

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date

CEPF Grant 108737

Marine Conservation Society Seychelles

*Development of a Protected Area Nomination for Grand Police / Collines du Sud
Temporary Protection of Project Site During Project Implementation*

KBA SYC13 & KBA SYC11, South Mahe, Seychelles

Grant Summary

1. Marine Conservation Society Seychelles.
2. *Development of a Protected Area Nomination for Grand Police / Collines du Sud. Temporary Protection of Project Site During Project Implementation*
3. Grant number (Not Known)
4. \$56199 Requested
5. 01.03.18 – 28.02.19.
6. South Mahe, Republic of Seychelles.
7. 13/02/2018.

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

This project follows on from a previous CEPF project to assess the biodiversity of the Grand Police wetland, a site for which development of a resort and marina had been planned. The biodiversity assessment of the area confirmed the importance of the site and supported by a public petition, the Council of Ministers agreed the land should be returned to the State and thereafter designated as a Protected Area. This area includes the Grand Police wetland KBA SYC13 and also a much larger area including a part of KBA SYC11.

Prior to the biodiversity assessment, the site had previously been an army prison and training site and consequently public access had been completely prohibited for 30 or more years, largely to the benefit of biodiversity. Following the Cabinet declaration, the remaining army detail stationed at the site was removed and un-controlled access to the area has followed. This has resulted in significant biodiversity impacts with vehicles being driven onto the turtle nesting beach, turtle poaching, dumping of contractors' waste, overnight camping and significant littering of the area.

In an effort to move the protection of the area forward, it is necessary to complete biodiversity assessments of the areas external to the wetland, to draft a Conservation and Management Strategy and Management Plan to support the Nomination of the area for Protected Status. In consultation with local community groups the Anse Forbans Community Conservation Programme (AFCCP) and the Grand Police Citizens Initiative (GPCI) and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), the Marine Conservation Society (MCSS) have agreed to move forward with proposals to undertake the biodiversity assessment, hence this proposal to CEPF. At the same time a separate proposal has been made to the Environment Trust Fund of the Ministry for funding to implement interim ranger patrols until Protected Area designation, to curb the on-going environmental degradation currently happening on the site.

This will ensure that temporary protection will be organized at the site, with over-night guards and day-time rangers, to prevent illegal activities such as dumping and poaching that are damaging the biodiversity. During the course of the project and in parallel with the assessment activities, the issue of restriction of access in the long term (when/if the area is declared a

protected area) will be addressed during the project implementation in both the management plan and the development of a specific long-term Process Framework and as such, this Process Framework which was developed with stakeholder input, is only for the interim period to safeguard the site.

B. Participatory implementation

The proposed implementation of the Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken by MCSS in collaboration with interested parties from both AFCCP, GPCI and MEECC. A project steering committee will be set up with representatives from each of these groups to help guide the formulation of the Conservation and Management Strategy which will be informed by the Biodiversity Assessment. The draft Strategy will target the setting up of a community co-managed Protected Area and will be further advised by input from a public stakeholders' workshop after prior dissemination of the Strategy through local distribution and social media. Once the Strategy has been approved a draft Management Plan will be developed through the same process with a second public stakeholders' workshop to advise the plan.

Once completed a Nomination File with the required biodiversity assessments, management strategy and plan will be developed and lodged with the MEECC. The designation process itself then progresses through another round of public inspection and comment followed by a public meeting after which the Ministry makes recommendations appropriately to the Minister for designation or revision if thought needed.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The project will target forest and wetland areas for protection and restoration that are not currently being used, nor because of the history of the site, planned to be used in the near future. Similarly, because the site had been a previous military area, settlement and other human activities were prohibited. This Process Framework addresses the temporary restriction of access during the project activities prior to the designation of the area as a Protected Area. As such, people affected by the restrictions proposed in the project will largely be those currently engaged in illegal activities (such as poaching and waste dumping) which are not livelihood activities. Due to the previous military status and lack of access, there are no current leisure activities in the area, nor are there any cultural sites so the temporary protection during the project will not limit the community access to these services as they have not had them previously. The project aims at conserving this area, while providing opportunities for local community members to participate in its conservation and development of supportive income generating activities.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

We do not anticipate that any individuals will be eligible for compensation as a result of this project. This is because people affected by the restrictions proposed in the project will largely be those currently engaged in illegal activities.

