

**FULL PROPOSAL**

# **INSTRUCTIONS**

**Read the following before developing your full proposal**

All proposals submitted to the fund must have as their main purpose the conservation and/or management of marine and coastal biodiversity and/or ecosystem based adaptation to climate change in the Seychelles.

Refer to the Call for Proposals to see the priorities for funding in the current round of SeyCCAT grants. Do not submit a proposal that falls outside of these identified priorities.

Do not include activities or costs that are defined as ineligible by SeyCCAT.

Proposals must be compliant with Environmental and Social Safeguards applied by SeyCCAT. Please pay particular attention to the Exclusions List.

Refer to the SeyCCAT website for information on the above: [www.seyccat.org](http://www.seyccat.org)

In the event of specific questions, contact the SeyCCAT Secretariat.

**In preparing your full proposal**

Be clear and concise; stick to the page limit (10 pages maximum).

The budget must be based on real costs (except for subsistence costs and indirect costs). It is, therefore, in the applicant’s interest to provide a realistic and cost-effective budget.

The full proposal should be provided in Font Times New Roman size 11 characters, single spacing.

**SeyCCAT Project Full Proposal**

# **PART 1. NARRATIVE (Maximum 10 pages)**

# **COVER PAGE**

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| --- | --- |
| **Title** | Aldabra Clean Up Project (ACUP): *Tackling ocean plastic pollution trough action, education and research.* |
| **SeyCCAT Strategic Objective – *as listed in the Request for Proposals*** | Strategic Objectives  1: Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones. |
| **Name, contact details and status of lead applicant organisation / individual** | Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF), established in 1979.  Contact person: Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley. Address: La Ciotat Building, Mont Fleuri, PO Box 853, Seychelles. Email: [ceo@sif.sc](mailto:ceo@sif.sc). Phone: +248 432 17 35. |
| **Partner organizations (include country if not based in Seychelles)** | Queen’s College, University of Oxford (UK) |
| **Project location** | Mahé and Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles. |
| **Duration – start and end dates** | 18 months (01/01/2019 -30/06/2020) |
| **Total budget requested** | SR 1,000,000 |
| **Indicative co-financing** | SR 2,497,700 |

# **SUMMARY (max 1 page)**

Inappropriately disposed waste washed out from landfills, items discarded into rivers and at sea, along with fishing equipment can become marine debris which travel long distances and eventually wash onshore. This marine debris accumulates on the beaches of even the most remote and pristine places, like Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Vast quantities of marine debris have been accumulating for years on Aldabra’s shoreline and in recent times this has dramatically accelerated. It is cataclysmically ironic that such an incredible place, inaccessible to most of humanity can be touched by marine debris, which harms this sanctuary’s endemic and endangered wildlife. This ever-growing problem can no longer be left unchecked and appropriate action must be taken to cause meaningful change. As such, the removal of accumulated marine debris is a top priority for SIF. Although Aldarba’s remoteness (1200km away from Mahé) and harsh conditions poses a major logistical challenge and one that exceeds SIF’s conventional financing means, the removal of marine debris from its shores is Aldabra Clean Up Project (ACUP)’s primary action. It is envisioned that Aldabra’s fauna, human visitors, Seychellois community and world population will benefit from the ACUP’s success. Ultimately, ACUP’s overarching outcome will be the cleaning of Aldabra’s shore through an expedition to take place in February – March 2019. The expedition will focus on the southern nest beaches and coastline which are the most affected by marine debris due to their exposure to the South East monsoon winds and inaccessibility. This extraordinary action carried out by a multi-national team will feed currents of change and create waves of actions for improved waste management and reduced plastic pollution throughout the country, unlocking local capacity to think differently of waste by transforming it into a resource. To achieve this outcome the project has five main objectives: (1) fundraising, (2) awareness & education (3) waste removal, (4) research and (5) waste management and processing (these objectives will be expanded upon in section D and E).

**Site Description:** At 35 km by 15 km, Aldabra is one of the world’s largest coral atolls, having a land area of around 155 km2. It has a total protected area of 2559km2. It was designated as a Special Nature Reserve by the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act of Seychelles (1969), a UNESCO World Heritage site (1982), a RAMSAR wetland site of international importance (2010) and is now part of the IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network in recognition of Aldabra's importance to marine turtles (2014). Aldabra has approximately 55 beaches where plastic pollution has accumulated, although the pollution is not limited to these beaches. The coast is comprised of limestone karst which shelves out over the sea and at high tide the waves crash up onto the shelf depositing waste onto the karst and also beyond into the vegetation. While the most intensive work will take place on Aldabra, there will be education and outreach activities, as well as waste management and processing initiatives taking place on Mahé.

