

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Conserving Biodiversity**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5088 |
| GEF ID | 5078 |
| Title | Conserving Biodiversity and reducing habitat degradation in Protected Areas and their Buffer Zones |
| Country(ies) | St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Kitts and Nevis |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The project will expand the existing PA system through the establishment of one new terrestrial PA and two new marine PAs (the first marine PAs in the country). In addition, the project will address systemic issues by implementing key elements of SKNs Protected Areas System Plan, including the establishment of a centralized agency for protected areas management, the introduction of user fees to offset PA management costs, the creation and revision of PA site management plans, and the implementation of key conservation actions (biodiversity inventories; coral reef conservation) within specific PA sites, thereby strengthening PA management capacities and the ability to reduce or eliminate threats to biodiversity including habitat destruction and over-exploitation of marine biodiversity resources. The proposed project also will also implement measures to reduce habitat degradation in PA buffer areas which are having an adverse impact on the ecological integrity of protected areas. Finally, the project will assist St Kitts and Nevis to achieve the Aichi targets in particular target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. It supports the following goals of the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas: 1.2 To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function; 1.4 To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management; 1.5 To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas; 3.1 To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas; and 3.5 To strengthen communication, education and public awareness. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| Programme Associate | Ms. Joana Troyano (joana.troyano@undp.org) |
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| Project Implementing Partner | Ms. June Hughes (ccodoe@sisterisles.kn) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

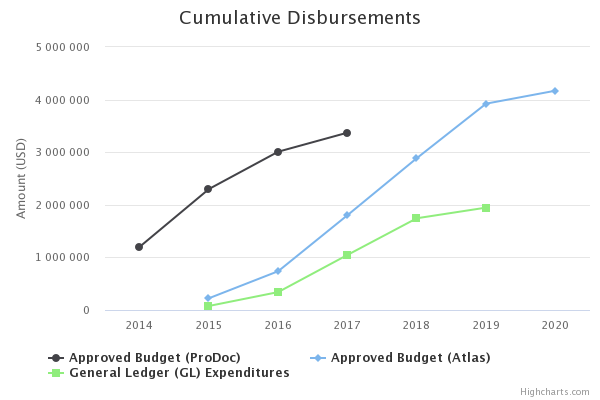
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Moderate |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To expand and strengthen the terrestrial and marine protected area system, and reduce habitat destruction in areas of influence that negatively impact PA ecological functioning** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area of terrestrial ecosystems in St. Kitts and Nevis under official protection | 5,260 hectares at 2 existing sites | *(not set or not applicable)* | 8,810 hectares (3,550 ha. added at 2 new sites) by end of project | The Nevis Island Administration made a Cabinet decision to declare the Nevis Peak National Park and Camps Rivers Watershed Area (3,250 ha). This decision is contingent on demarcation of the areas with the support of Nevis' Department of Physical Planning and Environment, which is expected to occur in early 2019.    Booby Island Nature Reserve (300 ha) will come into effect when the National Environmental Management Bill is enacted (expected early 2019). This Bill is still being scrutinized by the Ministry of Legal Affairs. | 5,620    The declaration of Nevis Peak National Park and Camps River Watershed Areas is delayed awaiting the establishment of the relevant boundaries. The Nevis Island Administration has made a firm commitment to declaring Nevis Peak as a protected area but are awaiting the specific boundary lines to give the precise coordinates of the protected area within the legislation. A boundary demarcation exercise is being undertaken by the project as part of its 2019 AWP and is scheduled to be completed during the last quarter of 2019. Once complete, these coordinates will be included in the legislation and it will be submitted for approval.  Booby Island Nature Reserve (300 ha) will come into effect when the National Conservation Environmental Management Bill is enacted. This is expected to be presented for approval by Government during the latter half of 2019. |
| Area of marine ecosystems in St. Kitts and Nevis under official protection | 0 hectares | *(not set or not applicable)* | 11,693 hectares (11,693 ha. added at 3 new sites) by end of project | The project is on track to achieve this target. Sandy Point, The Narrows and Keys (Total area: 11,693 ha) are on track for the area of marine ecosystems in the Federation under official protection as they were proposed Marine Protected Areas under this project but since the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement declared these areas as Conservation Zones within the St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Management Area, the project has adopted them as areas of protection. | 11,693 hectares        The Department of Marine Resources designated the two mile radius around St. Kitts and Nevis as a Marine Management Area (MMA)with Conservation Zones at Keys, The Narrows and Sandy Point. Since the writing of the Project Document a Marine Management Area measuring 42,456.322 hectares was legally established in 2016 and the Marine Protected Areas in the country are referred to as Marine Management Area - Conservation Zones (MMA-CZ) and includes Monkey Shoals. Within that designation the 11,693 hectares that was proposed through this project has been legally established within this MMA. |
| Capacity development indicator score for protected area system:  • Systemic  • Institutional  • Individual | 50%  38%  48% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 65%  55%  65% | This is to be measured for the Terminal Evaluation. | This is to be measured at the Terminal Evaluation. |
| Improved management effectiveness of protected area units as measured by METT:  • Central Forest Reserve National Park  • Royal Basseterre Valley Park  • Nevis Peak Forest Reserve National Park  • Booby Island Nature Reserve  • Narrows Marine Park  • Keys Marine Park  • Sandy Point Marine Park | 39  28  30  6  14  25  15 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 60  40  60  40  60  60  60 | METT tracking tool was applied at the MTR and the progress was measured for all Protected Areas as the following:    •Central Forest Reserve National Park - 47  • Royal Basseterre Valley Park - 30  • Nevis Peak National Park and Camps River Watershed Area - 35  • Booby Island Nature Reserve - 30  •Conservation Zone in The Narrows - 63  • Conservation Zone in Keys - 58  • Conservation Zone in Sandy Point – 60 | 47  30  35  30  63  58  60    The METT was done during the June 2018 Mid Term Evaluation and a final score will be done at the end of the project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Strengthened Protected Area System Framework and Capacities** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Legal authority in place for the collection and retention (within the PA system) of visitor / user / concession fees and other financing mechanisms for protected areas, including the proposed National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) | Only 1 PA unit (Brimstone Hill NP) has authority to collect or retain fees | *(not set or not applicable)* | By end of year 2, legal authority established (under existing NCEPA and/or new NCEMA and Marine Resources Act) for all official PA units to collect and retain fees and receive allocations from the NCTF | The project assisted with the revision of the National Conservation Environment Management Bill (NCEMB), which includes the legal authority to be established. The NCEMB is expected to be enacted in early 2019.    No legal authority to collect fees is currently in place, however the updated National Environment Management bill includes a PA visitor / user fees system.    The Ministry of Agriculture will assess the Sustainable Financing Mechanism produced in 2017 and site based financing plans are being developed. | No legal authority to collect fees is in place, however the updated National Environment and Conservation Management Bill includes the collection and retention of a PA visitor / user fees system.    The project provided support for the review of the National Environment Conservation Management (NCEM) Bill and made recommendations for the alignment all environmental legislation, including the incorporation of user fees for all protected areas and conservation areas. The new Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act 2016 also allows for the collection and retention of fees.    The NCEM Bill will be presented to Parliament by end-2019. |