The project aims at developing opportunities for local community members to participate in the conservation and management of the area and support the designation of the Protected Area. This status will restrict access to natural resources but will also develop supportive income generating activities in which local communities can participate.

Persons affected by this project will largely be those who are voluntarily participating in the project. It is possible that there may be individuals who would like to participate but are unable to do so for a number of reasons; the Project Strategy of community co-management and the development of supportive income generating activities in which local communities can participate may provide other opportunities in which they can become involved.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

Prior to the implementation of the project, a steering committee meeting will be organized comprising the local community groups the Anse Forbans Community Conservation Programme (AFCCP) and the Grand Police Citizens Initiative (GPCI), the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), and the grantee, the Marine Conservation Society (MCSS). This committee will agree a broad communication plan to disseminate the objectives and detailed activities of the project to the local community. During this process the contacts of the coordinator and local CSOs involved in the project, the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF and the CEPF Grant Director will be provided to the local population; signboards will also be displayed in the implementation area. We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

The development of a conflict resolution and complaint mechanism is an important step in the development of the Management Plan that will be conducted during project implementation. This mechanism will be developed in consultation with communities and government but will include:

1. an impartial, accessible and fair mechanism for raising grievances and complaints
2. the required CEPF grievance mechanism text
3. a method / procedure for the resolution of conflicts and redress
4. an independent third party mediator when a conflict cannot be resolved in the first instance
5. be legally enforceable under the laws of Seychelles and in accordance with Protected Area legislation and regulations.

F. Implementation Arrangements

The key project partners include local communities, national and sub-national Government, and the MCSS (grantee); in addition, the CEPF will provide resources to conduct the project. All key project partners will have roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project as follows:

Local Communities

There are no persons residing in the actual Proposed Protected area; however, there are residents in areas adjacent to the site many of whom are involved in the local CSOs such as the Anse Forbans Community Conservation Programme (AFCCP) and the Grand Police Citizens Initiative (GPCI) both of which are key Project Partners. The local expertise of these groups and several other local individuals will be utilized directly in the biodiversity assessment. Other community groups are less directly involved, such as the local historical society Leritaz Takamaka whose expertise will be drawn upon with respect to the investigation of sites of historic or cultural value that are reported to be in the area. All of these groups will be involved in the community stewardship of the area through the development of the community co-management strategy and plan during the project's implementation.

Government

The primary point of contact will be the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC), who have the portfolio for the designation and regulation of protected areas and who have already initiated this process through the first Public Meeting to discuss the Grand Police Protected Area held on October 21st 2017. Staff from the appropriate departments of MEECC will be involved directly in project activities as appropriate to their mandate, such as the wetlands Unit and Forestry Unit and will ensure that appropriate actions are taken when necessary.

The local District Administration (Takamaka District) has been advised both by MEECC and also through the pre-project activities as they are directly involved with the CSO Key Partners. It is expected that the District Administration will become more directly involved as the Strategy and Management Plan are developed.

The Marine Conservation Society

MCSS will provide overall project implementation management and will be ultimately responsible for the delivery of the project components, deliverables, and activities. MCSS will also support the government through the development of the Protected Area Nomination File and associated components. MCSS will provide key project technical staff and management support for the implementation, and support any training of local staff required for the activities. MCSS will also be responsible for monitoring the progress of this Process Framework by the inclusion of the key measures stipulated herein, in the performance deliverables for the project proposal.

CEPF: subject to the successful submission of this proposal, the CEPF will fund the activities outlined in the project proposal.