in collaboration by international research institutions Sufficient interested, receptive individuals available for training

<p>1.1.6. Train forest managers (fire brigades/private islands district?) on: Forest fire risk assessment, -prevention, -suppression, and implementation of the fire prevention and control strategy</p>	<p>PDF, SIF, DOE</p>	<p>Private islands district, Brigades All responsible</p>	<p>Int.Expert Technical Assistance</p>																												
<p>1.1.7. At present strengthen the chain of command</p>																															



OUTPUT / Activity	Responsible	Stakeholders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE							INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTION	
					Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4					
OUTCOME 1: INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR SLM ENHANCED																
OUTPUT 1.2. Cost-effective techniques for the rehabilitation of burned/deforested land are tested and developed.																
1.2.1 Research in post-fire rehabilitation of burned / degraded lands. Biodiversity restoration to be taken in consideration. Cannot separate the two. Point of argument...should be looking at the basics, i.e. soil and water cycles only	DOE, Private land Owners	Private land Owners	Local Consultant (s) External Review										Guidelines, Manuals, Protocols outlining Best Practices and toolkits in SLM developed and used Training should be made available to Private Land Owners.	No guidelines on re-forestation; 1 outdated National Forest Management Plan;	Guidelines / best practices on reforestation; Land owners should be encouraged to take up their responsibility	Continued availability of training opportunities through bilateral and multilateral cooperation Institutions receptive to change Cross-Ref restoration/ rehabilitation to BD

OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	Responsible	Stakeholders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE								INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTION
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YR2	YR3	YR4					
OUTCOME 1: INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR SLM ENHANCED											Revamped agricultural extension service, recommending sustainable land management practices following participatory extension approaches Review Report (Consultant) Guidelines Developed, Published & Disseminated Risk Assessment Report completed Several trained personnel to meet the needs of farmers Revised Curriculum of Soil Conservation best practices Functional\ Efficient soil Laboratory	Agricultural extension service in place without proper soil conservation recommendations, following top-down extension approach Traditional farmers knowledge not documented Existing sensitivity maps Few, not necessarily practicing The existing curriculum has limited info Basic tests are offered free of charge	Revamped, dynamic agricultural extension service recommending improved soil conservation practices to farmers, following participatory approaches.	Stakeholders willing to share information Willingness to develop land use plans Ability to retain qualified staff Availability of funds		
OUTPUT 1.5: Improved capacities for soil conservation in agriculture are developed																
1.5.1. Institutional review and restructuring of Agricultural Extension service, including possible privatization or “fees for services”.	NR	Farmers FAO Consumers	Consultants Training													
1.5.2. Conduct a review of best practices in soil conservation and soil fertility management for farmers. Inventory/Revision of Land Use Plan	NR	Farmers FAO MND Relevant Govt Mins	Experts Training													
1.5.3. Develop guidelines / manuals for best practices in soil conservation and soil fertility management for farmers.	NR	Farmers FAO Relevant Mins	Technical Experts													
1.5.4. Assess soil erosion risk for agricultural cultivation, including slope/aspect, past occurrence, land use, cultivation practices, location, priority areas (biodiversity, water catchments, etc.), etc., for integration into land use planning systems and soil conservation recommendations for farmers.	NR MND	FAO DOE Farmers MET Office PUC	Experts													
1.5.5. Train agronomists and extensionists on: Soil conservation, soil fertility management, participatory extension approaches. GEF Long Term Training policy	NR Mins of Edu	Farmers	Training Expert													
1.5.6. Strengthen the curriculum of the SAHTC on soil conservation issues, including Best Practices.	NR Mins of Edu	Farmers Bilateral- Multilateral Cooperation	Technical Experts													
1.5.7. Develop a “fees for service” standard Soil Testing Service for soil chemical and physical attributes.	NR	Farmers SBS Bi/Multi Lateral cooperation	Infrastructure Equipment HR-training Rapid test kits													

OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	Respon- sible	Stake Holders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE								INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTIO N
					Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Y R 2	Y R 3	Y R 4					
OUTCOME 2: SLM MAINSTREAMED INTO ECONOMIC AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT											Relevant policies contain specific sections on and follow principles of SLM. Strategic Docs	The Agriculture Policy 2003-13 mentions “sustainable agriculture”; No Forest Policy; No specific mention of SLM in the following: EMPS 2000 – 2010; National Strategy for Plant Conservation, National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan NBSAP (1997) Outdated Forest Management Plan	SLM principles integrated in: New National Forest Policy; Updated EMPS; Update Forest Management Plan	National decision makers see the interest / need and importance of SLM for National and Sectoral development Ownership of stakeholders		
OUTPUT 2.1: Sustainable Land Management principles integrated in relevant national policies and strategies.																
2.1.1. Develop a National Forest Policy integrating SLM principles	DOE Stakeholders	Forestry, Timber Merchants, Private Land Owners, NGOs	Local + Int Consultant (s)	35,000												
2.1.2. Strengthen & integrate Sustainable Land Management principles when updating Environmental Management Plan Seychelles (EMPS) 2000-2010.	DOE, Stakeholders	SC of EMPS, Forestry, Timber Merchants, Private Land Owners, NGOs	Cross.Ref with MSPGEM (Medium Sized GEF Project)	5000												
2.1.3. (Point 2.1.3 deleted and replaced by) Strengthen Sustainable Land Management principles, when updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan																
2.1.4.																

OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	Respon- sible	Stake Holders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE								INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTIO N
					Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Y R 2	Y R 3	Y R 4					
OUTPUT 2.2. Legal and regulatory framework concerning Sustainable Land Management reviewed, updated and harmonized.												Acts & regulations pertaining to SLM updated and harmonized.	Following acts + regulations in place: Lighting of fires Act; State Land & Rivers Act; Town and Country Planning Act; Environmental Protection Act; Licensing Act Lease agreements for agricultural	Updated and harmonized Acts and regulations promulgated : Lightning of fires Act; State Land & Rivers Act. Licensing act	Government willing to revise land lease arrangements to include better incentives for introducing SLM practices	
2.2.1. Revise lease system & conditions for state agriculture lands, to take into consideration SLM concerns and create incentives for adhering to best practices	PS/ DNR MND, A.G Office	Farmers, MENRT, Consumers	Local Consultant (s), Legal Experts	5000												
2.2.2. Review State Land & Rivers Reserves Act, to include SLM concerns	MND, A.G Office	Internal		Re- current												
2.2.3. Review Lighting of Fires Act, to include SLM concerns	DOE, A.G Office	Internal		Re- current												

OUTPUT / ACTIVITY	Respon- sible	Stake Holders	Inputs / Resources	Budget	TIMELINE							INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	RISK / ASSUMPTIO N
					Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Y R 2	Y R 3	Y R 4				
2.2.4. Review Breadfruit and Other Trees Act	DOE, A.G. Office	Internal		Re- current + (5000)								Lease arrangements for state agricultural land revised	land outdated and not conducive for undertaking soil conservation measures by farmers;	Updated lease agreements for agricultural land, providing sufficient incentives for undertaking soil conservation measures	

Revise
Existing
Lease
Agreements
Review
Breadfruit
and Other
Trees Act

ANNEX VII **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Seychelles Nation: Vol. XXXI NO.63 Thursday April 3 Jeudi 3 avril Zedi 3 Avril 2008. R3
Owners, farmers and government staff are among those being helped to understand fully their responsibilities in caring for the land.

A two-day workshop to help various stakeholders understand and carry out the goals of the 'Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management' project has been held at the International Conference Centre.

It has also been finalising the project's first annual work plan.

The project-jointly developed by the Seychelles government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)- is aimed at better prevention and control of forest fires, rehabilitating degraded areas, control of invasive creepers, cutting the risk of landslides, developing forest management plans and soil conservation in farming.

It is also reviewing policies and laws and helping develop a National Action Plan and Medium Term Investment Plan for sustainable land management in Seychelles.

Launching the workshop, Denis Matatiken, Director General for Nature Conservation, said land degradation is a global issue threatening the livelihoods of over a billion people in more than 110 countries. He said the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification- in force since 1996 and ratified by more than 190 countries, including Seychelles- is a global response to this shared problem, seeking to lessen the effects of drought.

In the local context, Mr Matatiken described forest fires and deforestation as the main causes of land degradation:

"Forest fires can rise naturally following severe drought or by our own negligence. Historically, natural forest fires were common on the inner granitic islands, particularly on Praslin and Curieuse. It has been estimated that more than 80% of the land was affected as a result."

Deforestation is another cause of land degradation that can occur through exploitation of forest products in an unsustainable way.

"In the past, large areas of vegetation cover on Mahe were cleared for timber to be used for boat building, as fuel wood to power the cinnamon distilleries and to give way to agricultural crops such as cinnamon and vanilla," said Mr Matatiken.

"Today there is an increasing demand for local timber as imported woods are insufficient for local demands. Therefore, these forest products should be harvested in a sustainable manner."

He also highlighted invasive creepers as a continuous threat for local forests. They affect the trees by depriving them of necessary sunlight and, if not controlled, will lead to significant changes in our vegetation cover.

"We need to bear in mind that we cannot isolate ourselves from climate change. The country has experienced several extreme weather events in the last decade as well as a significant increase in the erosion of coasts, which are part of the natural ecosystem that we depend greatly on for our tourism industry," he said.

The land management project, which is being carried out for the Department of Environment with the help of the UNDP, has \$US475, 000 funding from the GEF for four years.