| Consolidated and effectively functioning institutional management of protected areas in St. Kitts and Nevis | Existing PA units and sites of proposed new PA units currently are managed by multiple government agencies and non-governmental organizations | *(not set or not applicable)* | Protected Areas Agency (PAA) formally established and actively implementing functions across PA system (planning; financing; monitoring, enforcement) by end of year 3 | The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is not in agreement with the formation of statutory bodies until their financial stability is ensured. Therefore, alternative institutional arrangements were explored for the management of Protected Areas. Directors and Permanent Secretaries from the main Ministries concerned met on 1 June 2018 where they re-examined and approved the Protected Areas and Marine Management Areas institutional structure that had been proposed following a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders. The agreed institutional structure will be put in place in January 2019 when the Government takes on the Protected Areas staff full time. | No PAA has been formally established.    As previously determined by Government, the formation of a PAA was dropped in favour of a less formal coordination arrangement. Specifically, the 2018 approval of a Protected Area & Marine Managed Area Institutional Structure was intended to be supported by the Ministries and Departments responsible for the protected areas system on both islands. The structure included the Department of Environment - Parks and Protected Area Unit, Department of Marine Resources - Marine Sustainable Use Unit, Department of Physical Planning and Environment – Parks and Protected Area Unit and the Department of Fisheries - Marine Sustainable Use Unit (however in 2019 the Department of Fisheries has been renamed the Department of Marine Resources and envisioned quarterly meetings to coordinate management activities across the PA network.    During the year, however, the Protected Areas Unit and the Marine Resources Sustainable Use Unit have not met as planned. Nonetheless, the project supported the work of the agencies to implement some of the coordination functions and ultimately there was greater coordination of, planning, monitoring and enforcement activities at the Departmental levels    While this is an improvement from the previous reluctance to establish a single unit to manage the system of protected areas, the continued segregated management of the parks system remains a risk to the overall effectiveness of PA system management.. The project will need to continue to work with the stakeholders to improve their engagement and coordination in line with the agreed mechanism. |
| Effective coordination between institutions / personnel responsible for protected areas and for adjacent / upstream areas of influence on PA units | No coordination or information sharing mechanisms among resource management agencies are current functional in St. Kitts and Nevis | *(not set or not applicable)* | National Environmental Committee (NEC) overseeing protected areas management throughout the country by end of year 1 | The NEC's formation has been delayed until the National Conservation and Environment Management Bill is passed.    The newly approved institutional structure unit includes a Coordinating Unit that would oversee all protected areas management.    An ICT consultant was contracted to develop a web-based library for all federal environmental, flora, fauna, habitat, geographical information system and natural resources related data. The Multi-institutional Centralized Integrated Information Management System will consolidate information from different systems across ministries / departments in the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis. A series of stakeholder meetings were held and it was agreed that the St. Kitts Department of Information Technology and Nevis Department of Information Technology will house the databases. A list of hardware and software were prepared for procurement and distribution to various government stakeholders who will supply environmental data to the system. | The NEC has not yet been formalised due to the delay in the passage of the NCEM Bill.  During the year, the project supported stakeholder dialogue on the functioning of the National Environmental Committee. The Department of Environment leads this activity but has not indicated when this is likely to be formalized.        The project supported the provision of initial remote IT support to end users to upload PA system data into a cloud sharing portal. However, procurement delays have stalled the installation and operationalisation of the full protected areas information system. The UNDP MCO will now be responsible for this procurement; it has been initiated and is expected to be completed by September 2019 with installation soon thereafter. |
| Number of PA staff with specialised training and/or skills development in the following PA management functions:  • PA planning processes and tools  • Creation / enforcement of PA regulations  • Ecotourism development  • Business and financial planning  • Database management and decision support tools | 0  2 (specific to fisheries)  0  0  0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Staff of PAA, as well as partner institutions (DPPE, DPPNRE, DMR, NDF), trained by end of project:  6  6  6  6  6 | A capacity needs assessment was conducted and a training module developed to increase local capacity for protected areas management. A total of 35 (12 females and 23 males) participants were engaged in interactive lectures and field visits from 16-25 April 2018. Field trips around Booby Island and to the turtle nursery at the Conaree snapper farm allowed participants to implement and assess some aspects of the training received. Certificates were awarded to participants. Support was received from the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network, St. Kitts and Nevis Coast Guard, Department of Information Technology and the St. Kitts Ministry of Tourism. | 7  (0 females; 7 males)    PA staff received short training in Planning Processes and tools in the collection of GPS data and resource cataloging. This includes the 5 Park Rangers and 2 supervisors (all males) The Park Rangers have collected GPS data which was submitted to the GIS Units on both island to update the protected areas systems maps (the aim is to map all trails). This information is also useful for the financing options which will be presented by the site based financing strategy consultant.    20  (8 females; 12 males)    PA staff trained in the creation or enforcement of PA regulations - currently do not exist. However, to build emergency response capacity within the PA network, the St. Kitts Red Cross certified 20 (8 females and 12 males) persons from the protected areas staff and government departments' staff in First Aid and CPR.    15  (7 females; 8 males)  PA staff (11) and the stakeholder Departments' staff were trained through the Ministry of Tourism on ecotourism development. The presentations also involved presentation techniques to assist    0    PA staff trained in business and financial planning    25  (6 females; 19 males)  11 PA staff and 14 Departmental staff participated in data management training by the Information Systems Database consultant in Database management and decision support tools.    As the staff capacity increases, operationalization of the parks is paramount. To this end, the construction of two interpretation centers are done under the project. The Project Coordinating Unit is working collaboration and coordination of the Nevis Island Administration, through the Department of Public Works for the bidding, contracting and supervision of works and the Department of Physical Planning and Environment, custodian of the center) to construct the interpretation center in Hard Times, Nevis. The construction is estimated to be completed in October 2019.    On the other hand, the continues to collaborate with the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network to construct the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Interpretation Center at Keys village. A number of delays have stalled the start of this construction and the time line for starting the works are more likely to be September. Some of the delays are associated with the secure the land from the Federal Government, the unavailability of Public Works architects to design the building and the overbudget cost of the wining private architect to design the building. |
