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# Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Production

**Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation**

## **Basic project information**

**GEF ID**

9793

**Countries**

Madagascar

**Project Name**

Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy

Production

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

5/30/2019

**Review completed by PM**

3/13/2020

**Program Manager**

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

**Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Project Type**

FSP

**PIF**

**CEO Endorsement**

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Changes are minor, mainly on wording, and justified.

- In the Description part I, the executing partner type cannot be "GEF Agencies". Please, correct.
- The project is financed by BD, LD, and CCM allocations, please remove mentions and justifications related to SFM.

September 8, 2019

Addressed

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

30-07-19

The Executing Partner type is indeed erroneously listed as 'GEF Agencies'; we are, however, unable to make any edits to that section of the GEF Project portal. We kindly request that the GEF IT team makes that change for us, by selecting 'Government' as a 'partner type' option in that drop-down menu section of the portal.

The mention of SFM is now removed throughout CEO Endorsement Request and UNEP Project Document

### **2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

### **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Cofinancing is more or less aligned with what was planned at PiIF level. However, please address the two following comments;

-The letter from FID (17.8 million of US\$) is not a letter of cofinancing. The author declines the request and asks to write to the Minister.

- Per usage, please provide an informal English translation of letters of cofinancing, when needed.

September 8, 2019

Addressed

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

30-07-19

A new letter from FID is now issued and included in the package.

Informal translation is now done and included in the package

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

### **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Please, check information on indicators between the portal, the request for CEO endorsement, and the project document, there are discrepancies, potentially double counting, and too many diversions of vocabulary for the different indicators:

- Indicator 3: In the portal, we can read 5,600 ha of lands restored (4,800 ha of agricultural lands, 500 ha of forests, and 300 ha of shrubs/grasslands).
- Indicator 4.1 of lands under improved management for BD = 0; in the text= 3,500 ha of globally significant biodiversity habitat, and restoration of at least 500 ha of degraded land adjacent to or within identified High Conservation Value Forests (please be sure there is no double counting).
- In the portal, the indicator 4.3 of ha under SLM = 0, while in the text, 293,000 ha of agricultural lands under SLM are mentioned (the latter value seems quite high; you will need to explain which proportion of the landscape you target to cover under SLM, meaning with knowledge, finance, and practices). The values of 4,800 ha and 5,600 ha are also mentioned. Please, clean up the text, and provide a coherent information. In the project document, 239,000 ha of forests and agriculture lands are mentioned.
- Indicator 4.4 of High Conservation Value Forests loss avoided = 3,500 ha; in the project document: 500 ha of HCVF loss avoided.
- For carbon calculations, please use a 20-year period as recommended per policy, and not 10 years. Provide the full EXACT annex with a note explaining the assumptions, the parameters, and the justification of activities on the ground.

September 8, 2019

- There are still discrepancies between the portal and the document: as you confirmed the value of 293,000 ha under SLM, you must enter this value in the table of indicators. Be careful with the use of expressions as SLM, SFM, forest restoration,..., they are not synonymous in the portal and you need to avoid double-counting.
- Again, please clean up the documents of obsolete numbers, confirm the targets for the indicators: 293,000 of ha under SLM; 4,800 ha of degraded lands restored; 3,500 ha of high conservation value forests conserved; 500 ha of HCVF reforested; 800 ha under SFM; 1,013,805 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e of potential avoided GHG emissions ; and 300 ha of natural grasslands and shrublands restored

## **Response to Secretariat comments**

30-07-19

Yes, discrepancies are found, sometimes double counting in the Core Indicators sheet, this has been now corrected.

In the case of Indicator 4.1, the entry in the Core Indicators sheet has been revised to ensure no double counting.

5,600 ha refers to degraded land that will be restored through good SLM and SFM practices. 3,500 ha, on the other hand, refers to High Conservation Value Forests that will be identified and conserved through active management and Conservation Agreements with Local Communities (hence “practices to benefit biodiversity” in the Core Indicators sheet).

