**GEF-6 Project Identification Form (PIF)**

**Project Type: Medium-sized Project**

**Type of Trust Fund:** **GEF Trust Fund**

For more information about GEF, visit [TheGEF.org](http://www.thegef.org/gef/home)

PART I: Project Information

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title: | Monitoring and assessment of MEA implementation and environmental trends in Antigua and Barbuda | | | | | |
| Country(ies): | Antigua and Barbuda | GEF Project ID:[[1]](#footnote-1) | | | | 9467 |
| GEF Agency(ies): | UNDP | GEF Agency Project ID: | | | | 5425 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | Department of Environment | Submission Date: | | | | 1 April 2016 |
| GEF Focal Area(s): | Multi-Focal Areas | Project Duration (Months) | | | | 48 |
| Integrated Approach Pilot | IAP-Cities  IAP-Commodities  IAP-Food Security | | | Corporate Program: SGP | | |
| Name of parent program: | [if applicable] | | Agency Fee ($) | | 83,600 | |

A. indicative [Focal Area Strategy Framework and Other Program Strategies](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF6%20Results%20Framework%20for%20GEFTF%20and%20LDCF.SCCF_.pdf)[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs) | Trust Fund | (in $) | |
|  |  | GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| CCCD-1 | GEFTF | 800,000 | 800,000 |
| Project Management | GEFTF | 80,000 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Project Cost** |  | **880,000** | **800,000** |

B. indicative Project description summary

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Objective: To strengthen institutional capacity for effectively managing information systems for national MEA obligations and monitoring impact and progress | | | | | | |
| Project Components | Financing Type[[3]](#footnote-3) | Project Outcomes | Project Outputs | Trust Fund | (in $) | |
|  |  |  |  |  | GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| 1. Environmental indicators and monitoring system for Antigua and Barbuda | TA | 1.1. Institutional arrangements and operational platform are enhanced for environmental monitoring in Antigua and Barbuda | 1.1. A set of core results-based environmental indicators is selected, with baseline data collected including from traditional knowledge sources and a cost-effective monitoring plan is agreed  1.2 Map national and regional information sources available to track the state and trends of the environment  1.3 Institutional arrangements and inter-agency agreements on information management are concluded involving at least 7 agencies and/or research institutes, and regulations are developed for the relevant section of the Environment Act 2015  1.4 A user-friendly online platform is established and updated, presenting available information on core environmental indicators  1.5 Individual capacity building (training) to effectively maintain and manage the environmental information system | GEFTF | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| 2. Generate,  access and use information  and knowledge | TA | 2.1. The environmental information system (developed in Component 1) is recognized and used by different sectors of government and civil society as the official national source of environmental information | 2.1 A sustainable financing and management strategy is developed for the national environmental information system  2.2 The national environmental information system is used for reporting to at least 3 MEAs  2.3 The format and methodology for a comprehensive state of the environment report is established, with one national State of the Environment report published  2.4 The national environment information system is integrated into national processes, including development application reviews and environmental and social safeguard (ESS) assessments  2.5 A public information campaign on accessing and using the environmental information system is launched, in particular targeting educational institutions | GEFTF | 300,000 | 300,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal | | | |  | 800,000 | 800,000 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC)[[4]](#footnote-4) | | | | GEFTF | 80,000 |  |
| **Total Project Cost** | | | |  | 880,000 | 800,000 |

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: (     )

**C. Indicative sources of** [**Co-financing**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/co-financing) **for the project by name and by type, if available**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing** | **Name of Co-financier** | **Type of Co-financing** | **Amount ($)** |
| Recipient Government | Ministry of Health and the Environment | In-kind | 500,000 |
| Donor Agency | World Bank/Nature Conservancy | Grants | 100,000 |
| GEF Agency | UNDP | In-kind | 100,000 |
| Donor Agency | IUCN | Grants | 100,000 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Co-financing** |  |  | 800,000 |

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies) and the Programming of Funds a)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/ Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
|  |  |  |  |  | **GEF Project Financing (a)** | **Agency Fee (b)**b) | **Total**  **(c)=a+b** |
| UNDP | GEFTF | Antigua and Barbuda | Multi-focal Areas | Cross-Cutting Capacity | 880,000 | 83,600 | 963,600 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | 880,000 | 83,600 | 963,600 |

1. Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/gef-fee-policy.pdf).