| Increased funding support for protected areas in St. Kitts and Nevis through the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) (US$/year) | US$0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | US$429,000/year (50% from the NCTF and 50% from the CBF) by end of project | The project developed a sustainable financing mechanism for the Protected Areas, which is to be approved by Cabinet in early 2019. | US$0    Building on the completion of the sustainable financing mechanism, the project commenced support for the development a site based financing strategy for the system of protected areas.    The Department of Marine Resources is in the process of developing a comprehensive marine management plan that would include conservation, financing and management activities and have asked to be separate from the terrestrial plan. The results of the marine consultancy should become available by October 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Protected Area System Expansion and Strengthened Management of Existing and New Protected Areas** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| # of Protected Areas legally established and demarcated in St. Kitts and Nevis  • Terrestrial Protected Areas  • Marine Protected Areas | 3 existing PA units  0 existing PA units | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2 additional PA units by end of year 2  3 additional PA units by end of year 2 | Sandy Point, The Narrows and Keys (11,693 ha) were declared as the Marine Management Area Conservation Zones.    No change in the terrestrial Protected Areas, except the commitment posited by the Nevis Island Administration to take the necessary steps to declare Nevis Peak National Park and the Camps River Watershed area (3,250 ha) as a protected area.    Sandy Point, The Narrows and Keys were proposed Marine Protected Areas under this project but since the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement declared these areas as Conservation Zones in the St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Management Area, the project has adopted them as areas of protection. | 0 additional TPA units established    The proposed terrestrial protected areas under the project are yet to receive official designation. However, while the Nevis Island Administration has made a firm commitment to declaring Nevis Peak and Camps River Watershed as protected areas they are awaiting the specific demarcation/ boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the protected areas. The Department of Physical Planning and Environment in Nevis is preparing the necessary documents to support this.  The proposed Booby Island Nature Reserve will automatically be declared once the National Conservation and Environmental Management Bill is passed in Parliament in the latter half of 2019.      3 additional MPA units established    When the 2016 Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act was passed it supported the establishment of the St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Management Area with Conservation Zones at Keys, The Narrows and Sandy Point adding 3 new sites amounting to 11,693 hectares.    As per the AWP for 2019, the project will support the completion of demarcation activities for both terrestrial and marine sites by the end of 2019. |
| Conservation of critical habitat within the Protected Areas targeted by the project:  • Forest health at 4 terrestrial PAs, as measured by # of hectares  • Coral reef health at 3 MPA sites, as measured by:  • Percent live hard coral cover  • Percent dead hard coral cover  • Number of coral recruits (per m2)  • Seagrass bed health, as measured by # of hectares  • Health of selected reef fish stocks, as measured by:  • Abundance per m3  • Species diversity | 8,790 hectares (forest)    TBD during Year 1  TBD during Year 1  TBD during Year 1  TBD during Year 1    TBD during Year 1  TBD during Year 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net loss (in # of hectares) by end of project  No decrease by project end  No increase by project end  No decrease by project end  No net loss (in # of hectares) by end of project  No decrease by project end  No decrease by project end | Through the marine ecological and biodiversity assessment the main stakeholder consultations have been completed and fieldwork will be executed in June and August 2018. Onsite work is on schedule (from June to August 2018) in Keys, Sandy Point and The Narrows with the assistance of a vessel from the St. Kitts and Nevis Coast Guard. | No baselines set.    The project supported the advancement of the terrestrial and marine biodiversity assessments/inventories during the period, which had been significantly delayed during previous periods. A series of setbacks within the company resulted in reduced capacity and adversely affected the the capacity of the contracted firm to complete these inventories.    As a result, baseline ecological conditions were not established as planned. These challenges were rectified during the review period and major progress was made in completing the assignment, which is now on-track for completion by year-end 2019. Unfortunately, this will provide little time for the information collected to be used as a baseline to measure the impact of project interventions.    To address this gap, the project is now working closely with personnel from the Department of Marine Resources to adapt existing ecological databases for use as rudimentary baselines. The preliminary results from the completed biodiversity assessments/inventories will then be compared against these data to identify the direction and extent of any ecological changes. |
| Increased PA management funds for PA units targeted by the project from visitor, user and concession fees | US$0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | US$200,000/year for 3 marine PA sites and US$35,000/year 2 terrestrial PA sites by end of project (targets will be validated and possibly revised during the first year of the project) | Awaiting the acceptance/approval of the Sustainable Financing Mechanism from the Ministry of Agriculture. | $0    There are no visitor user fees being charged by the Government to date.    This activity is still awaiting the acceptance/approval of the Sustainable Financing Mechanism from the Ministry of Agriculture. |
| Number of site-level PA staff, with specialised training in PA management  • Terrestrial PA Sites (enforcement; conservation, monitoring; community empowerment, outreach, etc.)  • Marine PA Sites (ecological monitoring; deploying mooring buoys and FADs; enforcement; boat safety and navigation; extension / stakeholder engagement, etc.) | 0  0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 5 trained staff managing 2 terrestrial PA sites by end of project  At least 6 trained staff managing 3 Marine Parks by end of project | 28 persons received certificates in Protected Areas Management after a 9-day training session conducted by Global Parks/Conservation Council of Nations. Areas of training included: Building partnerships and networking; conflict and dispute resolution, community/stakeholder engagement; participatory planning;    7 (2 females and 5 males) supervisors and Directors of stakeholder Departments participated in a one day Protected Areas management training for supervisors. The main purpose of the meeting was to assist Supervisors in identifying areas in which they can further support the Protected Areas staff in effecting their work.    11 Protected Areas staff are participating in ecological monitoring with the consultant firm Envision Mapping. | 49    In previous years, 28 persons received certificates in Protected Areas Management after a 9-day training session conducted by Global Parks/Conservation Council of Nations. Areas of training included: Building partnerships and networking; conflict and dispute resolution, community/stakeholder engagement; participatory planning;    Similarly 7 (2 females and 5 males) supervisors and Directors of stakeholder Departments participated in a one day Protected Areas management training for supervisors. The main purpose of the meeting was to assist Supervisors in identifying areas in which they can further support the Protected Areas staff in effecting their work. 11 Protected Areas staff are participating in ecological monitoring with the consultant firm Envision Mapping.  During the current review period, an additional 3 (males) terrestrial PA supervisors received short training in PA management where guidelines on data collection and analysis tools were presented. Monitoring tools also discussed and tested.    Training for the marine staff will be done in the 4th quarter. The training will include a marine park attachment to gain first hand knowledge and short courses delivered locally are being planned in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources. |
| Reduced impact of invasive alien species (lionfish) at targeted PA units | Baseline population of lionfish (tbd in year 1 of project) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 25% reduction in lionfish population at targeted sites by end of project | No action has been taken by the project to date. Discussions with the Department of Marine Resources have revealed a reduction in habitat abundance. A collaborative effort is being contemplated for 2019; a final decision will be taken based on the outcome of the marine ecological inventory. | The DMR has indicated that landings of lionfish have become insignificant since the 2012 culling exercise and, as a result, the agency has removed lionfish from the Invasive Alien Species project and advised that resources under the project to combat should be redirected to other marine activities within the project. |