In the same light, 500 ha refers to areas adjacent to the 3 500 ha of conserved areas. These 500 ha will be restored and rehabilitated as a buffer to protect the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) that they will surround. So these 500 ha will be “under improved management to benefit biodiversity” protection, Indicator 4.1.

While the value of 293,000 ha can be perceived as large, it is small relative to the area of the project communities. Vohibinany District covers 605,685 ha and Vatomandry District 273,200 ha. The value of 293,000 ha is the area under forest and agricultural land in the two project communities and represents 33.3% of the land area.

The text has been cleaned to provide better alignment across the documents.

A copy of the EX-ACT model used to calculate carbon emissions avoided has been added with a revised calculation based on 20 years of analysis.

**28-11-2019**

The figures between the CEO Endorsement Request and the portal have been reconciled. The explanation is provided in the page of the CEO Endorsement. For indicator 3 the total amount is 5,600 ha, which includes 4,800 ha of degraded land restored, 500 ha of HVCF reforested and 300 ha of natural grasslands restored. For indicator 4 the total amount is 296,500 ha which includes 3,500 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (SFM; output 2.1), and 293,000 ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems (resulting from the strengthening of policy and regulatory frameworks in the pilot areas). The entries in the portal are similar.

**7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** NA

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, we are notably interested in the collaboration with the GRET, one of the cofinanciers.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Yes.

Cleared.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

**GEFSEC**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**STAP**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Addressed.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**GEF Council**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Addressed.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Convention Secretariat**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** NA

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Recommendation**

**12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Not yet, please address the comments above.

September 8, 2019

Please address the comments from the cell 6.

December 5, 2019

The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

However, PPO highlighted a number of observations, please address the comments below:

1. It is not possible to scrutinize the project budget on how PMC and M&E are being charged since there are no columns highlighting these line items + the components – please ask the Agency to present the budget in a way that one can understand what items are charged to which budget lines.

That said, there are some issues that will require further clarification:

2. In the ProDoc it is mentioned that the project will have a driver:

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established under the Ministry and will consist of a project Director; a project coordinator (PC), M&E Expert, project administrative assistant, project accountant also specialized in tendering issue and thematic consultants (on a need basis). The project will also have some support staff (Driver and Secretary). The TORs for staff in the PMU are provided in Appendix 10. The full-time Project Coordinator in charge of the PMU, the Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, the Accountant and the **Driver** will be recruited on a competitive basis and will facilitate the execution of project activities by the project partners involved. The PMU will serve as the

However in the budget one sees no budget for the driver’s salary but a budget line that refers to ‘vehicle assurance and maintenance’. As per guidelines, cost associated with vehicles are preferred to be charged to the co-financing. Also, audit fees seem to be charged to the project components (not sure as the columns don’t have headings) – audit + associated fees should be charged to PMC.

50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT						
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment					
5101	Computer materiel maintenance	4,000	2,200	2,200	8,000	
5102	Vehicle assurance and maintenance		15,000	15,000		
5103						
5199	Sub-total	4,000	17,200	17,200	8,000	-
5200	Reporting costs					
5201						
5202						
5203						
5299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-
5300	Sundry					
5301	Bank charges	2,000	12,000	12,000	8,000	
5302	Audit fees	5,000	28,000	28,000	10,000	
5303						
5399	Sub-total	7,000	40,000	40,000	18,000	-

3. In budget it is presented the cost of project monitoring and involvement by the community – however this item is not included in the Monitoring and Evaluation plan in ProDoc.

