

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The left side of the image is dominated by clear, vibrant turquoise water. A thin strip of white sand beach runs along the right side of the water. To the right of the beach is a dense line of lush green tropical vegetation, including several palm trees. The overall scene is bright and scenic, representing a natural environment.

Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
Impact Evaluation of the Blue Grants Fund
2015-2020
Final Report



SEYCHELLES CONSERVATION
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TRUST

SeyCCAT

Independent evaluation conducted by Peter Mills
August – October 2021

Cover image: Adel Newman/Shutterstock.com

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	6
Objective of this evaluation	6
Methods and approach.....	6
Impact - Case studies	9
Project highlights	18
Performance indicators.....	20
Sustainability.....	24
Project results	24
Capacity and capability development.....	26
Analysis	29
Conclusions.....	32
Recommendations.....	34
Annex 1 – Evaluation questions.....	36
Annex 2 – Documents reviewed.....	37
Annex 3 – Case study sampling criteria & sample.....	38
Annex 4 – Interviewees and respondents	39
Annex 5 – Published data and media links to SeyCCAT projects.....	40

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of an independent impact evaluation of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) Blue Grants Fund (BGF), completed between August and October 2021. The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Complete a review of the 45 projects approved for funding by the BGF between 2015-2020 through BGF rounds 1-4, focussed on two OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, impact, and sustainability.
- Identify actionable recommendations that can be used to strengthen the impact and sustainability of SeyCCAT funded projects.

The evaluation used a mixed methods approach to data collection including document review, interviews with grantees and project stakeholders, surveys of grantees, in-depth case studies of eight (8) BGF projects, data analysis, evidence checks and validation. Impact was measured using two tools that provided a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures. The first was a results chain tool that describes different types of results achieved by projects and places these in a hierarchy of short-term to long-term changes. The second was SeyCCAT's Strategic Results Framework, which includes performance indicators for each of the five Strategic Objectives outlined in SeyCCAT's vision¹. Sustainability of project results was considered from four angles: continuation of project activities (once BGF financial support comes to an end); likelihood for replication of project results elsewhere; use of data generated by a project to catalyse further results; and changes in capacity or capabilities of project stakeholders which could contribute to generating future benefits.

¹ <https://seyccat.org/about-us/#our-vision>

Under Strategic Objective 1 - *Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones*, BGF projects have created significant new data on threatened and endangered species (inc. sharks and rays), and on species of economic importance (Giant Trevally; Sooty tern). Grant work has complemented existing long-term conservation work as well as establishing entirely new species and habitat monitoring programs, for example on Fregate Island. BGF project data has value for the MSP initiative and is supporting the identification of important habitats and foraging areas, and management criteria for MPAs.

Under Strategic Objective 2 - *Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options*, a project led by Praslin Fishers Association (PFA), has demonstrated the value of local knowledge and ideas for fishery co-management. The project, in the Baie St Anne trap fishery, has indicated that seasonal fishery closure can have a positive impact on trends in fish size and weight. The idea was developed by the fishers themselves, and the project and its results are contributing to a change in behaviour in this community, where a third closure will now take place independent of BGF funding.

In this strategic area, projects have created new data about fished species (including Parrotfish, Giant Trevally, and sharks and rays), and new data on the social and economic conditions of the artisanal fishing sector. Projects have created new tools for the fisheries sector including an online fish identification guide and monitoring protocols. BGF funded work in this strategic area is supporting implementation of the Mahe Plateau co-management plan.

Under Strategic Objective 3 - *Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems*, and Strategic Objective 4 - *adaptation to the effects of Climate Change*, BGF projects have raised the profile of the issue of plastic pollution nationally and globally and contributed to removal of waste from Seychelles' waters and islands, including Aldabra Atoll. BGF funding has built the capacity of government actors including the Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment and Seychelles' Meteorological Authority to measure and map water movement and rainfall on Praslin Island, and to monitor long-term trends. Through the BGF, grantees have invested in wetland rehabilitation work, and the creation of education materials for children, and supported DNA sequencing of corals and mapped coral connectivity pathways in Seychelles' waters.

Under Strategic Objective 5 - *Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles Blue Economy*, a portfolio of Blue Economy capacity building and entrepreneurship projects has been funded. Demand for places on these courses has been high and all were fully subscribed. Funding has supported ongoing investments in this area by national organisations and catalysed further investment from other grant giving bodies such as the US embassy. A small portfolio of Blue Economy feasibility studies or concept development projects have also been funded, in areas including aquaculture, and uses for seaweed and algae. BGF projects in this strategic area are aligned with priorities for entrepreneurship development described in Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap, and in the objectives of the Seychelles National Development Strategy 2019-2023.

Changes in the skills, knowledge and capacity of grantees and project stakeholders has occurred in various areas. Greater than 80% of BGF grantees report that delivering projects for the fund has built their own

grant and project management skills and led to improvements in their technical knowledge and skills in the area of project work. BGF projects have provided training and skill development to more than 230 individuals from grantee and partner organisations in areas including bird, fish and reptile species identification and monitoring, marine waste collection and removal, Blue Economy entrepreneurship and business development, website development, seaweed composting, and mangrove cultivation and rehabilitation. Projects have also supported Seychellois citizens to complete PhD, MSc, and BSc study programs.

The data collected for this evaluation shows that impact and sustainability of results under BGF projects is driven by the engagement of strong technical and academic partnerships that bring relevant skills and knowledge to projects. Complementarity between partner and grantee interests, and good stakeholder mapping during project development, along with stakeholder and partner participation in identifying objectives, setting targets and planning, are also key drivers of success. The availability of co-financing, in particular in-kind logistical support for wildlife conservation projects has strengthened the delivery and impact of certain projects.

Factors that limited the impact and sustainability of BGF project results include challenges engaging with the fishing community both for project activities and sharing results, which perhaps indicates some fatigue in among this community regarding surveying and data collection. Despite BGF projects being broadly supportive of national objectives and producing high quality data in strategic areas such as fisheries and conservation, there is currently only limited evidence of uptake of project data for use in policy or evidence-based decision making. The long-term impact of Blue Economy capacity development or entrepreneurship projects and how these translate into improved economic opportunities is

also unclear at present, although it is acknowledged that this work is in its early stages. Weak engagement by some partners listed on BGF project proposals with project implementation, for example in sharing information, and engaging in project activities has proved a challenge in some areas, as has the ability of low-capacity grantee organisations and individuals to articulate project targets and to report on progress and provide evidence of results.

This evaluation has identified seven (7) recommendations designed to strengthen the impact of BGF projects and the sustainability of results created:

1. To strengthen the ability of grantees to identify and report on results in a consistent way, it is recommended that attendance at Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training is an obligation for all grantees prior to finalising their project proposal and logframe.
2. As part of SeyCCAT's investment in M&E work across the BGF grant portfolio, specific focus is placed on tracking the outcomes of Blue Economy projects to understand the impact of investments in this area, and to understand what additional input or support is required to translate training in entrepreneurship and concept development into sustainable businesses.
3. It is recommended that SeyCCAT develop partnership guidelines to share with prospective grantees and their partners that:
 - a. Describe the aim of working in partnership i.e., to achieve mutually beneficial aims and goals
 - b. Describe the principles that underpin effective partnerships i.e., that they are voluntary and collaborative in nature; and
4. SeyCCAT invest in development of an awards and research strategy for the BGF, aligned to generating data for the priorities of MSP implementation, climate change adaptation and Blue Economy development. (This recommendation is also made in the recent Mid-Term Review of SeyCCAT's strategy under recommendation 3).
 - c. Describe the types of role partners can play on BGF projects.
5. SeyCCAT explore options for providing greater administrative and coordination support on projects run by low-capacity and/or grass-roots grantees with the aim of strengthening project administration and management, monitoring and reporting, and delivery of results. One option would be that such support becomes a mandatory budget line for medium and large grants approved for these types of organisations or grantees.
6. Between July and October each year, SeyCCAT M&E and grants staff analyse results emanating from completed BGF projects to identify examples of good practice and/or high impact projects and report this information to the BGF committee to inform the creation of the next BGF Request for Proposals.
7. SeyCCAT and the BGF committee consider whether repeat funding could be made available to grantees who produce high quality strategically important results, either to continue a project, or to promote replication of a project approach or methods in another area.

Introduction

Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) is a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) established as an independent public-private trust and governed by the Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust Act (2015). SeyCCAT was created through the world's first multi-lateral debt restructuring that committed Seychelles to a time-bound marine conservation policy commitment through a national marine spatial planning process (MSP).

SeyCCAT's work is guided by its Strategic Plan: Twenty22 that outlines SeyCCAT's Vision, Mission, Goal, and Strategic Objectives for the period 2018-2022.

Figure 1: SeyCCAT's Strategic Objectives (SO)

SO1	Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones
SO2	Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options
SO3	Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts
SO4	Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change
SO5	Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles Blue Economy

The primary mechanism used by SeyCCAT to support these aims is the Blue Grants Fund (BGF). The BGF distributes funds through a competitive application process to five stakeholder groups: locally registered NGOs, businesses, parastatal organisations, government departments or agencies, and Seychellois citizens. Requests for funding must be responsive to at least one of SeyCCAT's five strategic objectives.

Objective of this evaluation

The objective of this Impact Evaluation was to complete a review of the 45 projects approved for funding by the BGF between 2015-2020 through BGF rounds 1-4, to provide a picture of the impact of these projects and to consider the sustainability of results created. Data collection was guided by an evaluation matrix based on the questions described in Annex 1. These review questions were developed with SeyCCAT's executive team during commissioning of this piece of work. The evaluation considered whether projects had met their targeted goals and included testing the evidence base for results. The evaluation aimed to provide actionable recommendations that can be used to strengthen the impact and sustainability of SeyCCAT funded projects.