| Conservation of priority endemic species at terrestrial protected areas (Central Forest Reserve NP and Nevis Peak NP) | Targeted species to be determined through biodiversity inventories during years 1-2 of project | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net decline in populations of selected species by end of project | An amended contract is being developed so that the final three deliverables of the terrestrial inventory can be completed to inform conservation and management plans. | The terrestrial ecological inventory began in late 2016 but due to various setbacks including the prolonged illness of the lead researcher, numerous delays resulted. Due to low technical feedback from the main government stakeholder the Department of Environment, alternative sources for the review of the feedback have been sort.The Chief Technical Adviser's thorough review and feedback have been shared with the consultants and once contracted, the consultancy will conclude its findings and present the database. This is expected by year-end, 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 57.73% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 57.73% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,946,285 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 64,725 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,371,630 |
| Co-financing | 14,199,101 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 15, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Jul 1, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Nov 19, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 9, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Nov 19, 2016 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Apr 12, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 15, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Nov 19, 2018 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | May 19, 2020 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-09-20 |
| 2018-11-29 |
| 2018-12-06 |
| 2019-03-21 |
| 2019-06-20 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Regulatory | The process for the enactment of new legislation in St. Kitts and Nevis is slow and unpredictable. Delays regarding establishing financing and management structures for the Protected Areas Systems are contingent on the enactment of the National Conservation and Environmental Management Bill. Back log at the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Legal Department and the unavailability of dedicated environmental lawyers to guide the process also contribute.    The Project Coordinating Unit ensures advanced communication with stakeholders, and shares documents with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Legal Department early and frequently. A review committee was established to conduct review in real time to accelerate the process. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The project received a no-cost extension, therefore the terminal evaluation and/or project closure date has been adjusted. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| N/A |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| N/A |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The year under review was exciting in that the Project Coordinating Unit was able to continue most of the planned activities and complete the submission for the granting of the eighteen months no cost project extension. The prospects of gaining an additional 18 months to implement all the activities to achieve the project's objective was promising. When the extension was granted plans went into full swing to meet the adjusted deadline. Albeit some setbacks, the successes over the last year are noteworthy.    With assistance from key technical personnel the PA staff have improved their skills in planning, monitoring and enforcement. The local capacity continues to increase with the trainings in the various areas: 7 PA staff received short training in Planning Processes and tools in the collection of GPS data and resource cataloging. 15 persons were trained through the Ministry of Tourism on Ecotourism development. The St. Kitts Red Cross certified 20 persons from the protected areas staff and government departments' staff in First Aid and CPS. 25 persons trained by the Information Systems Database consultant in Database management and decision support tools .The GIS mapping of the terrestrial trails is one significant output of this training.The collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism has improved the staff's ability to link their work with the benefits of ecotourism.    The groundbreaking for the construction of the interpretation center at Hard Times was a major achievement for bringing awareness and validation to the plans for establishing Nevis Peak as a protected areas. The construction is on tract to be completed by year's end. The Project explored a number of South-South cooperation initiatives, the most fruitful being that with the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust. A Park Ranger and a Supervisor will spend one week in July at the John Crow and Blue Mountains National Park in Jamaica to gain first hand knowledge on park management. They will be required to share their new found skills and knowledge with their counterparts on return.      The various departments continue to implement protected areas and marine conservation work at the departmental level. Although a protected areas or parks systems approach would be preferred their work has to be commended. It is envisioned that over the next few months, structured meetings to operationalize a management structure will occur. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | During the year, the project supported some important milestones that will ultimately enhance biodiversity preservation and ecological sustainability in St. Kitts and Nevis beyond project-end. Work on expanding the terrestrial protected areas has been slower and no expansion has yet been achieved; however the Federation saw the designation of 11,693 hectares for conservation as Marine Management Areas. To support the MMA and prepare for TPA designation, training in planning and GPS, PA regulation enforcement and financial planning for PAs continued, bringing to 67 (21 women; 46 men) the number of personnel trained so far.    The expansion of terrestrial ecological protected areas will depend on the passage of the Environmental Management Bill, which has been delayed. There seems to be some implementation fatigue on the part of key stakeholders that has resulted in persistent delays in reviewing/approving outputs and completing the necessary processes for the approval of the Bill. This is particularly problematic since the passage of this Bill represents a major milestone to the achievement of the expansion of the PA network as well as various other project milestones, including the framework for the collection of PA visitor/user fees and the formalisation of the National Environmental Committee that will be charged with the critical coordination function across agencies responsible for PA management. The project will need to facilitate dialogue and action among relevant stakeholders and also undertake strategic advocacy to unlock and accelerate this process. New means of engaging stakeholders will need to be explored as current actions, though diligent, have not been highly productive.    The unavailability of baseline data is of particular concern. Until recently, the illness of one of the consultants assigned to this task stalled progress on data collection and analysis. While this work was put back on track during the year, with only 8 months remaining for implementation, results tracking for ecological impacts may be challenging at project-end unless retroactive baselines are not established quickly. Unfortunately, this lack of baselines would make it impossible to determine the impact of the project on biodiversity conservation efforts. To this end, it is critical that the Project Coordinating Unit do two processes in parallel to support this output: they have to work closely with the technical team to ensure the completion of the current, ongoing inventories and, simultaneously, work with the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and other stakeholders to adapt the necessary data from existing sources as baselines against which the newly collected data can be compared. In future projects, much greater effort should be placed on baseline data collection during project inception to avoid this problem.    The rate of financial delivery is also a concern. 10 months into its 18 month extension, project expenditure is just at 58%. To expend the full resource allocation, the rate of expenditure will have to increase significantly over the next 8 months. The PMU will therefore have to work closely with UNDP and Government counterparts to coordinate efforts on procurement, recruitment, contract management and quality assurance of outputs to reduce delays and promote greater efficiency. Frequent misalignment between the project and the OFP on procurement matters, long negotiation periods between departments and consultants, limited or lack of stakeholder feedback, and slow disbursement of advances by UNDP contribute to this situation.    