5400	Hospitality and entertainment					
5401	Cost of project monitoring and involvement by commu	86,760	45,000			
5402						
5403						
<b>5499</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>86,760</b>	<b>45,000</b>	-	-

4. In the budget there is a guard that is not mentioned in the ProDoc:

<b>10</b>	<b>PERSONNEL COMPONENT</b>					
1100	Project personnel					
1101	Coordinator	16,035	21,758	8,847		
1102	Monitoring and communication	6,035	11,758	8,847		
1103	Finance Assistant	8,047	15,678	11,795		
1104	Technical support staffs	74,400	60,000			
1105						
1106						
<b>1199</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	-	<b>104,517</b>	<b>109,194</b>	<b>29,489</b>	-
1200	Consultants					
1201	International consultant Land Use Plans	91,000				
1202	National consultants/Land Use Plans	80,000	49,680	136,900		
<b>1299</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>49,680</b>	<b>136,900</b>	-	-
1300	Administrative Support					
1301	Secretary accountant	13,200				
1302	Guard	4,800				

5. In summary: it is not possible to properly assess the elements of this project’s budget *vis-à-vis* the PMC, M&E plan and the content of the ProDoc. Kindly ask the Agency to present a complete budget referring to the GEF portion as the co-financing part consistent with the content of the ProDoc. Please remind the Agency to cover the cost of executing the project using the PMC (both: GEF + Co-financing portion) as this project has enough PMC (\$1.18 million) to cover all these (\$27.8 million reported as grants out of \$29.9 million of co-financing, which is 93% of the total co-financing)

10 PERSONNEL COMPONENT						
1100	Project personnel					
1101	Coordinator		16,035	21,758	8,847	
1102	Monitoring and communication		6,035	11,758	8,847	
1103	Finance Assistant		8,047	15,678	11,795	
1104	Technical support staffs		74,400	60,000		
1105						
1106						
1199	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>104,517</b>	<b>109,194</b>	<b>29,489</b>
1200	Consultants					
1201	International consultant Land Use Plans	91,000				
1202	National consultants/Land Use Plans	80,000	49,680	136,900		
1299	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>49,680</b>	<b>136,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
1300	Administrative Support					
1301	Secretary accountant		13,200			
1302	Guard		4,800			

February 14, 2020

This is the first time we can comment the budget. We would like to confirm the following information, without anticipating PPO comments:

- The item #1302 (driver) is split between the three technical components. We need to understand the rationale. Without further information, this budget item should be transferred to the pmc. If the driver is supposed to accompany missions and technicians on the ground, we may consider a different way of doing, after discussions with PPO.
- Please, explain and justify the item #1601 (\$369,200!) for field missions.
- Same reasoning for the items #4101 (communication), #4102 (utilities), #4103 (office supplies). What is the difference between #4102 and #4103? For these items above, it is difficult to understand the justification under the technical components.
- We do not understand the interests to have two items related to communication with relatively high amounts: #4102 (\$51,600) and #4204 (\$15,500).
- Please, explain the justification of items #4203 (computers) and #4206 (furniture) under technical components, or transfer them under the pmc.
- Same question for the item #4205 with \$12,200 of camping materials.
- We take note of the explanations provided to purchase a vehicle and agreed with the reasoning.
- However, the items #5101 for computer maintenance (\$16,400?) and #5103 (vehicle assurance and maintenance) should be covered by pmc.
- We take note of the explanations provided to budget the project coordination under the technical components (84%) and pmc (16%) and find them acceptable.
- Can you clarify the contents of project monitoring activities at the height of \$87,000?

March 13, 2020

All the questions are addressed, but one: The nature of activities under the M&E component is not clarified in the review, but the information is now available on the page 47 of the request for CEO endorsement. All points are now addressed. The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

April 9, 2020

Please, address the following comments:

- 1- Though in the CEO Endorsement request and in the PRODOC dated May 2019 it is said that the TORs for the Project Coordinator are in Appendix 10, there are no TORs that explain why the contribution of the Coordinator to components 1 and 2 – please, amend.
- 2- Bank charges are not eligible under the GEF Portion of project management costs – please, remove, and if needed, charge it to the co-financing;
- 3- A vehicle is charged to the Project Components – Please, see if it is possible to charge the vehicles to cofinancing, especially because significant grants are announced for this project.
- 4- In the responses from the Agency and in the budget notes, there is a reference to a Driver – however, there is no driver in the budget – please, remove such references so there is a consistency between the budget and the budget notes/responses.

