



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Enhancing Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management		
Country(ies):	São Tomé and Príncipe	GEF Project ID: ¹	TBD
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5881
Other Executing Partner(s):	Regional Directorate of Environment & Conservation, Directorate of Environment, Directorate of Forests, Directorate of Agriculture, Directorates of the Natural Parks on São Tomé and Príncipe	Submission Date:	23 Feb. 2018
		Resubmission Date:	04 May 2018
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity; Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	72
Integrated Approach:	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>
Parent program:	n/a	Agency Fee (\$)	404,943

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-1 , Program 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems	GEFTF	3,348,415	7,982,908
LD-2 , Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration	GEFTF	914,144	3,775,000
Total Project Cost		4,262,559	11,757,908

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Systemic, institutional and operational capacity at national and site levels strengthened for protected area management and sustainable land management, to safeguard globally significant terrestrial and marine flora and fauna and ensure environmentally sustainable livelihoods.						
Project Components	Fin. Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	TF	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
1. Systemic and institutional capacity for protected area management and biodiversity conservation	TA	Operational policy, institutional, and financial framework and capacity strengthened to protect terrestrial and marine habitats that are of key importance for biodiversity conservation. Indicators (i) Improved ability of targeted MDAs to fulfil relevant aspects of their mandates, as recorded by capacity	<p>1.1 Legal framework review implemented, and relevant policies strengthened to align with biodiversity conservation and PA management strategies.</p> <p>1.2 Gazettement of STP's first marine protected areas undertaken including development and submission of a proclamation dossier and determination of boundaries.</p> <p>1.3 Technologies and systems put in place to monitor the status of threatened species and integrate scientific information into strategies and action plans for biodiversity conservation and PA management.</p>	GEFTF	BD 1,000,000	2,175,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT guidelines](#).

		<p>development scorecards; (ii) Increased revenue for PA management, as recorded by financing scorecards.</p> <p>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</p>	<p>1.4 Strategic capacity strengthening plans developed and implemented targeting Government institutions responsible for PA and buffer zone management, including support for the operationalization of Action Plans.</p> <p>1.5 PA financing strategy and action plan developed and tested, informed by economic valuations, and based on assessments of present financing levels and gaps to be addressed.</p>			
2. Effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and PA site management actions	TA & INV	<p>Improved protection of vulnerable species through sustainable management of STP's PAs and buffer zones covering 23,500 ha on São Tomé, 6,500 ha on Príncipe and 11,198.55 ha coastal and marine habitats.</p> <p>Indicators (i) Reduced threats to targeted species, as evidenced by decreased rates of logging /poaching/ illegal trade, etc.; (ii) Increased PA management effectiveness, as recorded by METT scorecards.</p> <p>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</p>	<p>2.1 Results-Based PA Management and Action Plans in place and under implementation with active participation from local communities and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>2.2 Capacity for onsite biodiversity conservation, law enforcement, and PA management enhanced for least 40 targeted technical staff and community stakeholders through training and provision of required equipment.</p> <p>2.3 Rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, including the Obô Natural Park building in Príncipe so that it can serve as a multi-purpose environmental education centre.</p>	GEF TF	BD 1,259,580	2,503,954
3. Integrated, environmentally sustainable land management in multi-use buffer zones	TA & INV	<p>Enhanced environmental sustainability of economic activities in buffer zones, indicated by: i) 150³ households benefiting economically from environmentally sustainable income generating activities; ii) 17,767 ha covered under SLM</p> <p>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</p>	<p>3.1 Development plans for 10 prioritised communities⁴ in buffer zones of PAs strengthened and implemented, including strategies for the promotion of biodiversity protection and sustainable land management practices while contributing to environmentally sustainable local economic diversification.</p> <p>3.3 SLM/SFM practices implemented in selected pilot sites in PA buffer zones to reduce land degradation.</p> <p>3.4 Environmentally and financially sustainable alternative income-</p>	GEF TF	1,600,000 BD 754,386 LD 845,614	6,078,954

³ In São Tomé, an estimated total of around 3,000 people inhabit the buffer zone. In Príncipe, over 9,000 people inhabit the buffer zone

⁴ Note that this number is tentative, and will be based on further assessments during the PPG phase. The project will prioritize support for the strengthening of development plans with those communities where the piloting of sustainable land management and IGA practices is expected to have the most impact.

			generating activities implemented with priority communities in PA buffer zones.			
4. Knowledge Management & Communication	TA	Good practices and lessons learned by the project, including through participatory M&E are used to guide adaptive management and to share knowledge in support of awareness raising, outreach and upscaling. <i>Baseline & targets tbd during PPG.</i>	4.1 Gender strategy and action plan operationalised to guide project implementation, monitoring and reporting. 4.2 Participatory project M&E and learning strategy developed and implemented. 4.3 Environmental education and communication strategy developed and implemented with the aim to: (i) provide STP citizens and decision-makers with knowledge on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) share and disseminate knowledge products for uptake by targeted national and international audiences. 4.4 Upscaling strategy developed and implementation supported.	GEF TF	200,000 BD 175,000 LD 25,000	400,000
Subtotal					4,059,580	11,157,908
Project Management Cost (PMC) BD 159,448; LD 43,531				GEF TF	202,979	600,000
Total Project Cost					4,262,559	11,757,908

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Directorate of Forests	In-kind	396,000
Recipient Government	Directorate of Environment	In-kind	516,000
Recipient Government	Directorates of Obô Natural Park	In-kind	306,000
Recipient Government	Regional Government of Príncipe	In-kind	282,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture	Grants	4,050,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grants	241,500
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grants	1,000,000
NGOs	Birdlife International	Grants	2,488,821.59
NGOs	Flora & Fauna International	Grants	2,332,586.42
NGOs	Oikos	Grants	145,000
Total Co-financing			11,757,908

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA & PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	São Tomé & Príncipe	Biodiversity	n/a	3,348,415	318,099	3,666,514
UNDP	GEFTF	São Tomé & Príncipe	Land Degradation	n/a	914,144	86,844	1,000,988

Total GEF Resources	4,262,559	404,943	4,667,502
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a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) & PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁵ (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEF TF	São Tomé & Príncipe	Biodiversity	100,000	9,500	109,500
UNDP	GEF TF	São Tomé & Príncipe	Land Degradation	50,000	4,750	54,750
				150,000	14,250	164,250

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	41,198 ha ⁶
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	17,767 ha ⁷

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION – BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) is a Small Island Developing state with a total land area of 96,000 ha and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 16,536,400 ha. The country consists of two volcanic islands situated in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central-West Africa. São Tomé is a mountainous island of only 50 km long and 30 km wide, with a highest point of 2,024 m, whereas Príncipe is 30 km long and 6 km wide, with a highest point of 948 m. With an estimated total population of 192,993 (2013), STP is Africa's second-smallest country (after the Seychelles).