E. Project preparation grant (ppg)[[5]](#footnote-5)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes  No  If no, skip item E.

**PPG Amount requested by agency(ies), Trust Fund, country(ies) and the Programming of funds**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Preparation Grant amount requested: $50,000** PPG Agency Fee: 4,750 | | | | | | | |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **PPG** (a) | **Agency**  **Fee[[6]](#footnote-6)** (b) | **Total**  c = a + b |
| UNDP | GEF TF | Antigua and Barbuda | Multi-focal Areas | Cross-Cutting Capacity | 50,000 | 4,750 | 54,750 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
| **Total PPG Amount** | | | | | **50,000** | **4,750** | **54,750** |

F. Project’s Target Contributions to Global Environmental Benefits[[7]](#footnote-7)

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Corporate Results** | **Replenishment Targets** | **Project Targets** |
| 1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society | Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares | *Hectares* |
| 1. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes) | 120 million hectares under sustainable land management | *Hectares* |
| 1. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services | Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins; | *Number of freshwater basins* |
| 20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels | *Percent of fisheries, by volume* |
| 1. 4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path | 750 million tons of CO2e  mitigated (include both direct and indirect) | *metric tons* |
| 1. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern | Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides) | *metric tons* |
| Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury | *metric tons* |
| Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC) | *ODP tons* |
| 1. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks | Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries | *Number of Countries: 1* |
| Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries | *Number of Countries: 1* |

**part ii: project JustiFication**

**1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[[8]](#footnote-8) strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4)** [**incremental**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/incremental_costs)**/**[**additional cost reasoning**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1325) **and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and** [**co-financing**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/co-financing)**; 5)** [**global environmental benefits**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEB) **(GEFTF) and/or** [**adaptation benefits**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.R.5.12.Rev_.1.pdf) **(LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

Local environmental management and decision-making is suffering from poor data collection, management, and analysis. The last comprehensive national environmental profile for Antigua and Barbuda was completed in 1991, and unreliable data is often used to make important decisions. The Department of Environment is striving to improve data collection for environmental management in Antigua and Barbuda. The 15+ multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to which the country is signatory require thorough monitoring, evaluation and reporting. In the absence of a coordination national environmental information system, the reporting requirements are burdening the country's limited capacity in the civil service.

Therefore, a central pillar to the Environmental Protection and Management Act, approved by Parliament in April 2015, was accurate, reliable, and up-to-date environmental data. To facilitate this, the Act established an Environmental Information Management Advisory System (EIMAS), to be maintained by the Department of Environment with provisions for public, private, and NGO access. The Department is also taking steps towards supporting a National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Antigua and Barbuda, for the efficient management of all spatial data – within which the EIMAS would be responsible for environmental data.

Baseline Scenario and Baseline Projects:

There are a number of baseline projects and deliverables that will support the efficient selection and prioritization of national environmental indicators.

Antigua and Barbuda's national Medium-Term Development Strategy (2016-2020) was prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance on September 2015. The Strategy defines in Appendix 1 a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Indicator Framework with a number of environmental indicators, including inter alia CO2 emissions, species on the IUCN red list, protected area coverage and management, forest cover, waterways protected, saline intrusion, and solid waste management indicators. However, baseline data and time-bound targets are missing for many of these environmental indicators, which also need further refinement to align with effective data collection and results-based measurements.