Methods and approach

Content review

A review of core documentation from the forty-five (45) projects funded formed the basis for this evaluation. For each project, SeyCCAT provided the concept note and/or proposal, budget, M&E reports, project interim and final reports, along with additional evidence sources, or data provided to SeyCCAT by grantees. Content review further included information on SeyCCAT's website such as annual reviews, and SeyCCAT reports. A list of all documents reviewed can be found in Annex 2.

Case studies

Case studies were completed for eight (8) BGF projects funded in the period 2015-2020. Case studies utilized a mix of methods approach to data collection, including Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), surveys, content and literature review. A survey was sent to the lead grantee for each project, and they were invited to take part in a KII that aimed to investigate in greater detail the project's impact and sustainability.

Where survey and KII data identified evidence of results, requests were made for evidence sources. During the KII contact information was also requested for partners and stakeholders of the project. Requests for secondary data collection through interviews and email correspondence were made and took place with those secondary contacts who responded and agreed to this. The sampling criteria used to select projects are listed in Annex 3. Case studies are described on pages 7-15. A list of people who participated in data collection is shown in Annex 4.

Surveys

To gather a broader set of data about the impact and sustainability of BGF projects a survey was sent to the grantees for all 37 BGF grantees from rounds 1-4 who had not been included in the case study sample. The surveys employed a mix of open and closed questions, and rating scales to gather both qualitative and quantitative information.

Literature, and digital media review

To supplement the content review, KII and survey data, an online literature search was undertaken for each project selected for case study. Survey and case study respondents were also asked to identify any published literature related to their project (e.g., journals, reports or blogs) and online digital media (e.g., news articles) and social media links (e.g.: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter).

Data analysis

This covered familiarization with the portfolio of funded projects by reading BGF project documents, listening to interviewee's responses, reviewing survey responses, organizing notes to determine which pieces of data had value. Coding allowed identification of themes and the opportunity to triangulate findings, and Interpretation of data enabled the identification of tangible results of projects, common challenges, and the structuring of findings, and recommendations.

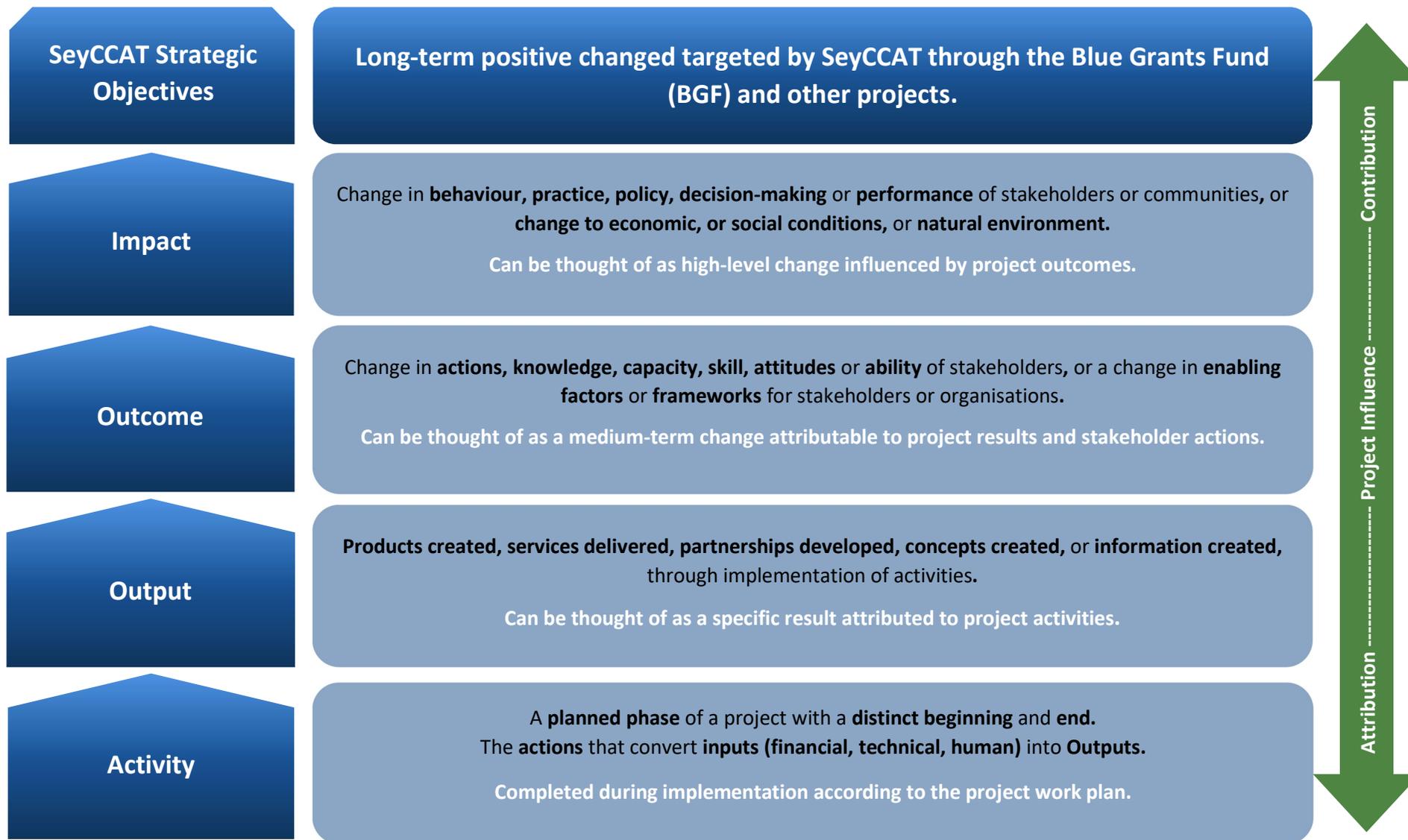
Results chain approach

A results chain is a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tool that describes different types of results achieved by projects and provides examples of these, placing them in a hierarchy of short-term to long-term changes. This evaluation used a results chain to identify results created through BGF projects (in particular the case studies), and to identify where these sit in a pathway from project level activities to high-level change and influence. This provided the opportunity to understand both the individual impact of BGF projects, and the significance of these in contributing towards SeyCCAT's strategic objectives. The results chain used in this evaluation is shown in figure 2. It reflects the results chain used in 2021 to develop SeyCCAT's Results Framework, and that which is used in SeyCCAT's M&E training for grantees. This allows the examples of project impact identified by this evaluation to be framed in the same manner in which SeyCCAT aims to measure results going forward.

Measurement of performance indicators

SeyCCAT's institutional results framework provides a set of performance and management indicators aligned to the organisation's goal and strategic objectives, that allow SeyCCAT to consistently capture data on results achieved. This evaluation used available data to measure progress against these indicators.

Figure 2: Results Chain



Impact - Case studies



Case Study 1: BGF1/L/N11: Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin Island

Grantee: Praslin Fishers Association (PFA)	Grant size: Large	BGF funding: 877,000	Co-financing: 50,000 (in-kind)
Strategic Objective(s) supported: SO1 & SO2		Partners: Anba Lao; Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)	

This project aimed to trial an informal closure of the bay of Baie Ste Anne to commercial trap fishing during the northwest monsoon and encourage fishers to use offshore fishing grounds during this period. The objective was to understand the effect of such a closure on fish stocks.

Key results

Outputs: Two six-month trial closures were successfully completed with pre and post closure data collection on fish catch in order to evaluate the effect of the closure on fish size and diversity of fish caught. Engagement of fishers in the closure program increased from one closure to the next.

Outcome: By successfully trialling a fishery closure the project has demonstrated participatory co-management of an artisanal fishery by fishers, the first such example of this on Praslin. This outcome supports the Mahe Plateau co-management plan and empowers fishers with the knowledge that they can effectively engage in the management of these resources.

Impact: Initial analysis of data on fish size and weight, collected before and then after the two trial closures, shows positive trends. Average fish weight and average fish length, for fish caught in the trap fishery, showed statistically significant increases¹. Although the absence of a control site limits the ability of project leads to say that the closure has driven the change, the overall trend in this data, and in other parameters, including minimum and maximum fish length and weight, is positive over the period of the project.

Impact: Funding to the PFA to pilot voluntary fishing zone closures in Baie St Anne, and the positive results seen is contributing to a longer-term change in behaviour. Following the two trial closures, the fishing community on Praslin have agreed to continue the seasonal closure. Beginning 1st November 2021, a third six-month closure will take place.

The grantee recognised that trust between fishers and those people conducting the project, and gathering data was of significant importance to the project's success. With this in mind the project team sought local routes to implementing project activities. Perception surveys were conducted by engaging the support of students from local schools to take the surveys home to their parents, and by developing the surveys in creole.

The project has been profiled by the Seychelles News Agency and featured in an article on the BBC News website (See Annex 5 for details).



Case study 2. BGF1/SM/N5: Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the Seychelles Artisanal Fishery

Grantee: Karine Rassool	Grant size: Small	BGF funding: 100,000 SCR	Co-financing: None
Strategic Objective supported: SO2		Partners: University of York, UK, Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)	

This project aimed to fill the gap in socio-economic knowledge of the demersal fisheries sector and develop an effective and efficient methodology to collect such data and provide evidence-based information on how best to promote sustainable management of artisanal fisheries in the Seychelles.

Key results

Activity: 250 interviews with artisanal fishers and boat owners took place. The interviews utilised an 80+ question survey covering a wealth of socio-economic information. Survey development was supported by academic experts from University of York, UK, and fisheries experts in the Seychelles.

Outcome: Funding has enabled the first study of the socio-economic situation of Seychelles artisanal fishers since 2015, and consequently a change in knowledge available through creation of a database of current socio-economic data. The database was designed with stakeholder needs in mind and built on Microsoft Access; a platform used by Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA). The database has been shared with SFA and SeyCCAT. This data has the potential to inform policy and practice. It includes 184 complete data sets of interviews with artisanal fishers and boat owners.

Outcome: The project lead, a Seychellois Citizen, used project data for their PhD thesis and has been able to complete their PhD through this project.

