



Approval of request for no-cost extension of project/programme completion date: United Nations Development Programme (Mauritius, Seychelles)

Weight of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 22 June 2026, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) submitted a first request for no-cost extension of the project completion date for the project "Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future" implemented in Mauritius and Seychelles. The project was originally expected to be completed on 26 November 2026. However, implementation in Mauritius and Rodrigues began approximately 18 months later than in the Seychelles, and progress was further hampered by recurrent cyclonic events and elevated sea surface temperatures causing coral bleaching. Procurement and establishment of land-based nurseries at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Albion Fisheries Research Centre also experienced considerable delays. Additionally, further time is required to finalize regional knowledge products, including the Coral Restoration Manual, and to complete capacity-building activities under Components 2 and 3. UNDP has therefore requested a revised project completion date of 26 May 2028.

Secretariat's review of the request

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by UNDP and considers the request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date to be justified. The Secretariat also notes the mitigation measures and planned activities described by UNDP and the Executing Entities for the extension period, including the scaling up of coral restoration to meet Component 1 targets in Mauritius and Rodrigues, the re-establishment of nurseries affected by climate events, the completion and operationalization of land-based nursery infrastructure for large-scale coral propagation, and the finalization and dissemination of regional knowledge products and capacity-building activities to strengthen institutional ownership and long-term sustainability. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authorities of both countries have been notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

Conclusion

Following the review of the request for no-cost extension of the project completion date submitted by UNDP for the project "Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future" implemented in Mauritius and Seychelles, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme Delays. The revised expected project completion date is 26 May 2028.

Clearance: AFBSEC-2026-21