May 5, 2020

All points are addressed. The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

30-07-19

UNEP takes note of the issues identified by the review and the guidance provided which are now been used to ameliorate the documents. UNEP is thankful to the reviewer as the comments have helped to improve the quality of the documents.

**28-11-2019**

Please see cell 6 for the response.

**22 – 01 -2020**

**UNEP and the national EA would like to thank the reviewer for the guidance and valuable comments.**

A budget explanation is now added at the end of the budget to clarify some budget lines. The below response should be considered hand in – hand with that budget explanation.

The comments have been addressed as follow:

Comment 1:

- The budget is now presented in a way that the components, the PMC, and M&E columns are clearly identifiable and budget per component, PMC and M&E are indicated.

- To enable the above mention budget presentation, an M&E component not existing previously during PIF approval is now created and it is consistent with the M&E budget table presented in the Prodoc and CEO endorsement document. The Costs related to that new component are drawn from the project components

Comment 2:

- The driver mentioned in the Prodoc was referred to in the budget as Guard. This is now corrected, and it is included in the budget Driver instead of guard as this position is necessary since a vehicle purchase is planned as a necessity for the project smooth execution. See Budget Explanation 4

- Audit costs are now charged on PMC as per the guidance

Comment 3: The M&E component which include monitoring activities presented in prodoc, is now created and it is in line with the M&E Budget presented in Prodoc and CEO endorsement request.

Comment 4: The Guard referred to in the budget is included by mistake and the refence should be done to Driver as indicated in the prodoc. This is now corrected

Comment 5: The Budget presentation is now ameliorated and one can understand easily what is charged to components, PMC and M&E. We do hope this presentation satisfies the review. Some comments should consider the particular situation of the country due to its vulnerability as coming recently from political instability with consequent impact on the economic condition which makes it difficult for the State some cost as cofinancing. The remote nature of the project site and the high cost of hiring vehicles are other issues for consideration in accepting some level of flexibility for the country to use GEF resources.

**March 05, 2020**

UNEP Response to February 14, 2020 GEF comments:

GEF Comments: This is the first time we can comment the budget. We would like to confirm the following information, without anticipating PPO comments: The item #1302 (driver) is split between the three technical components. We need to understand the rationale. Without further information, this budget item should be transferred to the pmc. If the driver is supposed to accompany missions and technicians on the ground, we may consider a different way of doing, after discussions with PPO.

UNEP Response: The budget line driver has now been removed. In Madagascar, it is possible to have a driver hired on an ad hoc basis (Daily Contract). The project will not hire a driver as project staff, rather when there is need for field missions to accompany technicians, the driver will be hired on an ad-hoc basis on other consultant budget lines.

- GEF Comment: Please, explain and justify the item #1601 (\$369,200!) for field missions.

UNEP Response: The cost related to this Budget Line (BL) are the resources need to engage local and regional stakeholders in the development, implementation, and assessment of strategies, policies that cut across the 3 project components. This cost is now included in BL 3203: Regional working group and Multi-stakeholder involvement in Strategies, Land Use Plans and local policy development and implementation.

- GEF Comments: Same reasoning for the items #4101 (communication), #4102 (utilities), #4103 (office supplies). What is the difference between #4102 and #4103? For these items above, it is difficult to understand the justification under the technical components.

UNEP Response: The rationale for charging 4101 on components is now provided. The costs are related to technical components delivery.

BL 4102 and 4103 are deleted and the amounts are sent to the more appropriate BL.

- GEF Comments: We do not understand the interests to have two items related to communication with relatively high amounts: #4102 (\$51,600) and #4204 (\$15,500).

UNEP Response: The BL 4102 and 4204 are now deleted

- GEF Comment: Please, explain the justification of items #4203 (computers) and #4206 (furniture) under technical components, or transfer them under the pmc.

