

[Home RoadMap](#)

# SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project

**Review PIF and Make a recommendation**

## **Basic project information**

**GEF ID**

10549

**Countries**

St. Vincent and Grenadines

**Project Name**

SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project

**Agencies**

World Bank

**Date received by PM**

3/23/2020

**Review completed by PM**

4/24/2020

**Program Manager**

Sarah Wyatt

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

FSP

## **PIF**

### **Part I – Project Information**

#### **Focal area elements**

**1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

## Agency Response

040620

thank you!

### Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

## Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

3/29/2020

No, please address the following:

- Project title – Ecosystems does not have a hyphen in it.
- Please include indicators for the activities.

Component 1:

- Will there be implementation of the training program or just a needs assessment?
- How will the project avoid short, one-off trainings that often don't significantly increase actual capacity?
- It would be good to see a greater focus on actual implementation rather than just capacity building, strategies and assessments given that there is \$3 million for this component.
- According to another section of this document, there is work with the SVGCF likely in this component but it's not mentioned here.

Component 2:

- What sort of technical assessments would be done?
- iii. This is a multitude of different activities with different sectors. Is this reasonable? How will this be managed? How will significant impact be ensured? Many of these activities require significant behavior change and shouldn't be just viewed as doing one small pilot and expect that it will have real impact.
- e. This needs to relate to biodiversity benefits or specify that it is being funded by cofinancing.
- Aquaculture needs to be very carefully considered for its water and biodiversity impacts before any GEF support can be provided.
- For IAS, the project should work with the regional UNEP project on IAS. There are numerous GEF projects with IAS that this project could learn from such as a UNDP project in Fiji as well as a regional project in the Pacific with UNEP and SPREP.
- Restoration needs to meet a very high threshold for support in biodiversity projects demonstrating specific and cost-effective benefits for globally significant biodiversity.
- There are likely ongoing restoration efforts both in SVG and elsewhere, how will this project work with and learn from those?
- How will the sites be selected?
- It is described as a pilot. Where will resources and support for implementing the activities at scale come from?
- How will the project ensure the long term protection of the sites?
- Biabou – The description of the area and the challenges relate to sargassum. However, the project does not seem to do anything address sargassum. Please revise.

Component 4:

- This should be covered by PMC and not a project component.

4/13/2020

No, please address the following:

- Please change the project title in the Portal.
- Component 2 - Biodiversity value (not ecosystem services or other criteria) is a minimum standard for the selection of sites rather than just one of several considerations.
- Component 2 - Restoration activities likely cannot be justified for their cost/benefits for biodiversity.

- There is still no biodiversity justification for the 4th site.
- Component 4 is costs not allowable for GEF projects.
- The GEF Datasheet does not match the PID. This project cannot be fully reviewed at this time because of the differences in information.
- Based on the PID, the project feels very TA heavy and little on implementation. Please provide indicators for the subcomponents to help give clarity.

4/16/2020

Yes.

We note that component 4 in the PID and PCN is for PMC.

We expect to see the following at PPG:

- Restoration: These activities will not be covered by GEF financing.
- Site selection: All the sites selected will have high biodiversity importance along with a mix of the other factors under consideration that will lead to successful implementation (such as good case studies, interest from partners, etc). We understand that the proposed sites in the document are preliminary and subject to change while maintaining a focus on delivering global environmental benefits. We expect to see a strong justification in the project documents.
- Results framework: We look forward to seeing a results framework that both demonstrates real results on the ground as well as laying the ground work for scaling up through TA.

## **Agency Response**

041320

*No, please address the following:*

*- Please change the project title in the Portal.*

It is [updated in the GEF Portal](#).

*- Component 2 - Biodiversity value (not ecosystem services or other criteria) is a minimum standard for the selection of sites rather than just one of several considerations.*

Thanks for the suggestion. The biodiversity value will be given the highest importance in reviewing the final site selection during project preparation.

**- Component 2 - Restoration activities likely cannot be justified for their cost/benefits for biodiversity.**

Noted. It is mentioned in PCN that the funding of the restoration activities will not be covered under GEF.

**- There is still no biodiversity justification for the 4th site.**

Yes, you are correct. We did not able to collect additional information through client under the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. All the sites will be further reviewed during the project preparation phase based on agreed criteria.

**- Component 4 is costs not allowable for GEF projects.**

Component 4 (project coordination and management) is added in the GEF datasheet. All operational costs will be financed by the cofinancing. WB operational costs are funded by the agency fee. Only GEF eligible activities will be financed by the GEF funding under the PMC.

