

**West Africa Circular and Resilient Tourism for Coastal Destinations (Cape Verde, Gambia and Sao Tome & Principe)**

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (US\$)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Cape Verde, The Gambia and São Tomé and Príncipe		15%	1	Buro Happold Ltd	World Bank (PROBLUE)	1.4.2022 to 30.12.2022	Acorn Consulting Ltd

**Detailed description of project**

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption that involves sharing, leasing, recycling and reusing materials and products for as long as possible. Which allows the life cycle of natural and processed materials to be extended and economy becomes regenerative in design. Circularity contributes to the development of a more sustainable world however not all sustainability initiatives contribute to circularity. Marine plastics globally have become a worldwide environmental challenge, circular economy approaches can provide effective interventions to reduce plastic production and use impacts on the environment in a sustainable way. The overall aim of this project was to understand the challenges to, and opportunities for, increasing circular economy strategies and practices, with particular focus on the tourism sector and single use plastics. The project was implemented as part of the World Bank Group’s, ‘Sustainable and Resilient Tourism on Small Islands and in Coastal Destinations’. The project was funded by ‘PROBLUE’ which is a new multi-donor trust fund that supports the sustainable use of the oceans resources. The trust fund included 4 pillars that focus on fisheries, ocean pollution, ocean sectors and seascape management. This project falls under three out of the four pillars. The first being pillar three that supports the growth of ocean sectors such as sustainable coastal tourism, pillar two that addresses marine litter, pollution reduction and prevention. Finally pillar four that supports financial innovation for integrated seascape management. The project activities were piloted in three western Africa countries: Cabo Verde, The Gambia, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The project scope focused on how a shift towards a circular economy in these three countries at national and tourism-sector levels can be made and how it can benefit and improve the tourism sector.

**Type of services provided**

- Sustainable Seas Ltd were engaged to support the team (led by Buro Happold LTD) to achieve the following tasks:
- Circular economy gap analysis, which aimed to analyse material flows in SIDS to identify high impact areas in terms of reduction of material inputs and optimisation of the islands resource.
  - Tourism sector circular economy gaps analysis and opportunity identification (including links to marine planning and blue economies).
  - Tourism sector firm audits-(per nation) - production a technical and economic circular economy assessment of specific firms in the tourism industry.
  - Market sizing study for circular economy products in the tourism sector- development of a data-driven analysis of the size of the market for circular economy products including single use plastic alternatives.
  - Recommendations and opportunities for increased circular economic practices for tourism sector. In each nation
  - Institutional and regulatory gap analysis and roadmap for a circular economy transition– consolidation of results and highlight the main targeted challenges that the countries face in transitioning to a circular economy.