The economy of STP is growing at a considerable rate (5% estimate for 2016), particularly within the agriculture and energy sectors. The economy remains largely dependent on plantation agriculture, with the main export crops being cocoa (est. 95% of agricultural exports), coffee, copra, and palm kernels. Fishing is another main economic activity. In addition, a small industrial sector exists that processes local agricultural products and produces basic consumer

⁵ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

⁶ Comprised of 23,500 ha core protected area of Obô Natural Park São Tomé + 6,500 ha core protected area Obô Natural Park Príncipe 11,198.55 ha core marine biodiversity area as part of the Príncipe Biosphere Reserve to be declared MPA.

⁷ Buffer zones around the Protected Areas.

goods. While the islands are very scenic and have potential for tourism, the sector is underdeveloped and existing infrastructure is rudimentary.

The islands offer a range of diverse marine and terrestrial habitats. According to the last national forest survey, conducted in 1999, a total of 61% of the islands is covered with forest, and 29% by agroforestry shade plantations that mainly produce cocoa and coffee. Over larger areas of both islands, secondary forest vegetation is regenerating on old plantations. Forests on STP can be divided into three zones: (i) low altitude rainforest; (ii) submontane rain forest; and (iii) Atlantic high altitude rain forest (evergreen cloud forest), locally known as Obô.

Due to its high number of endemic and threatened species, STP in its entirety is identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA, IUCN) and a global priority for conservation. The islands are distinguished as Centers of Plant Diversity (WWF and IUCN 1994), with a total of 895 species of vascular plant species that have been described as native to the islands, of which 95 are restricted to São Tomé, and 37 occur only on Príncipe. The islands harbour 60 endemic vertebrates, including the São Tomé shrew, São Tomé free-tailed bat, six frog species (*Leptopelis palmatus*, *Hyperolius molleri*, *H. thomensis*, *Phrynobatrachus dispar*, *P. leveleve*, and *Ptychadena newtoni*) and one caecilian (the cobra bobo *Schistometopum thomense*). The islands are considered an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA, BirdLife International) that are of great significance for avian conservation, harbouring at least 114 species of birds, of which 26 are endemic. The islands' birds include the world's largest sunbird (the giant sunbird, VU), the smallest ibis (dwarf olive ibis, CR), and the São Tomé fiscal (CR) and São Tomé grosbeak (CR). Large colonies of seabirds occur on some of the smaller islets. STP's maritime territory holds two Ecological and Biologically Sensitive Areas (EBSAs): the Tinhosas Islands and the Equatorial Tuna Production Zone. Marine species diversity around the islands is extremely rich and includes key marine megafauna such as humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*), bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), manta rays (*Manta* sp.), sunfish (*Mola mola*), whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) and hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*) as well as threatened sea turtle species (*Chelonia mydas* EN, *Lepidochelys olivacea* VU, *Eretmochelys imbricate* CR, and *Dermochelys coriacea* VU).

STP declared two terrestrial protected areas in 2006: Obô Natural Park in São Tomé and Obô Natural Park in Príncipe, which each cover nearly one-third of the islands (also see table below). In 2012, the entire island of Príncipe, its islets Bom Bom, Boné do Jóquei, Mosteiros, Santana, Pedra da Galei, Tinhosa Grande and Tinhosa Pequena, as well as the surrounding marine habitats were classified as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve with a total of 71,592.56 ha⁸. A total of 8,500 people inhabit the Biosphere Reserve (all located outside the core PA zone). The government intends to promote the Biosphere Reserve as an example of sustainable development in action. The Tinhosas islets were declared a Ramsar wetland of international importance in 2006. They are unvegetated and uninhabited by humans, and support what is probably the most important seabird breeding colony in the Gulf of Guinea, serving as a reproduction site for more than 300,000 migratory waterbirds, including Brown Gannet (*Sula fusca*), Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*), Brown and Black Noddy, and Yellow-billed tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*).

Table 1: Existing and proposed protected areas in São Tomé and Príncipe

Name	Type	Description	IUCN PA Cat.	Area Size (ha)	Year of Establishment
Obô Natural Park São Tomé	Forest	Area corresponding to the ecological zone of the Central-West Massif of São Tomé Island.	II	23,500	2006 (Law 6/2006)
	Forest	Protected Landscape Area of Playa das Conchas / Lagoa Azul.	V		
	Mangrove	Malanza Mangrove Natural Reserve.	IV		

⁸ The Biosphere Reserve is categorized as follows: core biodiversity land area 6,043.82 ha; core biodiversity marine area 11,198.55 ha; buffer zone land area 1,446.74; buffer zone marine area 10,323.18 ha; terrestrial transition zone for economic use 6,498.51 ha; marine transition zone for economic use 36,081.76 ha.

Obô Natural Park Príncipe	Forest	Florestas do Príncipe (south of Príncipe).	II	6,500	2006 (Law 7/2006)
	Forest	Azeitona (northwest of Príncipe).	IV		
	Rocky Islet	Boné de Jóquei, Ilhéu Carço. Rocky, partly forested islet south of Príncipe; main nesting site for sea birds.	II		
Príncipe Biosphere MPA	Coastal & Marine	Area corresponding to the core biodiversity marine area of the Príncipe Biosphere reserve.	tbd	11,198	not yet officially classified as PA
Tinhosa Islets	Rocky Islet	Tinhosa Grande (20 ha) and Tinhosa Pequena (3 ha). Rocky, unvegetated islets; main nesting sites for sea birds. Ramsar site No 1632 (2006).	I b (proposed)	23	not yet officially classified as PA

The protected areas and their bufferzones on STP are managed through a Park Directorate on each of the main islands. The Directorate of São Tomé ONP presently has 8 core staff, while the Directorate of Príncipe ONP has 7 core staff.

Threats: The root causes of democratic growth and population pressure, combined with environmentally unsustainable development models and economic policies, have resulted in resource uses and practices that are increasingly impacting biodiversity levels and the integrity of ecosystem services in STP. In addition, the effects of global climate change⁹ are aggravating the impacts of existing threats. The project will aim to reduce the following threats to the islands' biodiversity by addressing their immediate drivers:

Terrestrial

- *Deforestation due to agricultural expansion and felling.* An extensive land privatization process that took place in the 1990's led to increased conversion of forest into agricultural land around primary forests that are critical biodiversity areas. With the rehabilitation of previously abandoned agricultural plantations, lowland forests and secondary forests are disappearing. There is increasingly insufficient timber available to meet local demands, and illegal felling of trees for construction purposes as well as for charcoal production is rife, including within protected areas.
- *Uncontrolled biodiversity extraction from forests.* People on STP traditionally rely heavily on access to forests for a diversity of resources. There is increasingly unsustainable intrusion by hunters, palm wine producers, snail catchers, healers using traditional medicines, charcoal producers, etc., including within protected areas. In addition, there has been an increase of illegal capture of vulnerable bird species including parrots.
- *Invasive species.* The islands are vulnerable to invasions of non-native species. Increasingly dense vegetation of invasive plants including *Lantana* spp. and *Mimosa* spp. is reducing the quality of forest habitats. Introduced feral pigs have caused considerable negative impacts on the soil of forests by removing undergrowth and hampering regeneration of trees. Rats (*Rattus rattus*), monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*), the African civet (*Civettictis civetta*) and the weasel (*Mustela nivallis*) have had substantial negative impacts on native fauna.

