

**Support to the Government of Seychelles  
Rapid Assessment to Farquhar Atoll  
And  
Development of an Early Recovery Framework  
Aftermath of Very Intense Tropical Cyclone Fantala**

**Country:** Seychelles

**Implementing Partner:** Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change

**Responsible Partners** Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change  
Island Development Corporation

Programme Period: April 2016 – July 2016

Programme Components:

- Support to immediate needs assessments in the affected outer islands
- Support response to early recovery planning processes and the development of multi-sectorial early recovery plan

Project Title: Support to the Government of Seychelles Rapid Assessment to Farquhar Atoll and Development of an Early Recovery Framework

Award ID: 00096568  
Project ID: 00100479

Project Duration: 14 weeks

Management Arrangement: NIM

Total Budget US \$50,000

Allocated resources: \_\_\_\_\_

- Government \_\_\_\_\_
- CO TRAC 1.1.1. \_\_\_\_\_
- Other:
  - Donor \_\_\_\_\_
  - Donor \_\_\_\_\_
- In kind contributions \_\_\_\_\_

Unfunded budget: US\$ 50,000 requested from OCHA

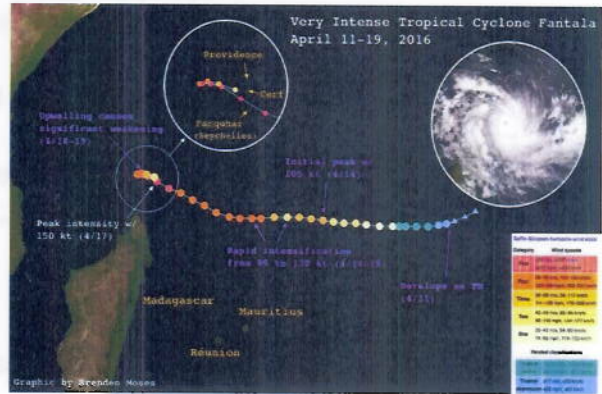
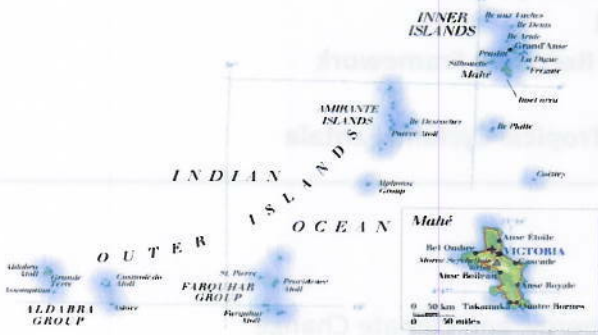
Agreed by (UNDP) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: **Simon Springett**  
**UNDP Resident Representative**



22 April 16  
Date:

Agreed by Government \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: **Paul Labeleine** Signature Date  
**Director General**  
**Department of Risk & Disaster Management**  
**Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change**

# 1. SITUATION ANALYSIS



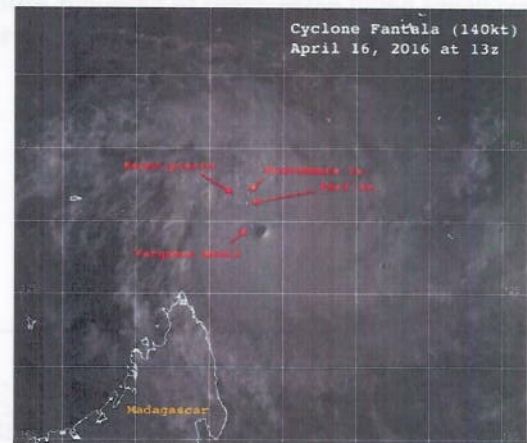
## 1. Background and Context

Tropical Cyclone Fantala (19S) formed over the southwest Indian Ocean on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It then moved westward, further intensifying. On April 17<sup>th</sup> Very Intense Tropical Cyclone Fantala (Category 5), the strongest cyclone ever recorded in the Indian Ocean basin, passed directly over Farquhar at 0600 UTC, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 241 km/h and with gusts of up to 350km/h, causing severe damage to Farquhar Island. The cyclone then changed course and on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1800 UTC passed over Farquhar again with maximum sustained winds speeds of 157 km/h. Current forecasted cyclone tracks predict that the Cyclone may again turn back on itself and affect the island for a third time.



34 people were living on the small island, but most of these were evacuated in the days before Cyclone Fantala arrived as a precaution. Those who remained on the island are confirmed to be unharmed as they were able to shelter in a number of buildings which had been designed with cyclones in mind. The remaining staff on the island have cleared the runway of debris and it is now operational, but weather conditions still do not yet allow access.

Farquhar is the most southerly of the outer islands (10°10'S; 51°08'E), situated 770 km SSW of Mahe. The atoll covers 17,800 ha (land and sea) and contains ten islands: the two main islands North and South Island cover 799 ha (97% of the landmass), between which are three small islands known as the Manahas, on the northern rim of the atoll there are four islands, Trois Iles (Despose, Ile du Milieu and Lapin), and then Banc du Sable which is the most western island. Ile Goëlettes is situated on the south. The lagoon has a maximum depth of 14.6 m. There is an airstrip on North Island and boat access into the lagoon is possible through the reef passes.



Farquhar is noted for exceptional biodiversity being important aggregating areas for certain sea birds and homes to species such as booby and frigate bird. The islands also support certain economic activities for the island Development Corporation. It has a well-established salted fish industry and also coconut oil

production, which are exported to and sell to the population on Mahe. It is also one of the major fly fishing spot in the world, an activity that contribute financially to the management of the outer islands. These activities help to sustain the livelihood of many local people that contribute to the socioeconomic aspects of the islands.