Data from stakeholder interviews conducted early in the project was used to inform the approach to data collection. It identified the importance of enumerators being Seychellois nationals. To improve acceptance, and promote engagement from fishers and boat owners, enumerators were recruited from organisations and groups with knowledge of and links to the artisanal fishing sector. Data collection was completed in Creole, and enumerators wore t-shirts bearing the logos of SeyCCAT, University of York and SFA. Enumerators went out to landing sites at times when fishers were going out to fish or returning from fishing trips, often early in the morning.



Case study 3. BGF2/L/N5: Assessing the effectiveness of Curieuse Marine National Park in the protection of the critical early life stages of sicklefin lemon sharks (*Negaprion acutidens*)

Grantee: Global Vision International (GVI) Seychelles	Grant size: Large	BGF funding: 550,000	Co-financing: 550,000 (In-kind)
Strategic Objective supported: SO1	Partners: University of Seychelles; Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority		

This project aimed to create greater understanding of the movements of neonate Sicklefin Lemon Sharks within Curieuse Marine National Park (CMNP) and the efficacy of the park size in their protection. Sicklefin Lemon Sharks (*Negaprion acutidens*) are classified as endangered by the IUCN. Compared to the well-studied Atlantic and Pacific species of Lemon Shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*), little is known about the species found in the Seychelles. The grantee, GVI has been undertaking PIT tagging of Lemon Sharks in CMNP for a number of years and this project benefited from their prior expertise and experience in this area.

Key results

Activity: The project was successful in tagging neonate Sicklefin Lemon sharks and installing acoustic receivers on the north and east coasts of Curieuse Island. The tags provided consistent data from 19 sharks about movement of this species.

Outputs: The project provided training to 13 stakeholders, including GVI volunteers, UniSeY Staff, and SNPGA rangers and technicians, in shark research techniques such as transmitter implantation, and transmitter and receiver hardware. Project data has supported further education activities for GVI conservation volunteers and rangers and was presented at a seminar at the University of Seychelles, and in a seminar for fishermen held on Praslin Island.

Outcome: The project has created new data about the habitats of neonate Sicklefin Lemon Sharks and an improved understanding of the movement patterns of this species within CMNP, and the importance of specific habitats including the turtle pond and mangroves. The project showed that this marine park is of importance in development of this shark early in its life cycle, thereby adding new data that is of value to the protection of this endangered species.

Outcome: Project data demonstrated emigration of juvenile sharks from CMNP indicating a potential supply of sharks to other habitats and fisheries in the Seychelles. This shark species forms part of the catch of the Seychelle's shark fishery and is vulnerable to over-fishing. The project has also provided data which is of potential use to Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority, in decision making, and has supported capacity development of this organisation's staff by providing them with an opportunity to strengthen their first-hand knowledge of this species, and to observe and learn about research skills such as acoustic tagging. Students and lecturers from UniSeY were also able to observe and learn about tagging techniques.



Case study 4. BGF2/L/N15: Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island, the eastern most Seychelles 'Inner' granitic islands.

Grantee: Green Islands Foundation (GIF)	Grant size: Large	BGF funding: 305,000 SCR	Co-financing: 575,000 (in-kind)
Strategic Objective supported: SO1		Partners: Fregate Island Private; Blancpain; Blue Nomads, University of Seychelles	

This project aimed to undertake the first marine biodiversity assessment of the coral reef and marine species around Fregate Island and contribute to assessing trends over time by establishing a long-term marine monitoring program.

Key results

Output: With the support with partner organisations Blue Nomads and Blancpain, underwater surveys were conducted around Fregate Island and photogrammetry used to create 3D underwater maps of the marine environment and habitats in eight marine survey sites. In total greater than 700 hectares of seabed were scanned, providing new information on the health of the reefs in these areas.

Output: A BSc student from the University of Seychelles participated in work on Baited Underwater Remote Vehicle (BRUV) surveys and was able to share the data in a university poster exhibition and use the data in their BSc Environmental Science thesis. Results were also shared at the Seychelles Ocean Symposium in November 2020.

Outcome: Underwater surveys showed rich biodiversity around Fregate Island and provided entirely new knowledge of habitats and coral formations and of the marine biodiversity, including the presence of species such as the bowmouth guitarfish (IUCN red list status: critically endangered), round ribbontail ray (vulnerable) and shortfin devil ray (endangered).

Outcome: The 3D maps and data produced have been shared with the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) database, increasing the knowledge available of Seychelles marine environment at the national level. Data from this project is supporting ongoing coral restoration work around Fregate Island funded by their partners Coralive and Blancpain, aimed at restoring the ecosystem, and research to design more effective coral restoration projects.

Outcome: A protocol for marine biodiversity surveys has been created which will be used biannually by Fregate Island Pvt as part of a new long-term monitoring programme for the marine environment around the island. The protocol will support consistent data collection, allowing year on year monitoring of biodiversity, changes and trends in reef fish and coral communities.

This project was a collaboration between Green Islands Foundation (GIF), and the Fregate Island's conservation team. It allowed these two small organisations to pool resources and expertise. GIF aims to work with tourism organisations to enhance the sustainability of their activities. Fregate Island PVT has a strong history of terrestrial conservation. The project provided the opportunity for Fregate Island to expand their biodiversity conservation work below the waterline with support from GIF and UniSey, while supporting the goals of GIF.

Two short videos explaining the purpose of the project and the outcome of marine mapping were created for YouTube (see annex 5 for details).



Case study 5. BGF2/L/N7: Blue Economy Entrepreneurs - Creating smart, sustainable, and shared prosperity through entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment and training

Grantee: Eco-Sol Consulting Ltd	Grant size: Large	BGF funding: 596,838	Co-financing: 112,000 (Cash and in-kind).
Strategic Objective supported: SO5		Partners: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA	

This project aimed to conduct a study of the Blue Economy entrepreneurial eco-system in the Seychelles and deliver start-up workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs on Mahe Island.

Key results

Outputs: The project completed mapping of the Blue Economy (BE) entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Seychelles, gathering data from 198 stakeholders via survey, and a further 22 via interview and focus groups. A Journal article describing the method used to undertake the study and the development of an instrument for measuring BE ecosystems has been published in the Journal of Indian Ocean Research (JIOR) (See Annex 5 for details).

Outcome: Increased knowledge of entrepreneurship skills and approaches was gained by 48 participants on Mahe Island through two educational workshops, and through site visits to Blue Economy businesses (including seaweed composting, pearl aquaculture and natural cosmetics). Participants were recruited via Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA) and The Guy Morel Institute (TGMl), two training organisations with records of entrepreneurs and people who have expressed an interest in such capacity development programs, along with advertisements via radio and newspapers. Both training workshops were fully subscribed.

Outcome: Since completing this project, the grantee, and their partner the University of Lincoln has secured a grant from the US embassy to conduct further BE entrepreneurship training in the Seychelles (on Praslin and La Digue) and in Mauritius. The work completed for this project has also built the platform for a second BGF funded project managed by ESA and launched in 2021 aimed at building the capacity of BE entrepreneurs.

Outcome: The project provided the grantee with significant professional experience and focussed their desire to continue to work in the Seychelles Blue Economy sector. The grantee has since enrolled in a PhD program studying blue carbon ecosystem management in the Seychelles.

Case study 6. BGF3/L/N22: The Guy Morel Institute (TGMI) Blue Economy accelerator program

Grantee: The Guy Morel Institute (TGMI)	Grant size: Large	BGF funding: 970,000 SCR	Co-financing: 969,200 (in-kind)
Strategic Objective supported: SO5		Partners: None	

This project aimed to enrol 20 entrepreneurs in a Blue Economy (BE) accelerator program, in order to facilitate the registration and start-up of 10 new, innovative, and modern businesses in this important sector for Seychelles. 22 applications were received for the 20 places available.

The TGMI has an enterprise centre, through which entrepreneurship training is delivered. Among its priorities is supporting Blue Economy development and creating awareness of business opportunities in this area. This project aligns with TGMI's vision in this area.

Key results

Output in progress: 20 participants have enrolled in the BE accelerator program (80% male, 20% female). The program is based on a previously successful model, FemBioBizz Accelerator program, for which TGMI is the Seychelles and Mauritius implementing partner. All enrolled applicants have a business concept that they aim to develop through the program.

Potential Outcome: The program will provide those enrolled with knowledge of Blue Economy concepts and businesses, the requirements of setting up a business, and developing a financial plan and business plan. Participants will benefit from mentoring by current business owners.

Contrary to the expectation prior to the project, most of the entrants to the program are currently in regular employment, meaning that they are not always available to attend program sessions during work hours. In order to adapt to beneficiary needs TGMI has responded to this situation and modified the timing and delivery of sessions to times when they can participate.



Case study 7. BGF3/SM/N40: Sustainable coastal protection and management

Grantee: Anse Etoile School	Grant size: Small	BGF funding: 94,000 SCR	Co-financing: 10,000 (in-kind)
Strategic Objective supported: SO3		Partners: None	

This project aims to identify an area of coastal wetland to be rehabilitated and managed by the school and used as an outside classroom for field trips during which students can learn about Seychelles ecosystems and their protection. Planned activities include installation of educational signboards to allow visitors to understand the species that live in the area, along with testing of water quality and removal of invasive plant species. Anse Etoile school is a primary school located in the north of Mahe Island. Pupils range in age from 3 to 13 years.

Key results

Output: in partnership with the UNDP funded Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) project, the project has identified an area of coastal wetland in North-East Point that has benefited from restoration work under the EBA project. This area will serve as the location for Anse Etoile School's BGF project, strengthening the sustainability of the investment made with UNDP funding. Future activities will include educational field trips to the project area.