**Summary of timeline:** Early 2019 the ACUP team will collect, remove and research marine debris on Aldabra.In the following months, and until the project’s end,data collected will be analysed and results published and disseminated. In this same time period several other actions will take place; recommendations for waste management on Aldabra will be integrated into Aldabra Atoll Management Plan (2016-2026) with a long term plan for regular clean-ups to take place, Standard monitoring procedures will be developed and innovative artwork, created from the collected marine debris will be commissioned to be exhibited in Aldabra House (the Aldabra exhibition centre to be built on Mahé). Throughout its duration ACUP will work with local and international initiatives to explore how Aldabra’s waste management can be improved and apply these solutions. The ACUP will also host and support awareness activities on the issue of marine debris to change consumer and corporate behaviour (for more details please consult section E).

**Alignment with global and national priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals: 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 12: Responsible Production and Consumption, 14: Life Below Water, 15: Life On Land and 17: Partnerships for the Goals. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets 1, 8, 9 and 11. Seychelles Sustainable Development Stratergy (2012-2020) goals: Chapter 2: Social & Human Development (Goal 1 & 2), Chapter 4: Biodiversity & Forestry (Goal 1), Chapter 7: Water, Sanitation & Waste Management (Goal 3), Chapter 9: The Economics Of Sustainability (Goal 2), Chapter 10 Sustainable Consumption & Production (Goal 1), Chapter 13 Education For Sustainability Practices (Goal 1). Seychelles’ National Biodiversity and Action Plan: (1) Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. (2) Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use, (3) Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and (5) Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

# **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND AND CAPACITY**

SIF is a non-profit charitable organisation that was established as a public trust by the government of Seychelles in 1979. SIF manages and protects the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Aldabra Atoll and the Vallée de Mai and has the President of Seychelles, as Patron. SIF is managed by a Board of 15 Trustees, appointed by the President. This board represents individuals and organisations from both Seychelles and overseas who are concerned with the conservation of wildlife and bring relevant expertise and knowledge to SIF’s management. It is the longest established local organisation working in nature conservation in Seychelles and has taken a pioneering management approach by twinning the two sites. SIF employs 63 staff across three locations (Mahé, Praslin and Aldabra) and partners with the government of Seychelles and wide variety of national and international, non-governmental as well as private organisations. For the ACUP SIF’s principal partner is the Queen’s College, University of Oxford (hereafter referred to as University of Oxford), the world’s leading university.

SIF is mandated and dedicated to ensuring that Seychelles’ World Heritage Sites are well-managed protected areas where conservation, research, education and tourism are sustainably balanced. A major focus is on scientific research to direct, support and improve conservation management of the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of these two very different sites. To successfully operate and protect two World Heritage sites which are more than 1200 km apart, each with their specific set of challenges, SIF relies on income generated primarily by entrance fees and sales from the Vallée de Mai. This is supplemented by project funding, grants and donations. Aldabra does provide some direct income through visitor impact fees but piracy in the Western Indian Ocean has compromised this source of revenue in recent years. SIF’s work with and management of these sites is dependent on visitor numbers and the generosity of its supporters. As the ACUP’s financial demands exceeded SIF’s conventional financial means it was decided during the 2017 annual general meeting that a collaboration with the University Oxford would be favourable to not only remove as much marine plastic pollution from Aldabra as possible, but to create a project with a lasting legacy. Thus, through the ACUP, SIF and the University of Oxford employed a novel means of financing by seeking funds from a mixture of corporate sponsorship, crowd funding and grant applications, in Seychelles and the UK. Sponsorship for publicity opportunities were created for companies to help fund ACUP which was registered as a UK charity, through Queens College, and made eligible for Corporate Social Responsibility Tax donations in Seychelles to further incentivise corporate sponsorship.

