PIMS-10043 - Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports - Dominica

B0482 - Barbados - Bridgetown

REPORTING PERIOD 2024- 2027

Narrative

REPORT DATE: 05-08-2026

1. Executive Summary

2. Background

3. Key Results Achieved

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

  Component 1 Revision and updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 3 Management of natural resources and ecosystems, resilience UNMSDCF 6 Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems strengthening their resilience and enhancing the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.

  Contributing Outputs:

  OUTPUT_3.2 Natural resource planning, data collection, analysis and management National agencies and community organizations have strengthened capacities for natural resource planning, data collection, analysis and management.

  Progress Note:

  Key project management structures were put in place this period to enable the delivery of all technical components. The Draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) was developed, establishing the operational, budgetary, and scheduling baseline for all national activities.

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4. Key Challenges Encountered

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

  Component 1 Revision and updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 3 Management of natural resources and ecosystems, resilience UNMSDCF 6 Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems strengthening their resilience and enhancing the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.

  Contributing Outputs:

  OUTPUT_3.2 Natural resource planning, data collection, analysis and management National agencies and community organizations have strengthened capacities for natural resource planning, data collection, analysis and management.

  Progress Note:

  Upon the project's transition into the active implementation phase, execution was significantly impeded by a critical gap in leadership continuity. The departure of the Multi-Country Coordinator, in the absence of an adequate interim arrangement to ensure operational continuity, resulted in an administrative bottleneck affecting core project functions. Consequently, a substantial backlog of pending financial and operational approvals accumulated, constraining decision-making capacity at a critical juncture in project implementation and posing a risk to delivery timelines.

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5. Project Risks and Issues

Issue 1: Loss of Multi-Country Coordinator and Approval Backlogs Description: The vacancy of the Multi-Country Coordinator position has created a leadership gap and resulted in a backlog of critical project approvals. Impact: Delayed decision-making, slower disbursement of funds, and stalled progress on national work plans. Management Action: The MCO is actively expediting recruitment to onboard a new Multi-Country Coordinator. In the interim, temporary acting arrangements are being explored to clear the approval backlog. Issue 2: Ongoing Procurement Delays Description: Limited internal MCO procurement capacity remains a significant operational constraint. Impact: Continued risk of delay to the recruitment of national experts and the timely launch of technical activities. Management Action: A formal request for dedicated procurement support will be submitted to the UNDP Country Office to streamline upcoming assignments Risk 1: Compressed Implementation Timeline Description: The cumulative effect of prior start-up delays and the current approval backlog presents a severe risk of schedule compression. Impact: Rushed stakeholder consultations and compromised quality of technical deliverables, potentially jeopardizing the project's ability to meet global CBD reporting deadlines. Management Action: The Annual Work Plan is being revised to prioritize critical-path activities and identify opportunities for parallel workstreams to recover lost time once leadership capacity is restored. Risk 2: Reputational Risk / Relationship Fracture Description: Government Focal Points have repeatedly expressed disappointment and frustration regarding delays in the commencement of the NBSAP-7NR and the overall quality of communication from the MCO. Impact: Formal correspondence from Government Focal Points raising these concerns, as well as reported regional discourse regarding delayed implementation. Management Action: Bilateral dialogues are being initiated with Government counterparts to reassure them of continued commitment and to realign on the path forward.

6. Lessons Learned

- The departure of the Multi-Country Coordinator demonstrated that multi-country project structures are highly vulnerable to single-point-of-failure leadership gaps. Future project designs must include pre-approved interim delegation of authority protocols to ensure approvals do not stall when a key coordinator departs.
- Experience shows that for projects requiring significant national consultancy services, assessing the executing office's procurement capacity is critical at the design stage. Where capacity is limited, a plan to secure dedicated support must be an integral part of project mobilization.
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7. Conclusions and Way Forward

Substantive progress during this reporting period was significantly impeded by a critical leadership gap. The departure of the Multi-Country Coordinator created an approval backlog that stalled the finalization of the Annual Work Plan and the initiation of planned technical activities. As a result, the project remains in an extended mobilization phase, awaiting the leadership required to move forward.

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- No items to display.

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