Potential outputs: *the project aims to produce short, filmed material of the area that can be used as a teaching resource in a traditional classroom setting, or as part of online lessons on Seychelles ecosystems.*

Potential outcome: *The project aims to address a shortage of educational materials about Seychelles ecosystems and has the potential to increase primary school age children's knowledge of coastal ecosystems and their protection through field trips and lessons held in the project site, and digital resources produced. The project has the potential to benefit other educational topics such as geography and science.*

Anse Etoile school has actively reached out to neighbouring schools to invite them to engage in the project and children from two other schools in the local area will potentially benefit from use of an outdoor space to explore and learn about coastal ecosystems, and educational materials produced. The grantee has also reached out to other partners including the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their support in managing the area, and parents of children at the school are invited to attend visits by school children to the wetland. The grantee hopes to engage the Climate Adaptation and Management Section (CAMS) at the MACCE, and the Wildlife Club of Seychelles in the management of the wetland.

This project has a considerable vision, but the impact is yet to be seen. The project has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. The ongoing need for social distancing measures means that when visits to the wetland commence, the school will be restricted to taking smaller than planned groups of school children.



Case study 8. BGF3/SM/N30: River mapping and monitoring and mangrove habitat mapping project for the sustainable development of Praslin Island

Grantee: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)	Grant size: Small	BGF funding: 100,000	Co-financing: 90,500
Strategic Objective supported: SO4	Partners: Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA); Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), Ministry of Local Government, Department of Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM).		

The aim of this project is to purchase a detailed satellite imagery map of the island of Praslin to enable GIS officers in the MACCE to map out water bodies, including river dynamics, and mangrove species with greater accuracy, and to install river monitoring equipment (stream gauges) to measure water height in rivers and channels on Praslin Island

Key results

Outcome: The project has funded the purchase of a satellite map of Praslin Island, showing water courses, and mapping inaccessible areas. Previously the MACCE did not have a map of all water sources on the island. The project has created a positive change in MACCE's ability to map water sources on Praslin including in physically inaccessible areas. The local government on Praslin will be provided with access to this map by the end of the project

Outcome: Installation of stream gauges in selected rivers has increased the capabilities of MACCE and Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA) to measure water levels. It provides the opportunity to conduct ad-hoc, regular and long-term monitoring of water levels and collect data that has potential use in planning and development, conservation, and disaster risk reduction.

Potential Impact: *In developing their project, the MACCE worked with the SMA, PUC and DRDM to understand where they had data gaps, and how the project could support filling those. This stakeholder consultation has resulted in a project that has high potential impact. Overtime, the map and the stream gauges have the potential to provide new long-term data sets on how river levels fluctuate on Praslin. This could support MACCE and SMA in understanding trends and improving disaster alerts through calculated forecasting.*

Project highlights

Outside of the case study data described above, other key results attributable to Blue Grants Fund (BGF) projects, or to which projects have contributed, include the following:

Strategic objective 1 - Supporting new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones:

Breeding census data has been collected for the Red-Footed Booby on Faruquhar Atoll, a species for which there is a lack of recent population estimates. Further work is underway by the same project aiming to identify foraging areas for this species, data which may have value in assessing marine ecosystem health and supporting the marine spatial planning process.

Elsewhere, entirely new knowledge has been generated regarding where juvenile sooty terns from Bird Island disperse to and feed. This data has supported the management criteria of candidate MPAs identified through the MSP (defined in this case as highly productive foraging areas used by Juvenile Sooty terns), and the data has been shared with Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning team for inclusion in their work.

Strategic objective 2 - Empowering the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow:

A database of the movement of Giant Trevally around Alphonse and St Francois atolls has been created, and the genetic structure of the population of this species has been mapped. Acoustic tracking of this species has provided information on movement patterns and home ranges, and the data has the potential to inform evidence-based closure

strategies. Giant Trevally are an economically important fish species for the fly-fishing tourism sector in Seychelles.

A Parrotfish monitoring protocol and field ID guide has been developed. Parrotfish are a keystone species in coral reef ecosystems, and data from the Caribbean indicates that protecting this species contributes to improvements in live coral cover. In addition, a 12-month intensive survey from the Mahe Plateau parrotfish fishery collected a comprehensive data set on species caught, catch weight, and price trends, over a 1-year period.

A fish identification database has been created. The Seatizens.sc database contains information on 394 fish species found in Seychelles waters, including description and photos, data on size, and information on habitat, ecology, and fishery status. The website has funding until 2023 and information is also shared via Facebook.

Cost benefit analysis of fishing operations in the artisanal fishery on Mahe was conducted. This gathered demographic information, and economic data to estimate capital and operational costs for fishers operating in this sector, and average revenue for different fished species. The final report is due in late 2021.

Strategic objectives 3 & 4 - Promoting the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems, and climate change adaptation:

The Aldabra Clean-Up Project (ACUP) was successful in highlighting the significant problem of ocean plastic pollution on Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO world heritage site. The project was profiled by multiple media sources including Seychelles News Agency, Sky News, Mongabay, Nature.com, and Nation.Sc., UNEP and UNESCO. The project produced a baseline

measurement of the volume of plastic pollution, and was successful in removing 25 tonnes of waste, and estimating the resources required to remove the significant levels of pollution that remained. Photographic evidence collected by the project on the scale of the problem was presented by former President of the Seychelles, Danny Faure, at the 2018 G7 meeting. A documentary produced about the project was given a free public screening in a cinema in Victoria, Seychelles.

BGF funding has supported DNA sequencing of coral species with the aim of determining the connectivity of coral populations in the Seychelles and mapping potential coral connectivity pathways. This work has generated new data and science in this area and has the potential to identify coral reefs that may play important roles in re-colonization following reef damage or disturbance, e.g., through bleaching events. The data will be key to addressing connectivity throughout the Seychelles' MPA network and MSP zones.

Strategic objective 5 - Sustainable development of Seychelles Blue Economy:

Between BGF#1 and BGF#4, five (5) Blue Economy entrepreneurship, scholarship or internship programs were funded:

- 2019 (BGF#2): Eco-Sol – Blue Economy Entrepreneurship assessment and training project (profiled in case study number 5 above).
- 2020 (BGF#3): SIDS Youth Aims Hub (SYAH) - Blue Economy Internship Programme (4th Edition), a project which provides 2–3-week internships with Seychelles Businesses in the BE sector. In the round funded by SeyCCAT, 27 applicants were placed in two-week internships with organisations in BE sector and 3 of these were extended.

- 2020 (BGF#3): The Guy Morel Institute (TGMI), Blue Economy Accelerator programme (case study) (profiled in case study 6 above).
- 2021 (BGF#3): Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA) – Entrepreneurship training in the Blue Economy Sector.
- 2021 (BGF#3): Wise Oceans - Marine Scholarship programme which will provide young Seychellois adults who lack higher education experience the opportunity for training and 3-month work placements with partners in the marine and BE sectors.

Reports available for four of these indicate that each was either fully subscribed or oversubscribed by applicants. In all cases, the application process was open to the public. This indicates that these types of programs meet a need or desire among Seychellois entrepreneurs and jobseekers to engage in this area.

This timeline of investment in BE capacity and capability development for individuals and entrepreneurs through the BGF aligns with priorities outlined in Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap, including improving the business environment and encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship, and the objectives of the Seychelles National Development Strategy 2019-2023. As described above, the work completed for Eco-Sol's 2019 project built the platform ESA's 2021 entrepreneurship training project and has led to further entrepreneurship training that will be funded by the US Embassy.

Further work is needed to understand how the changes in capacity of participants enrolled in these programs will translate into results and improved economic opportunities, but BGF investments in this area demonstrate responsiveness to stakeholder interest and demand, and alignment with national priorities.

Performance indicators

In 2021 SeyCCAT, with financial support from SWIOFish3, developed an institutional results framework. Using performance and management indicators found in this framework the following tangible results can be identified for the period 2015-2020 (all data is cumulative):

Organisational Goal Indicators

Indicator	SO1	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	Total
G1 Funds (\$) disbursed total and per Strategic Objective (SO)	\$677,664	\$550,478	\$75,070	\$14,815	\$562,725	\$1,880,752

Indicator	Type >>	Cash	In-kind	Total
G2 Total amount of co-financing (\$) leveraged by SeyCCAT grantees		\$395,235	\$2,310,795	\$2,706,030
	Lead grantee >>	\$112,961	\$732,631	\$839,133
	Academia >>	\$30,000	\$1,076,967	\$1,106,967
	NGO >>	\$45,000	\$153,833	\$198,833
	Parastatal >>	\$10,222	\$105,151	\$115,374
	Business >>	\$161,518	\$223,027	\$384,545
	Government >>	0	\$7,037	\$7,037
	Other grants >>	\$1,681	\$3,704	\$5,385
	Citizen >>	0	\$8,444	\$8,444
	International org >>	\$15,333	0	\$15,333
Public donations >>	\$18,519	0	\$18,519	

Strategic Objective 1 (SO1): Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones

Indicator	Achieved	Detail/Notes
S1.1 Number of Seychelles' sustainable use Marine Protection Areas (medium biodiversity & sustainable use areas) supported by SeyCCAT projects	3	Alphonse Islands, Farquhar Group, Amirantes to Fortune Bank

S1.2	Number of Seychelle's Marine National Parks supported by SeyCCAT projects.	3	Curieuse MNP, Aldabra Special Reserve (a UNESCO world heritage site), Bird Island MNP
S1.3	Number of specified marine areas in the Seychelles (MPAs, fisheries, management areas) where stakeholder engagement in co-management takes place	1	Praslin Island, Baie St Anne artisanal fishery
S1.5	SeyCCAT funding contributes to the creation of long-term species and/or habitat monitoring programs.	Yes	Fregate Island biannual marine monitoring program, Curieuse MNP, Bird Island MNP, Alphonse Group
<i>In addition to contributing to the creation of a new long-term species and habitat monitoring program around Fregate Island, BGF funding has supported the continuation of already established monitoring programs for the Sicklefins Lemon Shark in Curieuse MNPA, and Sooty Terns on Bird Island.</i>			

Strategic Objective 2 (SO2): Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones

Indicator	Achieved	Detail/Notes
S2.1	7	Praslin Island, Baie St Anne artisanal fishery; Alphonse Island Fly-Fishery; Parrotfish fishery; Mahe Island Artisanal fishery; Spiny Lobster fishery.
<i>This indicator gathers data on specific fisheries targeted by SeyCCAT projects. In addition, the Green Islands Foundation (GIF) project (BGF1/L/N12), studying the artisanal fishery, and captured data on the ray fishery and shark fishery.</i>		
S2.4	6	Voluntary closure of Baie St Anne fishery profiled in news articles by the BBC and Seychelles News Agency, and on local television. Alphonse Island Fly-fishery project profiled in the Nation.sc, on a Seychelles Blue Finance documentary was produced by the SWIOfish3, and on Sport fish TV. (See Annex 6 for links)
S2.5	2	Parrotfish; Giant Trevally
<i>In addition, the Green Islands Foundation (GIF) project (BGF1/L/N12) undertook a 12-month intensive survey of species of local concern caught in the artisanal fishery. While not a full stock assessment or baseline study of individual species, the project (a continuation of the previous GEF funded threatened species project) recorded data on size, seasonality and catch method for 15 species of fish, 8 species of shark, 1 species of guitarfish and 9 species of rays.</i>		

Strategic Objective 3 (SO3): Promote the rehabilitation of marine & coastal habitats and ecosystems degraded by local and global impacts

Indicator	Achieved	Critically endangered	Endangered	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Least Concern
S3.1 Number of individual species surveyed/studied through SeyCCAT projects, annually and cumulatively (Disaggregated by IUCN red list status)	6	/	Sicklefin lemon shark	/	/	Giant Trevally, Spiny Lobster, Sooty Tern, Red-Footed Booby, Parrotfish
<i>This indicator gathers data on specific species targeted by SeyCCAT projects. In addition, the Green Islands Foundation (GIF) project (BGF1/L/N12), studying the artisanal fishery, captured catch data the following species of concern under the IUCN red list. This data adds to the knowledge base of these species in the Seychelles, and the project report included recommendations in support of the Seychelles National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of sharks (NPOA).</i>		<i>Scalloped hammerhead shark; Great hammerhead shark</i>	<i>Giant devil ray; Ornate eagle ray; Sandbar shark.</i>	<i>Cowtail stingray</i>	<i>Brown marbled grouper; camouflage grouper; spotted eagle ray; reef manta ray; pink whipray; porcupine ray; round ribbontail; silvertip shark; snaggletooth shark.</i>	

Indicator	Achieved	Coral	Mangrove	Seagrass	Wetland
S3.2 Number of habitat conservation or restoration projects supported by SeyCCAT (disaggregated by habitat type e.g.: Mangrove, Sea Grass, Coral etc.)	7	3	1	1	2

Strategic Objective 4 (SO4): Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change

Indicator	Achieved
S4.3 Number of SeyCCAT projects that contribute to, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and risk reduction, nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based adaptation	15 Includes projects primarily targeting SO1, SO2, SO3 & SO4

Strategic Objective 5 (SO5): Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles Blue Economy

Indicator		Achieved
S5.2	Number of Blue Economy entrepreneurs supported by SeyCCAT projects	73
<i>In addition, although not measured by this indicator, a number of SeyCCAT funded projects have supported Seychellois youth to participate in Blue Economy internship programs, in total 28 people have benefited.</i>		

Mission indicators²

Indicator		Achieved	NGO	Business	Parastatal	Gov	Citizen
M1.1	Number of different grantees and organisations to benefit from funding disbursed by SeyCCAT	41	15	5	1	3	17

Indicator		Achieved
M2.2	Number of peer-reviewed journal articles published supported by SeyCCAT	3
		See annex 6 for links

² From the data sources used in this evaluation (described in the methods section and in annexes 2 and 4), results were not identified under the following indicators in SeyCCAT's results framework: S1.4, S2.2, S2.3, S3.3, S4.1, S4.2, S4.4, S4.5, S4.6, S5.1, S5.3. This does not necessarily mean progress has not been made in these areas. SeyCCAT's M&E officer may be able identify results in these areas with a wider review of data. SeyCCAT's results framework also includes a set of management indicators. Owing to the focus area of this report, data is not presented on those here, but certain metrics can be found in the recent Mid-Term Review of SeyCCAT's Strategy Twenty22.

Sustainability

This evaluation considered the sustainability of the results of BGF projects from a number of perspectives including continuation of project activities (once BGF financial support comes to an end); likelihood for replication of project results elsewhere; use of data generated by a project to catalyse further results; and changes in capacity or capabilities of project stakeholders which could contribute to generating future benefits.

Project results

Of the case studies described in the report, activities on three (3) out of eight (8) of these projects will either directly continue, or have continued, after BGF funding ends.

Case study 1: Praslin Fishers Association

A third closure of the Baie St Anne trap fishery will take place from November 2021. There are costs associated with this, for communication activities, using media channels to inform fishers and the public that the closure is taking place, and to put marker buoys in place but at present PFA will cover these costs. The project has created significant results and there is interest in replicating this approach elsewhere, for example on La Digue. This project benefited from having a consultant in place to support the PFA in the management of the project. This driver of success may need to be replicated to deliver similar successful projects in low-capacity environments.

Case study 4: Green Islands Foundation and Fregate Island PVT

The protocol and methodology for marine biodiversity surveys will support a long-term monitoring program at Fregate Island and has the potential to be used elsewhere in the Seychelles. The team at Fregate Island are willing to share the protocol to promote replication and to support the actions of other conservation actors. Fregate Island PVT will also use the protocol and methodology to train their Seychellois interns and foreign volunteers. There are further plans to share the data from the biodiversity assessment with the fishing community, in particular fishers who travel from La Digue to Fregate, with the aim of promoting sustainable fishing practices. An educational event to share results of the project was completed with students of La Digue school. This provided students with the opportunity to learn about the project, habitat types around Fregate, the coral reef and biodiversity, and climate change.

Case study 8: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

The stream gauges have the potential to last up to 10 years, providing long-term impact but measuring water levels will require engagement from different partners and may require some community engagement. The map of Praslin will potentially need updating in 5 years, but individual sections could be updated meaning that it provides a useful and sustainable tool for both MACCE and partner organisations.

On a further two (2) projects similar activities to those funded under the BGF project will take place. For the other three (3) case studies, it is unclear whether activities will continue, but each has the potential for creating sustainable results, or for the outputs and outcomes of the project to influence further work.

Case study 3: GVI Seychelles

The acoustic receivers installed under the project have the potential to continue recording data from tagged sharks that may still be in the area, and the University of Seychelles has expressed an interest in downloading more data that has been recorded since the end of the BGF funded work. GVI Seychelles will not continue the acoustic tagging of Sicklefin Lemon Sharks for now, but their PIT tagging project work with these species in CMNP continues. Study data has the potential to inform the protection of this species, and future decision making in CMNP. For example, a potential long-term impact of study data is that it could support the proposed re-construction of the turtle pond walkway on Curieuse Island in a way that is not detrimental to movements of this shark species. This is dependent on uptake and use of the project data by other stakeholders.

Case study 5: Eco-Sol Consulting PTY

This project has contributed to the evolution of entrepreneurship capacity building programs in the Seychelles. Since the completion of this project in 2019, Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA) and The Guy Morel Institute (TGMI) have both launched further Blue Economy entrepreneurship training programmes, and Eco-Sol consulting will act as an implementing partner on the ESA project. Eco-Sol will also conduct further BE entrepreneurship training on Praslin and La Digue with financial support from the US Embassy. Seychelles focus on enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development and the need to continue this is described in UNCTAD's Seychelles Investment Policy Review (IPR) from 2020, of which the grantee is the lead consultant for the development of the National Entrepreneurship Strategy (NES).

Another example of the continuation or replication of project activities is project BGF2/L/N6. This project engaged in tagging of juvenile Sooty Terns (an abundant seabird in Seychelles) and tracking via satellite telemetry with the aim of defining potential Marine Protected Areas through identification of foraging areas. The project showed that the methods used for tag attachment and satellite tracking were successful in gathering useful data. As a result, the Max Planck institute of Animal Behaviour in Germany donated 300 more satellite tags. 160 have already been deployed on adult birds, and 80 more will be attached to juveniles on Bird Island. Resources may allow expansion of the work to Sooty tern colonies on outer islands too. Data on movement of Sooty Terns, foraging and feeding may be useful for the MSP process and identification of protected areas, and also has commercial significance. It is legal to forage for Sooty Tern eggs in Seychelles, and it is estimated 1m eggs are sold each year. The data contributes to an almost 50-year study of Sooty terns on Bird Island and Sooty Tern conservation is also currently a focus of the Seychelles MACCE³.

³<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/14940/Seychelles+begins+census+of+sooty+tern%2C+closes+egg+collection+period+until+next+June>

Case study 2: Karine Rassool

The most recent socio-economic studies of the Seychelles artisanal fishery took place in 2015 (Bijoux) and Mees (1990). This project has the potential to influence further work. It has added another reliable dataset to the pool of data available to the SFA and other Seychelles organisations. Initial findings will be presented to the implementation committee for the Mahe plateau plan once the grantee's PhD is complete, and data has been shared with the SFA.

Case study 6: The Guy Morel Institute (TGMI)

TGMI are establishing an incubator program, and successful business ideas that originate in TGMI's current Blue Economy accelerator program may have the opportunity to continue their development through the incubator program. It is worth SeyCCAT investing in M&E of this program, to understand how successful it was in reaching its goal of establishing 10 new businesses.

Case Study 7: Anse Etoile School

Over the long-term there is the potential for any digital resources created to provide material for future lesson plans, and support education about ecosystems for years to come. Such materials can also be shared with other schools, and the project coordinator has reached out to other local schools in the area to promote their engagement. The management of the wetland area that has been chosen and its long-term use will rely on community engagement from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and its members to visit and manage the area. The project team estimate 10-20 volunteer hours per year will be needed to maintain the site.

Capacity and capability development

Sustainability of the investments made by BGF projects can also be measured in terms of improvements in skills, knowledge and capacity experience by both grantees, and stakeholders who took part in or benefited from these projects. 5 out of 8 case study respondents highlighted how being a grantee under the BGF had led to positive improvements in their individual capacity or the capacity of organisations that they work for, primarily in terms of professional skills such as writing grant applications, project management and stakeholder coordination.

12 out of 13 survey respondents reported positive improvements in their individual capacity or the capacity of their organisation as a result of managing a BGF grant. Areas highlighted included improvements in professional skills such as monitoring and data collection, project management, fundraising, and approaches to partnering with local and international organisations. Respondents also highlighted with improvements in their technical knowledge of the fishing industry in Seychelles, including threats and challenges it faces, greater knowledge of the Blue Economy, including the range of businesses and opportunities that exist within it, and greater knowledge of the biology and conservation of certain species and habitats studied by projects, and of approaches for addressing plastic pollution.

Three BGF projects have supported individual students in higher education. One project has directly supported a Seychellois citizen to complete their PhD fieldwork (study area: Socio-economic knowledge of the Seychelles artisanal fishery, University of York UK), while another has supported an MSc student to complete research into the potential contribution of seaweed cultivation to sustainable production and consumption (MSc study program: Marine Science and Sustainability, UniSey), and a BSc student has used data from Frigate Island BRUV studies to complete their dissertation (BSc study program: Environmental science, UniSey). Additionally, as described in the case studies, one grantee identifies their experience of leading a BE entrepreneurship project as key to their decision to pursue PhD studies in blue carbon ecosystem management.

Changes in the skills, knowledge and capacity of stakeholders who participated in and benefited from BGF projects have occurred in various areas. Training is a common element of SeyCCAT funded work and as described below, various training opportunities have been delivered to different groups through BGF projects.

Table 1: training opportunities provided through BGF projects

Project	Training topic(s)	Stakeholders benefiting	Number
BGF1/L/N4: Spatial ecology and response to catch-and-release of recreationally targeted fish species on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group, Seychelles Outer Islands: Implications for conservation and management.	Procedures for implanting Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags into Giant Trevally	Alphonse Fishing Company (AFC) fishing guides	Unknown
	Management of acoustic tagging projects	Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) trainees	2 (female)
BGF1/L/N7: Development and Operationalisation of a National Fish Identification Website and Database	Website administration training	4 people: 2 from SFA, 1 from GIF and 1 from MCSS	4 (2 female, 2 male)
BGF1/L/N6: Science based restoration of commercially important spiny lobster habitats to help develop a sustainable fishery	Assessment of the different life-cycle phases of the local lobster species	11 students from UniSey 8 staff from SFA	19
		Presentations to 102 students from P5 and P6 of Takamaka School and Anse Royale School	
BGF2/L/N4: Aldabra Clean-Up Project	Collecting, sorting & categorising marine plastic pollution, and calculating accumulation rates. fundraising, communication, and coordination	12 volunteers and co-leads	12 (7 female, 5 male)
		15 staff of Seychelles Islands Foundation	15
	Waste sorting and categorisation	40 members of public	40

Project	Training topic(s)	Stakeholders benefiting	Number
BGF2/L/N7: Blue Economy Entrepreneurs – Creating smart, sustainable and shared prosperity through entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment and training	Entrepreneurship training, including pitch presentations and product ideation.	Aspiring and active entrepreneurs	48
BGF2/L/N10: Assessment and Valuation of the Parrotfish Fishery to Support an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	Parrotfish monitoring	29 technicians from 6 agencies (SFA, MEECC, SIF, GVI, MCSS & FBOA)	29
BGF2/L/N11: Abundance, habitat selection and movements at sea of the Red-footed Booby (Sula sula) as informative tools for conservation management within the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan	Census techniques; catching & measuring, banding birds; bird biometrics; satellite transmitter deployment, blood sampling	Island Conservation Society (ICS) staff	6
		Lecture given to UniSey Students	-
BGF3/SM/N47: Seaweeds: A Hidden Resource – a Recycling Project of Waste	Seaweed collection and composting	Women selected by grantee	6 (female)
BGF3/SM/N16: Blue Economy Internship Programme-4th Edition.	2-week internships with partner businesses to gained improved knowledge of opportunities in the Blue Economy (3 internships were extended).	Applicants selected by SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH).	27 Youth (2 male, 25 female)
BGF3/L/N22: TGMI Blue Economy accelerator program	Blue Economy business development and accelerator program.	Aspiring and active entrepreneurs	20 (4 female, 16 male)
BGF3/L/N48: Community-based ecological wetland rehabilitation, Pasquiere, Praslin	Bird, reptile and mangrove identification	6 students (2 UniSey BSc Environmental Science; 3 Secondary school, 1 primary school)	6 (2 female, 4 male)
BGF4/S/N20: Mangrove regeneration and viewing walkway project	Mangrove cultivation and planting.	Students and adults.	Unknown
Total (known) training beneficiaries			234

Analysis

Factors that influence project success

SeyCCAT encourages grantees to engage with and work with partners on their BGF projects, and partnerships have been used to support projects in various different ways. Of the 8 case studies, the most common role of partners was in the provision of technical or academic assistance to the project, for example UniSey partnering on GIF's biodiversity assessment around Fregate Island, and GVI's project in Curieuse, and overseas universities providing such as the University of Lincoln supporting the technical development of entrepreneurship training for case study 5, and the University of York and University of Seychelles supporting the technical design of socio-economic surveys for case study 2. Such partnerships have value both for grantees and the partners. By partnering with conservation NGOs UniSey staff and students are able to gain hands on experience of conservation and research techniques. The University of Nebraska, which partnered on case study 5 with Eco-Sol consulting, has continued its engagement in SeyCCAT projects with project BGF3/L/N49⁴, and is a partner on the US embassy grant described as an outcome of case study 5.

Partner organisations have provided a significant amount of co-financing, particularly in-kind co-financing, for BGF projects. Private partners such as Fregate Island PVT, and Bird Island Lodge have provided in-kind logistical support to various conservation focussed projects. IDC supported a Red-footed Booby conservation project, and Alphonse Island have supported the Giant Trevally tagging project with logistical support. BGF projects have therefore been able to benefit from the established trend in the

Seychelles of private tourism organisations supporting conservation work. A common trend here is that that these projects have all been relatively successful in completing their objectives.

Of the 8 case studies, three (3) are small grants and five (5) are large. Analysis for this evaluation showed no significant difference between small grants or large grants in their ability to create tangible results and impact. Rather than grant size, factors which appear to influence the success of a grant in creating results include strong partnership engagement during the design of the project, e.g., MACCE in case study 8; projects where there is genuine complementarity between partner and grantee interests, for example on the various successful conservation projects implemented e.g., GIF and Fregate Island; projects with strong technical support for example those with academic partnerships described above; and projects in more established sectors such as the fisheries and conservation sectors here there is a good baseline of prior knowledge and experience in the area of work.

Another factor that influences the success of a project is the level of administrative, grant management and project coordination experience of the grantee. Established organisations and NGOs, where these types of skills or experience already exists, or grantees who have been able to engage this type of support, perform better than grantees who do not have a baseline of skills and experience in this area. The PFA, in their successful fishery closure project on Praslin, benefited from being able to employ an experienced project consultant to guide coordination, data analysis and reporting elements of the work. The lack of experience in this area was identified as a weakness during the delivery of the project but the engagement of paid support in this area, with the approval of

⁴ Entrepreneurship Development in the Blue Economy Sector, lead grantee – Enterprise Seychelles Agency

SeyCCAT contributed to effective completion of project objectives and data that can accurately be used to evaluate the effect of the approach trialled by the project.

Challenges

A number of projects have experienced challenges when trying to engage directly with the fishing community for data collection and sharing of findings. The experience of project BGF3/L/N2 (fishery cost-benefit analysis based on a value chain approach) highlighted how sending surveys to fishers via WhatsApp resulted in low response rates and undertaking 1:1 interviews was more productive but still only yielded a small number of responses. The PFA's fisheries closure project identified using fishers' families as a way to engage fishers in data collection.

Perception surveys were given to school children whose parents work as fishers. Trust between fishers and project implementers or enumerators was also identified as a specific challenge on case study 2. In GVI's experience, engagement with fishers in project results can also be disappointing. They aimed to share the results of their Sicklefin Lemon Shark study with multiple local stakeholders but found that engagement from fishers in a seminar held on Praslin was disappointing.

These experiences could be important for the future long-term impact and sustainability of results created by BGF projects under strategic objective 2, for which fishers represent a key stakeholder group. It may be that these experiences highlight a type of fatigue among this group of stakeholders to data collection and surveying, without seeing an impact from such projects. PFA's project highlights how fishers' voices and ideas elicit results and so it's important that ways are found to strengthen and maintain engagement from this stakeholder group.

Conservation projects have created more visible results, and more readily available data. This is of no surprise given the Seychelles' status as a biodiversity hotspot with various experienced conservation NGOs that have an ability to attract expertise and human resources including research staff and volunteers, along with financial resources through donor funding, and in-kind support from lodges and tourism businesses. In terms of creating results, this perhaps gives them a resource and knowledge advantage compared to other sectors such as fisheries and the Blue Economy. Many of the conservation projects funded have created high quality data and reports, have engaged, and facilitated strong partnerships, and have worked with local partners to build local capacity.

In terms of strengthening the impact and sustainability of project results, a key consideration going forward should be the uptake and use of project data. Multiple BGF projects described in this report have generated data that has the potential to be of use in the MSP process, through identification of candidate MPAs, or by identifying habitats of importance for threatened and endangered species, and of use in fisheries by demonstrating good practice or impactful ideas in co-management, or by providing knowledge and information on fish species.