In terms of quantifying SIF’s capacity to achieve its mandate the IUCN 2017 Conservation outlook gave both SIF’s sites a rating of ‘Good with some concerns’. In regards its overall protection and management efforts of Aldabra and the Vallée de Mai, the IUCN rated SIF as Highly Effective and Effective, respectively. Moreover, SIF, has led several successful large-scale projects (for further information please refer to SEYCCAT BGF#2\_SIF list of projects).

1. Strengthening Seychelles’ protected area system through NGO management modalities (GEF funded, budget: € 300,000, duration: 2011–2015)
2. Enhancing energy efficiency and implementing a renewable energy system for sustainable operation of the World Heritage site Aldabra Atoll (Embassy of Finland & MCB funded, budget: € 475,000, duration: 2011-2015)
3. Eradication of introduced birds to preserve Aldabra Atoll’s Outstanding Universal Values (UNESCO-funded, budget: € 75,000, duration: 2013–2014)
4. Mainstreaming the management of invasive species as fundamental to preserving the ecological integrity and enhancing the resilience of Seychelles’ World Heritage Sites (EU funded, budget: € 1,235,308, duration: 2011–2015)

In addition to such projects SIF regularly conducts intensive operations to resupply Aldabra with food supplies, fuel, construction materials and equipment while assuring safe passage for staff, visiting researchers and school children. Moreover, SIF’s outreach and education programs is a cornerstone of its work, conducting public speaking, poem and song competitions. Through friends of the Vallée de Mai and the eco-school competition trip to Aldabra, SIF endeavours to bring Seychellois youth closer to nature and their World Heritage Sites. ACUP likewise will provide opportunities for young Seychellois to experience Aldabra first hand.

# **PROJECT OUTCOME, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

ACUP’s overall outcome is to effectively manage marine debris pollution on a remote island ecosystem and as a result empower young professionals with various backgrounds that are not necessarily limited to the conservation field, but have a passion for the ocean, to bring about positive change for better waste management in Seychelles and to engage audiences that do not directly have access to solutions to the plastic problem. Thus, the ACUP creates a multi-national team of young ocean ambassadors who will affect real change to protect a world heritage site. Aldabra is a beacon of hope and as such will be used to exemplify the problem of marine ocean plastics and to define and implement solutions. To accomplish its overall aim and ensure that it is a sustainable action ACUP has five objectives summed up as: (1) fundraising, (2) awareness & education, (3) waste removal, (4) research and (5) waste management and processing. SIF, the University of Oxford, the volunteers have been working on these objectives since May 2018 with considerable progress being made (please refer to ACUP Introduction and Update Presentation).

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| **Objectives** | **Outputs** | **Expected Results/Outcome** |
| 1. Fundraising | * SCR 2,500,000 raised allowing all project components go ahead. * Post-expedition sponsor event. * Regular project updates sent to all funders. | * All project activities conducted. * A wide variety of people/companies engage with the plastic problem. |
| 1. Awareness & Education | * Infographics * Educational material * Project media/Blogs | * The plastic pollution problem becomes more widely understood. * People make personal changes in their day-to-day use of plastics. |
| 1. Waste Removal | * Expedition media/documentary * Research data * Over 50 tonnes of marine debris removed | * 55 Turtle nesting beaches cleared * 30km of coastal grassland habitat cleared. * 6+ Seychellois get to visit Aldabra |
| 1. Research | * Scientific publications * Plastic pollution for Island ecosystems management protocol * News & Media | * Integrated plastic pollution management into Aldabra Atoll Management plan. * Greater understanding of impacts of plastic pollution to island ecosystems. |
| 1. Waste Management & Processing | * Art installations at Aldabra House. * Report on the outcome of the plastic. * Media and infographics | * Reduction in waste going into land-fill. * Improved waste management at Aldabra and in Seychelles. |

