



REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA

MINISTÉRIO DO AMBIENTE

Aide Memoire

UNEP Mission to Angola regarding the GEF Project No 5207 “Addressing Urgent Coastal Adaptation Needs and Capacity Gaps in Angola” from 28 November to 2 December 2022

I. Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a partner to Angola’s Ministry of Environment (MINAMB) of Angola on several projects supporting the MINAMB’s capacity to implement and report on actions under multilateral environmental agreements including the Minamata, Basel, Stockholm, CBD and UNFCCC conventions.

The Ministry is the executing agency for the GEF LDCF funded project “Addressing Urgent Coastal Adaptation Needs and Capacity Gaps in Angola” (Aka Coastal EbA Project) and UNEP is the GEF implementing agency through its Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU).

The UNEP Task Manager CCAU conducted a mission to Luanda from 28 November to 2 December 2022 to hold discussions with the Minister for MINAMB, Secretary of State for Climate and Sustainable Development, Secretary of State for Environment, Directors of Directorates and MINAMB partners. Discussions centred on overcoming implementation challenges of the Coastal EbA Project and taking forward the elaboration of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) proposal for GCF funding. The mission was conducted in tandem with representatives from Conservation International (CI), also a GEF LDCF Implementation Agency, with an aim of benefiting from exchange of experiences and exploring synergies.

II. MINAMB & UNEP Coastal EbA Project:

The Coastal EbA project started on 7th February 2017 following signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement between MINAMB and UNEP on 2 February 2017. The project objective is to reduce vulnerability to climate change of national government

and coastal communities in four coastal Provinces (Benguela, Cabinda, Cuanza Sul and Namibe Provinces).

The resignations of the Project Coordinator (Sept 2021), Project Assistant (July 2022) and Project Finance Officer (June 2022) has contributed to the project having de-facto stalled. A new recruitment process needs to be initiated.

The total GEF budget is USD 5.18 million over 4 years. However, by the end of the 4th year the project has spent \$ 934,252. Whilst climate risk assessments for 4 provinces and 4 sites have been completed, implementation of adaptation measures in four sites and establishment of the early warning system in Benguela remain to be done.

The UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit (Q2 2022) of the project and identified significant implementation inefficiencies on the part of MINAMB and UNEP and reputational risks for UNEP and MINAMB. OIOS identified the absence of delegation of authority within the Ministry as contributing to slow implementation and highlighted delays in procurements conducted by the Ministry and UNEP. It recommended that capacity assessments and detailed procedures are documented in the design stage.

Agreed Way forwards

1. UNEP will proceed with notification to GEF of Suspension of the Project for up to 6 months on grounds to “review and assess implementation or execution arrangements” in accordance with GEF Policy on Project Management. **The notification of suspension will state conditionalities that have to be met for the suspension to be lifted. If all the conditions are not met, then the project will be cancelled.**
2. Conditions for resumption of the project:
 - a. Project Managements Posts advertised by 31 January 2023 (Month 1) and selection by Ministry, with UNEP no-objection at every step of the process, completed by month 3.
 - b. UNEP to initiate recruitment of UNV by month 1 and shortlisting and interviews by month 3 with MINAMB participation.
 - c. New bank account with internationally recognised bank established by Ministry by month 3
 - d. Expression of Interest (EOI) for institutions to implement adaptation measures in four sites published by month 4.
 - e. Project standard operating procedures (SOP) including Delegation of Authority (DOA) between Minister, PSC, Secretaries of State, Director/NPD, Project Manager and F&A Officer documented and signed by the Minister by month 4.

- f. If the above conditions a. to e. are not met in a timely or satisfactorily manner, then UNEP will no longer assume the role of GEF Implementing agency. The Ministry will seek agreement with UNDP Angola on the transfer of the Implementation agency from UNEP to UNDP, and meet any conditions set by UNDP within 2 months of entering in discussion with UNDP Angola.

II. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Proposal to the GCF

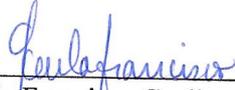
At the request of the former Directorate of Environment and Climate Action, MINAMB, UNEP commissioned in 2021 a consultant to update a draft GCF Readiness Angola NAP proposal. However, owing to insufficient engagement from the former Directorate towards the completion of the proposal, no further action by UNEP was undertaken. The funding proposal is 80% complete. It was also determined that UNEP was not officially designated as Delivery Partner for the NAP by the Ministry and with the GCF.

The new MINAMB leadership team reiterated their understanding that UNEP is the Delivery Partner for the NAP GCF funding proposal, and request UNEP works with the MINAMB to complete the proposal and secure GCF funding. UNEP highlighted that NAP project executing arrangements would be informed by the experience of resuming the Coastal EbA Project and required fiduciary and administrative assessments of implementing partner(s).

Agreed way forward:

1. NDA to nominate UNEP as Designated Entity with the GCF.
2. NDA to write to UNEP requesting support as Designated Entity for NAP Project
3. Need to define a NAP project execution arrangement which is informed by fiduciary and capacity assessments of Implementing Partner(s) and experience of the resumption of the Coastal EbA Project.

Signed: _____


Paula Francisco Coelho
Secretary of State for Climate and SDGs
MINAMB

Signed: _____


Alexander Forbes
Task Manager, CCAU
UNEP

Date: _____

10.12.2022

Date: _____

21/12/2022