Multiple projects have described the efforts they have taken to share data, including by sending data to stakeholders, and presenting data at meetings and symposiums (e.g., Seychelles Ocean Science Symposium, 2020), but it is unclear how this data has played a role in for example evidence-based decision making, or in replication of good practice. It would be worth SeyCCAT investing M&E resources in understanding the uptake of data generated by its projects and investing further time in showcasing good practice and impactful projects. SeyCCAT have indicated

that work will begin on this in November 2021 when SeyCCAT hosts a science-policy workshop to look at uptake of data.

Allied to this, another way for SeyCCAT to consider supporting impact and sustainability of work it funds is through considering whether repeat funding could be made available through the BGF to grants that produce high quality strategically important results, either to continue a project, or to promote replication of a project approach or methods in another area. SeyCCAT may want to consider mechanisms for reporting M&E data from projects back to the BGF committee to highlight key results and to inform the development of Request for Proposals (RfPs) for BGF funding rounds, and identification of eligible areas for funding.

This evaluation had difficulty identifying medium to long-term results from the BE entrepreneurship and training programs already completed, for example in terms of participants who established new businesses or secured new employment opportunities in the BE sector. This does not mean that projects in this area will be unsuccessful. Investments in entrepreneurship development and opportunity creation in this area by SeyCCAT and other actors are in their infancy, and can potentially be easily influenced by external factors, for example the impact of COVID-19 on the Seychelles economy, and the impact of social distancing on training and internship programs. Looking ahead, further M&E in this area would be of value, for example monitoring how participation in entrepreneurship or internship programs affected participant's business or employment success. There would also be value in SeyCCAT investing M&E resources in understanding the impact of current BE projects looking at feasibility studies or BE concept development such as BGF/3/SM/N47 (seaweed composting), BGF4/2/N61 (algae bioplastics), BGF4/L/N36 (rock oyster farm) & BGF4/L/N24 (commercial and pharmaceutical application for sea cucumbers).

As previously described, strong partnerships, in particular technical partnerships are a positive influence on a project's ability to produce results. Both BE entrepreneurship projects case studied for this report had few or no partners (and no national partners) listed. TGMI plan to assign peer mentors to participants in the Blue Economy Accelerator program, and SeyCCAT for their recently launched Blue Business Grant have identified business mentorship as including business mentorship as a component of the grant. It may be useful to consider whether partnerships can play more of a role in BE projects.

The positive impact that partnerships have played in BGF projects relies upon good engagement by grantees with partners and vice-versa. A challenge highlighted by respondents to this evaluation was partner organisations that failed to engage in project activities, or provide for example, feedback information or data promised to a project. This challenge has also been highlighted by SeyCCAT themselves from their own experience of dealing with grantees and national stakeholder organisations, and of having to resolve partnership challenges on active BGF projects. SeyCCAT does not currently have partner guidelines, or principles of good partnership to share with grantees and prospective partners, it is recommended that such a guideline is developed.

Limitations to this evaluation

Factors that limited the scope of this evaluation included a low response rate from grantees to survey data collection. The survey response rate was 35% (13/18) compared to 100% for case studies. Delays to project implementation caused by COVID-19 reduced the expected level of reporting or information for some projects, and variances in the quality of project reports and the data reported, particularly when reporting on specific outputs or outcomes of projects, and variances in the quality of

data reported through the survey, created challenges both for comparing and summarising impact and sustainability.

It is notable from data collection for this evaluation (particularly from report review and survey data) that overall, grass-roots organisations and individual grantees are less able to articulate and describe the impact of their work than more established organisations and grantee. This is reflected in the difference in reporting standards that can be seen across BGF reports. Smaller organisations, and grass-roots organisations have less capacity to provide in-depth or detailed reports and provide evidence of results. This creates challenges in M&E both from the point of view of comparing results across different projects, and in terms of increasing the need by SeyCCAT or an evaluator to validate data and results report. This has implications for how and where SeyCCAT invests its M&E resources.

In order to deliver equity for stakeholders, and to ensure that grants are available to all eligible stakeholders, (regardless of background, resources, or level of educational attainment), whose ideas meet the remit of the BGF, SeyCCAT has to accept some level of variance in the quality of project management and reporting. The organisation will need to continue to invest in providing capacity building support to grantees, for project development, and grant administration, management, and reporting, in particular grassroots and low-capacity grantees. As demonstrated by case study 1, Praslin Fishers association, having local consultants who can act as project coordinators, and support high quality reporting may be needed to support access and equity, and encourage engagement by small grassroots organisations.

Another challenge identified related to report quality is that grantees may not always be 100% clear on what they are aiming to achieve, in terms of the results or changes they are targeting, when, and at what level. This was observed in some of the proposals and reports reviewed for this

evaluation. Looking ahead, the M&E training for grantees, developed with support of the SWIOFish3 project has the potential to strengthen the ability of grantees to clearly identify the targeted outputs, outcomes and goals of their projects, and how to measure these. It is recommended that all grantees are required to attend training M&E by SeyCCAT prior to finalising their project proposal and logframe.

Conclusions

Figure 3: SeyCCAT’s Strategic Objectives (SO)

SO1	Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas and sustainable use zones
SO2	Empower the fisheries sector with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value, and market options
SO3	Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts
SO4	Develop and implement risk reduction and social resilience plans to adapt to the effects of climate change
SO5	Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of Seychelles Blue Economy

Blue Grants Fund (BGF) projects are contributing to strong progress across a range of the performance indicators in SeyCCAT’s results framework. Significant results have been created under SO1, including creating new data and information about fish and bird species and their

habitats, and under SO2, including demonstrating the potential effectiveness of fishery closures, and creating new data about fish species and the social and economic conditions of the artisanal fishing sector.

Under SO5 a portfolio of projects has developed under SO5, building on previous work in this area, and aligned with national priorities, that have the potential to show impact.

Overall, the most significant results created to date include:

- Praslin Fisheries Association (PFA) fishery closure (BGF1/L/N11). This project has indicated that seasonal closures can have a positive impact on trends in fish size and weight, and has demonstrated public support for such measures, and the value of local knowledge and ideas for fishery co-management.
- Species and habitat data: projects have created new information and data on threatened and endangered species, including the Sicklefins Lemon shark, and multiple other species of sharks and rays, on species of economic importance for the Seychelles such as the Giant Trevally and Sooty tern, and on important habitats. BGF funding has furthered already established conservation programs and been used to generate new data of potential use in Seychelles' Marine Spatial Planning initiative.
- Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) (BGF3/SM/N30). This project has funded the purchase of a satellite map of all of the water sources in Praslin, something that was not previously available, and increased the capability of project stakeholders to measure water levels and understand long-term trends. This project was funded by a small BGF grant of 100,000 SCR, with co-financing in-kind of 90,500 from MACCE. It represents potentially high impact results through good planning

and understanding of stakeholder needs, and efficient use of what is a fairly low level of funding.

- The Aldabra Clean-up Project (BGF2/L/N4), implemented by Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) was particularly effective in communicating the issue of plastic pollution to a global audience. The project was publicised or profiled on 12 different websites or online magazines, featured in two YouTube videos, was publicised on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter social media accounts, and reported in an article in the Journal Nature. Evidence gathered by the project was presented to members of the G7 at their 2018 meeting.

The majority of the outputs and outcomes identified for BGF projects by this evaluation, and the most significant results, have occurred on projects funded under BGF#1 and BGF#2, with some results beginning to become visible for projects under BGF#3. M&E of BGF projects should continue, and SeyCCAT M&E staff should invest time in understanding the impact of other projects in BGF#3 and BGF#4 once these projects reach completion. Particular areas of interest should include the outcomes of projects under Strategic Objective 5, which has benefited from investment through the Blue Bond proceeds and support from the SWIOFish3 project, and under Strategic Objectives 3 and 4 where impact is less clear than under Strategic Objectives 1 and 2.

Recommendations

Common reasons for applying to the BGF described by case study respondents included the fact that it is a national grants program open to both small and large organisations, and the fact that there was clear alignment between BGF strategic objectives, and the goals of individuals and organisations applying to the fund. The BGF is clearly well aligned with national, and stakeholder needs, and interests and the following recommendations are designed to strengthen the impact and sustainability of results created.

1	To strengthen the ability of grantees to identify and report on results in a consistent way, it is recommended that attendance at M&E training is an obligation for all grantees prior to finalising their project proposal and logframe.
2	As part of SeyCCAT’s investment in M&E work across the BGF grant portfolio, specific focus is placed on tracking the outcomes of Blue Economy projects to understand the impact of investments in this area, and the requirements for translating investments in training, entrepreneurship, and concept development into sustainable business ideas. Outcome definition is described in the results chain in figure 2, page 6.
3	<p>Strong partnership engagement during project design to identify shared project objectives and common purpose, and during project implementation in the areas of technical support, design of project tools and approaches, sharing of standards, data analysis, and in sharing of expertise and skills has had a positive influence on the impact of BGF projects. Conversely there is anecdotal evidence that weak engagement of partners can limit project effectiveness.</p> <p>It is recommended that SeyCCAT develop partnership guidelines to share with prospective grantees and their partners that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the aim of working in partnership i.e., to achieve mutually beneficial aims and goals • Describe the principles that underpin effective partnerships e.g. it should be a voluntary relationship that is collaborative in nature; there should be open and regular communication; trust in the work that each party undertakes; support and transparency. • Describe the types of role partners can play on BGF projects.
4	<p>To strengthen the uptake of data produced by BGF projects, particularly in the area of conservation and fishery policy, SeyCCAT invest in development of an awards and research strategy for the BGF, aligned to generating data for the priorities of MSP implementation, climate change adaptation and Blue Economy development, leveraging funding available through the Blue Nature Alliance grant</p> <p>(This recommendation is also made in the recent Mid-Term Review of SeyCCAT’s strategy under recommendation 3).</p>
5	SeyCCAT explore options for providing greater administrative and coordination support on projects run by low-capacity and/or grass-roots grantees with the aim of strengthening project administration and management, monitoring and reporting, and delivery of results.

