



A Ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles (Ridge to Reef)

The Ministry Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) is implementing a GEF-funded project entitled “A Ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles” (R2R project).

The project objective is to undertake a comprehensive Ridge to Reef (R2R) approach that addresses the ‘whole island’ priorities of improved management and conservation of upland forest and agricultural ecosystems, as well as coastal and marine ecosystems in the Seychelles, to produce global benefits in terms of conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the effective management of large marine ecosystems (including coastal and near-shore marine ecosystems), and to arrest and reverse ecosystem degradation.

The outcomes of the project are:

1. Expansion of marine and terrestrial protected areas of the Seychelles’ Inner Islands
2. Strengthened management of upland KBAs and adjacent areas to enhance the flow of ecosystem services through the R2R approach
3. Promoting the ‘Ridge to Reef’ (R2R) approach through knowledge management, ecosystem health monitoring and inter-sectoral coordination
4. Knowledge Management, M&E and Gender Mainstreaming

Duration: 72 months (January 2020 to January 2026)

GEF Budget: USD 3,898,914

Main activities: Below are the main activities of the project

- Establishment of new seasonal MPAs at coastal sites downstream of areas where the project is undertaking the reduction of land-based stresses on coastal and marine ecosystems
- Improved management of three existing marine protected areas (Port Launay, Baie Ternay and Curieuse Marine National Parks) encompassing 1,421 ha
- Detailed biodiversity surveys and ecosystem monitoring of selected MPAs (including wetlands, coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds)
- Restoration and rehabilitation of selected MPAs through coastal reforestation and improved management of coastal freshwater ecosystems
- Strengthened management capacity and status for 6 KBAs covering 2,235 ha of upland forest ecosystems, with a focus on conserving biodiversity and carbon stocks
- Proposed revisions to policies and related legal and regulatory frameworks to promote effective management of wetlands and forests in Seychelles, and strengthened enforcement to reduce / mitigate stresses from land-based sources and activities to coastal and marine ecosystems
- Watershed management approaches and biodiversity-friendly sustainable forest management practices adopted and implemented in and around target KBAs and watersheds
- Technical approaches to post-fire forest rehabilitation and long-term monitoring are piloted



and the institutional capacity for forest fire fighting is strengthened at national, regional and local levels

- Systems and capacities established for long-term monitoring of forest recovery, and for monitoring of rivers and streams flowing out of target KBAs and through priority watersheds
- Biodiversity-friendly sustainable land management practices implemented on agricultural lands
- Capacity of smallholder farmers built for sustainable land management practices on agricultural lands
- Agroforestry production expanded into degraded upland sites as well as existing areas of agricultural production
- Integrated ecosystem health monitoring at the project sites institutionalised and information-sharing mechanisms scaled up to support implementation of R2R approaches
- Policy recommendations for harmonising policies and monitoring efforts of appropriate national policy-making bodies to advance R2R approaches
- Private sector involvement strengthened to support the implementation of R2R approaches
- Regional Councils, District Administrations and the general public sensitised on R2R approaches and are aware of the R2R projects that are being implemented in their respective districts
- Lessons learned are shared with national and international conservation programmes
- Participatory project monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is developed and implemented
- Gender Strategy to guide project implementation, monitoring and reporting is developed and implemented