Coastal & Marine

- *Mangrove habitat loss and degradation.* Mangrove forests on the islands receive little protection, and continue to be degraded as a result from encroachment and felling for fuelwood and construction purposes.
- *Unsustainable exploitation of marine biodiversity.* Increased fishing pressure and use of non-selective and destructive gear as well as dynamite fishing to maximise catch are resulting in local stock declines. Sharks, dolphins and sea turtles often get caught in fishing gear, and turtle eggs are traditionally collected for consumption. In

⁹ Annual temperatures in São Tomé & Príncipe have risen with approximately 0.4°C between 1960-2006 and are expected to increase 0.8-2.4°C by 2060. Severe weather will likely increase, and is expected to impact agriculture and cause damage to infrastructure. Sea level rise is an increasing problem for the low lying coastal areas on the islands, resulting in erosion and more frequent salt water intrusion.

addition, there is a growing whale and dolphin watching industry that can cause harm if not adequately regulated and monitored.

Long-term solution: To protect STP's unique terrestrial and marine biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services, it is critical to ensure adequate, financially sustainable management of Protected Areas, while halting and reverting unsustainable practices in buffer zones. The vision of the project is to facilitate a transformative shift where biodiversity is seen as an asset, integrating species protection, sustainable forest and land management within the framework of livelihoods improvement to meet environmentally sustainable development goals.

Baseline: Government budgeting for biodiversity conservation and PA management on STP has remained very limited. It is estimated that approximately \$300,000 per year is presently invested through staffing and infrastructure maintenance for the Directorates of Environment, Forestry, and Obô Natural Parks, while the parks themselves presently operate on a total annual budget of \$16,484. With support from donors and development partners a series of measures was introduced in the past 15 years aimed at enhancing capacity for the protection of species and ecosystem services to enable sustainable development, which were successfully implemented through the Government and offer substantial potential for upscaling and expansion. This proposed project will build on the results and lessons learned from the following donor-supported interventions:

The EU-funded ECOFAC (Écosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique Centrale) programme is part of a regional initiative that focuses on the conservation of forest ecosystems. ECOFAC began its operations in São Tomé and Príncipe in 1995 under the responsibility of the Directorate of Forestry within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the aim to establish protected areas on both islands, and put systems in place for their management as well as sustainable utilisation of their buffer zones. The ECOFAC Programme contributed to the establishment of the Ôbo Nature Parks, initial development of ecotourism services including community-managed lodges, hiking trails and the establishment of the Botanical Garden at Ôbo Nature Park in São Tomé, promotion of agro-forestry practices in buffer zones, support to biodiversity-related research programmes, and the development of a protected area management plan for 2015-2020, as well as annual action plans for 2015-2016. ECOFAC will be entering its 6th phase in January 2018 (\$2,488,821.59) with the aim to consolidate results from the previous Programmes.

The GEF-funded (\$2,418,000), IFAD-supported project on Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Conservation in the Buffer Zones of Ôbo and Príncipe Natural Parks (GEF ID 4494), which took place from 20012-2015 and was implemented in parallel with the GEF-funded (\$19,220,000), IFAD-supported Participatory Smallholder Agriculture & Fisheries Development Programme (PAPAFPA). The project aimed to sustainably manage 7,200 ha of biodiversity-rich ecosystems; 5,000 ha of forests in buffer zones; 2,000 ha of marine ecosystems; and 200 ha of mangrove forests. Some of the main achievements of the project included an environmental education manual that is presently being used to support school curricula, a baseline assessment of fisheries resources, training of 1,090 farmers in agroforestry methods, and the development of a management plan for mangrove forests.

Other key investments that will function as a foundation for this project include the EU-funded (€3 million) programme on reducing climate vulnerability (2014-2019); FAO support (\$300,000) for conservation and improvement of soil quality in Me Zochi District (2015-2017); and FAO support for promotion of agro-silvo-pastoral integration in small-scale farming and crofting (2015-2017). In addition, the proposed project will build on the GEF-funded (\$44,395,000) UNDP-supported project on Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (GEF ID 5004) that started in 2013 and is presently in its final year.

Substantial investments have been made in the tourism sector, partly with support from the ECOFAC IV programme, the Príncipe Trust, and private investments in high-end hotels and the upgrade of the port and airport. Currently, the country has 55 hotels with a total of 1,043 rooms, compared to 40 establishments with a total of 601 rooms in 2010. However, while the sector is growing, limited investment has been made in environmentally-sustainable infrastructure or conservation-focused activities that support PA management.

Thus far, limited investments have been made in strengthening legal frameworks, monitoring and protecting key coastal habitats and marine biodiversity in STP's territorial waters. In 1995, a regional subprogramme under ECOFAC initiated the monitoring and protection of marine turtles. A dedicated sea turtle protection law was enacted, and in 1998 the population of sea turtles laying eggs on São Tomé started to recover. Sea turtle protection activities are presently being continued by local NGOs, but with limited funding. Initial monitoring of cetacean populations was done in 2010¹⁰, however, the results of this research have not yet been integrated in any policies of action plans. The Law on the Preservation of Fauna, Flora and Protected Areas (Law no.11/99) focuses largely on terrestrial biodiversity, making little provision for the protection of marine species or mangrove forests. While the UNESCO Biosphere designation on Príncipe includes a core marine area of 11,198.55 ha around the south of Príncipe and the Tinhosas Islands, these lack MPA status. At present, there is no formal protection provided to any marine areas around São Tomé. Supported by data collected by the University of Montpellier in 2006, the California Academy of Sciences and University of the Algarve between 2001-2010 and the PAPAFA initiative in 2015 that demonstrated the continued decline of artisanal fisheries yield, substantial awareness was raised about the relevance of strengthened policy and enforcement frameworks. Subsequent data collection, advocacy, and work with local fishing communities led by NGOs including FFI, Oikos and MARAPA, is increasingly resulting in national awareness and political will to ensure adequate protection of marine resources.

Barriers: Over the past decades, development in STP has focused on economic growth without giving adequate consideration to environmental sustainability. It is only since the past two decades, with support from donor-funded interventions, that the Government has started to make systemic investments in ensuring that the natural resource base that underlies most of local livelihoods and further economic development opportunities remains protected for future generations through adequate legislation, development of human capacities and infrastructure investments. Although the initiatives described above contributed substantially to improved natural resource management in STP and build a foundation for further sustainable development, it is becoming apparent that if the biodiversity, ecosystems and their services are to be effectively protected from human-induced threats in the short and long-term, the protected area system on the islands needs to be made more effectively operational and financially viable, incorporate marine biodiversity, and more strongly address threats derived from unsustainable land management practices in buffer zones. There are several critical barriers that, unless removed, could jeopardise progress made in the past:

Barrier	Description
1. Insufficient systemic and institutional capacity for protected area management and biodiversity conservation.	<p>Gaps continue to exist in legal frameworks, particularly those related to land use, environmentally sustainable natural resource management, PA management, and protection of marine biodiversity. Policies and strategies pertaining to economic growth and development have not yet been sufficiently aligned with existing environmental legislation, including that relating to PAs and their buffer zones. There is little integration of scientific data and information about environmental change into policies and action plans, hampering the ability of informed decision-making to ensure biodiversity conservation in face of ongoing and future threats. There is therefore an urgent need to review and align policies and development planning across sectors, and to ensure integration of up-to-date information on sustainable natural resource use and biodiversity conservation with economic development strategies. In addition, no mechanism exists to ensure coordination among key Government institutions including the Environment Directorate, Forestry Directorate, Directorates of the São Tomé and Príncipe Natural Parks, and the institutions responsible for planning and development including the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, and the Directorate of Land Survey & Planning. As such, STP continues to miss opportunities for an integrated approach towards biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable development.</p> <p>The capacity of key Government MDAs to develop and operationalise PA and NRM plans continues to be limited, largely due to insufficient staffing and incentive mechanisms, lack of PA management standards</p>

¹⁰ Brito et al. (2010) Small cetaceans off São Tomé (São Tomé and Príncipe, Gulf of Guinea, West Africa): Species, sightings and abundance, local human activities and conservation. Conference Paper IWC - SC/62/SM8

	<p>and individual performance monitoring systems, absence of adequate reporting structures and methods, insufficient ability to ensure proper law enforcement, and a lack of technical tools and systems to enhance community engagement and co-management.</p> <p>The ability of the Government to make a case for increased PA investments and ensure adequate protection of STP's biodiversity is furthermore hampered by the fact that there is little knowledge about the economic value of the services that are provided by forest ecosystems. In addition, there is insufficient understanding and capacity to implement the type of reforms that would be required for financial sustainability of PA management. As a result, the ability to generate sufficient financing for PA management on STP has been extremely limited. Currently, the Parks operate on a very limited annual budget (in 2017 the combined budget for both parks was \$16.484). Park fees are collected by individual rangers without receipts and there is no central deposit. Other than Government funding and irregular contributions from researchers who use the parks facilities, there is no clear system that directly supports the financing of PA management.</p>
2. Insufficient operational capacity for on-site PA management and biodiversity conservation actions	<p>No systems are in place to facilitate cooperation between PA staff and other key stakeholders such as local community members and the private sector. Human capacities and resources are insufficient to provide adequate supervision and implementation of the PA management plans, and ensure environmental sustainability of economic development in buffer zones around key biodiversity areas. The São Tomé ONP Authority has a core staff of 8 (most of whom are not employed full time), with limited skills in forestry, taxonomy, guiding and administration. The Príncipe ONP Authority has a core staff of 7, including 2 rangers with limited skills in forestry and guiding. PA authorities do not have permanent, visible or significant presence on the ground, there is a lack of biodiversity and threat monitoring, law enforcement is insufficiently taking place, and there is not enough community outreach and engagement. Boundaries are not clearly demarcated, and paths are not regularly cleared, hampering the ability of rangers to monitor and enforce regulations. Critical infrastructure to attract and accommodate visitors is either in a dilapidated state, or entirely lacking. With the exception of sea turtles, no specific actions are being undertaken to protect endangered marine species, and key areas for marine biodiversity remain largely unprotected.</p>
3. Inadequate mechanisms to ensure environmentally sustainable management of buffer zones	<p>As a result of insufficient knowledge and understanding, and therefore appreciation of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services that are provided by the landscape (barriers 1 and 4), there is little incentive for protection of buffer zones around key biodiversity areas, and as a result insufficient investments have been made in strengthening the levels of local knowledge and capacity to implement environmentally sustainable techniques such as SLM and SFM. In addition, there is limited familiarity and technical expertise among smallholder farmers and village entrepreneurs with environmentally sustainable value chain opportunities. As such, the potential for active community engagement in ensuring remains underutilized</p>
4. Weak knowledge management and gender mainstreaming	<p>Gender considerations are not routinely taken into account in design and monitoring of interventions, therefore reducing the ability to effectively include women in biodiversity conservation and environmentally sustainable natural resource management actions. Lack of reliable data and insufficient information sharing remains an impediment to ensuring effective support for biodiversity and ecosystem management. Despite a heavy reliance on natural resources, there is a general lack of awareness among the people of STP about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The limited amount of information available creates challenges for sharing and scaling-up of successes and lessons learned of efforts being supported by international, national and local actors. Promoting robust M&E and gender mainstreaming monitoring and sharing of information, lessons and best practices are thus essential for improved management of environmental governance and upscaling of project results.</p>

Project Strategy: The project addresses immediate drivers of unsustainable land management and species diversity loss in the targeted key areas for biodiversity. In the baseline situation, weak policy frameworks and insufficient capacity for PA management and protection of terrestrial and marine biodiversity will result in further loss of species, degradation of natural habitats, reduction of essential ecosystem services, as well as loss of revenue opportunities. In the alternative scenario enabled with GEF financing, systemic and institutional barriers to biodiversity protection

will be removed at national and local levels, supported by incentives for making investments in PA management and environmentally sustainable practices more economically attractive. Tailored capacity development support will demonstrate improvement in PA management, increased use of environmentally sustainable land use practices, and improvement in biodiversity conditions.

Component 1: Strengthened systemic and institutional capacity for protected area management and biodiversity conservation

The proposed project will address challenges linked to the lack of an adequate enabling environment and institutional capacities to effectively protect biodiversity and manage PAs. Legal frameworks will be reviewed, and recommendations developed for the strengthening of policies, coordination mechanisms, and strategies pertaining to biodiversity conservation, PA management, and sustainable natural resource management in PA buffer zones. The project will support revisions of priority laws/policies, including for instance the Environment Law (1999) and the Law Governing Flora and Fauna (1999) that are outdated while being key to environmental sustainability and biodiversity protection, including in PA buffer zones. The project will furthermore support the development and submission of a legal proclamation dossier required for the gazettelement of STPs first Marine Protected Area (MPA), including determination of boundaries.

Technologies and systems will be put in place to ensure that decision making processes relevant to the protection of STPs unique biodiversity are informed by sound knowledge and scientific data. In close cooperation with academic institutions (including national universities/research institutions, and international institutions such as the California Academy of Sciences, which has implemented long-term biodiversity research and outreach programmes on the islands) and environmental NGOs such as Birdlife International and Oikos that have an ongoing interest in biodiversity monitoring on STP, systems will be put in place to: (i) monitor changes in species diversity and environmental status (e.g. using GIS-based tools, drones, and participatory biodiversity monitoring activities), and (ii) subsequently feed this information back to relevant audiences (including decision-makers, private sector, and academic institutions). This will also include an updated inventory, classification and map of the different forest types in PA buffer zones, as well as information relevant to MPA establishment. Training and tools (e.g. hard and software) will be provided to targeted Government MDAs to develop and operationalise PA and buffer zone sustainable natural resource management strategies with integration of information about environmental change.