One of the deliverables in Antigua and Barbuda's full-size GEF-4 biodiversity project, the Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism (SIRMM), was a "Report on Indicators and Baseline Data" (November 2009) which selected performance indicators using clearly defined and measurable targets towards the CBD objectives to be met by the project and its activities. Another baseline indicator project was implemented by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and delivered country-specific training activity towards managing and implementing the Monitoring and Evaluation Instrument (MEI) for the Implementation Plan (IP) to the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (the Regional Framework). This project delivered a draft M&E instrument for Antigua and Barbuda.

For the data collection and management baseline, a key recommendation coming out of the SIRMM GEF-4 project was the establishment of a national Environmental Information Management and Advisory System (EIMAS). Baseline documents were developed, including a data gaps analysis, metadata standards, and data collection on ecosystem assessment and mapping. The EIMAS was subsequently legislated under national law in 2015 (see Section 6 of this document on alignment with national priorities).

There are several online platforms that could serve as a data repository and management system, to be built on and mainstreamed under this project. A regional project implemented through the World Bank built an online GIS data management system for Antigua and Barbuda's GeoNode (http://geonode.data.gov.ag/). In addition, in 2015, UNEP trained representatives of the Department of Environment in the UNEP Live National Reporting System (NRS), which has been developed to facilitate reporting at all levels and make it easier to take stock of the environment. It is an online platform to communicate information quickly and regularly with all relevant stakeholders. Finally, the Department of Environment's website (http://www.environmentdivision.info/) is the national clearinghouse mechanism for the CBD, and the website could be expanded to fulfill a broader environmental monitoring role. The final determination should be made under Component 1 of this project.

Incremental/Additional Cost Reasoning (including co-financing): Over the last decade, government ministries and agencies in Antigua & Barbuda, along with NGOs and civil society organizations, have invested significant resources in data collection and management. For example, a local non-governmental organization is estimated to have invested over USD$2 million in data collection on the northeast protected area, but this information is not readily available to decision-makers. In 2010, the Survey and Mapping Division paid USD$200,000 for an aerial image of Antigua, and a significant quantity of data was collected under the SIRMM project. However, environmental data collection is decentralized, making it difficult to access, subject to being lost, duplication of efforts, incomparable datasets due to inconsistent standards, a lack of knowledge of data in existence, inefficiently invested resource, difficulty in achieving desired outcomes, and a reliance on inadequate information when making important decisions.

Without this project, there will continue to be limited availability of data on core environmental indicators in the country, making it difficult to track progress with MEA implementation in Antigua and Barbuda. Absence of a coordinated environmental information system may also result in a less cost-effective approach with a number of stand-alone project-specific systems being developed separately. The additional cost reasoning of this project is that Component 1 will support an integrated environmental information system for Antigua and Barbuda, to provide a coherent approach to management and presentation of environmental information relating to the country´s environmental priorities, involving partnership between a range of government agencies, research institutions, as well as civil society.

Project Component 2 will support activities to promote awareness and use of environmental information by different sectors. Linking the system with a stronger user base is critical to maintaining government support for the system and its sustainability in the long term. The activities to demonstrate MEA reporting and information uptake in the environmental and social safeguard assessment process will develop this user base. Key outputs under this component are to develop a sustainable financing strategy for the environmental information system, and to deliver the State of the Environment report, which is critical for establishing a baseline across the conventions on desertification, biodiversity and climate change.

The Nature Conservancy is executing a project, "Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystem Project", (co-financing of USD$100,000) through which the Department of Environment is acquiring an unmanned aerial system (UAS), or drone, that the Department will use to collect time sensitive and accurate data. The drone for conservation will, for the first time, enable high-resolution assessments of vegetation, mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds in protected areas, and new insights into ecosystem responses to different climatic and human stressors. The drone's camera supports a near infrared lens for vegetation health classification. In addition to technology procurement, the project is operationalizing the EIMAS data management system. Similarly, IUCN is implementing a regional data management project that includes Antigua and Barbuda as a beneficiary.