UNEP Response: BL4203 and 4206 are now put lump together and charged under PMC

- GEF Comment: Same question for the item #4205 with \$12,200 of camping materials.

UNEP Response: BL 4205 is now removed

- We take note of the explanations provided to purchase a vehicle and agreed with the reasoning.

Noted with thanks

- GEF Comments: However, the items #5101 for computer maintenance (\$16,400?) and #5103 (vehicle assurance and maintenance) should be covered by pmc.

UNEP Response: BL 5101 is now charged under PMC and it is lumped with the Computer purchase cost

- We take note of the explanations provided to budget the project coordination under the technical components (84%) and PMC (16%) and find them acceptable.

Noted with thanks

- GEF Comments: Can you clarify the contents of project monitoring activities at the height of \$87,000?

UNEP Response: These are all the M&E activities other than BL 3301, 3304, 5501 and 5502 in Table 4 Costed M&E in CEO Endorsement Request.

**UNEP response to GEF April 9, 2020 comments**

23-04- 2020:

**GEF Comment 1: Though in the CEO Endorsement request and in the PRODOC dated May 2019 it is said that the TORs for the Project Coordinator are in Appendix 10, there are no TORs that explain why the contribution of the Coordinator to components 1 and 2 – please, amend.**

UNEP Response to comment 1: The reference to Appendix 10 was a mistake. The ToRs of project personnel is in Annex H-2 of the Project Document (see page 138). The reference to Appendix 10 is now corrected in CEO Endorsement Request Section A. 6 Institutional Arrangement and Coordination page 41.

Furthermore, the contribution of the Project Coordinator to technical components is now spelled out in the ToR at Annex H-2 Project document page 138.

**GEF comment 2- Bank charges are not eligible under the GEF Portion of project management costs – please, remove, and if needed, charge it to the co-financing;**

UNEP Response: We take note of the recommendation and the Bank charges are now removed.

**GEF Comment 3: A vehicle is charged to the Project Components – Please, see if it is possible to charge the vehicles to cofinancing, especially because significant grants are announced for this project.**

UNEP Response: UNEP would like to recall that, in the review of the responses provided on March 05, 2020 as response to GEF comments of February 14, 2020 , GEF reviewer indicated that

**“We take note of the explanations provided to purchase a vehicle and agreed with the reasoning”.** Therefore, we consider that the comments provided above on 9 April 2020, is an oversight. However, UNEP would like to report that ANAE, the Executing Partner of the project has decided to commit one of its vehicles acquired for the execution of a project on Agroecology, financed by the Prime Minister Office, as cofinancing for this GEF project. As the project will be executed in two municipalities, a single vehicle will be a challenge to the project execution and that the additional vehicle will facilitate the execution and delivery of the project outputs.

**GEF Comment 4 - In the responses from the Agency and in the budget notes, there is a reference to a Driver – however, there is no driver in the budget – please, remove such references so there is a consistency between the budget and the budget notes/responses**

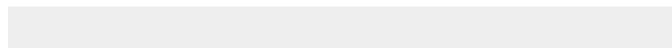
UNEP Response: The comment is well noted. Effort has been made to remove the mention of the driver in the response. Mention of the driver in budget notes and in Project Document has been removed.

#### Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

First Review



**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat comments**

<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

**Cover Memo**

**Context**

Madagascar has experienced severe deforestation and fragmentation: slash and burn farming (tavy in local terms) to address the demand for agriculture land, population growth, and the declining productivity of existing croplands, logging for timber, land conversion for agriculture, fuelwood and charcoal production, and overgrazing are the major sources of deforestation and land degradation in Madagascar.

In the Atsinanana region, soil erosion is common and widespread, in particular after heavy rainfalls and in areas with slopes of at least 15%. Valuable topsoil is being lost, leaving fragile and less productive soils and leading to the creation of gullies and other forms of land degradation. Erosion in upland areas is causing significant sedimentation and siltation in lower lying wetlands and rice growing areas (affecting over 60% of rice fields), as well as the drying up of watering points and other disturbances to aquatic ecosystems and to water provision for households and agriculture.