The project will implement a needs assessment of key Government institutions responsible for PA and buffer zone management (including the Environment and Forestry Departments, Regional Directorate of Environment & Conservation), to inform subsequent actions for strengthening capacities. Civil servants will be empowered through training to promote environmental sustainability and facilitate political coordination and biodiversity mainstreaming into sectoral processes. Capacities will furthermore be enhanced of through support for the development (see Component 2) and operationalisation of PA and buffer zone natural resource management plans. Capacity enhancement strategies will specifically focus on: (i) ensuring adequate organizational structures, sufficient staffing and incentive mechanisms; (ii) PA management standards and individual performance monitoring systems; (iv) reporting structure and methods; (v) tools and training for enhanced law enforcement; (vi) community engagement and co-management.

This component will furthermore support the increase of sustainable long-term financing for biodiversity conservation and landscape management through development of government revenue streams based on cost-effectiveness criteria and operationalisation of new financing mechanisms. This effort will be harnessed in a PA financial sustainability strategy (PAFSS), including the establishment of incentives for biodiversity conservation and sound ecosystem services management. The project will carry out detailed analyses to compare different PA and buffer zone management scenarios to determine the economic and social impact of shifting from a business as usual scenario to an improved sustainable ecosystems management scenario. The results of these analyses will help to build a business case that will enable decision-makers and other key stakeholders to support policy reforms and promote investments. The project will generate economic data related to the management of ecosystems in a way that is relevant to the choices facing both public and private decision-makers.

Economic valuation of PA goods and services, financial feasibility analysis and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) will be applied to ensure that the costs and benefits of different management scenarios, production systems and SLM/SFM practices, and their (potential) provisioning benefits (e.g. water retention, erosion control, livelihood support options) are accurately estimated. The results of the economic and financial analyses, together with cost-effectiveness measures will be key for increasing resources flows to support PA and buffer zone management. Existing financing gaps for PA management will be assessed at the basic and optimal levels. The PAFSS will include diversified financing mechanisms that are best fit to the national context (e.g. fiscal policy reform, development of financial incentive mechanisms such as carbon financing, performance payment mechanisms, PA budget optimization, cost-savings etc.). This will also include an assessment of opportunities to introduce automated revenue collection systems across the PA system to track, monitor, and reconcile entrance fees.

Pilot incentive packages will be developed and tested. The role of the private sector in implementation of results-based PA Management Plans will be enhanced and enabled (e.g. creating sustainable jobs through ecosystem restoration activities, alternative biomass provision, eco-tourism initiatives etc., which will be linked with Component 3). The financial flows from such mechanisms will enable the sustainability of efforts towards reducing the pressure on the islands unique biodiversity.

Component 2: Enhanced effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and PA site management actions

Under this component, the project aims to put measures in place to effectively manage protected areas and implement biodiversity conservation actions on site. Based on reviews of existing Management Plans (2015-2020) for the Ôbo Nature Parks on São Tomé and Príncipe, the project will support the development of Management Plans for the next 5-year period, as well as Annual Action Plans and their implementation. Revisions of existing Management Plans for Ôbo Nature Parks, and development of Annual Action Plans will specifically focus on actions aimed at: (i) improving revenue generation (see Component 1); (ii) making PAs more attractive for visitors, and (iii) improving the ability of parks staff to actively protect biodiversity.

In addition, working closely together with research institutions, NGOs such as FFI, Oikos, MARAPA, and fishing communities, specific Action Plans will be developed and implemented for targeted coastal and marine habitats (mangroves, coral reefs) that harbour vulnerable marine species (whales, dolphins, sea turtles) and are identified for MPA establishment. This may include participatory monitoring activities, mangrove reforestation, establishment of no-take zones/seasons, promotion of dolphin and turtle friendly fishing methods, ethical dolphin and whale watching practices, etc.

Participatory management systems will be developed aimed at bringing together key stakeholders together to support decision-making relevant to PA management and species conservation, including representatives from local communities, the private sector, civil society, research institutions, and Government. Capacity and needs assessments will be conducted during the PPG phase to provide baselines and a foundation for the development of sound capacity strengthening strategies. Training and tools will be provided for PA staff, including on topics such as forestry, biodiversity and threat monitoring, guiding, patrolling, law enforcement, administration, community outreach and engagement. At least 40 technical Government and PA staff and members of local communities adjacent to the parks will benefit from targeted training.

Based on data and information derived from implementation of activities under Component 1, recommendations will be made to ensure zonation systems enable the highest level of protection for the most vulnerable species and highest conservation value forests (including mangroves), as well as identifying areas to trial community forest management and sustainable resource use, especially in the buffer areas (Component 3). PA zoning will be clearly defined and boundaries delineated.

The project will support investments to attract, inform, and accommodate increased numbers of visitors, in cooperation with the private sector. Signs with information about the PA and STPs unique biodiversity will be established for public outreach. Critical infrastructure for tourism will be rehabilitated. This includes the old Obô Natural Park building in Príncipe, which is intended to serve as a multi-purpose environmental education and

outreach centre. The project will also assess the value of investing in rehabilitation of the Bom Sucesso Botanical Garden, and the Pico de São Tomé base camps at Carvalho and Mesa. Actions will be designed and implemented to protect vulnerable endemic species of flora and fauna.

Component 3: Integrated, environmentally sustainable land management in multi-use buffer zones

To alleviate pressure resulting from economic activities by communities living in buffer zones of key biodiversity areas, the project aims to strengthen/design local development plans, including strategies for the promotion and implementation of biodiversity protection through environmentally sustainable natural resource use and management methods, while contributing to environmentally sustainable local economic diversification. Ten communities will be targeted on the basis of set criteria that will be decided upon in consultation with experts and stakeholders, including proximity to PA boundaries, level of land degradation, potential for impact, etc. The project will focus on these communities to pilot the incentivization of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Community Forest Management (CFM) practices, and environmentally sustainable alternative income generating activities (IGAs)¹¹.

A Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)¹² approach will be used to explore opportunities to address ongoing loss and conversion of primary and secondary forests while ensuring to increase yields of SLM interventions in order to promote uptake and subsequent upscaling. Approaches will be informed by lessons learned and good practices from the wide range of SLM practices that have been successfully piloted elsewhere¹³, including by making use of the resources provided by the WOCAT Global Database¹⁴. The project will promote the use of conservation agriculture, agroforestry and farmer-managed natural regeneration methods where appropriate. Capacity and needs assessments for SLM/SFM/CFM approaches will be implemented to inform subsequent actions including extension services, and linkages will be established with interventions aimed at facilitating IGAs (see below).

Pilot sites will be selected to demonstrate the potential for upscaling. To ensure buy-in and facilitate the uptake of local knowledge, selection of sites and approaches will be highly participatory involving farmers groups, staff from relevant Government MDAs (including the Regional Directorate of Environment & Conservation, and Ministry of Agriculture) and the private sector, and making use of sound decision-making tools¹⁵. Collaborations will be explored with research institutions and private sector companies such as Agripalma (palm oil producer), Satocao (cocoa producer), Claudio Corallo (coffee and cocoa) and agroforestry cooperatives working with the Government-led PAPAC initiative (cocoa, coffee, and pepper), to ensure that actions are informed by up-to-date knowledge and help facilitate access to markets. In addition, the project will explore possibilities to establish nurseries for trees and plants that are favoured by traditional healers, and so reduce the need to harvest these from within PAs.