UNDP has a GEF funded project entitled "Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of Seychelles and its Integration into the broader land and seascape" currently active on the island.

While there is no requirement for a lifesaving humanitarian response, significant reconstruction work will have to be assessed and undertaken to protect these valuable islands. The small community that inhabits those islands will need to have their facilities restored as well as the essential services. The livelihood of the people who reside on the island will have their livelihood affected as a result given that they contributed to the ecotourism development of the islands. Furthermore, Farquhar also provided supports and also assistance to many of our local fisherman when in distress given that these areas are well known to be very good fishing grounds. In addition, the NGO Island Conservation Society is undertaking environmental management as part of a GEF funded project on the island and have also suffered considerable damage to equipment and facilities.

## **2. NATIONAL RESPONSE**

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Seychelles legally declared the Farquhar Atoll a disaster area and on April 21<sup>st</sup> requested the United Nations for international assistance. There are now concerns that as the cyclone will again reverse course there is a likelihood that the cyclone could pass through a number of Islands and Atolls that have never had cyclonic activity in recorded history. As such Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is currently being evacuated.

Assessment information and data is very limited and the extent of the damages will only become more clear in the coming days, once access to the island will be possible.

Fortunately, no fatalities have been reported following the passing of the Category 5 cyclone, but much of the infrastructure and buildings on the island have been damaged. Reports indicate that almost all of the buildings on the island have been damaged or flattened by the storm's powerful winds, except for two buildings that were designed with cyclones in mind. These building include a store and a warehouse for sheltering the staff remaining on the island.

34 people were living on the small island, but most of them were precautionary evacuated in the days before Cyclone Fantala arrived. The 14 people who remained on the island are confirmed to be unharmed. They have now cleared the runway of debris and it is now operational, however weather conditions still do not yet allow access to bring in some of the essential supports.

The Island Development Corporation, a parastatal that manages the island group, is currently working to send both a supply ship and an assessment mission by air to the island. The aim will be to try and assess the physical damages done and also to better provide where assistance is urgently required. Provisions for staff residing on the island will also be provided as well as equipment required to try and restore essential service such as electricity and also water (through desalination). Only sporadic satellite phone communication to date has been possible. The situation would probably be further aggravated in the coming days given that the cyclone is turning and heading again back in the direction of the island group.

## **3. UN RESPONSE:**

The RC Office and UNDP have been in constant touch with Government since the cyclone developed. On April 18<sup>th</sup> the UNDP Resident Representative ordered an [International Space Charter](#) through UNOSAT / UNITAR (Glide Number TC20160418SYC) to undertake detailed satellite mapping of the impact. Mapping products with initial damage estimates expected shortly (weather dependent). The RC has also been in contact with OCHA concerning accessing their emergency response funds.

If the cyclone continues its trajectory towards the World Heritage Site, UNESCO will also be contacted for support.

UNDP has an active GEF funded project on Farquhar Island but no provision was made under the project to restore infrastructure or essential services. It is likely that some project assets may have been affected.

It is also critical to try and re-establish some of the facilities not only to restore the socio economic activities on the island but also to ensure that livelihood of the people on the island are not severely affected.

#### **4. JUSTIFICATION**

The island is exceptionally difficult to access and substantial infrastructure damage has occurred, including to UNDP projects assets. With the current damage the island station is no longer functioning and will need to considerable support for early recovery. It is imperative a detailed needs assessment is undertaken urgently.

#### **5. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Output 1: Support to immediate needs assessments in the affected outer islands**

- a) Immediate support to assessment missions to island to survey damage and provide recovery estimates (including immediate recovery needs) to allow for the return of the workers as well as the environmental NGO back on the island.
- b) Catering to immediate needs (diesel fuel, repair to desalination plants etc.)

##### **Output 2: Support response to early recovery planning processes and the development of multi-sectorial early recovery plan**

- a) Support for developing analytical reports to design recovery planning
- b) Sharing of assessment information to support grant based fund raising efforts (coordination)

#### **6. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The project will be implemented over a period of 14 weeks starting April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016. Project activities will be executed by the Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Climate Change (with their Division of Risk and Disaster Management) in Seychelles with support and oversight from the UNDP Office and the Resident Coordinator's Office.

UNDP RSC and CRU team based in Addis Ababa/Nairobi and New York will support from a distance.

## 7. WORK PLAN BUDGET SHEET: RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

EXPECTED OUTPUTS and indicators including targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all activities including M&amp;E to be undertaken during the year towards stated CP outputs</i>	WEEK			RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Source of Funds	PLANNED BUDGET	
		1-4	5-8	9-14			Budget Description	Amount US\$
<b>Output 1:</b> Support to immediate needs assessments in the affected outer islands  <i>Indicator:</i> Needs assessment produced  Baseline: 0 Target: 1	1.1 Immediate support to assessment missions to island to survey damage and provide recovery estimates  1.2 Catering to immediate needs (diesel fuel, salt water desalination plant, etc)				MEECC, IDC	TRAC 1.1.3	Flights Travel Operational	15,000
<b>Output 2:</b> Support response to early recovery planning processes and the development of multi-sectorial early recovery plan  <i>Indicator:</i> Report: Cost recovery options  Baseline: 0 Target: 1	2.1 Support for developing analytical reports to design recovery planning  2.2 Sharing of assessment information to support grant based fund raising efforts (coordination)				MEECC  RCO and UNDP		Consultant  Advocacy	10,000  0
<b>Total</b>								US\$ 50,000