The Department of Environment is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of all environment-related activities. The Department's in-kind contributions for this project is valued at $500,000 and includes project management support, technical supervisory and guidance, equipment (hardware and software), stakeholder engagement support, and implementation support.

The UNDP sub-regional office for Barbados and the OECS, based in Barbados, will serve as the GEF Implementing Agency. Within this context, UNDP will provide support throughout the project cycle, including project document development, financial management and M&E oversight functions. Where requested, UNDP may also provide implementation support services to the government. The related in-kind contribution is valued at $100,000.

Global Environmental Benefits: This project is aligned with GEF-6 priority CCCD-1, "To integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring." Specifically, this project will strengthen the availability of science-based information on the state and trends of the environment in Antigua and Barbuda. This will contribute both to national environmental monitoring and policy development. It will also strengthen the quality of data and its comparability with that of other countries, thereby contributing also to global monitoring. It will also support monitoring of progress towards MEA commitments by Antigua and Barbuda. Information available on open platforms can be used by a wide range of stakeholders from the global to the community levels.

Innovation, Sustainable, and Scability: This project will strengthen the availability of science-based information on the state and trends of the environment in Antigua and Barbuda. This will contribute both to national environmental monitoring and policy development. It will also strengthen the quality of data and its comparability with that of other countries, thereby contributing also to global monitoring. It will also support monitoring of progress towards MEA commitments by Antigua and Barbuda. Information available on open platforms can be used by a wide range of stakeholders from the global to the community levels.

A number of aspects of project design will contribute to sustainability. Firstly, environmental information is needed by a number of processes and projects in Antigua and Barbuda, and development of a coherent system will help to ensure these do not need to be developed case by case. Secondly, national support to the project is evidenced by the substantial government cofinancing. Thirdly, the entire component 2 focuses on sustainability by developing a sustainable financing and management plan for the national environmental information system, and linking it with a number of different user groups. Finally, in terms of managing IT aspects of the environmental information platform, the project will explore possibilities to link this up with existing government systems, such as the established Health Information System.

This project is suitable for scaling up both within Antigua and Barbuda, to enhance data collection and coordination around explicitly economic and social indicators. The project is also scalable on a regional level. Several data management and capacity building projects have been implemented on a regional scale, to varying degrees of success. Antigua and Barbuda will, as appropriate, share lessons learned and good practices through the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

UNDP will provide significant in-kind support to the project. Its technical and administrative staff will provide ongoing advice and logistical support to the project when needed. It will provide meeting facilities, communication facilities, transport facilities, as requested and as necessary. UNDP will further use its role as the UN Resident Coordinator to make sure the project is aligned with all UN system work. UNDP senior management will play a key role in advocacy, and in awareness raising by attending key public events.

This project responds to three main categories of articles under the three Rio Conventions, demonstrating both the global environmental value of the project and its cross-cutting capacity development strategy. The first set of Rio Convention articles refer to stakeholder engagement, where the three Rio Conventions call for the building of capacities of relevant individuals and organizations (resource users, owners, consumers, community and political leaders, private and public sector managers and experts) to engage proactively and constructively with one another to manage a global environmental issue (FCCC: Articles 4 & 6; CBD: Articles 10 &13; and CCD: Articles 5, 9, 10 &19). The second set of articles call for countries to develop capacities of individuals and organizations to plan and develop effective environmental policy and legislation, related strategies, and plans based on informed decision-making processes for global environmental management (FCCC: Article 4 & 6; CBD: Articles 8, 9, 16 &17); and CCCD: Articles 4, 5, 13, 17, 18, and 19). The third set of capacities refer to strengthening environmental governance, in particular to strengthen capacities of individuals and organizations to enact environmental policies or regulatory decisions, as well as plan and execute relevant sustainable global environmental management actions and solutions (FCCC: Article 4; CBD: Articles 6, 14, 19 & 22); and CCD: 4, 5, 8, 9 & 10). In particular, article 7 of the CBD, article 16 of the CCD, and article 5 of the FCCC specifically call for strengthening monitoring, data and information management, and sharing.