To ensure that IGAs are viable on the longer-term, support will be based on in-depth market analyses for sustainable products and services from the landscape's natural assets, with specific focus on the value chain of tropical commodities such as cocoa and coffee, as well as other potential products where value chains could successfully be supported. IGA interventions will specifically be targeting groups that are most engaged in economic activities related to forest harvesting. The project will address some of the key challenges that prevent members of communities in

¹¹ While empirical data on the subject remains limited, there is mounting evidence that when forests are co-managed with an emphasis on alternative income generating activities, people's income is increasingly sourced from non-forestry sectors such as agriculture and small business. E.g.: Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman et.al. (2017) Developing alternative income generation activities reduces forest dependency of the poor and enhances their livelihoods: the case of the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, Bangladesh, *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods*, 26:4, 256-270 (and references therein).

¹² IUCN and WRI (2014) A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 125 pp.

¹³ E.g.: Liniger et.al. (2011) Sustainable Land Management in Practice – Guidelines and Best Practices for Sub-Saharan Africa. *TerrAfrica, World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)* and *FAO*. 246 pp.

¹⁴ WOCAT <https://qcat.wocat.net/en>

¹⁵ Schwilch G et.al. (2009) Appraising and selecting conservation measures to mitigate desertification and land degradation based on stakeholder participation and global best practices. *Land Degradation & Development* 20: 308-326.

buffer zone areas from developing livelihood opportunities, including lack of access to finance, equipment, and gaps in entrepreneurial and administrative skills (e.g. bookkeeping, budgeting, and implementing sales and revenue analysis). Assessments will be done to ensure that capacity support modalities (e.g. grants, equipment/materials, training/technical assistance) can be adequately adapted to the needs of the target groups. Data collected by BirdLife International on the livelihoods, forest resource use and dependencies of six communities in the buffer zone of Ôbo Natural Park (Claudino Faro, Emolve, São Miguel, Plancas (Lembá), Ponta Furada and Juliana de Sousa) will be used as a basis for further assessments and IGA strategy development. Ecotourism will be further assessed as a potential mechanism to generate revenue for local development. Sites with tourism potential will be identified for support, based on criteria that will include the level of community involvement and existing or potential facilities such as camp sites, home stays and tourist trails.

Component 4: Knowledge Management & Communication

This component will provide the basis to guide adaptive management, and promote the uptake of knowledge, good practices and successful approaches, including gender mainstreaming. Based on the gender analysis and action plans that will be developed during the PPG, the project will ensure that decisions made and interventions proposed for implementation, take into account the potential impacts and outcomes for different groups within society, with particular focus on the roles played by men, women and youth. In line with the principles of integrated natural resource management, the project will promote a participatory approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning, involving all relevant stakeholders, including local communities.

Systematic documentation will take place of good practices and lessons learnt from implementation of the project, which will be translated into knowledge products and communication outputs. A national environmental education and communication strategy will be developed with the aim to: (i) provide STP citizens and decision-makers with knowledge on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) disseminate good practices for uptake by targeted national and international audiences. This will also include the development and implementation of a strategy to promote uptake, replication and upscaling of successful approaches demonstrated by the project, including those relevant to PA investments and community-driven sustainable natural resource management practices.

Appropriate platforms will be used for sharing knowledge and information among local communities and the institutions tasked with management of resources in the landscape, as well as wider national and global audiences (e.g. meetings, workshops, conferences, online fora and platforms, printed/online/social media, etc.).

Incremental Reasoning and Global Environmental Benefits

The Government of STP recognizes the importance of biodiversity conservation, and safeguarding ecosystem services, which is reflected in the fact that it is making significant efforts to create the conditions for sustainable PA management as a key strategy to conserve biodiversity. The proposed GEF-financed intervention is particularly timely as the increased investments that took place in the past two decades (see Baseline & Barriers above) contributed to establishing a foundation on which this project aims to build in synergy with ongoing interventions (see Coordination below) to facilitate the effective implementation of practices towards enhanced environmental sustainability. Incremental benefits will be associated with the capitalisation of knowledge on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services to strengthen PA management and facilitate increased financial sustainability. The table below outlines the existing baseline scenario and the global benefits that could be derived from implementing alternative practices with investment from the GEF:

<i>Baseline situation</i>	<i>Alternative practices to be facilitated by project</i>	<i>Global benefits</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient institutional capacities, coordination and alignment of policies and strategies pertaining to economic growth and development with environmental legislation. ▪ Lack of understanding among decision-makers as well as the general public about the status of threatened biodiversity in STP and the benefits that can be derived from improved practices as well as reforms to increase investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. ▪ Continuing deforestation and land degradation in the landscape resulting in loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and decreased environmental resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legislative frameworks are harmonized, institutional mandates and competencies are mapped, capacity gaps are addressed, and coordination is enhanced of public policies and investments between government institutions and sectors to foster PA management and conservation of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. ▪ The value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is understood and capitalized upon. ▪ Best practices for sustainable natural resource management, such as restoration, SFM/SLM/CFM, are recognized, understood and implemented extensively in buffer zones of key biodiversity areas. ▪ Environmentally sustainable sources of income are expanded with support and investment including tourism, and private sector growth capital. ▪ Land-use change is stabilized, deforestation is halted, globally unique biodiversity protected, extinction risks are mitigated, and ecosystem services are safeguarded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved management of key biodiversity areas in Saõ Tomé and Príncipe, covering 30,000 ha of High Conservation Value forests, 17,767 ha of mountain forests in PA buffer zones, and a coastal area of 11,198.55 ha that encompasses a Ramsar site and key breeding sites for seabirds. ▪ Enhanced protection of globally significant biodiversity, including critically endangered species as well as other vulnerable, endemic and rare species.
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Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up:

Innovation and potential for upscaling is embedded in the project's approach to promoting evidence-based mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation concerns into policies and action plans, and by making a business case to support the reform of PA management policy, fiscal policy and promote investments. Another innovation for STP will be the introduction of results-based PA management planning to ensure conservation outcomes, which would have potential to be upscaled into other areas of sustainable natural resource management. Activities aim to raise PA management to global standards, including the development and implementation of: i) robust zonation systems; ii) inclusive structures that actively engage local communities in the management and governance of PAs and their buffer zones; and iii) pioneering finance mechanisms for sustainable PA and buffer zone management. Sustainability of interventions will rest partly on the up-scaling of community-driven actions in buffer areas by securing ownership. Economic and financial sustainability after the project is recognized as a top priority, and is therefore a central element of the proposed project. Government, civil society, private sector and community stakeholder consultations will be conducted to identify gaps and priorities for capacity enhancement as well as preferred options for sustainable financing, upon which collaborative partnerships will be built. Together with realistic business cases that are relevant to the existing political climate this will help to ensure that economic and financial sustainability of the interventions will be an achievable goal.

2. STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes ☒ /no ☐) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes ☐ /no ☒)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The following stakeholders have been identified for consultation during the project development phase. A full stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the PPG phase.