**- The GEF Datasheet does not match the PID. This project cannot be fully reviewed at this time because of the differences in information.**

The information in the GEF Datasheet is adjusted to reflect PCN and PID composition (component 4 is added to the datasheet to ensure alignment between the documents.

**- Based on the PID, the project feels very TA heavy and little on implementation. Please provide indicators for the subcomponents to help give clarity.**

Thank you for your comment. The PID is a summary of the PCN, and follows the WB template. We can provide additional information with PID, for disclosure. In addition, list of indicators is added to Table B of the GEF datasheet.

040620

Thanks for suggestions and questions. Please the agency response below in Blue color.

- Project title—Ecosystems does not have a hyphen in it.

Thanks. This has been updated in the revised PCN.

- Please include indicators for the activities.

The outcome indicators have been updated.

Component 1:

- Will there be implementation of the training program or just a needs assessment?

The project will implement the training program based on the needs assessment. The component description has been updated.

- How will the project avoid short, one-off trainings that often don't significantly increase actual capacity?

This is an important aspect. The project will prepare a training strategy based on needs assessment and experience of best practices from other GEF and Bank supported projects.

- It would be good to see a greater focus on actual implementation rather than just capacity building, strategies and assessments given that there is \$3 million for this component.

Thanks for the suggestion. The component is focusing on strengthening the policy and institutional framework, improving national and parish capacity in coastal and marine spatial planning and management (including permitting, enforcement, monitoring, surveillance and compliance with laws on environmental assessment, protected species, resource extraction and biosecurity); and identifying appropriate market-based economic instruments. The component is likely to support some essential equipment in terms of capacity building on enforcement, monitoring, surveillance and biosecurity.

- According to another section of this document, there is work with the SVGCF likely in this component but it's not mentioned here.

The component description has been updated to show the link with SVGCF.

#### Component 2:

- What sort of technical assessments would be done?

The areas of the technical assessment will be finalized during the project preparation stage, but could include: (a) diversification and protection of ecosystem based livelihoods for coastal communities; (b) stock assessment of conch and lobster and development of conservation management plans; (c) habitat mapping to assess health of coastal, marine and fishery resources and measures for enhancement; (d) assessment of effectiveness of habitat restoration methods (e.g., in-situ habitat restoration, translocation, etc.) to enhance natural marine ecosystem form, function and services in SVG; (e) valuation of different coastal and marine conservation options that could inform national policy and practice; (f) assessment of cumulative and population-level effects of marine environmental contaminants, such as plastics and other refuse to help development policy and protocols for its management ; and (g) characterization of pollution impacts on health of marine ecosystems and identifying appropriate solid waste and wastewater management practices.

- iii. This is a multitude of different activities with different sectors. Is this reasonable? How will this be managed? How will significant impact be ensured? Many of these activities require significant behavior change and shouldn't be just viewed as doing one small pilot and expect that it will have real impact.

Thanks for the observation. The revised PCN has been updated considering the comments. Behavioral change will be a major contributing factor and the project will contribute in creating awareness, capacity building and demonstrating the results through pilots. Obviously, the real impacts require continued engagement and scale-up of piloting.

- e. This needs to relate to biodiversity benefits or specify that it is being funded by co-financing.

We will include this during the project preparation.

- Aquaculture needs to be very carefully considered for its water and biodiversity impacts before any GEF support can be provided.

Noted. Any aquaculture activities will go through detailed environmental assessment to identify its potential impact on water and biodiversity. The provision will be made in the project Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

- For IAS, the project should work with the regional UNEP project on IAS. There are numerous GEF projects with IAS that this project could learn from such as a UNDP project in Fiji as well as a regional project in the Pacific with UNEP and SPREP.

Thanks for the suggestion. It is well noted.

- Restoration needs to meet a very high threshold for support in biodiversity projects demonstrating specific and cost-effective benefits for globally significant biodiversity.

Noted.

- There are likely ongoing restoration efforts both in SVG and elsewhere, how will this project work with and learn from those?

The project preparation will consider the lesson learnt from the previous and on-going efforts and coordinate with other initiatives.

- How will the sites be selected?

The sites will be further reviewed during the project preparation based on (i) available scientific/technical information on the sites; (ii) benefits in conservations of species, genes and ecosystems; (iii) conservation of environmental services; (iv) potential economic benefits focusing on creation of new jobs and improved quality of life; (v) conservation and promotion of traditional knowledge compatible with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (vi) potential and interest of local communities and private sector participation. This has been clarified in the revised PCN.