***2.*** [***Stakeholders*.**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/Public_Involvement_Policy.Dec_1_2011_rev_PB.pdf) **Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from** [**civil society organizations**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/csos) **(yes  /no) and** [**indigenous peoples**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/GEF%20IndigenousPeople_CRA_lores.pdf) **(yes**  **/no****)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.**

Antigua and Barbuda does not have an indigenous population. However, this project includes activities that target incorporating traditional knowledge into the selection of indicators and data collection methods.

The Department of Environment works closely with civil society organizations and NGOs, several of which are permanent representatives on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Key NGO stakeholders to be engaged in this project include the following groups:

- Aquaculture, Aquaponics, Agro-Ecology Society of Antigua and Barbuda

- Community Development Division

- Community groups (including in particular John Hughes and Bendals)

- Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)

- GEF Small Grants Programme national focal point

- Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC)

The project will be implemented in line with established Government of Antigua and Barbuda and UNDP procedures in Antigua and Barbuda. The Department of Environment will take overall responsibility for implementation of the project, and for the project success. It will establish the necessary planning and management mechanisms to oversee project inputs, activities and outputs. The UNDP CO will support the Department of Environment as requested and as necessary. The PPG process will be used to further define the management, coordination and consultation mechanisms. Stakeholders will be involved in all stages of the project and will be involved in the validation activities, design of outputs and will be included in trainings. Activities should be implemented to involve as many and as diverse stakeholders as possible

***3. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.* Are issues on** [**gender equality**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/gender) **and women’s empowerment taken into account? (yes**  **/no****). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.**

The project is designed to address issues of gender equality through the inclusion of socioeconomic indicators that are gender-disaggregated. This is consistent with the Department of Environment's work programmes and social safeguards, in which, for example, numbers of female-headed households are identified and targeted as beneficiaries in adaptation projects. In terms of direct beneficiaries, women will constitute at least 50% of the participants at the training and capacity building sessions.

Gender considerations for this project are informed by the 2014 report on Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF. During the PPG phase, the design of project implementation arrangements will include the structuring of consultative and decision-making mechanisms that will mobilize the unique perspectives of Rio Convention implementation from the lens of gender priorities and differences.

***4 Risks.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).**

Risk: Data ownership and intellectual property issues prevent certain stakeholders from participating in the project

Rank: High

Mitigation Measures:A strong commitment from the government and political leadership at a high level can minimize such a risk. The NCSA process has already engaged many government actors which creates a positive precedent for fulfillment of the project. Moreover, building linkages with other sectors: agriculture, energy, tourism, economic growth, poverty reduction, infrastructure will provide incentives for cross-ministerial support. In particular, it is important to develop arrangements for shared ownership of the national environmental information system, and show how it can benefit different sectors without affecting the current division of responsibilities between different government sectors and research institutions.

Any intellectual property or data sharing issues can be addressed through a strong access to information policy by the government, including the amendment of any necessary laws and regulations on this subject, and also by requiring transparency and data sharing as a condition for external research institutes conducting research and collecting data on the country.

Risk: Limited staff complement

Rank: High

As a small island developing State (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda is stretched in terms of the number of staff available in the government. An effort will be made to address this risk by planning the project in a realistic manner and factoring in additional resources needed to implement the project, under government leadership and political supervision, in the project budget.

Risk:Lack of agreement on data collection needs and approaches

Rank: Medium

It is likely that different sectors in Antigua and Barbuda will have different priorities with respect to environmental information; this project will lead a process of consensus to bring different points of view together in a national platform. In addition, it is likely that a range of different data collection techniques are used, not always following international standards. The project will canvass different points of view and collect information on the data currently available in the country. It may be desirable for the country to continue some historical time series even when difficult to compare internationally. However, cases of duplication, or data gaps due to capacity constraints, would be addressed by various activities especially under Component 1 of this project.