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS**

**Objective 1: Fundraising**

Activities

1. 1 Engage corporate sponsors

1. 2 Maintain crowdfunding platform

1. 3 Engage sponsors via project events/media

1. 4 Conduct fundraising activities

1. 5 Write to appropriate grants & foundations

The aim is to raise SCR 3.5 million by the end of December 2018. These funds, which are referred to as co-financing within this proposal, are being raised through a mixture of crowd funding, local sponsorship (please refer to the ACUP Seychelles Sponsorship Guide <https://www.sif.sc/sites/default/files/downloads/Sponsorship%20Guide_reduced.pdf>) and international corporate sponsorship and grants, like the BGF. To date over SCR 1.6 million has been raised, with SIF contributing SCR 365,000 of its own funds, over SCR 261,000 being raised through crowd funding, SCR18,000 through grants and SCR 1,020,000 from corporate sponsorship, with Seychelles’ corporates contributing SCR 250,000. ACUP’s CSR tax eligibility in Seychelles (please refer to ACUP CSR Tax Approval) and registration as a UK charity through Queen’s college, whilst offering publicity makes financial support from commercial entities appealing and feasible. In addition to these ongoing efforts ACUP has applied to six grants, including SEYCCAT’s Blue Grant Fund (BGF) to ensure that its funding objective is reached. Results and indications from these applications should come through by the end of October 2018. If unsuccessful with these grants further applications will be made.

**Objective 2: Awareness & Education**

Activities:

* 1. Give presentations, talks, screen documentaries.
  2. Take part in local outreach events
  3. Create project media and share through all media platforms.
  4. Conduct classroom visits at schools in UK & Sey.

By raising awareness of the issue of marine plastic pollution and educating people about the solutions the ACUP supports global marine debris awareness campaigns to increase public engagement at a national and international level with the aim of reducing people’s use of single-use plastics whilst lobbying multinational corporations to take more responsibility and produce eco-friendly alternatives. The project’s expedition empowers young individuals both locally and internationally by teaching them that they are capable of bringing about change even in the most isolated and remote places. This is particularly important in a SIDS such as Seychelles where initiatives are still largely state driven and lack implementation. Ocean pollution is a global challenge, but local actions are crucial to tackle this issue to safeguard our oceans and inspire changes in individual habits. To achieve this objective several education and outreach activities have taken place and have been planned at community, national and international scales. These activities have, and will, run for the duration of the project, producing infographics, interactive games, social media posts, documentaries, stories and other materials that will continue to engage a wide audience after the project’s completion. One of the most notable events to have already taken place was a national video competition to select six Seychellois volunteers. This activity not only launched and crewed the ACUP in Seychelles, but also generated a great deal of national interest about Aldabra, marine plastic pollution and possible solutions with the Island Development Company (IDC) and Island Conservation Society (ICS) initiating a clean up on several of the outer islands they manage. Furthermore, it received support at the highest political level with Statehouse hosting the launch, whereby the selection was announced on World Environment day. Following the launch photos showing the scale of the problem on Aldabra travelled the world with the President, even displaying them at this year’s G7 summit.

A social research survey before and after the expedition will also be conducted to gauge people’s awareness of the issue and show the ACUP’s level impact. SIF is in discussions with local and international media to show footage and provide information as expedition unfolds. Lastly to provide an overview of ACUP a documentary of the expedition will be made. This will allow people in Seychelles and UK, and hopefully in other parts of the world to be educated about the threat and solutions to marine plastic pollution.

**Objective 3: Waste Removal**

Activities:

3.1 Purchasing waste removal equipment

3.2 Purchasing food supplies

3.3 Preparing volunteers (fitness training/medical tests)

3.4 Transporting volunteers from UK to Seychelles

3.5 Transportation from Mahé – Aldabra – Mahé

3.6 Accommodating and feeding UK volunteers on Mahé

3.7 Transporting volunteers to and from Aldabra

3.8 Transporting waste from Aldabra to Mahé

Waste removal, the most apparent, costly and logistically challenging part of ACUP will take place between the end of February and throughout March. 12 volunteers, cleared to be medically fit, adequately briefed and trained (fitness/ first aid) and capable of sharing their story will be sent to Aldabra on a five week expedition to visit at least four of Aldabra’s field camps located on the southern coast of Grand Terre and clear at least 16 turtle nesting beaches, as well as the coastline between them. At designated beaches, accessible by sea the volunteers will accumulate waste. In the last week of the expedition this accumulated waste will be transferred from shore to a cargo vessel. This cargo vessel, which on its leg to Aldabra will be bringing 6 months supplies for the research station, will be hired to move around Aldabra’s coast to be filled with waste. Depending on weather and sea conditions, tides, logistics and facilities, it is estimated that between 35 and 91 tonnes can be removed from Aldabra’s shoreline. If 50 tonnes would be removed it would be an incredible feat that would be valuable in encouraging individual and corporate responsibility. As such documenting this effort and sharing it widely contributes to (2) awareness raising objective. ACUP’s (4) research objective, specific to the activity of data collection will take place concurrently.