- It is described as a pilot. Where will resources and support for implementing the activities at scale come from?

The Component 1 of the project will support in identifying appropriate market-based economic instruments and strengthening the existing mechanism including St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF) that can be deployed to maintain and sustain the quality of the marine and coastal resources and the ecosystem services they provide.

In addition, the project will contribute in possible mobilization of the government budget and development partners (including the World Bank) support through developing and demonstrating successful model.

- How will the project ensure the long term protection of the sites?

Through the active participation of the different stakeholders. The detailed plan will be prepared during the project implementation.

- Biabou – The description of the area and the challenges relate to sargassum. However, the project does not seem to do anything address sargassum. Please revise.

Sargassum has been identified by the several stakeholders as one of the major challenges for conservation of marine biodiversity and operation of tourism business. The component description included the reference of Sargassum. However, the issue and site will be further reviewed during the project preparation.

Component 4:

- This should be covered by PMC and not a project component.

The standard bank project considers Project Management and Coordination as a separate component. We will discuss the issue internally to address the requirements of both the World Bank and GEF.

## Co-financing

**3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, we would expect to see some cofinancing and collaboration with other donors and/or private sector.

4/13/2020

Yes. However, significant work needs to be done in this area during PPG.

### **Agency Response**

041320

thank you, noted.

040620

The detailed of the co-financing issue will be worked out during the project preparation.

### **GEF Resource Availability**

**4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**The STAR allocation?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**The focal area allocation?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**The LDCF under the principle of equitable access**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** NA

**Agency Response**

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** NA

**Agency Response**

Focal area set-aside?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** NA

**Agency Response**

Impact Program Incentive?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion** NA

**Agency Response**

Project Preparation Grant

**5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No PPG requested.

## **Agency Response**

**Core indicators**

**6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)**

## **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, there should be hectares listed under marine hectares with improved management of biodiversity.

4/13/2020

Yes.

## **Agency Response**

040620

It is included as hectares in the datasheet. However, the Annex B has both options of number and hectares.

**Project/Program taxonomy**

**7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?**

## **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, please make sure only relevant areas are selected. This is not an Enabling Activity.

4/13/2020

Yes.

### **Agency Response**

040620

Thanks. It has been reviewed further.

### **Part II – Project Justification**

**1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/29/2020

No, please address the following issues:

PCN paragraph:

5. Its internally inconsistent about the number of invertebrates. It's too big a jump to suggest that there would be millions of species of terrestrial inverts when only 500 have been identified. Please ensure the assertions made can be backed up by references.

6. The discussions of endemic species don't really make sense when talking about marine BD in SVG. The sentence that starts with "In addition" doesn't make sense. Sargassum is not alien – it could be a separate issue though.

18. The description of the SVGCF is odd. They are not part of the government nor controlled by it.

20. BD program 1-1

Annex

Tobago Cays –

Unnecessary since you already cite the IUCN Red List status as such and sounds exaggerated – ” These of these species of turtles have international conservation status as per the IUCN Red List and are at extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.”

Who declared it a “significant staging area”?

The description of Brighton and Diamond beaches is insufficient. “Some of which may be endangered or of global significance” is not acceptable.

Green sea turtles are not Critically Endangered.

Tobago Cays is already protected – please explain the last sentence.

Biabou – No explanation is given for the biodiversity value of this site and why it was selected.

Are any of the sites KBAs?

4/13/2020

No, the issues related to the annexes have not been addressed. The biodiversity justification for site selection needs to be given now to justify the use of GEF resources.

para 18 still sounds like SVGCF is an arm of the government.

4/16/2020

Yes. Please see the responses to question 2 on the site selection process justification needed during project development.

Also, please note that the SVGCF board is majority non-government as is good practice and in-line with the procedures established as part of the WB project to establish it and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.

## **Agency Response**

041320

***No, the issues related to the annexes have not been addressed. The biodiversity justification for site selection needs to be given now to justify the use of GEF resources.***

Unfortunately, we didn't able to collect more information through the client about the sites due to current COVID-19 pandemic situation. The footnote 21 of the PCN clarified that the sites will be further reviewed during the project preparation based on criteria, which will be further updated to include GEF Secretariat recommendation on biodiversity value.

The sites are not the finally selected sites for the project. The World Bank will share detailed information with the GEF Secretariat during preparation before finalization of the sites. We believe the approach is justified under the current emergency.

