

"Investing in Seychelles' blue future"



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

SeyCCAT

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This document serves to provide project applicants with information on the types of social and environmental safeguarding that SeyCCAT will be screening for prior to making any investments.

Environmental Safeguards

The proceeds from SeyCCAT are expected to facilitate the expansion of a Marine Protected Area (“MPA”) network in the Seychelles and create the enabling conditions for more effective management of the Seychelles EEZ, and therefore, are expected to generate significant positive environmental benefits in conserving the natural ecosystem and biodiversity of the Seychelles. In addition, the proceeds of SeyCCAT are expected to catalyze positive social outcomes, for example, related to the improvement of natural resource and environmental conditions and potential economic benefits to local populations from improved tourism and other economic opportunities.

Expansion and/or strengthening of management effectiveness of MPAs may be achieved through a range of activities, including without limitation direct investments in the sustainable use and conservation of coastal and marine resources; restoration of sensitive ecosystems such as sand dunes, mangroves, beach zones which have been degraded; and environmental guidelines for tourism operations related to diving, snorkeling, non-motorized sports, as well as for small infrastructure works (such as visitor centres or boardwalks).

Implementation of these activities may have adverse environmental consequences, including without limitation damage to coastal areas, natural habitats, coral and reef systems from mismanaged activities; disturbances to bird, mammal, and fish species from poor tourism and construction practices; and noise, dust and air pollution and indiscriminate waste management from small infrastructure works (such as a visitor centres and boardwalks).

These adverse environmental impacts are expected to be localized and manageable through well-planned and specific mitigation measures. Initial screening for potential environmental and social impacts associated with the siting, design, construction, and post-construction activities should be undertaken prior to start of such activities and contracting of civil works. Screening helps to identify and determine the appropriate mitigation measures needed to reduce and/or compensate for the environmental footprint of the activity. The proposed mitigation measures are to be undertaken by proponents at the national level consistent with the SeyCCAT Operational Manual. These will include undertaking Environmental impact assessments as needed, and, if necessary, developing supplemental safeguards instruments under the ESMF (Environmental Management Plans), which will be implemented by the applicant. Each such Environmental Management Plan will be reviewed and cleared by the environmental and social specialist of the PIU (if funded by Blue Bond proceeds).

With respect to social safeguards, there may be some potential nonphysical (economic) displacement issues associated with possible restrictions on resource use in, and access to, core areas of MPAs. Some livelihood activities may be adversely impacted in MPAs, including without limitation the limiting of fishing areas through zoning, limiting fish catches, banning certain fishing techniques, or restricting certain types of fishing. In addition to those engaged in fishing, tourism operators and vendors, and resource extractors and harvesters (e.g. corals, sand, etc.) may also be adversely affected.

For terrestrial Protected Areas, livelihoods of tourism operators and vendors, farmers, hunters, and resource extractors (e.g. timber, firewood, plants), among others may be

adversely impacted. It should also be noted that some restrictions on livelihoods may currently exist, but are often not regularly enforced due to capacity constraints. Hence, due to the overall conservation strategy of SeyCCAT, it may be necessary that persons or communities change some ongoing negative practices, such as limiting or restricting or prohibiting the use of certain areas or resources.

SeyCCAT would address this issue by: (a) ensuring stakeholder consultations are carried out; (b) providing guidelines to proponents to include sustainable development action plans which would harmonize social strategy with conservation practices to offer sustainable alternatives to substitute damaging practices; and (c) undertaking adequate M&E to verify adoption of these guidelines. SeyCCAT shall ensure that there is a functioning grievance redressal mechanism in place and that stakeholders are aware of how to access this system and provide feedback or get clarifications.

For projects funded by “Blue Bond” proceeds, in order to reflect the environmental and social safeguards requirements, SeyCCAT will post the Exclusion List on its website and include it in the grant application materials in order to advise potential applicants of activities not eligible for “Blue Bond” Blue Grants. Grant applications received by SeyCCAT will be reviewed to ensure that they do not contemplate activities on the Exclusion List.

For projects funded by “Blue Bond” proceeds, the PIU’s environmental and social specialist will review all grant applications using the Screening Templates attached to this Operations Manual to evaluate environmental and social issues and risks relating to the activities proposed in the grant application, and will make binding recommendations to the Blue Grants Committee regarding its findings.

In addition, SeyCCAT will post the Guidelines on Generic Impacts and Risks of “Blue Bond” funded activities on its website in order for grant applicants to consider whether it will be necessary to carry out an environmental impact assessment and/or prepare a supplemental safeguards instrument (an Environmental Management Plan) in connection with the activities they are proposing, and to provide guidance for the preparation of that assessment or supplemental safeguards instrument, which would need to be reviewed and cleared as mentioned above.

Any civil works undertaken as part of a “Blue Bond” funded project must incorporate the Guidelines for Construction Health and Safety in civil works contracts and comply with those requirements. SeyCCAT, and the PIU, will monitor that compliance.

For projects funded by “Blue Bond” proceeds, SeyCCAT and / or the PIU will carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of each “Blue Bond” funded project and report regularly to the PIU and IBRD on environmental and social safeguard matters relating to each project using the template of the Environmental and Social Compliance Report.

Additional information is available from: <http://www.finance.gov.sc/resources>

See the links to:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework for SWIOFish3 Project.
- Process Framework for SWIOFish3 Project