**Objective 4: Research**

Activities:

* 1. Transects to determine quantity, origin & composition.
  2. Accumulation surveys
  3. Surveys to quantify and assess attached biota to trash.
  4. Sample collection for ecological impact analysis
  5. Data analysis
  6. Write up of results
  7. Publication of results
  8. Develop longterm management plan

ACUP will assess the scale of the problem by investigating accumulation rates, composition and sources of marine debris, and its effects on wildlife, to address the problem at its origin and to devise mitigation strategies. Data collection will take place before and during the expedition and a long term monitoring and clean-up programme will be integrated into Aldabra Atoll Management Plan so that this problem does not return on the same scale. All of this will be achievable with in-depth research and solid cooperation from a multi-national team bringing expertise from the Seychelles and the University of Oxford that will continue after the expedition with publishable results by June 2020.

**Objective 5: Waste Management & Processing**

Activities:

5.1 Sorting

5.2 Art projects

5.3 Recycling/repurposing

5.4 Entrepreneurial competition

To ensure a meaningful and sustainable project that prevents the collected waste from just ‘ending up’ in the landfill, the ACUP engages and compliments existing national initiatives and leads new ones that will apply innovative and creative ways to recycle the waste removed from Aldabra. Thus, preparing the Seychelles “soil” for circular economic activities. Synergies between the Aldabra House project (funded by GEF-UNDP), have already being discussed with the ideas that sculptures and art of Aldabra fauna made from marine debris will be exhibited in Aldabra House, inviting people to think about their waste and where it ends up. Discussions have also been conducted with the Land Waste Management Agency (LWMA) and this has provided much information that will allow ACUP to fulfil this objective. With regards to the storage and sorting of the collected marine debris LWMA has assured that the weight and volume of marine debris brought back is within its capacity to handle so that local processors and the informal sector can access and remove what can be recycled (PET, HDPE and scrap metal) and repurposed (buoys and rope). Talks with local processors are to start in the coming weeks to confirm what and how much can be processed by their businesses and organisations.