***para 18 still sounds like SVGCF is an arm of the government.***

The Para 18 refers to the First Fiscal Reform and Resilience Credit (US\$30 million approved by World Bank on May 2, 2019) and includes the actions supported by the credit. The para also refers to footnote 17 on SVGCF. We will further update the footnote clarifying that (i) SVGCF is established as a 'Not for Profit Company'; (ii) it is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Founder Member Directors, Affiliated Directors, and Non-Affiliated Directors representing government and non-government sectors; and (iii) it works in partnership with communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, government agencies and the private sector.

However, please note that the majority of the Board of Members are from the different government agencies as per the following paragraph (taken from SVGCF website: <https://svgcf.org/index.php/about-us/who-we-are/>)

The SVGCF By-Laws state that it will be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Founder Member Directors, Affiliated Directors, and Non-Affiliated Directors. Founder members are identified as a person from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust; the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; and Sustainable Grenadines Inc. Affiliated Directors are from entities of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, represented by National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment. Non-Affiliated Directors are currently, the St Vincent and the Grenadines Hotels and Tourism Association; the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chamber of Industry and Commerce; and The Lions Club Kingstown SVG.

040620

PCN paragraph:

5. Its internally inconsistent about the number of invertebrates. It's too big a jump to suggest that there would be millions of species of terrestrial inverts when only 500 have been identified. Please ensure the assertions made can be backed up by references.

Thanks for the observation. The figure has been corrected.

6. The discussions of endemic species don't really make sense when talking about marine BD in SVG. The sentence that starts with "In addition" doesn't make sense. Sargassum is not alien – it could be a separate issue though.

Noted. It has been revised.

18. The description of the SVGCF is odd. They are not part of the government nor controlled by it.

Thanks. It has been revised and a footnote also provided on SVGCF.

20. BD

program 1-1

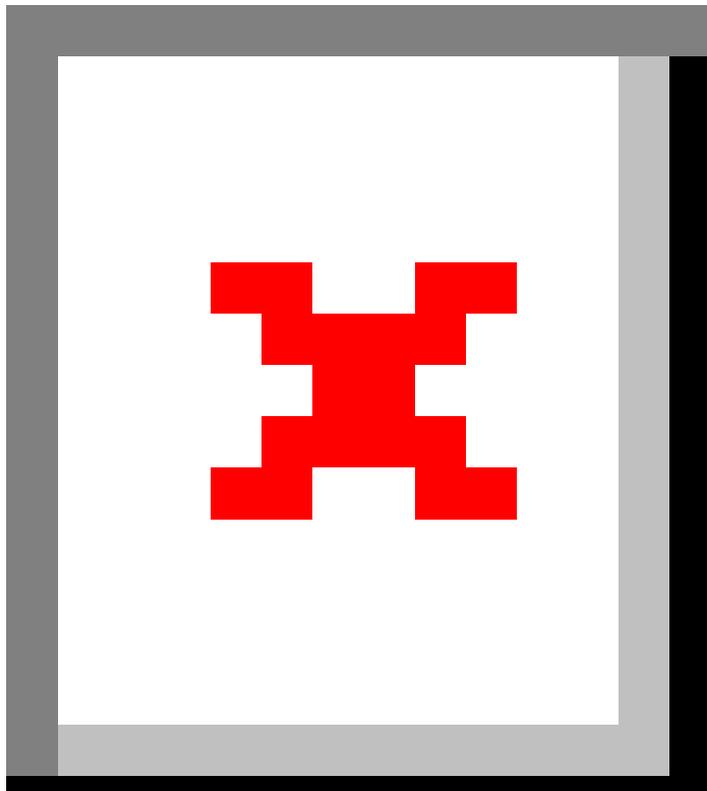
Annex

Tobago Cays –

Unnecessary since you already cite the IUCN Red List status as such and sounds exaggerated—”These of these species of turtles have international conservation status as per the IUCN Red List and are at extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.”

Who declared it a “significant staging area”?

The description of Brighton and Diamond beaches is insufficient. “Some of which may be endangered or of global significance” is not acceptable.



**Agency Response**

041320

As explained earlier, the baseline information will be updated during the project preparation after final selection of the sites.

040620

This will be updated during project preparation.

**3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, please address the issues raised in question 2.

4/13/2020

No, please provide the information on indicators to help understand what this project will do.

4/16/2020

Yes.