There also needs to be increasing attention to the sustainability of project results. Indeed, investment in capacity building and infrastructure will contribute to this. However, the financial resources required to maintain staff for PA management has only been partially secured to date. Again, while the NCEMB is clearly a critical component of this, there also need to be rigorous preparations to ensure that staff and functions will be able to be supported by the project in the transition to their new functions, responsibilities and operations. Additionally, government counterparts must be active and understand the urgency of making key decisions, including via public consultation, in a timely manner to facilitate activities during and even after the project, such as the Bill and the restructuring of the physical infrastructure of the TPAs as a part of the sustainable financing plan. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The past year brought to the fore some of the issues that were of concern to the GEF-OFP. A hands-on approach was required by the GEF-OFP and her team in ensuring that the work plan for a period of extension of fourteen (14) months was fully developed with the required allocations to advance the outstanding activities and ensure that the required project personnel including the Beach and Marine Conservation Officers. There is still prevailing concerns as the extension is not being effectively utilised. Matters regarding consultancies that were deemed inadequate by the key beneficiaries remains outstanding with no real action being taken to ensure that the work advances to derive the benefits envisioned under the Project. It is hoped that the advice that has been provided from the Office of the GEF-OFP will be taken into consideration as we approach the end of the extension period on January 19th, 2020. It should be noted that if the activities are advanced as they should no resources will be available beyond that date to implement the project as all resources were committed for a fourteen (14) month period. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This project is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU) both for DO progress as well as for Implementation Progress. The project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure, in May 2020, with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. With little time remaining until closure, and most outputs reliant on government administrative processes and legislative approvals, it is hard to fully ensure all outcomes will be achieved by project end. The project has already been granted a no-cost extension of 18 months and will not request an additional extension. The project has however taken relevant adaptive measures and is focusing on the development of a sustainability/exit plan to establish key roles and responsibilities among stakeholder, especially government actors, for taking over project actions after closure. This strategy if well developed and implemented should ensure further progress towards achieving project outcomes. This is however contingent on key government stakeholders fully taking on relevant responsibilities. Once government passes the required legislation project outcomes such as the operationalizing of the PA Management System, increase in PA hectares, and a sustainable financial system should be achieved. But this is dependent on government will. The completion of ecological inventories has not been finalized and is a key output, however it is planned for the end of 2019.  This is the last PIR for this project as it has a closing date of May 2020, after being granted an 18-month extension. The project has achieved relatively good progress during this reporting period, mainly through key consultancies with many still to be completed by the end of 2019. This has setback delivery rates and achievement of outputs, with current cumulative delivery rate at 58%, during this reporting, but expenditures should rise towards the end of 2019.  The aim of this project is to expand and strengthen the terrestrial and marine protected area system of Saint Kitts and Nevis (SKN) and reduce habitat destruction in areas of influence that negatively impact PA ecological functioning.  Much of the progress of the project relies on the government’s administrative processes, such as the approval of the National Conservation Environmental Management Bill (NCEMB), that the project was instrumental in developing (outcome 1). The delay in signing this Bill is also related to the set back in the demarcation of the boundaries for the terrestrial PAs (TPA) of Nevis Peak National Park and the Camps River Watershed by the Department of Physical Planning and Environment (Nevis). This government department is currently developing a Cabinet paper which will include these boundaries. The resulting increase in PA ha surface of 3,250 ha, once demarcation is finalized and the Bill is passed, will enable the project to reach its stated results. The additional 300 ha of the target refer to Booby Island Nature Reserve, which has not been declared by the government as a PA, however, with the Bill’s approval this conservation area would be legally constituted as a formal Reserve. Although submitted, the additional revisions are currently being made to this bill by a legal consultant, who will finalize by end of September and re-submit to the government. During this reporting period the project has continued to provide support for both accelerating the approval of the Bill and the demarcation of PAs. Both outputs are expected to be finalized by the latter part of 2019.  Assessing the key global environmental impacts of the project is not possible pending finalization of biodiversity baseline inventories and the passing of the NCEMB which will formalize the increase in PA hectares (outcome 2).  The project has achieved more significant cumulative progress on establishing Marine PA (MPA), with a target of an estimated 11,693 ha achieved. SKN did not have MPAs until the project start. The Department of Marine Resources designated the two-mile radius around St. Kitts and Nevis as a Marine Management Area (MMA) with Conservation Zones at Keys, the Narrows and Sandy Point. Since the outset of the project a Marine Management Area measuring 42,456.322 hectares was legally established in 2016. The Marine Protected Areas in the country are now referred to as Marine Management Area - Conservation Zones (MMA-CZ) and include Monkey Shoals. Within that MMA radius, the 11,693 hectares that was proposed through this project has been legally established. This is a key achievement of the project.  Good progress during this reporting period has been observed in training of PA managers, with a good gender ratio. Multiple trainings took place in PA management functions with 7 staff (men) training on GPS data and resource cataloging; 20 (8 women, 12 men) in PA emergency response capacities; 15 staff (7 women, 8 men) on ecotourism; 25 (6 females; 19 males) Database management and decision support tools. No staff however was trained in business and financial planning during this reporting period.  Regarding Outcome 1. This outcome aims to Strengthen the Protected Area System Framework and Capacities. A legal PA authority for the collection and retention (within the PA system) of visitor / user / concession fees and other financing mechanisms for protected areas should be set up. However, this was not achieved. Other financing mechanism would include a proposed National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) and enable to consolidate an effectively functioning institutional management system of protected areas. In this regard, as mentioned above, during the last reporting period, the project provided support for the revision of the National Conservation Environment Management Bill, which includes establishing the mentioned unique legal authority for retention of user fees but due to the delay in approving the Bill, by the Government, this mechanism is still not in place. Instead of a PA authority, the government has opted for an informal coordination system. This coordination unit, called the Protected Area & Marine Managed Area Institutional Structure, was approved in 2018, and is formed by relevant ministries. This Structure was to be operationalized through quarterly meetings. However, during this reporting period, no meetings were held. Consequently, as observed the lack of a unique authority continues to threaten the capacity to manage the PA system. Although the coordinating unit is regarded as an improvement from the previous reluctance by the Government to establish a single Authority, it remains a risk to the overall effectiveness of PA system management. More work needs to be done to improve engagement and coordination by the government on this matter. The project has been instrumental in facilitating stakeholder dialogue but given the little time remaining to closure the government must show stronger ownership for this coordination to be sustainable.  In terms of the capacity of the PA system, unfortunately no measurement has been made available at MTR (June 2018). At this stage, the TE will be charged with measuring capacities based on the score card. With regards to the improved management effectiveness of protected area units as measured by the METT: as required PA management was measured during MTR, not during this reporting period, and the METT will be reassessed during TE.  