

# CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

**Date Prepared/Updated:**

## I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data	
<b>Country:</b> Republic of Mauritius	<b>GEF Project ID:</b> 5784
<b>Project Title:</b> Mainstreaming the contribution of coastal wetlands biodiversity for sustainable economic and livelihood development at Cité La Chaux ‘Barachois’, Mahébourg - A demonstration project for upgrading ‘Barachois’ in Mauritius.	
<b>Executing Entity:</b> Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisation (EPCO)	
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b> Biodiversity	
<b>GEF Project Amount:</b> US\$50,500	
<b>Reviewer(s):</b> Ian Kissoon	
<b>Date of Review:</b> June 16, 2016	
<b>Comments:</b> Analysis completed and approved	

### B. Project Objective:

To establish a sustainable and collaborative development model for the restoration, conservation and active management of degraded natural resources, ecological processes and biodiversity of a marine coastal wetland in order to support local livelihood and enhance quality of life.

### C. Project Description:

Traditional Barachois aquaculture, dates back to the French occupation period, and consisted of shallow brackish or saltwater lagoons enclosed by semi-permeable rock dykes. Presently, there are 33 recorded private and government owned Barachois along the coasts of Mauritius. Only half of them are actively maintained while others are neglected. The designated Barachois along with the adjacent mangrove forest was fully functioning and productive, and was providing proper ecological ecosystem services. Information obtained from old fishers and other sources living in the vicinity of the site confirmed that sound functioning of the wetlands used to produce a variety of fishes and other seafood products in the past.

These marine coastline wetlands have been over fished and are now being over exploited for other natural resources such as wood for cooking and collection of bait. All existing infrastructure such as retention walls, fencing, and waterways are no longer functioning and the ecosystem is unable to provide the basic ecosystem services.

In addition to the pressures faced by the coastal wetlands, climate change with extreme events, change in hydrological patterns and increasing frequency and severity of natural processes such as

coastal erosion, storms, droughts and sea water intrusions, may be further impacting these natural settings, leading to biodiversity loss.

The project will build the capacity of local communities for coastal resource management and will also improve ecosystem under the following components:

- Component 1: Restoration of the natural ecological processes of the coastal wetland through conservation and active management.
- Component 2: Rehabilitation of the Barachois for sustainable mariculture activities development.
- Component 3: Capacity building at local level for sustainable use and management of coastal resources.
- Component 4: Development of alternative employment opportunities for local residents.
- Component 5: Development of a sustainable model of collaborative management and raise awareness about the necessity of the link between natural resources and human well-being among stakeholders, government agencies and the general public.

The action aims to set an example by reinstating ecosystem services offered by coastline marine wetlands for future enhancement programme at local and regional level. Giving a second life to the Barachois will make the area productive, healthy and more appealing, and demonstrate the tremendous contribution of biodiversity towards the achievement of sustainable economic development. It will generate local community business and additional income through means other than direct fishing for the most needy who are entirely dependent on coastal resources, which will in turn decrease pressure on lagoon fishing and will allow natural resources and biodiversity to gain ground.

**D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:**

The project is located in a designated coastal wetland of approximately 30ha, comprising a Barachois and its adjacent mangrove forests in the South East of Mauritius.

Apart from being over fished and over exploited for other natural resources such, these wetlands settings are now subject to solid-waste pollution and soil degradation caused by incompatible wastes from demolished buildings and economic development, mainly hotels, along the coastline of the island. Invasive alien species competing with local species are causing water and land ecosystem degradation and considerable damage to the few remaining mangrove plantations. Rodents, termites and other pests also infest the site, which is gradually becoming a health hazard for the surrounding community. All existing infrastructure such as retention walls, fencing, and waterways are no longer functioning and the ecosystem is unable to provide the basic ecosystem services.

The fisher communities surrounding the lagoon are poverty stricken, have low levels of education and are entirely dependent on natural resources such as the sea and hence, are presently finding it difficult to make ends meet through the only traditional profession they have inherited from previous generations. During the initial consultation processes, a group of local fishers highlighted their willingness to rehabilitate the Barachois of Cité la Chaux/Mahébourg, a project they claimed since 2001.

**E. Executing Entity's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:**

Not assessed

## II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES

### Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
<b>1. Environmental &amp; Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</b>		X		
<i>Justification: No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>				
<b>2. Natural Habitats</b>		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing to alter natural habitats</i>				
<b>3. Involuntary Resettlement</b>		X		
<i>Justification: The project does not propose any involuntary resettlement</i>				
<b>4. Indigenous Peoples</b>		X		
<i>Justification: The project will not take place on lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples.</i>				
<b>5. Pest Management</b>		X		
<i>Justification: While the EA flagged this policy as being triggered, the nature of the activities relating to pest management does not pose a major risk to the environment; the project will include removal of pest and invasive alien species by hand at the designated site.</i>				
<b>6. Physical &amp; Cultural Resources</b>		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to physical and cultural resources.</i>				
<b>7. Stakeholder Engagement</b>	X			
<i>Justification: The project will involve local communities who are important for the success of the project.</i>				
<b>8. Gender mainstreaming</b>	X			
<i>Justification: The project activities will target both men and women.</i>				
<b>9. Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms</b>	X			
<i>Justification: As a publicly funded GEF project, participants need to be able submit complaints or raise grievances with the Executing Agency and the Project Agency.</i>				

## III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

*From information provided in the Safeguard Screening Form, this project has triggered three safeguard policies. These are:*

- I. Stakeholder Engagement,*
- II. Gender Mainstreaming, and*
- III. Grievance Mechanism.*

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

*No indirect and/or long-term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen at this time.*

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

*The proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. As such, no better alternative can be conceived at this time.*

4. Describe measures to be taken by the Executing Entity to address safeguard policy issues.

I. Stakeholder Engagement

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** ensure active stakeholder participation and to reflect stakeholder engagement activities in the annual workplan. Please document the date, location and participants (gender disaggregated) along with meeting notes of all stakeholder engagement activities. The documentation of these activities can be supported (not required) with photographs, video and audio recordings.*

*Also agree with stakeholders on where, when and how information will be disseminated back to them following a meeting/consultation.*

II. Gender

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** to reflect gender disaggregated activities in the annual workplan. The design of activities and consultations should consider the needs and schedules of both men and women. Please document how many men and women were consulted, participated in project activities, and benefitted/affected by the project. Also ensure that men and women are not adversely impacted and receive equal opportunities in planning, decision-making and implementation in a way that is culturally appropriate and acceptable.*

III. Grievance Mechanism

*An Accountability and Grievance Mechanism is **required** to ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Entity for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and also disclosed to all stakeholders in a manner/means that best suits the local context.*

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

*The key stakeholders are the traditional fishers and local residents in the vicinity of Cité la Chaux and Mahébourg, including women and youth, especially school dropouts. The project has identified various participatory techniques to ensure community engagement in project design and planning. Such techniques include individual and focus group interviews, face-to-face discussions, observational walks and boat trips as well as participatory mapping. In addition, an information panel located in a community centre/hub with weekly information on project actions and opportunities for involvement will be provided in the implementation phase.*

#### IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION


PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C

*Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.*

#### V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard Plan	CI Disclosure Date	In-Country Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	NA	NA
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	NA	NA
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)	NA	NA
Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources	NA	NA
Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	NA	NA
Pest Management Plan (PMP)	NA	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval	No later than inception workshop/kick-off meeting

#### VI. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Vice President: 	Name: Miguel Morales	Date: 2016-06-17
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Safeguard Manager: 	Name: Ian Kissoon	Date: 2016-06-16
Project Manager:	Name: Orissa Samaroo	Date:

