PIMS 10081 - Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports - St Vincent & the Grenadines

B0482 - Barbados - Bridgetown

REPORTING PERIOD 2024- 2027

Narrative

REPORT DATE: 29-07-2026

1. Executive Summary

This report covers the period from January 1 to June 30, 2026.

This reporting period was defined by exceptional performance on global commitments and the successful initiation of all major project components. The most outstanding achievement was the timely submission of the 7th National Report (7NR) to the CBD Secretariat by the global deadline. Procurement of a firm to implement NBSAP Implementation Readiness activities under Component 1 and agreement on a package of technical support from the Nature for Development Team to undertake Integrated Spatial Planning activity (Activity 1.1.6) were advanced, with key consultants and firms identified and moving towards contract finalization, setting the stage for full implementation in the next half of the year.

2. Background

Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports" (PIMS 9678), is a GEF-funded, UNDP-implemented global programme.

Its primary objective is to provide financial and technical support to 69 countries to revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The project also supports countries in preparing and submitting their 7th National Reports on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The project form parts of a programme of inter-related GEF-7 and GEF-8 biodiversity enabling activity projects that support the development, finance and reporting of the NBSAPs. These projects are being implemented simultaneously and are intended to be synergistic and complementary.

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:

Significant progress was made in operationalizing Component 1. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for a firm to support NBSAP implementation readiness was launched and closed. By the end of the reporting period, the evaluation process was underway, with the onboarding of the successful firm anticipated in early July.

- **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:

  The framework for the national spatial planning activity was firmly established. The project secured a partnership with the UNDP Nature for Development team, finalized the UN-to-UN agreement, and successfully identified a national GIS and Stakeholder Engagement consultant through a competitive process, with contracting expected to be finalized by mid-July.

- **Level of Reporting:**

Output level results

Project Outputs:

Component 2

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:

Successful and Timely Submission of the 7th National Report (7NR) The project's primary achievement was the successful completion and submission of the 7NR by the global deadline. This was a direct result of the intensive, consultant-led work between January and February, supported by rigorous Stakeholder, including PSC validation. This accomplishment positions Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a leader in regional reporting compliance.

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:

The project experienced administrative delays in finalizing inter-agency agreements and consultant contracts. Notably, the UN-to-UN agreement for the spatial planning work and the contracting of the national consultant through UNOPS took longer than anticipated, shifting the activity start date by approximately one month.

5. Project Risks and Issues

The primary risk emerging in this period is procurement and contracting timelines. While the evaluation of the firm for Component 1 is underway, any further delays in the contracting process could compress the timeline for critical inception activities, such as developing the stakeholder engagement strategy and gender analysis. This is being actively managed by maintaining close communication with the procurement unit to expedite the final stages of the process.

A secondary issue remains the dependency on the pending Cabinet approval of the NBSAP and a formal national biodiversity coordination mechanism, which is a prerequisite for long-term governance and effective implementation of project outcomes.

6. Lessons Learned

- The successful submission of the 7th National Report against an extremely tight deadline was not accidental, but the result of deliberate strategic decisions. By treating the 7NR as a consolidation exercise that built directly on the recently completed NBSAP, and by retaining the same consultant, the project created crucial continuity and coherence. This approach minimized new data requests and leveraged existing validated information, proving that national reporting is most effective when treated as part of an ongoing planning cycle rather than a separate, ad-hoc exercise.
- Stakeholder fatigue was a risk due to schedule compression. To manage this risk and the 7nr validation process efficiently, the project employed several successful tactics. Instead of asking for full-report reviews, stakeholders were sent short, incremental sections with specific, pointed questions relevant to their mandate. This, combined with the use of AI tools to support initial drafting and analysis, significantly reduced the time burden on national experts. This stakeholder-friendly model fostered goodwill and led to more efficient and focused feedback and timely validation.
- Significant evidence gaps at the national level continue to hamper national reporting due to historically weak national biodiversity monitoring systems. The lack of robust, centralized spatial and indicator data remains a critical challenge that will need to be addressed to effectively monitor NBSAP implementation and streamline future

reporting. The upcoming Integrated Spatial Planning activity (1.1.6) is a direct response to this lesson.

7. Conclusions and Way Forward

The first half of 2026 was highly successful, marked by the timely completion and submission of the Seventh National Report (7NR) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), meeting a critical global reporting deadline. With this key Component 2 milestone achieved, the project has successfully transitioned its primary focus to Component 1, which centers on NBSAP implementation readiness and integrated spatial planning. Although administrative and procurement-related delays have resulted in slight adjustments to implementation timelines, the necessary groundwork has been established. Strategic partnerships are in place, procurement processes are nearing completion, and the project is well positioned to move from the reporting phase into full-scale technical implementation.

Way Forward

The focus for the remainder of 2026 will be on advancing technical implementation activities and ensuring that outstanding administrative and policy actions are completed. Key priorities include:

1. **Finalize procurements and initiate Component 1 activities:** Expedite the contracting process for the selected firm to enable the commencement of inception activities, with particular emphasis on developing the stakeholder engagement strategy and conducting the gender analysis.
2. **Advance integrated spatial planning (Activity 1.1.6):** Finalize the UNOPS contract for the national GIS consultant and formally launch the spatial planning process in collaboration with the UNDP Nature for Development team. This work will help address critical biodiversity data and planning gaps identified during preparation of the 7NR.
3. **Support national policy endorsement:** Continue engagement with relevant government stakeholders to facilitate Cabinet approval of the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the establishment of a formal national biodiversity coordination mechanism. These measures are essential to strengthening long-term biodiversity governance and supporting effective implementation of the NBSAP.
4. **Maintain implementation momentum and oversight:** Strengthen coordination among project partners, monitor progress against planned deliverables, and ensure timely resolution of administrative bottlenecks to minimize further implementation delays and sustain project momentum.

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- No items to display.

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