In addition, the project sought to set up the coordination of an information sharing mechanisms among resource management agencies as none was functional in SKN. The project set the target of establishing a National Environmental Committee (NEC) to oversee protected areas management and information systems throughout the country. However, the system is still not in place. This formal mechanism is dependent on the approval of the NCEMB. During the prior reporting period an ICT consultant was contracted to develop a Multi-institutional Centralized Integrated Information Management System that would enable to consolidate biodiversity data among relevant ministries. This system once developed, would be in the form of a web-based library that consolidates all federal environmental, flora, fauna, habitat, geographical information system and natural resources related data, consolidating information from different systems across ministries / departments in the Federation of SKN. The Saint Kitts Department of Information Technology and Nevis Department of Information Technology would house the databases. To operationalize the system the project planned to procure relevant hardware and software to be distributed to various government stakeholders. Procurement has however suffered delays during the current reporting period. Instead the project provided initial remote IT support to end users to upload PA system data into a cloud sharing portal. Additionally, in order to accelerate progress to reach the target the UNDP MCO has taken over the procurement of hardware and software to enable to conclude the process by September 2019.  No sustainable funding mechanism is in place yet. Increasing funding support for protected areas in SKN through the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) (US$/year) continues to be a challenge with no funding assured for PA system management. This output is moving forward slowly. In terms of TPAs, to accelerate progress the project is currently supporting individual site-based financing strategies, through a consultant. In terms of Marine Areas, a separate plan is being developed by the government. The Department of Marine Resources is in the process of developing a comprehensive marine management plan that would include conservation, financing and management activities. The results of the marine consultancy should become available by October 2019. The government has expressed concerns about the latter and has requested to terminate the consultancy which would lead to delaying this output. The project is consequently negotiating a way forward to ensure the achievement of this output.  Outcome 2 focuses on Protected Area System Expansion and Strengthened Management of Existing and New Protected Areas. As mentioned in the above section, the expected increase in PA surface is still to be achieved, pending demarcation of respective boundaries for the Nevis Peak National Park and the Camps River Watershed and the approval of the NCEMB Bill. This will increase the PA ha surface by 3,250 ha which will enable to reach the project targets. The demarcation process and the governments legislative approvals of the PA Bill are expected to finalize by end of 2019. There is optimism that this will be achieved as the government has expressed strong will and previously passed a cabinet decision to declare the Nevis Peak NP and the Camps River Watershed Areas as PAs. The additional 300 ha of the target refer to Booby Island Nature Reserve and are included formally in the Bill.  3 additional MPA units were established within the Marine Management Area (MMA) with support from the project. The government terminology for MPAs is conservation zones (CZ). When the 2016 Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act was passed it supported the establishment of the SKN Marine Management Area with Conservation Zones at Keys, the Narrows and Sandy Point adding 3 new sites amounting to 11,693 hectares. As per the AWP for 2019, the project will support the completion of demarcation activities for both terrestrial and marine sites by the end of 2019.  Additionally, with respect to the conservation of critical habitats no inventories have been finalized to enable to set a baseline of ecological conditions for TPAs. However, during the reporting period major progress was made and expected to be finalized by end of 2019 with a consultant being hired by the project. Unfortunately, this will provide little time for the information collected to be used as a baseline to measure the impact of project interventions.  With regards to the Marine PAs, there is no baseline, however the project is now working closely with personnel from the Department of Marine Resources to adapt existing ecological databases for use as rudimentary baselines. The preliminary results from the current assessments/inventories conducted through the project consultant will then be compared against the existing data (rudimentary baselines) provided by the Department of Marine Resources to identify any ecological changes enabled by the project.  With respect to site-level PA staff receiving training in management, an additional 21 PA staff were trained during this reporting period.  With respect to the indicator on reduced impact of invasive alien species (lionfish) at targeted PA units, The Department of Marine Resources DMR has indicated that landings of lionfish have become insignificant since the 2012 culling exercise and, as a result, the agency has removed lionfish from the Invasive Alien Species project and advised that resources under the project should be redirected to other marine activities within the project. Consequently, the project has not worked on this indicator. No actions have been taken however to change the logframe during for this PIR.  Lastly, with regards to the conservation of targeted terrestrial species, as explained above the biodiversity inventory has not been conducted. Existing inventories are being reviewed by a consultant, that will enable to set a preliminary baseline that will then be contrasted against the final biodiversity inventory that is due to be concluded by end of 2019.  With respect to Implementation Progress:  In terms of implementation during this PIR period, the project is granted a rating of Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). This rating is mainly supported by a less than satisfactory accumulated delivery rate of 57.73%. The project is scheduled to close in May 2020 and still needs to disburse US$1.4 m, which is practically impossible. The project was granted a no-cost extension of 18 months, as recommended by the Mid-Term Review, but has not been able to reach the disbursement expected. A Terminal Evaluation will be conducted at the beginning of 2020.  The MTR provided valuable recommendations, and the project developed a response that has been implemented at 50 % with the remaining actions planned to be finalized by end of 2019. The MTR Response link is available, attached to this PIR.  Additionally, as recommended by PIR 2018, an action plan was designed to ensure efficient implementation, focusing on: revising projects budget and workplans, assigning an M&E expert to monitor implementation and report against project indicators, and stronger involvement by the Steering Committee in project management. The latter met five times during the reporting period. An M&E staff was assigned at the UNPD MCO office to closely monitor the project. And budgets and workplans were revised for the extension period.  As highlighted by the MTR, a key recommendation in the remaining time, is that the project focus on developing a sustainability plan/exit strategy to ensure that its outcomes are duly managed by the government and relevant stakeholders, clearly indicating the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and the resources required, explicitly clarifying this through budgets, work plans, staff requirements, maintenance and infrastructure and other materials. Additionally, as part of the exit strategy, it is key that the project make connections to other existing projects, dealing with marine and terrestrial PAs in the region or sub-region, formally linking to other projects.  Also highlighted in the MTR was the observation that the project design should take into consideration the local socio-political context in order to adapt results/logical framework to realistically achievable outcomes in the duration of the project. One such burden has been the tendency for administrative processes to be very slow and approval of key legislation is hampering achievement of project outcomes. The project is hoping that the government will sustain current achievements during the remaining time, and after project closure but this is beyond the control of the project itself. Although the project is working on the sustainability strategy to ensure follow up.  This project was approved before July 1, 2014 hence the former UNDP Gender and SES procedures have been completed. The project received a Gender Marker 1. A gender analysis was not produced for the project, it is recommended that the TE consultant have a separate chapter to assess gender considerations. The Social and environmental safeguard rating received by the project is 3A (following the former rating system based on the ESSP), which indicates that the project does not have significant impacts, and no further plans are required. Although no formal Stakeholder Engagement Plan is available, the project conducted several stakeholder consultations, and has initiated the process of developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as part of the exit strategy as mentioned above, which is currently scheduled for completion in end of 2019. This plan will should be linked to the sustainability plan and propose ways to institutionalize stakeholder engagement beyond project-end.  Consequently, given the little time remaining until project closure it is strongly recommended to follow MTR recommendations fully with special emphasis on: 1- developing the stakeholder engagement plan as part of the sustainability strategy, 2- seeking further engagement by the government to finalize legislative and administrative approvals and 3- finalizing key remaining outputs that would enable to assess project impacts such as key terrestrial and marine biodiversity inventories. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| Not applicable. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| When the project was approved, a gender equality component was not specified in the document. After a gap analysis was completed and discussions with UNDP Barbados Gender Specialist and other key technical persons, it was agreed that funds be reallocated to complete a gender responsive socioeconomic assessment. Unfortunately, the consultant hired did not produce a report that was acceptable to the counterparts. The Gender Specialist at UNDP Sub-regional office and government stakeholders found the document to be technically weak, therefore void of the necessary parameters to inform decisions on the implementation of gender responsive livelihoods opportunities to persons around the protected areas sites. However, all other project activities strive to incorporate gender equality activities in their planning and implementation. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **SESP:** [SKN ESSP - Signed 14May2014.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5088/213784/1679746/1680027/SKN%20ESSP%20-%20Signed%2014May2014.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| While the project has had several stakeholder consultations, no formal plan has been developed. This was identified in the Mid-Term Evaluation. As part of the key actions to respond to this MTE, the project has initiated the process of developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which is currently scheduled for completion in Q3 of 2019. As this will come toward the end of the project, the plan will be linked to the sustainability plan and propose ways to institutionalise stakeholder engagement beyond project-end. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Youth Participation in Conservation Matters    People usually have an affinity with the land of their birth or country of residence. People come to a particular rock, a tree or a physical structure for shade, respite or some form of enjoyment or relaxation. No matter how far or wide people sojourn, the land from which they originate always has a homely feeling. When they travel and return home they look for a fruit or medicinal plant, a lake or hot spring or a beach on which they draw nostalgic feelings that connect them to being at home. These were some of the sentiments that were picked up at the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS) Earth Day Public Lecture held on Tuesday, April 23rd at St. Anglican Church Hall, Low Street, Nevis. The lecture's theme was &quot;Protect Our Species - threats to biodiversity in Nevis&quot;. Sponsorship for the lecture was drawn from the Joan Robinson Memorial Fund, the UNDP/GEF Conserving Biodiversity Project and the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis.    The Conserving Biodiversity Project has allocated a sum of US$25,000.00 for the NHCS and the St. Christopher National Trust to support NGOs involvement in the protected areas management based on their long service to the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, in building public awareness on historical and cultural significance. Having submitted its Secured Area For our Environment (SAFE) proposal, a MOU was signed between the Government and the NHCS. One of the more notable outputs of the SAFE project was a public lecture presented to an attentive audience of young, older and in between individuals from all parts of the Nevisian society. Mr. Kevel Lindsay, Caribbean Naturalist Environment Consultant certainly got the attention of Ms. Allysa Daniel, President of the Charlestown Secondary School (CSS) Environmental Awareness Club and from that a partnership was formed.    The brave student who was accompanied by other like minded students and some teachers, listened keenly to the lecture then engaged the lecturer and audience at the question and answer segment. Young Allysa stood to inform the gathering of some of the successes and challenges experienced by the environment club. She informed those present that sometimes it is difficult to convince their peers how to care for their environment but she noted that appearances at school assembly, featuring on the local radio programme Youth on the Go, clean up events and fun nature walks or hikes are just some of the organized outputs engaged in by the club. She went on to make a passionate plea to Mr. Lindsey and other adults to provide some tips on how to improve her club's impact. Since that meeting it was recorded that the NHSC is giving support to Allysa and her peers by supporting them on a hike and a clean up of a nearby wetland at the Bath Boggs, Charlestown. A follow up activity at the Bath Boggs was water testing event done in conjunction with the NHCS and students. The NHSC and the CSS Environmental Awareness Club has forged a working relationship that will certainly leave an indelible mark on all concerned. Kudos to Allyssa and her club.      -----  Protected Areas Staff Graduate from Basic Seamanship Course    The Conserving Biodiversity Project has established a collaborative relationship with the St. Kitts Nevis Defence Force Coast Guard. During the month of October 2018 there was a 4-week Basic Seamanship training course for four Marine Conservation Officers, two Beach Conservation Officers, two staff from the Department of Marine Resources and one Officer from the St. Kitts and Nevis Defence Force. The trainees were able to sail to and from Antigua on a 1-day voyage where they utilized their navigation skills. A total of four females and five males completed the course despite entering the course with little or no prior knowledge of the lessons that were covered; but they all applied themselves and were able to receive the information well.    The project purchased a 10' vessel to aid in the monitoring and research activities within the Marine Management Area Conservation Zones. The Conservation Officers are mandated to conduct monitoring and research activities, then once fully trained, they will eventually conduct enforcement activities. Therefore the Basic Seamanship Course gave them an introduction on how to safely navigate the sea to execute their duties. They are all PADI Open Water Dive certified and have certification in First Aid from the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Association. The Basic Seamanship training further builds their capacity as well as fosters a partnership with the St. Kitts Nevis Defence Force Coast Guard. With this relationship being forged, they can rely on various forms of support from the Coast Guard in the discharge of their duties.    At an impressive graduation ceremony, the trainees were awarded certificates and trophies in front of The St. Kitts Nevis Defence Force Coast Guard High Command, Ministry officials, Project Coordinating Unit staff, family and friends and the media.    \* Ms. Ashadi Duncan, Marine Conservation Officer, amassed an overall average of 91.48% and got the highest grade in navigation table top exam.  \* Mr. Karim Saddler from the Department of Marine Resources, received an average grade of 93.6% and was awarded the top student and received the highest score on the Rules of the Road exam.    Course Instructors  Mid G Smithen—Course Officer; SHT Julius — Chief Instructor; SGT Audaine D; CPL Davis M; CPL Warner D; CPL Fyfield J; LCPL Williams C; LCPL Hutton K    Course Participants  Ms. Ashadi Duncan; Ms. Ahisha Herbert; Ms. Tasia Jones; Mr. Locksley Edwards; Ms. Sasha Edwards; Mr. Luciano Eddy;  Mr. Kharim Saddler; Mr. Dajour Richards |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS) hosted the Earth Day Public Lecture held on Tuesday, April 23rd at St. Anglican Church Hall, Low Street, Nevis. The lecture was ably delivered by Mr. Kevel Lindsay, Caribbean Naturalist Environment Consultant. The theme was &quot;Protect Our Species - threats to biodiversity in Nevis&quot;. Sponsorship was from the Joan Robinson Memorial Fund, The UNDP/GEF Conserving Biodiversity Project and the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. https://www.facebook.com/225632597638320/photos/a.225691330965780/974226596112246/?type=3&theater    The Project Coordinating Unit has produced “DOE Factual Three” to bring awareness to the importance of the Park Rangers’ work in the terrestrial protected areas. These can be found on the Department of Environment’s (DOE) website and facebook page.    https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=department%20of%20environment%20st.