	One option would be that such support becomes a mandatory budget line for medium and large grants approved for these types of organisations, with the prospective grantee required to provide CV details for person(s) tasked with project coordination.
6	Between July and October each year, SeyCCAT M&E and grants staff analyse results emanating from completed BGF projects to identify examples of good practice and/or high impact projects and report this information to the BGF committee to inform the creation of the next BGF RfP.
7	SeyCCAT and the BGF committee consider whether repeat funding could be made available through the BGF to grantees who produce high quality strategically important results, either to continue a project, or to promote replication of a project approach or methods in another area.

Annex 1 – Evaluation questions

Data collection aimed to gather information on the following questions:

1.	<p>What has been the impact of SeyCCAT projects on the Seychelles islands, oceans, and people in the period 2015-2020?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What tangible results have been achieved by SeyCCAT projects in the period 2015-2020, and what evidence exists of these results? • What are the most significant changes attributable to SeyCCAT projects in the period 2015-2020? • To what extent have the approaches used by projects met the needs of different beneficiary groups (men/women/youth) and different stakeholders? • What have been the unintended, positive, and negative, results of SeyCCAT projects? • How have partnerships been leveraged to support and add value to the achievement of project goals? • Assess the relative merits of small or large grants in respect of impact achievement and measurement.
2.	<p>How sustainable are the results and impact of SeyCCAT projects after the organisation’s support comes to an end?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What, if any, aspects of projects have continued after SeyCCAT financial support has finished? • What features of SeyCCAT projects are replicable, or have been replicated, elsewhere? • How effective are the exit strategies, and approaches used to phase out assistance provided by the project in promoting sustainability of results? • What key factors will require attention to improve prospects for sustainability of SeyCCAT project results and the potential for replication approaches used? • To what extent have SeyCCAT projects contributed to development of the organisational and implementation capacities of grantees?

Annex 2 – Documents reviewed

1. Project content review - concept and/or proposal documents, budget, interim and final reports, and M&E reports for each of the following projects:

BGF#1	BGF1/L/N4; BGF1/L/N12; BGF1/L/N7; BGF1/L/N6; BGF1/L/N11; BGF1/SM/N5; BGF2/L/N4.
BGF#2	BGF2/L/N5; BGF2/L/N6; BGF2/L/N7; BGF2/L/N10; BGF2/L/N11; BGF2/L/N15.
BGF#3	BGF3/L/N49; BGF3/SM/N9; BGF3/SM/N47; BGF3/L/N48; BGF3/SM/N40; BGF3/SM/N36; BGF3/SM/N30; BGF3/SM/N16; BGF3/SM/N15; BGF3/SM/N13; BGF3/L/N43; BGF3/L/N39; BGF3/L/N28; BGF3/L/N25; BGF3/L/N23; BGF3/L/N22; BGF3/L/N17; BGF3/L/N6; BGF3/L/N2; BGF3/L/N13.
BGF#4	BGF4/L/N11; BGF4/L/N24; BGF4/L/N30; BGF4/L/N36; BGF4/L/N42; BGF4/S/N5; BGF4/S/N9; BGF4/S/N19; BGF4/S/N20; BGF4/S/N39; BGF4/S/N58; BGF4/S/N61.

2. Documents reviewed:

<i>2019 - A Year in Review, SeyCCAT</i>
<i>2020 - A Year in Review, SeyCCAT</i>
<i>Blue Grants Fund progress report 2017-19</i>
<i>SeyCCAT Strategic Plan: Twenty22 - Internal Working Document</i>
<i>GVI Seychelles – Curieuse Island Conservation Expedition, Annual Report 2019</i>
<i>Commonwealth Blue Charter case study: Seychelles – Using Marine Spatial Planning to Meet the 30 Per Cent Marine Protected Areas Target.</i> https://bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CBC-Case-Studies_49-MPA-Seychelles.pdf
<i>RD Hodgkiss et. al., Population structure of the sicklefin lemon shark (Negaprion acutidens) within the Curieuse Marine National Park, Seychelles, African Journal of Marine Science, 39:2, 225-232</i>
<i>Socio-economic survey: characteristics of artisanal fishermen in Seychelles, Karine Rassool (survey tool for project BGF1/SM/N5)</i>
<i>M Senaratne et. al., An Instrument to Assess Blue Economy Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: A Case Study from the Seychelles – draft submitted for publication in Journal of Indian Ocean Research</i>
<i>Burt, A.J., Raguain, J., Sanchez, C. et al. The costs of removing the unsanctioned import of marine plastic litter to small island states. Sci Rep 10, 14458 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-71444-6</i>
<i>Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap, 2018-2030. https://seymsp.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CommonwealthSecretariat-12pp-RoadMap-Brochure.pdf</i>
<i>Seychelles National Development Strategy, 2019-2023.</i> http://www.finance.gov.sc/uploads/files/Seychelles_National_Development_Strategy_2019_2023.pdf

Annex 3 – Case study sampling criteria & sample

Strategic Objective	At least one project from each of SeyCCAT’s five strategic objectives.
Project size	A minimum of two ‘large’ grants, and a minimum of one ‘small’ grant.
Project performance	A minimum of one project that faced implementation challenges, or delays. A minimum of one project considered to be a high-performing, or successful project by the SeyCCAT.
Applicant categories	A mix of applicant categories from those described in SeyCCAT’s application guidance: Locally registered NGO, Businesses, Parastatals, Gov. dept. or Agency, Seychellois Citizen.

Sample selected

CODE	TITLE	LEAD GRANTEE	TYPE	SIZE	SCR	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	START DATE	END DATE
BGF1/L/N11	Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin Island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks	Praslin Fishers Association	Local NGO	Large	877,000	2	01/07/18	31/12/19
BGF1/SM/N5	Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the Seychelles Artisanal Fishery	Karine Rassool	Citizen	Small	100,000	2	01/07/18	30/06/19
BGF2/L/N5	Assessing the effectiveness of Curieuse Marine National Park in the protection of the critical early life stages of sicklefin lemon sharks (Negaprion acutidens)	Global Vision International (GVI) Seychelles	Business	Large	550,000	1	01/03/19	31/08/20
BGF2/L/N7	Blue Economy Entrepreneurs - Creating smart, sustainable and shared prosperity through entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment and training	Eco-Sol Consulting PTY	Business	Large	596,838	5	01/03/19	30/11/19
BGF2/L/N15	Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island, the eastern most Seychelles ‘Inner’ granitic island.	Green Islands Foundation	Local NGO	Large	305,000	1	01/01/19	31/12/20
BGF3/L/N49	Entrepreneurship Development in the Blue Economy Sector	Enterprise Seychelles Agency	Parastatal	Large	1,000,000	5	01/01/21	31/12/21
BGF3/SM/N40	Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management	Anse Etoile School	Citizen	Small	94,000	3	01/10/19	01/06/20
BGF3/SM/N30	River mapping and monitoring and mangrove habitat mapping project for the sustainable development of Praslin Island	MEECC	Government	Small	100,000	4	15/11/19	14/11/21

Annex 4 – Interviewees and respondents

Name	Organisation
CASE STUDY	
Dr Jude Bijoux	Fisheries Scientist, and Consultant for Praslin Fishers Association
Ms Karine Rassool	Grantee and PhD candidate
Mr Christopher Mason-Parker	Formerly of GVI Seychelles
Ms Malshini Senaratne	CEO, Eco-Sol Consulting
Ms Wilna Accouche	General Manager, Green Islands Foundation
Mr Patrick Bristol	Administrative Manager, The Guy Morel Institute
Mr Ian Charlette	Chairperson, Anse Etoile School
Ms Sophie Morgan	Senior Policy Analyst, Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)
SECONDARY CONTACTS	
Anna Zora	Conservation and Sustainability Manager, Fregate Island
Miss Aline Berlouis	Teacher, Anse Etoile School
Jasmine Taberer	Programme Manager, GVI Seychelles
Ingrid Saurer	Participant, Eco-Sol Blue Economy entrepreneurs training
Stuart Laing	Lecturer, University of Seychelles & Research member, UniSey Blue Economy Research Institute
Helena Sims	Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative
Angelique Pouponneau	CEO, SeyCCAT
SURVEY RESPONDENTS	
Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)	
Islands Conservation Society (ICS)	
Alphonse Foundation	
Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC)	
Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA)	
7 Individual grantees	

Annex 5 – Published data and media links to SeyCCAT projects

Peer reviewed journal articles:

- The costs of removing the unsanctioned import of marine plastic litter to small island states: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-71444-6>
- Cooperative monitoring program for a catch-and-release recreational fishery in the Alphonse Island group, Seychelles: From data deficiencies to the foundation for science and management: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0964569121001654>
- An instrument to assess Blue Economy entrepreneurship ecosystems: a case study from the Seychelles: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19480881.2021.1969516> (Case study 5)

Sample of media links to BGF funded work:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-50670808> (Case Study 1)
- <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/11901/Fishermen+on+Seychellois+island+voluntarily+close+down+fishing+zones+in+a+bid+to+protect+stock> (Case Study 1)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JD5Ic78axEw&t=3s> (Case study 4)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AvhZB072tA>
- <http://www.nation.sc/articles/6655/giant-trevally-research-and-conservation-at-the-alphonse-group>
- <https://news.sky.com/story/plastic-pollution-aldabra-in-indian-ocean-has-most-waste-ever-seen-on-any-island-say-scientists-12068045>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-71444-6>
- <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/flip-flops-fishing-gear-pile-up-at-aldabra-a-unesco-world-heritage-site/>
- <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2136>
- <https://www.unep.org/nairobiconvention/index.php/news/story/seychellois-team-clean-debris-remote-island>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpbtnNhJIYw&list=PLGCOH1ketizJeeWGW7nSCgejxJEEsPLLh&index=20>