Risk: Shifting priorities detract from project implementation

Rank: Medium

Extreme weather events or changes in government could result in a temporary focus by the Government on other issues, detracting from project implementation. To the extent consistent with the project, it would aim to address this risk proactively by demonstrating how environmental information can support a range of different priorities, whether disaster risk reduction or relief, or policy development and planning in different sectors of government.

***5. Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.**

Environmental projects in Antigua and Barbuda are coordinated and managed by a two-tiered system. This system of management was initially conceptualised under the Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism (SIRMM) Project in 2008 and was later formalised for all projects in 2012, and includes the Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The PMC is a high level cross-sectorial committee comprising of lead policy makers and heads of departments. It comprises of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing & the Environment (chairman), the Principle Assistant Secretary of this Ministry, the Focal Point of UNDP, representative of the Budget Office at the Ministry of Finance, Chief Environment Officer and a secretary. The function of the PMC is to focus mainly in procurement, institutional arrangements and financial management of the project. The PMC is also responsible for approving and circulating financial reports to the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) and other relevant agencies. The PMC is charged to monitor implementation of the project activities according to the approved Work Programs and approve any essential deviations from it if necessary. Meetings of the PMC are held monthly.

The TAC acts as a technical advisory body to the PMC providing technical guidance, policy recommendations and support; facilitating communication, cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders and other project partners. Essentially the TAC coordinates and reports on the implementation of MEA related projects on the ground. Agencies involved in the TAC include: AB Investment Authority, ADOMS, Agriculture Department, Analytical Services Division, APUA Water Business Unit, Barbuda Council, Bureau of Standards, Central Board of Health, Development Control Authority, Energy Department, Extension Division, Finance and Debt Unit, Fisheries Division, Foreign Affairs, Forestry Unit, Lands Division, Meteorological Office, National Parks Authority, NODS, NSWMA, Plant Protection, Statistics Division, Surveys and Mapping Division, Tourism Authority, and the Transport Board. The TAC also represents community interest groups including the Community Development Division, GEF Small Grants Programme, and the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG – non-governmental). In addition, the private sector A&B Coalition for Service Industries is represented on the TAC. This system of coordination allows for information sharing and discussions with the aim of maximizing the efficiency of project outputs and benefits as well as avoiding the duplication of efforts.

***6. Consistency with National Priorities*. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions? (yes**  **/no** **). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.**

This project is being developed in direct response to Antigua and Barbuda National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), in particular Priority Area 7 of the NCSA Action Plan (pages 55-56, "Environmental Information Systems that Effectively Support Implementation of the Rio Conventions.") 76. The National Capacity Self-Assessment Project assessed the capacity requirements and constraints facing national efforts to improve environmental conservation and sustainable development programmes. It allowed for analysis of the institutional capacity framework initiated under global environmental management obligations such as the UNFCCC. The report included an analysis of systemic, institutional and sectoral requirements related to climate change adaptation, and highlighted the scientific and technical linkages and synergies that exist between the various conventions and their associated national instruments.

In addition to the assessment, there is a strong legal and policy framework that prioritizes the outcomes that this project will deliver. In 2015, the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda passed the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA) of 2015. The Act includes Part IX on Environmental Information, and Sections on establishing a National Environmental Information Management and Advisory System, called the "EIMAS" (Section 74), a Natural Resources Inventory (Section 76), and a State of the Environment Report (Section 79).

The Environmental Information Management and Advisory System (EIMAS), established under Section 74 of the Act, is a GIS-based centralized information resource housed by the Department for the purposes of the creation and maintenance of the Natural Resources Inventory; the provision of information for the management of natural resource management activities; the production of public information materials relating to resource management issues; and liaison with the public, business community, and non-Governmental organisations in relation to resource management issues.