%20kitts&epa=SEARCH\_BOX    https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5088/213784/1727574/1741500/Youth%20Participation%20Earth%20Day%20Lecture%204.JPG |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [GEF CEO ER - St. Kitts & Nevis - 24Apr2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5088/213784/1679744/1680025/GEF%20CEO%20ER%20-%20St.%20Kitts%20%26%20Nevis%20-%2024Apr2014.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The Stakeholder Engagement profile has changes since the project began its implementation. Some of the entities listed below have been engaged fully with the project and some less so. The following changes must be noted in the official document to reflect the changes:    Ministry of Sustainable Development (MoSD), including the Department of Physical Planning and Environment (DPPE) and the Department of Economic Affairs and Public Sector Investment Planning (DEA/PSIP)    After the 2016 General Elections the Department of Environment was placed within the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Human Settlement, Cooperatives and Environment. The Department of Environment is the Implementing Partner and the Director is the Project Director. The Director co-chairs the Project Steering Committee with the UNDP and gives support to the Project Coordinating Unit. Supervision for the 3 Park Rangers on St. Kitts are housed at the Central Forest Reserve National Park building and supervise by the Department.    The Department of Economic Affairs - Public Sector Investment Programme (DEA-PSIP) in the Ministry of Sustainable Development manages the project finances and functions as the GEF Operational Focal Point for the country. All payments are approved and disbursed through the DEA-PSIP.  ------------------    The Department of Physical Planning on St. Kitts continues to be a partner to the project and provides guidance of development and construction activities such as the location of signage and GIS training. The Park Rangers continue to collaborate with the GIS Officer to map the trails and other protected areas sites.  --------------    Nevis Department of Physical Planning, Natural Resources and the Environment (DPPNRE) (changed to the Department of Physical Planning and Environment (DPPE)  The DPPE continues to oversee the implementation of all site-specific terrestrial activities on the island of Nevis and provide supervision and office space to the 2 Park Rangers on Nevis. The DPPE in collaboration with the project and the Department of Public Works to advertise, evaluate and contract the contractor to construct the Nevis Peak interpretation center at Hard Times Estate. The DPPE has supported the Park Rangers in data collection techniques to map all the known trails. This mapping will be useful to the Site-based financing strategy to indicate trail sizes, terrain and level of difficulties.  --------------    Department of Marine Resources (DMR)  The Marine Resources Department provides office space and supervision to the 2 Beach Conservation Officers and the 4 Marine Conservation Officers. Unfortunately the Boat Captain resigned but support from the DMR's 2 Boat Captains can be available when the Conservation Officers are engaged in marine monitoring in the Conservation Zones. On the advice of the DMR the 3 proposed marine protected areas at Keys, Sandy Point, and the Narrows, are Conservation Zones within the Marine Management Area. The DMR maintains that the use of the terms Marine Protected Areas or Marine Parks in this context is not relevant as the legislation speaks to MMAs and CZs.  ----------------      Nevis Department of Fisheries (NDF) (changed to the Department of Marine Resources  The Nevis Department of Fisheries is now under the umbrella of the Department of Marine Resources. They now have a Deputy Director and have joint activities with the Federal Department of Marine Resources.  --------------    Water Services Department (WSD)  The St. Kitts Water Services Department (WSD) has been in collaboration with the project and the Department of Environment on its plans for activities in the Royal Basseterre Valley National Park. The Park Rangers have been engaged in patrol activities in conjunction with the WSD staff to identify dumping sites and make recommendations for signage and fencing. Land clearing activities and the placement of signage are ongoing to bring awareness to the various wells onsite in an effort to curb the illegal dumping and increase protection of the water source. More land clearing and signage will be done to provide areas for walking and jogging. This will increase the line of sight  -----------------    Environmental NGOs    St. Christopher National Trust (SCNT)  The SCNT will be a key partner in conservation activities at the newly established Keys CZ (which includes the core marine zone of the MAB), and the project will work to ensure clear modalities for collaboration between the PAA and SCNT. The SCNT will be an active participant on the St. Kitts PA Committee (sub-committee of the NEC), and will likely participate in other project activities focused on education and outreach as well as biodiversity inventories.    SCNT has membership on the Project Steering Committee and is involved in activities focused on education and outreach. An MOU was developed for the SCNT to create awareness on natural heritage and biodiversity and the importance of conserving protected and conservation areas through the implementation of the ‘Building a local “Protect and Preserve our Protected Areas” (PPPA) Brand’ project.  -----------------    Nevis Historical Conservation Society (NHCS)  The Nevis Peak National Park and Camps River Watershed Area are still not officially designated but the 2 Park Rangers are conducting monitoring activities in the areas. The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS) signed a MOU with the Government to receive a grant of US$10,000.00 to implement its public awareness and advocacy project to educate the public about protected areas. The NHCS continues to participate in the Project Steering Committee meetings.    One of the NHCS obligations to the project is to create awareness on natural heritage and biodiversity and the importance of conserving Protected Areas through the implementation of the Secured Area For our Environment (S.A.F.E.) project. The NHCS has produced its Eco News a newsletter for schools on Nevis, they hosted the Earth Day Public Lecture held on Tuesday, April 23rd with a lecture by Mr. Kevel Lindsay, Caribbean Naturalist Environment Consultant and are producing video documentaries and other materials for dissemination in the near future.  --------------------    St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network (SKSTMN)  The organization continues to lead turtle monitoring activities on St. Kitts, particularly. The SKSTMN is a member on the Project Steering Committee.    The PA staff continue to collaborate with the SKSTMN in its awareness raising campaigns regarding the value in protecting turtles. 2 Beach Conservation Officers and 4 Marine Conservation Officers assisted with the annual 2 weeks sea turtle camp last July and are preparing to assist this July.    The Project is partnering with the SKSTMN to construct a sea turtle rehabilitation and interpretation center at Keys. The facility will host the beach monitoring staff, provide care facility for sick turtle such as surgery, x-ray and food preparation rooms, holding tanks with salt water filtration will also be set up to aid the turtles recovery and an observation deck will be in place for visitors. Construction has been delayed to facilitate the change from the original plan of an interpretation center and office for staff. Since the SKSTMN has already received a lease and an approved plan with funding to construct an interpretation center a decision was made to adopt phase two of their plans for the venue and finance it with project's funding. Construction is due to commence in October 2019 after all the procurement processes are completed.  ---------------------------    Private Sector  The Project Coordinating Unit liaises directly with the Tourism Ministry and Tourism Authority on both islands as they are the link between the tour operators, tour guides and most Private Sectors interest groups who utilize the terrestrial protected areas for the livelihoods. The Tourism Ministry and Authority organize training and certifies the tour operators and guides so that accurate information can be shared with users of the forest. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.