However, please note the following:

- "[linkages among ecosystem services, shoreline stability and protection and climate change adaptation to enable informed decision-making](#);" is not necessarily a benefit to globally significant biodiversity

## Agency Response

041320

The following key results are proposed for measuring achievement of the PDO (this information is added in table B of the GEF datasheet):

- i. An integrated coastal and marine zone management framework to promote sustainable development in SVG
- ii. Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (ha).
- iii. Area of coastal and marine seascapes under improved management practices (ha)
- iv. Improved National Environmental Data and Information Platform for information sharing and decision-making on the conservation and use of coastal and marine resources
- v. Direct (those who receive direct economic benefit from project interventions) beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-beneficiaries.

In summary, the project will support the participatory approaches in coastal and marine environment of St. Vincent and the Grenadines including: (i) institutional and policy support, and capacity building for coordination, spatial and financial management, and monitoring of the coastal and marine environment; (ii) setting-up a publicly accessible national knowledge platform (environmental data and information center) for an improved information base for decision-making on the use and conservation of coastal and marine resources; and (iii) demonstrating the effectiveness of spatial planning approaches in selected pilot coastal and marine sites.

The project is expected to result in the following positive environmental and social benefits over the long term:

- Enhanced access to relevant baseline environmental data on the linkages among ecosystem services, shoreline stability and protection and climate change adaptation to enable informed decision-making;
- Appropriate institutional mechanisms, strengthened institutional capacity and improved coordination for coastal and marine ecosystem management at both the national and local levels;
- Piloting of improved and adaptive conservation and resource use approaches to protect and improve the livelihoods of local communities; and
- Enhanced protection of public and private property and contribution to overall resilience of coastal populations.

040620

Noted, thank you. [The issues have been addressed in the revised Project Concept.](#)

**5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, it's unclear the purpose of the baseline activity (Bank loan).

4/13/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response** The World Bank has a strong presence in SVG and supporting the Government in numbers of operations related to blue economy and disaster risk reduction. The Government has requested to the Bank to continue its support in SVG in coastal and marine ecosystem development.

**6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, it would be expected that this project would contribute to core indicator 5 and/or additional hectares for MPAs.

4/13/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

040620

Core indicator 5 and MPA area are updated in the datasheet, thank you for guidance

**7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, please discuss ensuring the sustainability and scaling up of the physical activities more. And please discuss sustainability of things like capacity building as well.

On financial sustainability, the activities described with the SVGCF are not actually described in the components. The GEF-6 UNDP project was supposed to do such an assessment. It will be important to include the resources to actually implement such a study rather than just completing another study that will sit on a shelf.

4/13/2020

Yes. This is fine for now, but needs significant work at PPG.

**Agency Response**

041320

thank you, noted.

040620

The comments well received and the the PCN has revised to further strengthen the sustainability issue.

**Project/Program Map and Coordinates**

**Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, the maps need context.

4/13/2020

No, the maps need to show where they came from.

4/16/2020

Yes, these are acceptable for now.

**Agency Response**

041320

Maps are provided by the client. We did not get further detailed information from the client under the current situation. The maps will be updated with geo-reference sources during project preparation after confirmation of the sites.

**Stakeholders**

**Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes. At CEO Endorsement, we expect to see much more engagement with smaller organizations such as fishing associations.

### **Agency Response**

040620

During preparation, the project will carry out the assessment to identify all the relevant stakeholders and prepare a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) as per requirement of the World Bank Environment and Social Framework.

### **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, please provide some reflections on how gender is relevant for the project areas and measures to be taken throughout project development.

During project development, please include another metric other than number of beneficiaries to assess women's participation and engagement.

4/13/2020

Yes.

### **Agency Response**

040620

Gender Segmentation in the Labor Market and higher poorer rate in women headed households are relevant major challenges in SVG. The implementing agency will prepare a Social Assessment focusing on how to address gender inequalities in fisheries, tourism and related sector that impinge in the coastal and marine sectors. The Social Assessment (SA) will unpack the nuances of women participation in these sectors and identify respective opportunities with extensive participation of women. The SA will also provide recommendations on how to design project activities with a gender lens to promote strategies and approaches to strengthen the role and participation of women in the relevant coastal and marine productivity sectors. The SA will be prepared before appraisal.

### **Private Sector Engagement**

**Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, the engagement with the private sector is unclear at this point. It may be difficult to establish this with resorts and other businesses during COVID, so a discussion of engagement plans during PPG would suffice.

4/13/2020

No, it still appears as though private sector engagement is something the project will consider during the life of the project rather than working on it during PPG so that project design can account for the needs and perspectives of the private sector so they can be a partner from the beginning.