Furthermore, under the Freedom of Information Act, 2004, section 15(1), “every person has the right to obtain, on request, access to information” that is not otherwise protected. The Act further directs an obligation of a coherent view of data holdings, including through the designation of Information Officers (IO), outlined in section 9(1) and 9(2), with a responsibility to, “promote within the public authority the best possible practices in relation to record maintenance, archiving and disposal.”

The project links with the following national strategies and action plans: the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the National Action Plan (NAP), and National Communications on Climate Change, as followings. Firstly, the project incorporates a programme to address priority data gaps in particular relating to terrestrial and marine biodiversity and land degradation, which prevent comprehensive, science-based and internationally comparable reporting to different conventions on these issues. Secondly, it aims to support a coordinated environmental information system for Antigua and Barbuda, which among other things would aim to increase cost-effectiveness and reduce duplication in the management of key national datasets that are relevant to monitoring and reporting under several MEAs. Thirdly, Component 2 of the project includes a dedicated activity that would support use of the national environmental information system for reporting to at least three different MEAs.

The Antigua and Barbuda National Strategic Biodiversity Action Plan (2014–2025) provides an integrated approach to addressing the issue of biodiversity loss in Antigua and Barbuda. Strategic goals outlined in the document include: i) addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; ii) reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use; iii) improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; iv) enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and v) enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

***7.* *Knowledge Management.* Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

The Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are key institutionalized knowledge management and coordination structures to ensure that the project learns from other relevant projects and initiatives. In addition, the two specific knowledge management activities under this project are Activity 1.5 "Individual capacity building (training) to effectively maintain and manage the environmental information system", and Activity 2.5 "A public information campaign on accessing and using the environmental information system is launched, in particular targeting educational institutions." Sharing the outputs of the project with a broad user-base, including through an established online presence, will enhance the knowledge management and longevity of this project, which is closely aligned with national priorities and agency mandates.

**part iii: approval/endorsement by gef operational focal point(s) and GEF agency(ies)**

A. Record of Endorsement[[9]](#footnote-9) of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):   
 (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/webpage_attached/OFP%20Endorsement%20Letter%20Template-Dec2014.doc)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP   
 endorsement letter](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/webpage_attached/OFP%20Endorsement%20of%20STAR%20for%20SGP%20Dec2014.docx)).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** | **Ministry** | **Date** *(MM/dd/yyyy)* |
| Diann Black-Layne | Director, Department of Environment | **Ministry of Health and the Environment** | **03/11/2016** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification

|  |
| --- |
| **This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[[10]](#footnote-10) and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Coordinator, Agency name** | **Signature** | **Date**  *(MM/dd/yyyy)* | **Project Contact Person** | **Telephone** | **Email** |
| Adriana Dinu,  UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator |  | 03/31/2016 | Tom Twining-Ward, Senior Technical Advisor, UNDP (Green-LECRDs) | +90 850 2882 612 | tom.twining-ward@undp.org |

**GEF\_PIF\_60**

C. Additional GEF Project Agency Certification (Applicable Only to newly accredited GEF Project Agencies)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [**GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template**](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/webpage_attached/GEF%20Project%20Agency%20Certification%20Template.docx) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

1. Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [*GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*](https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF6%20Results%20Framework%20for%20GEFTF%20and%20LDCF.SCCF_.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.  
    [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to $50k for PF up to$2m (for MSP); up to $100k for PF up to $3m; $150k for PF up to $6m; $200k for PF up to $10m; and $300k for PF above $10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [*GEF-6 Programming Directions*](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF.C.46.07.Rev_.01_Summary_of_the_Negotiations_of_the_Sixth_Replenishment_of_the_GEF_Trust_Fund_May_22_2014.pdf)*,* will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project’s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target(s)](http://www.thegef.org/gef/content/did-you-know-%E2%80%A6-convention-biological-diversity-has-agreed-20-targets-aka-aichi-targets-achie) the project will directly contribute to achieving. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required   
    even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF [↑](#footnote-ref-10)