Key Stakeholder	Relevant Roles
Regional Directorate of Environment & Conservation	The Regional Directorate falls under the direct authority of the President, and comprises the Directorate of Forests, Directorate of Environment, and Directorate of Obô Natural Park, as well as the coordination team of the Biosphere Reserve. The Regional Directorate plays an oversight role in monitoring the implementation of legislative and regulatory frameworks, as well as in awareness raising and outreach on issues relevant to environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.
Environment Directorate; Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources & Environment	The Environment Directorate is the key governmental institution for environmental issues in STP. Its mandate as outlined in the Organic Law (2000), is to execute the environmental policy of the Government and coordinate activities relevant to environmental sustainability. This includes actions relevant to environmental protection, pollution control and other forms of environmental degradation, as well as coordination of the implementation of relevant international conventions and national environmental laws. The Environment Department furthermore proposes relevant legislation and collects environmental data.
Directorate of Forests; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development & Fisheries	The Directorate of Forests is charged with executing the Government's policies in the management and protection of national forest assets. The Directorate is furthermore responsible for the development of legislation relevant to the protection and sustainable use of forest resources according to Decree nº 77/93.
Directorate of Agricultural Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	The Directorate of Agricultural Development's mandate is related to the execution of the Government policies and strategies on agricultural development. Together with the planning department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Directorate is in charge of coordinating agricultural sector donor projects.
Fisheries Directorate; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	The Fisheries Directorate is responsible, amongst other activities, for the management of artisanal fisheries projects, registration of artisanal or industrial fishermen, and surveillance of fisheries activities in the EEZ of STP.
Directorate of Land Survey and Planning; Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources & Environment	Known as the "Cadastró" this Directorate is responsible for land planning, mapping, establishing boundaries and geographic delimitations.
Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy	The Ministry of Finance and Blue Economy coordinates industrial and fisheries-related activities and defines, together with the Defence and Internal Order Ministry, the management of the coastal zone.
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism	The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism coordinates industrial activities and defines, together with the Defence and Internal Order Ministry, the management of the coastal zone.
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Communication	The Ministry of Education, & Culture, Science and Communication plays a key role in coordinating environmental communication, education and outreach issues with NGOs.
Education & Research Institutions	The California Academy of Sciences has a long-term research interest in STP, with 8 scientific expeditions conducted over the past 13 years to document and monitor biodiversity. Since 2010, the Academy implements a biodiversity awareness programme that focuses on local schools. The Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, Universidade de Lisboa, is also engaged in biodiversity research on STP, with focus on the impacts of human activities on biodiversity, using birds and plants as model groups. Research is being conducted in close cooperation with scientists from the Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe.
Private sector & cooperatives	Several private companies operate in buffer zones of the Obô Natural Parks on São Tomé and Príncipe. Agripalma manages an oil-palm concession of 5,000 ha in the Park buffer zone in São Tomé, and has historically been involved in the rehabilitation of old plantations and conversion of high conservation value forest in the buffer zone. The company now declared a commitment to sustainable palm oil production, underpinned by RSPO membership. Satocao is a private company that manages a cocoa concession of 2,500 ha in the Park buffer zone on São Tomé, and has an interest in sustainable management approaches. CECAB and CECAQ are two cocoa cooperatives that are working with around 3000 farmers across the country, including in buffer zones. SAS Lda, CECAFEB and Malongo are coffee growing companies with concessions in PA buffer zones on São Tomé and Príncipe. The international Slow Food Foundation works together with CECAFEB to strengthen their ability to meet the standards of

Key Stakeholder	Relevant Roles
	the international coffee market. CEPIBA is a pepper-growing cooperative that started in 2007 and includes 300 farmers from 26 communities. The Platform for Responsible and Sustainable Tourism is an association of private operators (hotels, agencies, NGOs) that was created in 2015 to promote sustainable and responsible tourism in ONP and its buffer zone. In São Tomé, a consortium of NGOs (MARAPA and ALISEI) operates a small eco-lodge at Praia Jalé. The consortium also contributes to conservation efforts under the terms of an agreement with Obô NP that is valid until the end of 2017.
Land owners & local communities	Land owners and local communities are principal natural resource managers in buffer zones. Landowners will be encouraged to work closely with the project to adopt environmentally sustainable approaches. The project will specifically target forest edge communities in buffer zone, and engage them on alternative IGAs and SLM/SFM practices.
NGOs	The Príncipe Trust is a local NGO based in Príncipe that is heavily involved in biodiversity conservation and PA support. BirdLife International has a longstanding interest in biodiversity conservation on STP, and together with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (SPEA), has been active in biodiversity research and conservation in the country for around 10 years. Oikos is a Portuguese NGO that focuses on sustainable development and has a strong presence in Príncipe where it has established a formal partnership with Obô NP to establish a Resource Centre for local NGOs and grass-roots organizations. In Sao Tomé, Oikos is working with local NGOs to strengthen their capacity. A total of 7 environmental NGOs (Alisei, ADAPPA, TESE, MARAPA, Zatona Adil, Qua Tela, and Leigos para o Desenvolvimento) are working together as part of the national Rede Bio network to support advocacy related to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. The network is consulted by authorities on environmental issues related to interventions requiring EIAs.

3. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no ☐.

The project will adopt a participatory approach for maximum impact through the inclusion of all relevant social groups, including marginalized people (e.g. unemployed youth), with attention to the participation and inclusion of women whilst respecting the norms, values and customs of targeted communities. A project specific gender mainstreaming plan will be developed during the project design (PPG) phase, with actions to be taken under each component and necessary budgetary provision as appropriate. Specific targets will be set during project design (PPG phase) to ensure inclusion and participation of women and girls both in site-based project activities (such as the development of alternative income generating activities, conservation actions, and activities aimed at capacity enhancement), as well as ensuring that opportunities are created for women to take up positions of leadership within the management hierarchy of the project governance structures.

4. RISKS

The following risks have been identified with preliminary mitigation measures. Risks will be reviewed [comprehensively](#), and mitigation measures will be strengthened during the PPG phase.

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Insufficient political will and capacity to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management.	M	With the growing recognition of the high and unique biodiversity values of São Tomé and the resulting extensive donor support that the country is receiving, it is anticipated that these risks will be addressed – also with support from this proposed project, which aims to ensure that policy and corresponding capacities, enforcement and communication mechanisms are adequately strengthened. The project will have a strong focus on enhancing capacity of targeted stakeholders to ensure that they have the required knowledge (including understanding of the economic benefits of biodiversity and

		ecosystem services) and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned, and uptake good practices.
Commercial agriculture enterprises do not engage meaningfully in the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity protection.	M	Both the Ministry of Agriculture and commercial agriculture enterprises will be actively engaged to facilitate their buy-in. Cooperation will be sought with BirdLife International, which has extensive expertise in working with the private sector worldwide to mitigate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystems, and the project will aim to draw on their expertise and build on existing stakeholder relationships with Agriapalma/Socfin.
Economic benefits do not materialize because of market limitations (low prices, limited demand, etc.).	M	The project will explore multiple economic incentives, subsidies, and direct payments, and will include market and risk assessments in its recommendations for subsequent actions.
Incentive schemes setup by the project may not be sustainable in the long-term.	M	Partnerships will be created with long-term investors such as private companies and cooperatives. The project will invest in developing capacities at the national, municipal, and local levels in order to ensure that skills and tool are in place for the long-term sustainability of project results.
Difficulties in reconciling different stakeholder agendas, interests and positions.	L	A stakeholder analysis will be conducted including interests and potential conflicts, institutional and political contexts. The project will ensure active engagement of all key stakeholders, documenting their roles and attempting to find middle-ground during all phases of design and implementation.
Climate change and related impacts may set back progress of the project.	L	The project will work to address anticipated impacts of climate change by increasing resilience of the target landscape, through improving management of protected areas and ecosystem functioning. Through this, the project will contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem resilience under the climate change conditions, to secure sustainable flow of ecosystem services.

