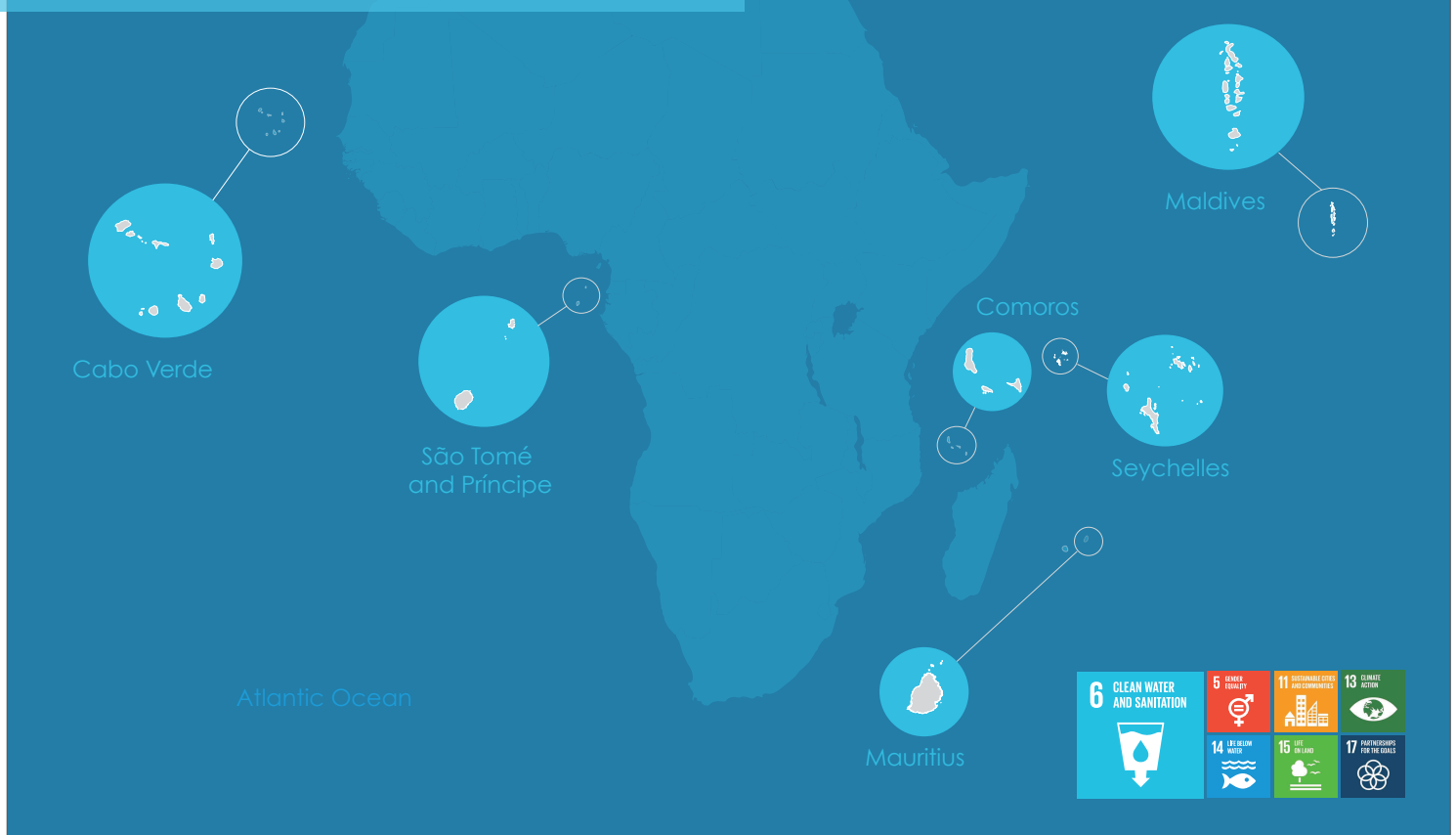


IMPLEMENTING IWRM IN ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN SMALL ISLANDS

SMALL ISLANDS TACKLE TOUGH WATER CHALLENGES



Two oceans, six countries, three distinct languages: it may seem like the nations of Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles have little in common, but as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), they face very similar challenges when it comes to the management of waste and water resources.

The countries differ profoundly in size and level of economic development, but all six share problems relating to the scarcity and contamination of freshwater supplies; over-exploitation and poor management of groundwater resources; increasing pressure on agricultural production; and rapidly disappearing biodiversity. To a lesser or greater degree, the countries also face serious difficulties with

providing clean drinking water and waste management facilities to their people. In response to these challenges, the Global Environment Facility has funded a full-sized project that recognises and addresses the urgent need for comprehensive Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and improved Water Use Efficiency (WUE) in the SIDS of the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

The so-called IWRM AIO SIDS project is designed to strengthen the commitment and capacity of the six participating countries to implement an integrated approach to the management of freshwater resources, with a long-term goal of enhancing their capacity to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

AIO IWRM SIDS
Scope: Regional
Countries: Cabo Verde, Maldives, Sao Tome and Príncipe, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros
Partners: UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS
GEF grant: USD 10,670,000
Co-financing: USD 39,422,535
Project website: www.aio-iwrm.org



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OVERVIEW

The overall goal of the project is to help countries accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 14 on life below water and Goal 15 on life on land. It is also directly responding to the Samoa Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The project is implemented by two agencies, UNEP and UNDP. UNOPS (East African Hub and Water and Energy Clusters) is the executing agency for respective components.

The initial duration was set to 48 months, starting on 16 May 2012, and was expected to be completed in September 2016. However, an extension until December 2017 was granted by the steering committee.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

Component 1: Implement targeted site based IWRM demonstration activities in all six participating countries (UNDP Implemented, executed by UNOPS Water and Energy Cluster). The demo projects are designed to provide real, on-the-ground solutions to common water problems and illustrate the tangible benefits of adopting IWRM at local, national and regional levels.

Component C2: Develop National and Regional IWRM and WUE Indicator Frameworks in all countries (UNEP Implemented, Executed by UNOPS East Africa Hub). This is to ensure IWRM implementation at national level based on improved collection of gender disaggregated data and indicator feedback and action.

Component C3: Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reform for IWRM and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) (UNEP Implemented, Executed by UNOPS East Africa Hub). The component supports institutional change and re-alignment, including appropriate financing mechanisms and supporting/building further political will to endorse IWRM policies and plans.

Component C4: Capacity Building, Knowledge Exchange and Learning and Replication (UNEP Implemented, Executed by UNOPS East Africa Hub). This component aims to support and empower communities and national stakeholders to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices.

Component C5: Project management (UNEP and UNDP are

jointly responsible together with UNOPS).

A **regional steering committee** is in charge of the overall decisions related to the project. It gathers national project focal points from all six countries, representatives of the UN agencies involved and members of the regional Project Coordination Unit.

Each country also has a **national steering committee** in charge of the project at national level. The national project focal points can be intermediaries between the national and the regional steering committee.



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