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| **Project title:** ACUP | | | | | | | **Project start & end dates:** 01/01/2019 – 30/06/2020 | |
| **Project Outcome:** Manage marine debris on Aldabra and empower young professionals to bring about better waste management in Seychelles and globally. | | | | | | | | |
| **Specific Objective No. 1 (Fundraising)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Activity** | **Responsibility for implementation** | **Timeline of activity** | | | | | | |
| **Year 1** | | | | **Year 2** | | **Notes** |
| **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** |
| 1.1 Engage sponsors | SIF/Oxford | X | X | X | X | X | | The Objective started 05/18 and is aiming to be completed by 12/18. However, ACUP will be able to accept fund throughout the project as a contingency measure. |
| 1.2 Maintain crowdfunding platform | Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | |
| 1.3 Financial reporting to sponsors grants | SIF | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 1.4 Write to appropriate grants and foundations | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | |
| **Indicators:** Reaching and exceeding the budget aim. | | | | | | | | |
| **Specific Objective No 2 (** **Awareness & Education)** | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Social Media campaign | SIF | X | X | X | X | X | | Twice a week posts (blogs, videos, & infographics). |
| 2.2 National Art and Essay competition | SIF | X | X |  |  |  | | Shifting mindsets on plastic & imbuing solutions. |
| 2.3 Social research survey | SIF | X |  | X |  | X | | Measuring public perception change over time. |
| 2.4 Documentary making, editing and screening | SIF/Oxford | X | X | X | X | X | | 30 to 45 minute documentary. |
| 2.5 Creation of education & outreach materials | SIF/Oxford |  |  | X | X | X | | Infographics, books, posters, games and videos. |
| * 1. Give presentations, talks, screen documentaries. | SIF/Oxford |  | X | X | X | X | | Provide info of the issue, solutions and ACUP. |
| * 1. Take part in local outreach events | SIF/Oxford | X |  | X |  | X | | Support and engage local groups and initiatives. |
| 2.8 Conduct classroom visits at schools in UK & Sey | SIF/Oxford |  | X | X | X | X | |  |
| 2.9 Purchase IT equipment and software | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Video and photo editing, infographic creation. |
| **Indicators:** >100 social media posts; one national essay/art competition; two social surveys; > 15,000 people reached through education and outreach activities. | | | | | | | | |
| **Specific Objective No 3 (Waste removal)** | | | | |  | | | |
| 3.1 Purchasing marine debris removal equipment | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Bought locally and internationally. |
| 3.2 Purchasing food supplies for expedition | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Restock Aldabra’s stores for the next supply boat. |
| 3.3 Preparing volunteers (fitness training/medical tests) | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Reducing risks, improving effectiveness. |
| 3.4 Transporting volunteers from UK to Seychelles | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | | International travel |
| 3.5 Transportation of personnel Mahé-Aldabra-Mahé | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Flight to Assomption and crossing to Aldabra. |
| 3.6 Housing & feeding UK volunteers on Mahé | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | | Six days transit before and after expedition. |
| 3.7 Transporting waste from Aldabra to Mahé | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | Also moving round Aldabra to collect waste. |
| **Indicators:** 35 to 91 tonnes of waste removed from Aldabra, 12 young people empowered to advocate for action to #beatplasticpollution and other issues. | | | | | | | | |
| **Specific Objective No 4 (Research)** | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Setup marine debris transects | SIF | X |  |  |  |  | | To determine quantity, origin & composition |
| 4.2 Conduct accumulation surveys | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 4.3 Conduct marine debris surveys | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | | To quantify & assess attached biota to |
| 4.4 Sample collection for ecological impact analysis | SIF/Oxford | X |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 4.5 Data analysis | SIF/Oxford |  | X | X | X | X | | Part of co-team leader’s PhD will be |
| 4.6 Write up of results | SIF/Oxford |  | X | X | X |  | |  |
| 4.7 Publication of results | SIF/Oxford | X | X | X | X | X | | To be widely disseminated to the public. |
| 4.8 Develop longterm management plan | SIF/ Oxford |  |  | X | X | X | | Integrated into existing work and management plan. |
| **Indicators:** Scientific publications; management plan and standardised monitoring protocols. | | | | | | | | |
| **Specific Objective No 5 ( Waste Management & Processing)** | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Sorting collected marine debris | SIF |  | X | X |  |  | | Pay/compensation for informal workers/volunteers. |
| 5.2 Art projects | SIF |  | X | X | X | X | | Payment for commissioning artists’ work. |
| 5.3 Recycling/repurposing | SIF |  | X | X |  |  | | Handling and transporting the marine debris. |
| 5.4 Entrepreneurial competition | SIF |  |  |  | X | X | | Seed capital for business solution as prize. |
| **Indicators:** Five to 10 artistic outputs, identified reusable items (rope, buoys) donated to or locally reprocessed (PET/HDPE). | | | | | | | | |

# **RISKS TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

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| **Risk/Factors** | **Risk category** | **Potential level of impact** | **Risk mitigation measures** |
| Aldabra’s remoteness & harsh environment presents a constant hazard to any work being carried out. Moreover, having some of the expedition occur at sea creates further dangers & risks to human life & health as well as property damage. | Health and Safety, Legal. | High | 1. **Medical tests** for all volunteers to be cleared for participation. 2. **First aid training** for all volunteers and staff taking part. 3. **Fitness training:** To increase the team’s effectivity they will patriciate in a boot camp before the expedition. 4. **ACUP Strategy protocol**: An overall strategy protocol for the expedition was created to prepare all participants for the expedition’s demands. All volunteers have signed a Release of Liability and Waiver of Legal Rights (annex 14 of the protocol) stating they have understood, enquired, prepared and agreed for the expedition. The protocol details life on Aldabra, outlines the rules/regulation and the expedition strategy vis-a-vis the clean up and hazards. Its annexes, which in some cases will be removed and brought with, cover emergency first aid, communication procedures and emergency action plans. These have been reviewed by an emergency doctor – who will be on call – and marine safety management expert (for more info please refer to the ACUP Strategy Protocol). 5. SIF has **insurance** for all of its staff, volunteers and property on Aldabra, this is extended to ACUP volunteers. Insurance covers emergency transport from Aldabra to Mahé and emergency response on Mahé. 6. SIF has a **strong capacity and experience** conducting operations on Aldabra and at sea. The current Island Manger has a decade of experience on Aldabra, the skippers/logistic crew have over two years of experience operating on and around Aldabra. Two doctors will also be on call for the duration of the expedition. 7. SIF has coordinated with the **Seychelles Coast Guard** to conduct patrols around at the end of the expedition and assist us with moving collected marine debris from the shore to the cargo vessel. |
| Invasive Alien Species (IAS): Any visitor, equipment/supplies to Aldabra always presents a risk that IAS (i.e. rats) can be introduced. | Environmental | Medium | SIF has bio-security procedures and officers on Mahé and Aldabra to ensure that no IAS incursions can take place. Recently, through the COI’s biosecurity project all of SIF’s staff at Head Office and on Aldabra underwent further training to check all fresh products (highest risk), equipment, bags and supplies destined for Aldabra are not IAS vectors. In addition to a biosecurity room being built on Aldabra this update on SIF’s biosecurity procedures means that by the start of the expedition there will be improved practices to prevent any of the volunteers or equipment heading to Aldabra from being vectors for IAS. A video that has been created for staff and visitors to Aldabra has been completed and this makes biosecurity information more understandable and accessible to the volunteers. Within the strategy document a great of emphasis has been placed on biosecurity, so that the volunteers commit to the standards SIF is instilling. |
| Funding | Economic | Medium | ACUP has to date (26/10/18) raised over SR 1.6million and funds from grants, corporate sponsors and crowdfunding are still entering. To ensure that sufficient funds are raised ACUP has applied to six grants, including the BGF. More grants will be applied to if current ones turn out to be unsuccessful. Moreover, ACUP has reached out to over 50 medium to large businesses in Seychelles and is in discussion with several international corporations such Silver Sea’s expeditions and the James Fisher Group who have indicated that their social/environmental responsibility align with the ACUP’s objectives. |
| Processing | Economic, social, Health and Safety technological, political | Medium | The processing objective of this project is ambitious and requires third party involvement as it exceeds SIF’s mandate. It is possible that a significant portion of the marine debris brought back cannot be recycled or repurposed as it will be degraded and not of a high enough quality for reprocessing, we will prioritise this marine debris for the art component. Despite this talks with LWMA have assured SIF that collected marine debris can be stored and/or mined in a separate area of the landfill until further solutions arise. It is noteworthy the management of the land fill is shifting as to transform its usage and public/private perception of its usage as a place whereby waste is permanently disposed to one in which it is a temporary location for waste to sorted into categories for local actors to access for repurposing and processing. Thus, though it may be the case that only some of the marine debris will be reprocessed relatively soon after the expedition and that the rest will be earmarked for processing when suitable investment and technologies arrives in Seychelles. Following on from discussions with LWMA deliberations with local artists and processors as well as international groups to see what can be processed and how it can make an impact are ongoing and this will ensure that this objective is at least partially successful. Moreover, the entrepreneurial competition is aimed at initiating further local solutions that can help make waste a resource.  The movement and handling the collected waste is also a factor that needs to manage. As such, following on needs to be done carefully. As such, tender and contract requirements for the operation’s company we hire the cargo vessel from must include an area for unloading, weighing, transporting and storing the marine debris. A company capable of meeting all of these requirements will be awarded the tender. Additionally, LWMA’s support in the coordination of this objective will be instrumental and ACUP will abide by their health and safety measures to ensure |
| Aldabra House | Legal | Low | The Aldabra House is a large and long term project that involves many stages. In the event that it is not completed in time its potential synergies with ACUP are not affected as the exhibition pieces created from the marine debris can still be created, displayed in various locations and stored if necessary until its completion. |

# **G. EVALUATION AND INDICATORS**

The ACUP’s will be evaluated by how well its five objectives achieve these overall indicators:

* **Fund raising:** Reaching or exceeding the required funds by February 2019 will determine how well this objective has been achieved. After which clearly communicating how the funds are spent through project updates (sent out every 2 months) to corporate and crowd funders and grant reporting will be key. If funds are exceeded the augmentation of certain activities (5.2 and 5.4) will be carried out to further empower creative and innovative ways to process the collected marine debris. The project activities are reliant upon the success of this achievement and therefore are a measure of the success.
* **Awareness raising:** As this objective is intrinsically hard to measure ACUP has included a social research survey (activity 2.3), that will take place before and after the expedition, to measure the impact its activities have had on the public perception. Results from these survey will provide some indication of the success of this objective. Some more tangible indicators will be the publishing of at least eight social media posts a month, having over 50 participants take part in a national essay and art competition, creating videos and presentations for corporate sponsors, producing over 10 posters, attending/participating/organising at least 6 events as well as the in-house production of feature documentary that if watch by over 5,000 people would be a success. Moreover, with interest from national and international media organisations it would be clear indicator of success if the ACUP expedition and activities generated news.
* **Waste removal**: Aiming to safely remove over 50 tonnes of marine debris from Aldabra will be a tremendous effort and will be a clear indicator of how well the expedition was carried out, exceeding this amount will mean exceeding the target. Additionally having all 12 volunteers experience Aldabra and share the experience of their incredible effort will make others realise the importance of being environmentally conscious with daily consumer choices, demonstrating that everybody can be part of the change to create a better future.
* **Research:** Having at least two academic papers published from the research carried out, several articles, infographics, educational posters and the possibility of informing the programs and policies of private and public organisations who cite the ACUP will be a sure sign of success.
* **Processing:** The processing component of the project will possibly be the most challenging due to there being currently few options in Seychelles for recycling waste. However, the team plan to engage with all local waste management parties and work alongside these to manage the waste most effectively. The objective will therefore be measured by the progress and information obtained from these connections and discussed in the team’s monthly meetings to gauge progress in the organization prior to the expedition. Following the expedition the progress will be directly measured via accounting for the percentage of waste that has been re-used, recycled and re-purposed.

**H. SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICATION:**

The project activities will be sustained beyond the project in several ways:

1. The removal of tonnes of plastic waste polluting Aldabra will have immediate and long-lasting effects on the wildlife that inhabit the atoll, as well as increase visitor enjoyment of this world famous pristine site.
2. The formulation of a plastic pollution management protocol will ensure that the correct resources are allocated to managing the plastic pollution on Aldabra on an annual basis, ensuring that the waste does not accumulate on the atoll.
3. The research into the threat of plastic pollution to island ecosystems through media and other forums will encourage other island managers to take action, indeed this is already the case as the Island Development Company and the Island Conservation Society are planning similar operations on the island they manage.
4. The outreach and education component will have long-lasting effects and positive effects on the way youth in Seychelles (and in Oxford) think about their own waste and plastic use. We have already received a number of pledges from people in this respect.
5. The waste management component will present new ideas, information on technologies that could be adopted by Seychelles, increased re-use of plastics and eventually lead to a more circular plastics economy in Seychelles.
6. Lastly, the project will have a life-long influence on the seven young Seychellois and six Oxford graduate students who are working together to develop and carry out this extraordinary project. The experiences and skills they learn will be unique, the project offers them opportunities they would not otherwise have received and teach them how they can galvanize positive change in their communities and environment.

Knowledge and skills will be built up between the team members, who each bring unique expertise to the project, whether in social media and communications, materials science, ecology, project management or public engagement. All the information obtained by the ACUP will be widely shared in clear and concise ways to engage and inform as many people from as many backgrounds as possible. The team will do this via scientific publication, local news items, online blogs, project events and presentations, social media platforms, film and imagery and infographic development. The main source of practical management information will be compiled into the plastic pollution management protocol, which will be made available and circulated to all island management organisations and individuals.

ACUP’s activities link and coincide with many international initiatives and projects, which all aim to combat a problem of global importance and great urgency. Throughout the past year, the international community and many governments have increased their efforts to fight plastic pollution. The project itself will demonstrate what level of project can be achieved outside of the ‘usual’ and highlight the different ways we have achieved this, right from recruitment via international competitions to crowdfunding and corporate sponsorship. Therefore ACUP could be used as a model to be replicated by other SIDS and larger states, in-fact the project has been published as one of IUCN’s Panorama solutions. The project has a good replication potential within SIF (annual clean-ups), on the national context with the ICS on the outer islands it manages – with SIF already sharing the ACUP Expedition Strategy protocol to help their initiative – and in the wider region such as with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)’s Open call for institutions to undertake marine litter monitoring programmes in the West Indian Ocean Region – SIF has co-submitted a proposal to WIOMSA as a partner organisation with The Ocean Project (Seychelles), of successful this three year-long collaboration would not only compare data between Mahé and Aldabra, but also create a standardised marine plastic pollution monitoring protocol for Seychelles. We also have the possibility of setting up a seed-fund for local entrepreneurs who have ideas for innovative waste management and recycling.