5. COORDINATION

The project will actively coordinate with relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, UN Agencies and other development partners as well as NGOs and research institutions to facilitate synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. Coordination will take place through established mechanisms including Project Steering Committee, sharing of reports and ad hoc meetings. During the PPG phase, further in-depth consultations will be undertaken to establish/strengthen partnerships and practical modalities for linking and collaborating with relevant ongoing and planned interventions. Close collaboration will take place with Birdlife International and Oikos to ensure synergies with the EU-financed ECOFAC VI Programme (2018-2021), which includes activities aimed at: (i) reviewing environmental considerations in national and sub-national policies and development plans; (ii) strengthening Government capacity to effectively promote biodiversity safeguards in policies and development planning; (iii) improving law enforcement to protect biodiversity; (iv) supporting PA authorities in managing and negotiating public-private partnerships; (v) supporting sustainable finance and income generating options for communities surrounding PAs and promote collaborative forest management. Linkages will be established with the GEF-funded (\$20,351,281), UNDP-supported project on enhancing capacities of rural communities to pursue climate resilient livelihood options in the Districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Príncipe, Lemba, Cantagalo, and Lobata (2014-2018), which includes activities aimed at enhancing capacity for the implementation of agro-sylvo-pastoral adaptation technologies to enhance climate resilience of rural community livelihoods that could possibly be replicated by communities in PA bufferzone areas. The project will also explore synergies with the GEF-funded (\$25,980,248), UNDP-supported project on promotion of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient grid/isolated grid-based hydroelectric electricity through an integrated approach (2016-2020). Linkages will furthermore be established with The Restoration Initiative (TRI) that is funded by the GEF and planned to be implemented from 2018-2023 with support from IUCN, FAO, and UN Environment in a number of countries. In São Tomé and Príncipe, TRI will be implemented through FAO with the aim to restore landscapes for ecosystem functionality and climate change mitigation through a series of activities including (i) establishment of PPPs to enhance ecosystem services and mitigate climate change in vulnerable natural forest areas; (ii) piloting of “Intelligent Wood Processing Plants”; (iii) strengthening national capacity on the principles

and practices of forest landscape restoration (FLR), concepts and use of ecosystem services, and FLR financial instruments.

The project will also establish linkages with the University of Exeter, which is undertaking participatory research in six fishing communities to identify, test and implement community-led interventions (2016-2018) in close collaboration with the local Government of Príncipe. The aim of this initiative is to identify barriers to sustainability in the fisheries sector, including ongoing and emerging threats to the viability of fishing livelihoods, and drivers of illegal and unsustainable fishing. These activities will provide crucial information for the formation of fisheries co-management areas, and the designation of MPAs. In 2017, Oikos and MARAPA began a project on São Tomé aiming to preserve marine biodiversity and resources by empowering and increasing community participation in marine and coastal management processes. The *Kike da Mungu* ("Fish for tomorrow") project aims to characterize threats (current and emerging) to the sustainability of local fishing and community livelihoods, and to establish processes that can address these threats. The project, which runs until 2020, aims to support development of co-managed fisheries, and will provide important baseline data for São Tomé. Linkages will furthermore be established with the long-term work on biodiversity research and conservation that is supported by a partnership between the RSPB, SPEA and BirdLife International (BI), and more recently also the University of Lisbon. Results of this research will be integrated in project baseline assessments and strategies, and the project will work together with some of the same communities that were engaged by BI for the collection of data on livelihoods and forest resource use and dependencies. The project will establish linkages with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) actions in the Guinean Forest of West Africa Programme, managed by BI. In addition, Oikos is coordinating an inventory of traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity on Príncipe, with the participation of local NGOs including the Príncipe Trust and the PA Directorate, the results of which will feed into the identification of potentially viable value-chains that could be developed with communities in buffer zone areas. Investments in the (eco)tourism sector will be coordinated with the Sustainable and Responsible Tourism Platform (PTRS).

6. CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no ☐).

The project is consistent and fully in line with national plans, priorities and policies, including the following:

- National commitments to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: 1-poverty alleviation, 2-ending hunger, 5-gender equality, 15-protecting important landscapes, biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems.
- National Policy for Biological Diversity, NBSAP II National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (2015-2020), and CBD Action Plan 2011-2020, which collectively support the restoration and reforestation of degraded areas, as well as conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including measures to strengthen PA management and their buffer zones. The project will directly contribute to Aichi Target 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 20.
- São Tomé and Príncipe International Species Action Plans for Critically Endangered bird species, which aims to guide the improvement of the conservation status and knowledge on the ecology and distribution of Critically Endangered bird species through undertaking a set of actions that contribute to the following objectives: i) habitat degradation and human disturbance reduced in targeted species' areas of occurrence; ii) priority areas of forest habitat are preserved.
- Strategy on Desertification and Land Degradation (2005), which prioritizes prevention of erosion through the extension and protection of forests. More specifically the project will help the implementation of the following key actions planned under in this Strategy: i) improvement of administrative structures; ii) protection of national resources; iii) reforestation of key areas.
- The project is also consistent with the Second National Poverty Reduction Strategy, which identifies the priority areas for action over a period of five years (2012-2016) and focuses on achieving sustainable economic growth and making the economy more competitive by increasing investment in infrastructure and promoting agriculture, fisheries and tourism as key sectors for growth and employment. This approach is supported by all the strategic direction documents developed for the 2015-2030 period: National Consultation Report for the

Post-2015 Development Agenda (2015); General Points of the Country's Development Agenda 2030 (2015); Sao Tome and Principe 2030 Strategy (2010); and São Tomé and Príncipe 2030, the Country We Want (2015).

7. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Knowledge management will be an integral part of the project, enabling institutional memory, promoting learning and continuous improvement, generating documents for up-scaling of lessons and best practices. Specific knowledge management activities are incorporated under Component 4 and will be conducted in support of capacity building and training actions under the different components. The broader dissemination of experience and lessons learnt generated by the project will be also pursued through engaging national and regional technical and educational institutions, and regionally and internationally through South-South cooperation mechanisms.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mr. Lourenço Monteiro de Jesus	Director of Statistics and Environmental Education	Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure, Natural Resources & Environment	02/06/2018

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu Executive Coordinator, UNDP GEF		02/23/2018	Saskia Marijnissen RTA, EBD	+251 944026135	saskia.marijnissen@undp.org