4/16/2020

Yes. We understand the issue with private sector engagement especially given the uncertainty of the present moment. However, private sector engagement isn't just about getting money from them but looking at real and fundamental partnerships with large actors. We expect to see these discussions at CEO Endorsement.

### **Agency Response**

041320

We agree that project preparation is the right time to start a dialogue with the private sector in business as usual situation. However, all are cognizant of the worldwide situation with COVID and how this will affect drastically especially the tourism sector (SVG's 45.5% of GDP 45.5% in 2018 depends on the tourism sector). We will

not be surprised if there is not much of a private sector left in the tourism business during the 2020-21 high season. Some untouched cruise ships are being converted to other duties (think hospital ships). There may be some restructuring and change of ownership in the coming years. However, the team expects the situation will be improved from next year, which will create opportunity to initiate dialogue with the private sector, in particular the tourism sector as they begin to re-open the economy. The project will explore the possibility of mobilizing private sector resources for scaling-up the project activities.

040620

Fully agreed with the Secretariat's response.

### **Risks**

**Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, we think it's important to identify some of the potential risks related to this massive economic downturn for SVG to at least be accounting for them during PPG.

4/13/2020

Yes.

### **Agency Response**

040620

Noted. The risk section has reference of this potential risk.

### **Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

No, we would like to see coordination with IWECO (UNEP) project and other IW projects in the region.

4/13/2020

Yes, this will need to be carefully considered during project development.

**Agency Response**

040620

Thanks for the suggestion. The revised Project Concept already included the coordination with IerCO (UNEP) and other IW projects.

**Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/31/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, what local languages will materials be produced in? How will the project learn from other initiatives in the SIDS? How will it share lessons outside of SVG?

The current KM plan sounds very ambitious. Is it reasonable to take on?

4/13/2020

No, please note that "local languages" comes from the PCN hence why it was mentioned in the review.

4/16/2020

Yes.

**Agency Response**

041320

Thank you, noted. [Sorry for the typo or overlooking the ‘local languages’ issue in the PCN. We will review this in PCN or other associated documents.](#)

040620

Since SVG is English speaking country, there is no additional requirement to prepare materials in local languages. The implementing agency has a very good working relation with OECS Secretariat and will coordinate with them to learn the initiatives from other countries. In addition, the World Bank will support to establish links with other GEF agencies supported programs in SIDS. The project will link with the proposed World Bank Regional Blue Economy Project and use different platforms to disseminate lessons from the project.

Thanks for the observation. It will be further reviewed during the project preparation.

### **Part III – Country Endorsements**

**Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

Yes.

#### **Agency Response**

**Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects**

**Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

NA

#### **Agency Response**

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

3/30/2020

No, please revise and resubmit.

4/13/2020

No, please revise and resubmit.

4/22/2020

No, please address the following:

- Please provide a description of the Consultations that took place with civil society organizations and private sector entities, as indicated in the Stakeholders section (#2).
- Please include a submission date in the Portal.
- Please attach the “Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS)” at the PIF stage as other World Bank projects. Please attach the “Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary” and or, in line with the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards, provide indicative information on any identified ESS risks and impact.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Review Dates**

	<b>PIF Review</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**PIF Recommendation to CEO**

**Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a small island country with a population of approximately 110,000 people. It is part of the Caribbean biodiversity hotspot and committed to conserve 20% of inshore marine habitat by 2020. SVG’s tourism market is less developed than some of its neighbors and there are still large areas of natural ecosystems in good condition. As part of their GEF-6 project, SVG established a new marine protected area but lacked the resources to support its full implementation as part of a larger holistic marine spatial plan.

This project will build upon previous GEF projects and the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project to strengthen the management of coastal and marine eco-systems of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The project will support the: institutionalization of coastal and marine ecosystem management; application of a participatory ecosystem-based framework to effectively plan, manage, finance and monitor compliance in target environmentally sensitive coastal and marine sites; and associated knowledge and data management.

The project will support the establishment of financing for conservation and environmental management as well as needed regulatory and enforcement mechanisms for marine and coastal areas, which will help create sustainability. Also, the development of marine spatial plans coupled with support for sustainable livelihood approaches could be scaled-up to other areas and islands of SVG. The project will start by targeting some of the most important places for biodiversity while piloting different options and opportunities. The project will also explore options in sargassum management, which is a challenge faced across the Caribbean.

The project will support the improved management of 4,000 hectares of marine protected areas and the improved management for biodiversity of 12,000 hectares of marine area.