Three main barriers which have been identified in the concept definition with 1) *weak legal, policy and institutional framework for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable energy production*, 2) *Existing land management systems do not integrate sustainable ecological production and restoration processes to benefit rural smallholders*, and 3) *Existing practices for rural energy production are inefficient and do not utilize sustainable locally-produced biomass*.

Land tenure is an important problem in Madagascar, with most of the users being in a vulnerable situation because of the risks of illegal appropriation of their lands by diverse operators. The existing institutional framework for natural resource management is weak, with lack of experiences, capacities, and mechanisms. Lack of access to electricity and the inability of most of rural inhabitants to pay generators, renewable energy production and other options produces a high level of demand for wood products from a degraded forest landscape. The development of sustainable and profitable wood resources production systems, including bamboo, could reduce the pressure on natural forest landscape, as well as the support of more efficient wood energy production processes (more efficient charcoal production and wood burning stoves).

### Project

The project objective is to optimize sustainable land use management, biodiversity conservation, and access of local communities to renewable household energy security and climate change mitigation in Madagascar. The project is designed on the three following components to 1) Strengthen national policies and the legal and institutional framework for mainstreaming biodiversity and landscape restoration, 2) Ensure scaling up of SLM practices and agroecology in a wider landscape, 3) Improving rural energy generation systems and wood services to reduce deforestation.

The project promotes a stronger inter-sectoral coordination, planning, and capacity-building on integrated natural resource management, with a particular focus on agroecology and ecological intensification through SLM and SFM in four communes of the Vohibinany and Vatomandry districts. Conservation agreements will be designed between the Ministry and local communities; high conservation value forests will be restored, notably using native and adapted species of bamboo; agroecology practices will be promoted (incorporation of nitrogen-fixing trees, improvement of planting methods, use of high yielding varieties, increase of organic fertilizer, integrated pest management). A renewable energy value chain approach will be developed to promote energy efficient and renewable energy technologies (3,000 households with efficient cookstoves, one village electrified with a 25kW bamboo gasification generator). Lessons will feed a process and a methodology to ensure upscaling into other municipalities in the Atsinanana region and Madagascar.

### Global Environment Benefits

The following Global Environmental Benefits are targeted:

- 297,300 ha under SLM, including mainly 293,000 ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems, 800 ha under improved management for biodiversity benefits and 3,500 ha of High Conservation Value Forests; these two last indicators will be achieved in adjacent areas or within the Zahamena National Park, the Mangerivola Special reserve, the Marolambo National Park, and the classified forest of Vohibola.
- 5,600 ha of lands restored, including 4,800 ha of degraded lands, 500 ha of HVCF reforested and 300 ha of natural grasslands;
- 1,013,805 tons of CO<sub>2e</sub> sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (6.1). Additional benefits in carbon will come from the pilot and demonstration of low-carbon technologies (bamboo value chain, gasification, and improved cookstove).

### GEF Strategies

The project is based on integration and a multi-focal area approach compatible with BD, LD, and CCM objectives and programs.

#### Country Priorities

The project is compatible with the Aichi targets, the NAP, and the energy assessment. The project idea was shared by the government at the beginning of GEF6.

#### Innovation Sustainability & Scaling up

The themes of agroecology and ecological intensification are innovative in Madagascar, as well as the test of integrated and multi-level governance approaches. The integration of bamboo in landscape restoration and as a source of biomass is an innovative way to address land degradation, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation all together.

Sustainability is always an issue in this kind of project, but local participation through conservation agreements in corridor areas, and direct benefits in incomes and services are key-aspects for sustainability. The project includes the KM mechanism to scale up the approach at the Atsinanana region.

#### Cofinancing

The project is built on partnerships and experiences from key stakeholders on these subjects, as the International Network for Bamboo, INBAR, the Professionals for Fair Development, GRET, other CSOs, and national opportunities (Development Investment Fund, Ministry).